

Zero Draft

Political Declaration to renew commitment and accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda

1. We, Heads of State and Government, Ministers and High Representatives, have gathered at the United Nations on 16 and 17 July 2026 for the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda¹, to assess progress, identify good practices, gaps and challenges, and accelerate implementation towards achieving the New Urban Agenda by 2036.
2. We reaffirm our commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development² and its Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities.
3. We reaffirm our commitment to the full implementation of the New Urban Agenda³, adopted at the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III) in Quito in 2016, as the global framework for sustainable urbanization and human settlements including its shared vision, principles and commitments.
4. We meet with renewed determination to realize the shared vision of just, safe, healthy, accessible, affordable, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements to accelerate its implementation, address persistent inequalities, and close implementation gaps.
5. We recognize that sustainable urban development is a key driver of poverty eradication, economic growth, social inclusion, environmental sustainability and climate resilience, and that well-planned and well-managed urbanization has transformative potential across the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, in the context of the multiple and interconnected challenges facing cities. We further reiterate our commitment to leave no one behind, and to respect, protect and fulfil all human rights in the context of sustainable urban development, including the right to adequate standard of living.
6. We recognize the unique and emerging urban development challenges facing all countries, in particular developing countries, including African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as the specific challenges facing middle-income countries, countries in situations of conflict, post-conflict and disasters caused by natural or human-made hazards.

1 A/RES/79/214.

2 A/RES/70/1.

3 Resolution 71/256, annex.

7. We reaffirm the importance of coherence and alignment with other global frameworks to enhance effectiveness and avoid fragmentation, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁴, the Convention on Biological Diversity⁵, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification⁶, the Paris Agreement⁷, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030⁸, the Sevilla Commitment⁹, the Doha Political Declaration of the World Summit for Social Development¹⁰, the Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries¹¹, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States¹², and the Awaza Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries¹³.
8. We also reaffirm the intergovernmental commitments related to sustainable urbanization and human settlements including those in the Pact for the Future and its annexes¹⁴, the ministerial and political declarations of the high-level political forum for sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, UN-Habitat Assembly, and other relevant United Nations conferences and processes. We reiterate that the implementation of the New Urban Agenda contributes to the implementation and localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated and coordinated manner at the global, regional, national, subnational and local levels, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders.
9. We are deeply concerned that implementation of the commitments for sustainable urban development remains uneven and insufficient to meet the scale and urgency of current and emerging challenges, including widening inequalities, the global housing crisis, increasing informality, and the growing number of people living in slums and informal settlements, as well as rising homelessness.
10. We further recognize that those challenges vary and concern cities of all sizes, towns, and villages.
11. We are also concerned about the increasing complexity of urban challenges, including rapid urbanization, fiscal constraints, food insecurity, displacement, technological change, unequal distribution of basic services and overlapping global crises.

4 United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

5 United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

6 United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

7 Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

8 Resolution 69/283, annex II.

9 Resolution 79/323, annex.

10 Resolution 80/5, annex.

11 Resolution 76/258, annex.

12 Resolution 78/317, annex.

13 Resolution 79/233, annex.

14 Resolution 79/1.

12. We are further concerned about the impacts of climate change, disasters, biodiversity loss, environmental degradation and pollution on cities, which disproportionately affect persons in vulnerable situations living in urban areas.
13. We are deeply concerned about the impacts of armed conflicts on urban areas, including the destruction of housing and infrastructure, and the disruption of essential services.
14. We emphasize the need for a people-centred, rights-based and inclusive approach to urban development, ensuring participation of all, including women and girls, children and youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, slum and informal-settlement dwellers, persons experiencing homelessness, workers, smallholder farmers and fishers, refugees, returnees, internally displaced persons and migrants.
15. We recognize towns, cities, local and regional authorities as key partners and co-creators, contributing to the implementation and localization of sustainable urban development in an integrated manner, and stress the importance of empowering them with adequate mandates, resources and capacities.
16. We express appreciation to Member States, United Nations system entities, international organizations, and stakeholders that engaged in the midterm review process and take note of the Secretary-General's Reports on Progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

Sustainable urban development for social inclusion and ending poverty

17. We recognize that addressing persistent social and spatial inequalities is central to the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
18. We acknowledge adequate housing as a way to catalyze the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through multiplier effects across poverty eradication, sustainable economic growth, climate resilience, environmental sustainability and social inclusion.
19. We recognize that the global housing crisis has reached unprecedented levels with a growing number of people that do not have access to adequate housing, including those living in informal settlements and slums.
20. We acknowledge that while progress has been made in policy development and service expansion, implementation has not kept pace with the scale and complexity of housing and urban challenges.
21. We emphasize the need to promote inclusive and effective urban policies that ensure universal access to basic services, including safe and affordable water, sanitation and hygiene, food security and nutrition, public health, education, social protection and care systems, and waste management systems.
22. We recognize the need for inclusive national and subnational urban policies that are grounded in rights-based, people-centered approaches and supported through

gender-responsive, age-sensitive, and disability-inclusive planning and budgeting to facilitate ending all forms of discrimination and violence while empowering all individuals and communities, enabling their full and meaningful participation.

23. We recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is one of the greatest global challenges and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.
24. We commit to advance social inclusion and end poverty in urban contexts, by:
 - (a) Promoting equitable and affordable access to sustainable basic physical and social infrastructure for all, without discrimination, including housing, and basic services;
 - (b) Improving efforts to upgrade informal settlements, by proactively planning and developing affordable, adequate housing, and to promote practical approaches, including slum upgrading, incremental housing, improved land tenure security, and the prevention of forced evictions, supported by scaled up and sustained investment in adequate housing, as well as enable legal, administrative and planning frameworks;
 - (c) Addressing the needs of those experiencing homelessness, through comprehensive and integrated national and local responses across housing, health, employment, and social protection systems, with a focus on prevention, reduction, and long-term sustainable solutions;
 - (d) Promoting safe, inclusive, accessible, green, and quality public spaces as drivers of social and economic development, through encouraging the elimination of legal, institutional, socioeconomic, and physical barriers;
 - (e) Equipping public water and sanitation utilities with the capacity to implement sustainable water management systems, including sustainable maintenance of urban infrastructure services, through capacity development, with the goal of progressively eliminating inequalities and promoting both universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all and adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all;
 - (f) Promoting the integration of food security and the nutritional needs of urban residents, particularly the urban poor, in urban and territorial planning, in order to end hunger and malnutrition.

Sustainable and inclusive urban prosperity and opportunities for all

25. We recognize the central role of urbanization as engine of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, innovation and job creation.
26. We note that economic informality in urban areas remains widespread and that many urban workers lack access to decent work and social protection.
27. We commit to promote inclusive urban economy, by:

- (a) Developing vibrant, sustainable and inclusive urban economies, by fostering an enabling environment for businesses and innovation as well as livelihoods;
- (b) Supporting positive economic links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas, by strengthening connectivity, value chains and market linkages between them, while supporting balanced and inclusive spatial development across metropolitan areas, intermediate cities, small towns and rural areas;
- (c) Supporting micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and cooperatives throughout the value chain, in particular businesses and enterprises in the social and solidarity economy, operating in both formal and informal economies;
- (d) Expanding access for youth to education, skills development and employment to achieve increased productivity and shared prosperity in cities and human settlements through more and better opportunities for their meaningful participation;
- (e) Recognizing the role of domestic and care work, including unpaid work, and addressing the barriers faced by women, informal workers, unpaid care workers and migrant workers, including through formalization pathways, labour protections and expanded social protection systems as well as strengthening of care policies;
- (f) Promoting investment in quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including transport, energy and digital systems, that is environmentally, socially and economically sustainable, climate-resilient, and resource efficient, including when addressed as post-conflict recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation;
- (g) Expanding participation of all countries, in particular developing countries, in the digital economy, including by enhancing their digital infrastructure connectivity, building their capacities and access to technological innovations through stronger partnerships and improving digital literacy;
- (h) Promoting work-life balance, in support of individuals and families, as well as prioritizing policies that safeguard a diverse range of tangible and intangible cultural heritage and landscapes.

Environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development

- 28. We recognize cities as indispensable actors in addressing climate change while facing increasing exposure to heat, flooding and other climate-related disasters, and stress the need to strengthen climate mitigation and adaptation efforts at the urban level.
- 29. We commit to promote environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development, by:

- (a) Promoting the translation of nationally determined contributions and national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and national disaster risk reduction strategies into concrete urban action, aligning climate commitments with housing policy, land-use, planning, sustainable mobility and building efficiency;
- (b) Strengthening domestic and subnational finance for local delivery through resilient and risk-informed urban development, investments in housing, integrated planning and strengthened subnational finance system;
- (c) Promoting integrated urban and territorial planning that incorporates ecosystem-based approaches, nature-based solutions and just transition pathways that prevent the deepening of inequalities and address the impacts of disasters, climate change, biodiversity loss, environmental degradation and pollution;
- (d) Promoting sustainable and inclusive industrial development and sustainable consumption and production patterns;
- (e) Strengthening resilient and risk-informed urban development, including disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action, multi-hazard early warning systems, and resilient recovery;
- (f) Expanding multi-hazard, impact-based early warning systems that integrate climate, hydrological, geological, environmental and health risk information in urban planning, infrastructure management and service delivery;
- (g) Promoting integrated and sustainable water management, including through water-sensitive urban design, to ensure that urbanization does not further exacerbate the lack of access to a safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, as well as water-related disasters, water scarcity and water pollution;
- (h) Protecting urban areas from the adverse impacts of climate change and other natural and human-made hazards, including earthquakes, extreme weather events, flooding, subsidence, storms, including dust and sandstorms, heatwaves, water scarcity, droughts, water and air pollution, vector-borne diseases and sea level rise, which particularly affect coastal areas, delta regions and small island developing States, among others;
- (i) Promoting alignment and localization of regulations across infrastructure and service delivery, economic development and integrated spatial planning and land-use management through compact, connected, mixed-use and transit-oriented urban development, and strengthening coordination between housing, transport, public space and land-use planning to improve affordability, inclusion, resilience and environmental sustainability.

Effective implementation, multilevel governance and partnerships

- 30. We recognize that effective implementation requires adequate, sustainable, predictable and accessible means of implementation, including integrated

planning, finance, capacity-building, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, and strengthened international and multilevel cooperation.

31. We emphasize the role of adequate financing, including through domestic resource mobilization, international development cooperation, South-South Cooperation, North-South Cooperation, triangular cooperation, engagement of international financial institutions and public-private partnerships, including at global, regional national and sub-national levels.
32. We recognize the need to ensure that financial resources effectively reach the responsible authorities at the local level, and to strengthen subnational finance, where appropriate, by enhancing local and regional authorities' technical, technological and human resource capacities, improving accounting systems and reporting mechanisms, and boosting intergovernmental coordination.
33. We recognize the need for inclusive, multilevel governance systems that empower regional and local authorities through appropriate legal, institutional and fiscal frameworks, ensuring their effective participation in decision-making, implementation and reporting processes, and strengthening local delivery capacity, through inclusive institutional mechanisms such as national and local habitat committees and other participatory platforms, as appropriate.
34. We further acknowledge the indispensable role of mayors and local and regional authorities, as well as engagement and coordination with civil society, communities, academia, and the private sector, in implementing the New Urban Agenda.
35. We recognize South-South, North-South and triangular, regional and international cooperation has proven to be key in advancing urban development and adequate housing, and the need to further strengthen international cooperation.
36. We commend the important contributions of the initiatives aiming at localizing the SGDs in fostering coherence, efficiency and local impact in the United Nations' support for local and urban development, and in facilitating the participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular local and regional authorities in the design, implementation and monitoring of global agendas.
37. We commit and call upon international and regional organizations and bodies, including those of the United Nations system and multilateral environmental agreements, development partners, international and multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks, the private sector and other stakeholders, to strengthen implementation, by:
 - (a) Scaling up domestic finance availability and other innovative financing mechanisms for sustainable urban development at all levels, including through strengthening dedicated national funds, regulatory mechanisms, including the mortgage market, credit enhancement mechanisms, application of efficient and effective subsidies, incentivizing the contributions of stakeholders,

- including the private sector, exploring the development of municipal bond markets as applicable, promoting land-based financing instruments, strengthening municipal finance systems, fiscal decentralization where appropriate, including direct access to finances for cities and local authorities;
- (b) Expanding the participation of international financial institutions, multilateral development banks, donor agencies and the private sector in urban development finance alongside national, regional and local governments, through resource mobilization and expenditure targeting approaches, including creating frameworks that expand fiscal space and increase development and climate finance, private investment, and blended finance mechanisms;
 - (c) Mobilizing enhanced, innovative and context-appropriate financing instruments, at the national and subnational levels, such as SDG-linked bonds, results-based financing, risk-sharing mechanisms, and public private partnerships, supported by enabling environments that mobilize capital while safeguarding the public interest;
 - (d) Implementing the calls to action in the present declaration and the New Urban Agenda at all levels, and to integrating its principles into national and local development policies, programmes, strategies and investments, while acknowledging that the calls to action will require capacity-building and technical and financial assistance in order to be effectively implemented by developing countries;
 - (e) Strengthening multilevel governance and policy coherence across national priorities and global frameworks, local action, as well as engagement with civil society, communities, academia, and the private sector through whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches.
38. We call upon national, subnational, regional, municipal and local authorities, international organizations as well as civil society organizations, private sector, academic and research as well as professional institutions to enhance implementation of the New Urban Agenda and monitoring, by:
- (a) Supporting the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda as inseparable from localization, with local and regional authorities as key partners, co-creators and implementers of sustainable urban development;
 - (b) Advancing the New Urban Agenda by promoting participatory governance in which civil society organizations, particularly grassroots and community-led organizations, have a crucial role in co-designing, implementing and monitoring urban policies, and enhancing the delivery of housing, basic services and related amenities;

- (c) Improving professional capability towards delivery mechanisms, including planning, architecture, engineering, finance, sustainability, climate adaptation and production of knowledge and evidence for quality urban development;
- (d) Promoting robust, transparent, accountable and inclusive public-private partnerships that contribute to the sustainable development, operation and maintenance of urban infrastructure and services, while safeguarding the public interest.

Data, technology and innovation

- 39. We recognize data, technology and innovation as critical enablers of sustainable urban development, and as strategic public goods for evidence-based urban planning, policy making and service delivery for sustainable urban development.
- 40. We express concern about persistent gaps in the availability of disaggregated, timely and comparable urban data, particularly the data gaps on informal settlements and underserved urban areas which constrain effective monitoring of SDG 11 and hinder the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
- 41. We commit to strengthen data, technology, and innovation for urban development, by:
 - (a) Strengthening national and local statistical systems and urban data platforms, including through the Global Urban Monitoring Framework and collaboration via the Global Urban Data Coalition, as well as through capacity-building, technical assistance and knowledge-sharing;
 - (b) Promoting the use of digital technologies for urban planning and service delivery while implementing the responsible use of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, geospatial information systems, remote sensing and the Internet of Things;
 - (c) Bridging the digital divide and supporting inclusive digital transformation through strengthened digital infrastructure, services and technical capacities;
 - (d) Ensuring robust data governance, privacy protection, cybersecurity and ethical standards;
 - (e) Leveraging science, data, statistics and strategic foresight to strengthen long-term thinking and planning, and to promote sustainable practices and the institutional reforms necessary to ensure evidence-based decision making, while fostering anticipatory, adaptive and responsive governance capable of addressing future opportunities, risks and challenges, including in the context of demographic change, to address sustainable urban development and housing;
 - (f) Improving monitoring systems to track emerging, slow-onset and compound risks, integrating digital tools into early warning, emergency management and

recovery systems and developing standardized, comparable risk assessment frameworks for cities, especially for public facilities and basic services;

- (g) Supporting open science, knowledge-sharing and innovation partnerships for sustainable urban development.

Follow-up and monitoring

42. We reaffirm the importance of strengthening global, regional and national progress reporting on the New Urban Agenda, including through voluntary mechanisms such as Voluntary Local and Subnational Reviews, as tools for monitoring, accountability and knowledge-sharing, and through inclusive national and local participatory mechanisms, such as habitat committees, as appropriate, and promoting their alignment with national priorities and relevant global frameworks to strengthen coherence and accountability.
43. We recommend that the findings of the midterm review of the New Urban Agenda and the present political declaration must provide input to other relevant major intergovernmental outcomes of United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields.
44. We reaffirm support for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and its role as the focal point within the United Nations system for sustainable urban development and implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
45. We reiterate the importance of Nairobi as the Headquarters location of UN-Habitat and the indispensable role of its governance bodies.
46. We call for predictable and sustainable resourcing for UN-Habitat to enhance its normative leadership, operational support and convening functions in support of implementation of the New Urban Agenda and to enhance its coordination role for the United Nations system-wide strategy on sustainable urban development, to improve coherence across the United Nations system and to ensure effective support for countries in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
47. We recognize the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Adequate Housing for All as an important platform for policy dialogue, the exchange of experiences, and the formulation of recommendations and encourage Member States to take into account, as appropriate, its recommendations in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. We further encourage strengthened support for the Working Group and its follow-up, including through predictable financial, technical and in-kind contributions, as well as the enhancement of regional intergovernmental platforms on housing and sustainable urban development.
48. We look forward to the high-level political forums on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly

on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda to provide further guidance on the implementation of SDG 11.

49. We acknowledge the need for structured engagement with local and regional authorities, including strengthening existing institutional mechanisms for engagement, revitalizing consultative arrangements within the United Nations system, and enhancing engagement through United Nations country teams and reporting processes.
50. We encourage the institutionalization of the local and regional authorities forum as a mechanism with the Economic and Social Council in support of the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda.
51. We look forward to the World Urban Forums, regional and national urban forums, as advocacy platforms for all stakeholders in the field of human settlements and sustainable urbanization, while recognizing the contributions of the previous forums.
52. We call upon relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to enhance support for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the calls to action contained in the present political declaration. We further call for the integration of sustainable urbanization in the common country analysis and in United Nations planning and programming documents, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, in consultation with host Governments and in line with national policies, priorities and needs.