

Background paper for the preparation of the Quadrennial Report 2018

**“SG Report to ECOSOC on the Progress on the
implementation of the New Urban Agenda
Report of the Secretary-General”**

Final version prepared in the Writeshop, Granada

Reviewing the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and
Urban SDGs

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Introduction¹

¹ As received from Gulnara 15.00 pm- 23/3/18

The New Urban Agenda was adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016. It was endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-eight plenary meeting of the seventy-first session on 23 December 2016².

This report, requested by the General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/71/235, is the first out of a series of five quadrennial reports on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the next one being in 2022.

In the last eighteen months since the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, significant progress has been made in recognizing the massive transformative power of urbanization in all regions of the world and reinforcing the vision of cities for all, as assessed by the *Cities 2030 Declaration* of the ninth session of the World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur in February 2018.

As all existing qualitative and quantitative sources of information show a dramatic intensification of urbanization systemic consequences, the present report, a UN Secretary General report, comprehensively connects the implementation of the New Urban Agenda with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and Paris Agreement.

The New Urban Agenda is a shift from a data centered to a process focused understanding of global urbanization. The NUA implementation is gaining political commitment at the global level, elevating the role of cities in the decision making. In 2018, critical milestones of the global agenda will include urban issues to be discussed at the next G20 One Planet Summit with Urban 20 (U20) which include representatives of major cities in the G20 countries. In 2019, the UN will issue a Global Report on Sustainable Urban Development reflecting on the achievements in urban related SDGs. In 2022, the second quadrennial report on the New Urban Agenda will be submitted which will include actual data on the implementation process. In the same year, the UN will also issue a mid-term report on the assessment of the 2030 Agenda, including achieving the SDGs; and the first IPCC report on cities and climate change. In 2026, the third QR which will be also a midterm review of the NUA implementation, will take a stock of the progress made and identify further steps to address challenges faced.

Tracking progress, assessing the impact and the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda at all scales requires an innovative matrix approach addressing existing and new trends while also building trust and accountability for all. Despite massive sources of financing and the abundance of capital, such funding opportunities are not sufficiently converted into comprehensive, inclusive and sustainable urban development policies. Innovative approaches for financing the implementation are starting to be developed, especially at the city level, however, there is an urgent need in accelerating investments and partnerships.,

To develop an effective reporting mechanism, the NUA reporting system should build when possible on already existing reporting mechanisms of global commitments such as the 2030 Agenda, climate change, biodiversity, among others, which address urban issues through quantitative data. Given the integrative approach of the NUA, these existing reporting mechanisms need to be complemented by specific for NUA process oriented data and qualitative information.

Reporting on the New Urban Agenda is a crucial opportunity to foster a truly incremental approach to NUA and increase ownership by the largest groups of stakeholders and recipients possible, including national governments, subnational and local governments, regional and subregional organizations and networks, multilateral banks and international financial institutions, parliamentarians, civil society, women, organisations representing youth, as well as those representing persons with disabilities, grassroots, indigenous peoples and local communities, the private sector, professionals and practitioners, the scientific and academic community and other relevant

² A/RES/71/256*

This first quadrennial report is a means to intensify multilevel and multistakeholder partnerships, reinforce the legitimacy of the New Urban Agenda partners and encourage a universal sense of ownership of urban issues. Grassroots and women organizations along with other vulnerable groups should be recognized as equal implementing partners given adequate resources along with governmental entities and the private sector.

The effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda is an accelerator for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in their urban and territorial dimensions, including Goal 11 of making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. This major and historical paradigm shift introduced by the Habitat III preparatory process and the adoption of the New Urban Agenda will require comprehensive and in depth efforts at all scales in the coming months and years, by public and private leaders.

Together.

Chapter 1: Strengthening the Interlinkages of the NUA and the Global Urban Development Agenda

0. Introduction

The New Urban Agenda (NUA) serves as an accelerator of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Climate Change Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, and the outcome of the World Humanitarian Summit. Each of these agendas are interlinked through the implementation of the NUA in order to achieve the successful and effective implementation of all. There have been several examples of successful interlinkages and efficient utilization of the different agendas jointly, however much more can be done to clarify the interlinkages of policies and approaches at the national, sub-national, and local levels. This chapter summarizes the relationship between these agendas and their achievement in urban spaces and human settlements, as well as progress and requirements for their effective joint monitoring and implementation.

1. Short description of the different global agendas and why it is important to have and create synergies and how coherence can be achieved at urban level

Since the adoption of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), there has been an increased recognition of the need for a comprehensive and inclusive approach to the implementation of the various global agendas. This is fundamental in order to realize these agendas. Along this line, from an urban perspective, the New Urban Agenda (NUA) has recognized the importance of integrating the relevant global agendas including the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Climate Change Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Addis Ababa Action agenda on Financing for Development (see NUA paragraphs 6, 9, 11, 12, 77, 79, 127, 128, 150). While cross-references are available, it is important to ensure that the implementation of all these global agendas is complimentary and that relevant synergies are created for coherent implementation and follow up and review. Climate change, for example, particularly complicates the urbanization challenge. By 2030, climate change and natural disasters may cost cities worldwide USD 314 billion each year, and push more than 77 million more urban residents into poverty. The actions and decisions taken in urban spaces and development (e.g. housing and infrastructure) have lasting impacts which will determine if the Paris Agreement goal of keeping the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius can be achieved. The New Urban Agenda serves as an accelerator of the other relevant agendas, guiding and defining the processes and actions needed for their effective implementation at the regional, national and local levels. The critical nature of the issues addressed in these global agendas highlights the urgency of establishing effective interlinked monitoring systems for the NUA.

Some regional efforts to combat climate change showcase the use of the NUA as an accelerator. For example, using the guidance of the NUA, the Arab Ministerial Water Council, the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, and the Economic and the Arab Social and Economic Council have assessed and mitigated the effects of extreme climate-related events, such as droughts, floods, heat waves and sandstorms, which are straining the resilience of cities and communities throughout the Arab region. These efforts have thus contributed to bridge the gap between the global urban, sustainable development and disaster reduction agendas.

Urban spaces and human settlements as agents of change offer great platforms for exploring and assessing the joint implementations of these global agendas and how these converge and complement each other. Climate change, housing, financing, gender equality, and migration, etc. are good examples of urban related issues that link and require complimentary delivery and implementation of these global agendas. (Well managed urbanization as articulated in the NUA presents an opportunity for climate change adaptation and mitigation as detailed in the Paris agreement. It is also a good opportunity to advance SDG5 gender equality around the globe, through provision of urban infrastructure and facilities that are more responsive to the needs of women and the caring economy. Hence many of these agendas will be judged by how successfully they transform their communities, and articulating such success can benefit

from stronger synergies and coherence in implementation and reporting. Furthermore, there are significant interlinkages between NUA and the SDGs, especially SDG 11 that focuses on cities and human settlements. Due to the interdependence of the SDGs, a holistic approach is necessary generally, and particularly at the urban setting for a successful implementation of all SDGs. Legal frameworks, governance and institutional arrangements, land, and partnerships are basic necessary prerequisites for creating the enabling environments for achieving the urban SDGs and the NUA.

One example of such interlinkages is Goal 1 and Goal 8 and Goal 16: Poverty reduction and promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all. 80 percent of the global gross domestic product is produced in cities. To achieve the SDGs, the investment needed for infrastructure will surpass 50 trillion USD until 2050. These numbers reflect a huge economic opportunity. Yet, in many cities most of the employment is in the informal sector (Africa 80%). The demand for jobs is rapidly increasing, Cities need to boost employment in the informal sector, most of it for low skill workers. Public tendering by cities for infrastructure projects can ask for including local labor force; the means of service delivery can include local labor (e.g. waste pickers and recyclers), access to affordable transport is fundamental (Nairobi walkers), plus access to education/vocational training, plus incremental housing schemes, food supply by local markets. Localizing the global agendas and integrating them into city development planning and management is a key role for cities.

In Ethiopia, the SDGs are fully integrated in Ethiopia's Second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II), which was adopted in parallel with the SDG process. For example, efficient and clean energy (SDG 7) is recognized as a precondition for sustainable agriculture (SDG 2), while clean and affordable water (SDG 6) is stated to foster agricultural sector development (SDG 2). The interdependency of the SDGs is very clear and visible, the individual SDGs will affect each other. In republic of **Benin**, 49 SDG targets were identified as priorities for the future National Development Plan, and what has happened in the last 18 months? Has it enabled the government's implementation strategy? (Example of middle-income country) **In Colombia**, the Colombian government embraced a particularly ambitious approach to the attainment of the SDGs, which it conceived as a process that takes place simultaneously with the internal peace-building after a period of long civil war, accession to the OECD, and the implementation of the country's green growth strategy. Colombian policy-makers started to implement the SDGs in the context of its National Development Plan 2014–2018. (Example of high-income country) **In Switzerland**, the Swiss government conceives of the SDGs as thematic clusters that need to be addressed jointly in order to attain their underlying policy goals: The clusters formed do not correspond to the identified interlinkages when consulting the SDGs directly. Climate change has the greatest number of linkages with other thematic areas. But when looking at the Swiss approach, the governance of natural resources, for example, is associated with more SDGs than climate governance.

At the urban level, many global agendas also benefit from an overarching unified monitoring system examining the joint investments, progress and achievements of all these global goals. Through an integrated thinking approach, significant progress has been made in the development of national capacities and sharing supporting tools that help member states collect, analyze, and use urban data and enable the implementation of the NUA and the urban SDGs. One example highlights a first attempt to interlink the Paris Agreement and the SDGs through the development of a tool for national governments. This tool analyses and maps how the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) corresponds to each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Climate Watch Platform, developed by the Stockholm Environment Institute (2017)). Another initiative is the establishment of an Arab Climate Outlook Forum (ArabCOF) and RICCAR regional knowledge hub RKH is institutionalizing regional capacity for conducting climate change assessments at the regional, national, and urban levels. Such tools also demonstrate the opportunities to optimize limited resources. Linking adds value and connects the underlying principles among these agendas given that many rely on the same funding envelopes, have cross-cutting objectives, and impact the same global, regional, and local communities and people.

Working on interlinkages provides optimization of issues to avoid overlaps and save on both human and financial capitals for the implementation and achievement of these global agendas. Without joint delivery of these global agendas we stand the risk of missing opportunities to learn from past mistakes and avoid pre-existing inefficiencies and negative or positive interactions or trade off. For example, it is well documented that human activities in cities as noted in the NUA are in large part responsible for the current climate change trends and dynamics (Paris Agreement), and at the same time human settlements are vulnerable to the increasing impacts attributed to climate change and the direct effect of pollution. Therefore, it is only logical that human settlements planning is also part of the solution to the climate challenge.

The Addis Ababa agreement focuses on many aspects of development, but does not have strength in the area of municipal and urban finance. There is a need for further development of focus on municipal and urban level access to finance. In paragraph 143, the NUA supports access to multilateral funds including the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Adaptation Fund, and the Climate Investment Funds, among others, to secure resources for climate change adaptation and mitigation work and to develop climate finance infrastructure solutions and create appropriate mechanisms. Since the adoption of the NUA, little progress has been made in this area. Access to adequate financing remains a serious challenge, and a systemic approach to working with these funds is needed. The first UN-Habitat project funded by the Climate Adaptation fund was launched in Lao People's Democratic Republic with the aim of improving climate resilience in a number of villages in one of the poorest and most vulnerable parts of the country.

Similarly, the challenge of non-integration of implementation of these global agendas and urban issues being dispersed across the multiple agendas can hinder the effective participation of local and regional governments and civil society. The ministries that are in charge of collecting this data and monitoring the NUA the key actors in implementation and monitoring of the NUA (ministries responsible for housing and urban development, cities, and local governments) are not fully integrated in the national processes for climate change, the Sendai Framework, and all global agendas. This is a key challenge identified in hindering local governments to respond to crises. The resources allocated tend to be at the Federal side and not at the local side, so while local governments have increasing responsibilities to implement services, they lack the resources for this implementation. (link to ch.4)

In addition, this non-integration can exacerbate the potential tradeoffs that may exist by jointly delivering on the implementation of these global agendas. One such tradeoff is between resource-efficiency and resilience, which requires redundancies in infrastructure and may significantly reduce efficiency. Another possible trade-off is that greater environmental efficiency in the urban transport sector is achieved at the expense of women. Women's mobility patterns as main users of public transport are less contaminating than men's, but they imply lesser opportunities to access jobs and services. This trade-off between gender equality and environmental policies is happening in the US, with policies reducing access to cars, which disproportionately affect low-income women who need cars to access jobs. Implementing jointly these global agendas also provides an opportunity to learn and document possible sequential synergies that may exist among the delivery of the various components of these global agendas, which would also help understand the complexities of various agendas while also highlighting the synergies among them.

Additional trade-offs include an example on the urban expansions of cities; impact of energy, division of cities (in terms of inequalities). Show how to optimize the use of limited resource by showing complementary and synergies (between SDGs and Paris agreement, etc.) One example includes UN-Habitat published *Trends in Urban Resilience 2017*, which demonstrates an integrated approach to urban resilience under the framework of all six major global agendas (New Urban Agenda, Sustainable Development Goals, Sendai Framework, Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Paris Agreement and Humanitarian Summit). This publication responds to a growing demand to track trends. It has potential to

bring together the development and humanitarian domains by showing commonalities and gaps. The publication presents 8 case studies to illustrate the integration of global agendas in practice. These include: Detroit, USA; Kiribati; Guayaquil, Ecuador; Riace, Italy; Johannesburg, South Africa; Bossaso, Somalia; Yakutsk, Russian Federation; and Toyama, Japan³.

As an accelerator of the other agendas, the NUA has many concrete interlinkages with the monitoring processes and indicators of the SDGs, and is need of developing linkages at the urban level with other global agendas. For example, its emphasis on establishing safe and inclusive public spaces is partially monitored via SDG indicators 11.7.1, “Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities (Tier III)” Similarly, the monitoring air quality and short-lived pollutants in urban spaces can utilize SDG indicators 3.9.1 (Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution (Tier 1)) and 11.6.2 (Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted) (Tier 1)). However, while some NUA focus areas can be monitored very well using existing indicators applied at the local level, the implementation of some other areas are not covered by these indicators.

For example, paragraph 102 of the NUA calls for improvements in the training and capacity of urban planners. Moving towards this target is vital to successfully achieving not only SDG 11 but all of these agendas at the urban level, however there is currently no SDG or any other global indicator that monitors this achievement. Similarly, paragraph 51 of the NUA commits to promoting the development of urban spatial frameworks, including urban planning and design instruments that support sustainable management and use of natural resources and land, appropriate compactness and density, polycentrism and mixed uses, through infill or planned urban extension strategies. This vital commitment also does not have a corresponding indicator. It is therefore clear that, while there are many clear existing links and opportunities to track NUA progress via existing SDG indicators and targets, it will also be necessary to fill in the gaps with additional data and methods of monitoring the successful implementation of the NUA qualitatively and quantitatively. Within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations Statistics Division along with UN-Habitat and the UN Regional Commissions are strengthening national and local capacity in human settlements indicators, specifically those pertaining to SDG-11. This initiative aims at enhancing national and local capacity in collecting, analysing and reporting on human settlements indicators, including the use of new spatial data and GIS platforms. UN-Habitat developed guidelines as a reference document for National Statistical Offices’ staff and urban planning officers to be used when identifying urban development plans and strategies and expanding urban observatories, including the City Prosperity Initiative (CPI) as a monitoring tool for urbanisation and NUA implementation. One initiative is the Federal State programme in Germany working with BMZ and the Bertelsmann Foundation to hold regional commissions training workshops on NUA and SDG indicators.

SDG 16 stresses the importance of strong institutions and inclusive decision-making, but it will be also vital for each country to specify roles and responsibilities and the enabling conditions for implementation at the local level. The follow-up and review of the enabling conditions such as national urban policies require assessment and monitoring by sub-national governments and other stakeholders.

2. What is needed for an integrated national and local implementation of the global agendas.

Comprehensive and enabling policy and legal frameworks are essential for national and sub-national governments to empower and enable sub-national governments to realize the transformative changes cumulatively envisaged in the global agendas (NUA Para.: 81 and 130). This include adoption of policies, legislation, institutional frameworks, mechanisms and approaches to foster effective coordination and collaboration among key actors - national and local governments, civil society and other stakeholders, the

³ http://Trends_in_Urban_Resilience_2017_smallest.pdf

private sector, UN system, intergovernmental organisations and other development partners. Political will and leadership, cross-sectoral institutional frameworks, and innovative partnerships at all levels are fundamental components to ensure meaningful integration of these global agendas.

At the global and regional levels collaboration and development of joint implementation plans, programming, monitoring and reporting systems across global agendas facilitates integration and demonstration of interlinkages and indivisibility of the issues. The preparation of integrated reports on the global agendas lessens the burden of reporting on countries and build synergies across different funding mechanisms. The multi-disciplinary nature of urbanisation calls for close sectoral linkages and interconnectedness in planning, programming, and reporting bearing in mind the sectorial nature of funds: cross-sectoral and cross-agendas. For example, the Regional Action Plan for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean (RAP) has been developed under the coordination of the United Nations' Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC), widely known by its Spanish acronym CEPAL), UN-Habitat, and MINURVI, with the collaboration of over 125 regional experts associated with diverse actor groups (ministries, local governments, academia, NGOs, development banks and the private sector). The RAP builds upon the impetus of Habitat III, and seeks to be the regional expression of the New Urban Agenda. It is intended as a regional guide, both adaptable to local conditions and needs, and capable of building synergies with existing global agreements and agendas beyond the NUA, such as the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Similarly, In November 2017, Ministers and Heads of Delegations at the Ministerial Segment of the seventy-eighth session of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management adopted the Geneva Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Housing and Urban Development. The Ministerial Declaration reiterates the importance for governments at all levels and relevant stakeholders in the UNECE region to promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda, the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing and other relevant global and regional commitments. Other initiative have also been formulated in the Arab and the Asia and the Pacific regions.

National Urban Policies and/or strategies can set an overall institutional architecture, with competences, tools and resources clearly defined for each level of government; and as such enable coordination and complementarity between them. Besides, national urban policies based on an inclusive and participatory process should enable stronger coordination between sectors and actors, as well as cross-sectoral solutions. So far, 54 countries in the world have adopted national urban policy frameworks. Besides, well-structured national urban policies should enhance sub-national planning and revenue management, as well as data collection and analysis. Further, NUPs offer an opportunity to mainstream climate change mitigation and adaption in urban areas, and to coordinate this mainstreaming and the approach to National Determined Contributions (NDCs) with other urban sectorial policies. An example is the National Urban Policy Programme, a joint collaboration between UN-Habitat, OECD, and Cities Alliance, which was launched in Quito. Main objective of this joint collaboration is to provide a knowledge creation platform for all level of governments and to foster the creation of NUPs and frameworks to steer the urbanization process and as a crucial entry points and enabler of the global urban agendas. Moreover, to also assess progress on developing and implementing National Urban Policies (NUPS) and Urban Policy frameworks. A bi annual report Global State Report on National Urban Policies was launched at the World Urban Forum 9 (WUF9). The report states currently that many countries have NUP frameworks. There is still aneed to systematically interlink existing NUPS to the international agendas due to different time frames for adoption. However, many countries took up the lead to remedy and update their NUPs in line with their global commitments. For example, Chile has already finished reexamining these interlinkages in order to harmonize its approaches with all of the global agendas and Ghana is currently under taking this task. Countries with existing NUPs, such as Ghana and Guatemala and other other countries, are currently reviewing their policies to align them to the global agendas.

The main objective of the NUA is to empower the local governments and other actors and create synergies for a coherent and joint implementation of the global agendas for the ultimate benefit of urban dwellers. Local follow-up and review processes are an important opportunity to foster inclusiveness, as they can involve all those actors who shape a city. Inclusive local follow-up and review processes allow for a coherent view of the challenges and opportunities at the local level and gives local stakeholders an opportunity to express their opinions on the future of their city.

A framework comprising complementary targets and indicators, in addition to those which are currently part of the follow up and review of the global agendas, does not currently exist and is vital to the successful monitoring of the implementation of the NUA in alignment with the other agendas. These agendas cannot be achieved without the local and sub-national governments and relevant stakeholders, and both recognize the need to have a closer look at what an enabling environment would be necessary. For example, in Mannheim (Germany) timing has been advantageous regarding the localizing of the global agendas, as the city developed its local Agenda 2030 to align it with the global agreements as they were being adopted through a comprehensive participatory and inclusive process on all different levels of the city's civil society and other stakeholders. At the same time, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) Agency "Engagement Global" has been supporting this Mannheim Model of Implementing the SDGs and NUA financially. This dissolution of resources shows the willingness by the federal state to appreciate the rationale that the global agendas must be implemented on the local level. This approach enables new dimensions and more effective and holistic pathways of implementation and could be seen as a model approach for other cities and federal governments.

Since the adoption of the the 2030 Agenda and the NUA, the necessary and successful creation of an enabling environment, particularly at the local level, has yet to be fostered in many places. This has happened in terms of data access, provision of finance, expertise, capacity development. This is key because the local governments are the key drivers of all of these global agendas. Cities Alliance and UCLG have jointly created the City Enabling Environment tool to provide a method to measure this environment. It is necessary to create inter-sectoral linkages and cross-sectoral institutional frameworks to ensure that the enabling environment, as are different types of partnerships to look at these intersectoral linkages and ensuring. For example, the EU will implement the 2030 Agenda internally and globally, in cooperation with its partners, for this purpose the interlinkages with all the post-2015 development agenda will be essential. The NUA is understood as the implementing agenda of the urban dimension of SDGs, as well as the Paris Agreement, Sendai, and Addis Ababa, and the EU is implementing it through the Urban Agenda for the European Union which is the key delivery instrument for the NUA within Europe.⁴ The African Union (AU) is leading a process for developing a regional framework aligned with Agenda 2063; aligned with SDGs; regional framework links the Paris Agreement and Addis Ababa agreement. Chile established a multi-stakeholder consultative platform (National Urban Development Council) to advise the national government on the implementation of the national urban development policy. The council proposes measures to support the implementation of the NUA such as the development of a monitoring system for cities. It includes indicators that address not only the NUA, but also the SDGs. One next step will be to strengthen the relationship and link to the climate change agenda which is currently weak.

3. Highlighting Progress on Interlinkages

There are various examples highlighting progress on the implementation of the NUA and other global agendas at different levels. At the regional level, several regional initiatives to support implementation of the NUA have taken place in several UN regions. Various regional commissions have developed regional

⁴ Sources: Urban Agenda from the EU; EU implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

platforms such as the Arab Strategy for Housing and Sustainable Development and the Regional NUA Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean, among others. Relevant and examples of national level implementation, addressing the integration of the NUA and other relevant global agendas includes development of joint work plans to monitor and report on global agendas, which has thus far taken place in Mexico, Colombia, Tunisia , Botswana, and other countries.

Various forms of data, including spatial, qualitative, and process [planning, implementation and monitoring], at the national, regional, sub-national, metropolitan, and local levels are relevant for the monitoring and measuring of the global agendas. Progress has been made in the last few years in recognizing the role that this data and its proper analysis and application can play in sustainable urban development. The ongoing work on the City Definition Project, by the Joint Research Centre of the European Union and other stakeholders such as the New York University will contribute to the effective and integrated monitoring of urban spaces, and utilization of data at the city level. At the national level, in 2017, the Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) launched the *Seoul Sustainable Development Goals*, which include the 17 SDGs and 96 detailed targets. The SSDGs go a long way towards integrating the implementation of the SDGs at the metropolitan level. It includes, for example, a social protection system designed to meet the basic needs of vulnerable social groups, and a target to reduce the generation of greenhouse gases to 40% of that in 2005 and thus respond effectively combatting climate change. In this way, it makes a clear effort to link the SDGs, NUA.

Many cities have adopted global monitoring of environmental issues in line with the requirements of the global agendas, including climate change and air pollution, with the cities increasingly taking initiative and responsibility for local-level adoption of the Paris Agreement, sometimes without national level support. Some examples of these movements include networks of cities addressing climate change, and in the U.S., 402 cities within the U.S. Climate Mayors platform, a part of the We are Still in campaign, as well as organizations such as C40 Cities, focused on driving urban actions that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, climate risks, and increasing health, wellbeing, and economic opportunities for urban citizens. Cities are increasingly applying an integrated approach to climate change planning, integrating this principle into larger city development plans. The “Sustainable Energy Action Plan” of Manheim was started after the adoption of the Paris Agreement, and is incorporated within the Manheim Strategic Development Plan alongside the NUA and the SDGs, and has successfully reduced CO2 emissions by 40% thus far. A key lesson that has been learned is that the availability of adequate resources at the municipal level have been vital to achieving these successes, and this resource allocation can serve as a model for other cities.

Since the adoption of the NUA, some local, subnational, and national governments have made progress in developing local plans and processes for the follow up and review of the NUA and are achieving synergies between the different global agendas. One example of this effective integration is in Manheim (Germany). The city of Manheim began a municipal change process in 2008, defining strategic goals for the city via a participatory process. After being involved in the NUA process, and then after the adoption of the NUA in 2016, the city initiated a process to create a local agenda for Manheim 2030, which is based on a consultative process and in alignment with the developing German NUA monitoring system. This agenda aligned with the global agendas, and ensured that the global goals and processes were translated to the local level. Each department has indicators to measure the process and its success, with the target and indicator systems integrated into the city strategy. One lesson learned from this example includes the opportunity to empower the work that local governments and the other stakeholders and community groups are doing to improve their communities by linking and refining their work in accordance with these agreements. South Africa launched the NUA Urban Agenda Localisation Framework in 2017 which is aligned with the Integrated Urban Development Framework and Action Plan. It seeks to unify the global, continental and national frameworks into a unified actionable

programme for the South African Society⁵. Several multi-stakeholder consultations involving urban and human settlements stakeholders facilitated the development of this framework, especially the consultations held during the Human Settlements Summit in Ekurhuleni in August 2017 and the follow-up engagement in Durban during World Cities Day in October 2017.

The NUA, along with the Paris Agreement which came into force in November 2016, there are a number of additional international agendas that member States are beginning to harmonize with other national policies. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda, outline additional commitments that seek integration into national policies, plans and strategies by member States especially for the urban targets. For example, among the 169 targets featured in the 17 Goals, there are a number of clear and direct references to cities and climate change, while other references are only indirect. India for example states how the aspirational goals of providing energy access and housing for all by 2022 and the elimination of malaria by 2030 (Nationally Determined Contributions report: India. pg.22), can be achieved through climate action.

4. Recommendations: Policies and actions for effective linkages

- **Identification of the gaps in integration and monitoring efforts before 2022:** Due to the gaps between the existing current indicators and the information and indicators needed to properly monitor the new aspects of the NUA that are specifically related to the science and best practices of cities, increased capacity/ funding will be necessary to ensure comprehensive and data-driven quadrennial reports. One added value of the NUA is looking at qualitative aspects of the NUA and its processes and actions. A harmonized approach to addressing these gaps is proposed, capitalizing on UN-Habitat and its partners, which should normative knowledge and expertise, to support Member States to analyze existing gaps in all of these global agendas. A global analysis is proposed to identify these gaps. The lack of clear targets and indicators for all of the areas of the NUA is an opportunity to work with other key actors and to concentrate on the areas and processes that create enabling environments. This work proposes mapping the urban dimensions of the global agendas and using existing platforms and identifying gaps for local and urban level connections and monitoring mechanisms.
- **Dialogues:** UN-Habitat, in its focal point role for the urban SDGs and the NUA, promotes dialogues from all levels and with all critical actors, including stakeholders, to clarify these linkages. This type of dialogue at the national and sub-national level is not happening in many countries, yet will provide an opportunity to ensure that data gaps are identified and addressed. This should be accompanied by a framework and tools to be developed, coordinated by UN-Habitat, for the dialogues. At the national and local levels, work directly with Member States and local actors in the dialogue to identify gaps in the agendas.
- **Institutional changes and global monitoring:** The creation of a mechanism that allows joint reviews of the global agendas at the national and sub-national levels. Creation of joint global agenda review mechanisms. which will enable the United Nations to request information from member states and other key actors and contributors in a concise and consolidated way, including requesting disaggregated data (data at the urban/ local level/ regional/ metropolitan/ territorial level) which illustrates progress on the urban dimension of several agendas and provide local and urban context. The voluntary reports that are currently given to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) can be adopted as an additional platform to use to monitor progress on other agendas, including the NUA and progress at the local level towards adoption of the Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework. This further provides an opportunity to add new indicators and questions for data that can monitor the NUA into the questionnaires, surveys, and voluntary reports that

⁵ Localising the New Urban Agenda Framework, South Africa Discussion Document, 2017

countries submit for the SDGs. Countries are encouraged to look at the urban dimension of each SDG in subsequent reporting years, and to adopt a global monitoring framework that allows reporting on SDGs and the NUA using a unified tool (this can consider CPI methodology among others).

- Recommendation for governments to address the challenges against this harmonization by creating an enabling environment for local governments to have the resources and capacity available to be able to integrate the agendas for a local implementation plan.

Chapter 2: Key Trends and Challenges⁶

INTRODUCTION

The Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Cities 2030 adopted at the 9th session of the World Urban Forum in February 2018 is the last of a series of documents that accurately acknowledge a number of persistent and emerging trends and challenges typical of our globalized urban environment.

Reports from different world regions for the preparation of the Habitat III conference include accurate and up to date figures and analysis on regional specific trends, recognizing the variety of challenges and phenomena that cities in different regions have to face. A number of comprehensive reports covering all regions give a comprehensive overview and quantify current urban trends⁷.

Along with the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, the global community has recognized that urbanization is a long lasting critical issue that matters for all. This is a major and historical paradigm shift that will require in the coming months and years comprehensive and in depth efforts at all scales.

As urban issues get growingly complex and are interlinking, the need to provide solid and accessible sources of knowledge and to avoid the oversimplification of issues had become more urgent/pressing. While working on existing and on-going trends, recalled in the first section of the chapter, the global community needs to pay attention to changing and emerging trends, highlighted in second part.

Decision makers as well as public opinions and citizens worldwide are data and information hungry, and consolidated statistics regarding our urban livelihoods are largely missing. Better and improved knowledge is also needed but it will also require a greater and well-managed collaboration of the research and academic community worldwide, including public and private researchers, students and universities and university-cities as interconnected accelerators of knowledge and skills.

PERSISTING TRENDS

Demographic Trends

Continuous Increase in urban population

The world has witnessed a continuous increase its urban population. In 1990, 43 per cent (2.3 billion) of the world's population lived in urban areas; by 2015, this had grown to 54 per cent (4 billion). The increase in urban population has not been even across world. Though different regions have seen their urban populations grow more quickly, or less quickly, virtually no part of the world can report a decrease in urbanization.

⁶ As prepared by group for 10.30 am 23/3/18 [No updated paper received]

⁷ also listed in the latest World Cities Report from 2016. Among them we recall World Bank reports issued between 2015 and 2017 as well as from others institutions such as OECD, European Commission,...

Links to NUA/SDGs: Increased urbanization presents opportunities for addressing the NUA/SDGs through building an urban governance structure; and by effective planning and managing urban spatial development.

Youthful population

Many countries in the developing regions are characterized by a relatively young population with children under age 15 accounting for 28 per cent of the population, and youth aged 15 to 24 accounting for a further 17 per cent. A high youth population presents challenge of youth unemployment, which is two to three times higher than adult unemployment. This has presented countries with a potential opportunity, which many countries are taking into consideration in their implementation of the NUA/SDGs with specific policies to spur social and economic development in the form of age-structured transformation through youth employment and engagement programmes.

Ageing population

Globally, the population aged 60 or over is the fastest growing at 3.26 per cent per year. This age group rose from 8% in 1950, to 10 per cent in 2000; by 2015, there were 901 million people aged 60 or over, comprising 12% of the world's population. Currently, Europe has the greatest percentage of its population (24 per cent) aged 60 or over. Rapid ageing of the population is occurring all over the world, and as such, all regions, save for Africa would have almost 25% of their population aged 60 or over by 2050.

Links to NUA/SDGs: A youthful population requires investment in education, training, recreational and community facilities. Also, a rapidly ageing population places increased demand on healthcare, recreation, transportation and other facilities for the elderly, as well as implications for old-aged social protection and pension schemes (**Sustainable urban development for social inclusion and ending poverty & Inclusive urban prosperity and opportunities for all**)

Increase in urban land area and low- density development

As the urban population increases, the land area occupied by cities has increased at an even higher rate. More dispersed patterns of urbanization in the form of suburbanization, peri-urbanization, or urban sprawl have constituted a significant trend over the last two decades.⁸ Between 1990 and 2015, cities in developed countries increased their urban land area by 80%, but the urban population increased only by 12%. The average land use per capita in developed countries is 550 m². In developing countries, the urban land use increased by 350%, while urban population increased by 100%. The average land use per capita is 200 m². Closely related to the rapid expansion of cities is low-density development.

Housing affordability: housing /mobility

There is insufficient protection from human rights violations, including forced evictions, and inadequate inclusion of people living in poverty, persons with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups in urban planning and design, and legislation processes.

Small and medium size cities are the fastest growing

The fastest growing urban centres are the small and medium cities with less than one million inhabitants, which account for 59% per cent of the world's urban population and 62% cent of the urban population in Africa. Despite the demographic importance and potential role of such cities, urban planning efforts in developing countries have focused disproportionately on the problems of large metropolitan areas,

⁸ UN-Habitat (2016) WCR

thereby contributing to urban primacy. If small and medium cities are to fulfill their potential, then they should feature prominently in the NUA/SDGs.

Rise in Inequality in cities

Inequality has become a major emerging urban issue that has implications for the achievement and implementation of both NUA and SDGs. This is because the gap between the rich and the poor in most countries is at its highest levels for the past 30 years. The global 1% earners captured twice as much of that growth as the 50% poorest.⁹ Inequality is a key policy issue is important in that in different countries and cities, the urban divide both stigmatizes and excludes. Inequality stigmatizes and even removes large groups of the urban population from a socially and economically productive life. Thus, income inequality and spatial fragmentation are mutually reinforcing, leading to segregated and violent cities. Women, children and the aged feel the brunt of these processes.

Gender inequalities persist in urban economic and leadership spheres. Gender and women's issues are at the core of demographic change, with great implications for cities. Lower fertility rates around the world imply smaller household sizes; aging is a gendered phenomenon because of the higher life expectancy of women and because those who care after the old are women; increased participation of women in the formal economy impose new requirements on the location of homes vis-a-vis places of employment and urban services, as well as to the layout and management of transportation systems.

Links to New Urban Agenda and SDGs: Low-density development is not only wasteful and costly to provide infrastructure and services, but environmentally unsustainable, and precludes cities from enjoying the benefits associated with agglomeration economies. Also, a balanced territorial development that takes cognizance of the different sizes and categories of cities leaves no one behind are being achieved through for urban planning in addressing inequality and seeking ways to promote social integration and cohesion.

Climate change and cities

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges that cities must contend with, as indicated in the Paris agreement. With more than 50% of the world's population, cities account for between 60 and 80% of energy consumption and generate as much as 70% of the human-induced greenhouse gas emissions primarily through the consumption of fossil fuels for energy supply and transportation. While climate change is a global issue, it is also a local issue, as urban areas have a crucial role in the climate change arena. In terms of the role of cities in addressing climate change and responding to the NUA/SDGs, cities have formed and are forming alliances such as the C40 alliances to address climate change induced effects.¹⁰

Links to NUA/SDGs: Urbanization offers many opportunities to develop mitigation and adaptation strategies to deal with climate change especially through urban planning and design. The economies of scale and innovation in cities make it cheaper and easier to take actions to minimize both emissions and climate hazards. **(Environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development)**

EMERGING TRENDS-CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Emerging trends are the ones for which the consequences are not yet clear. These are the ones for which the impact still unfolding, it is difficult to yet predict some of the consequences. We do not know yet how to monitor them.

⁹ World Inequality Report (2018)

¹⁰ C40.org

A. Crises are increasingly urban

A major emerging urban trend relates to insecurity and heightened risk. Cities are increasingly affected by new and pervasive risks such as terrorism, urban warfare, heightened securitization, the spread of diseases and food shortages among others.¹¹ These crises undermine the long-term sustainability of cities worldwide and their ability to implement the NUA and achieve the SDGs.

Rapid urban growth and the globalized nature of cities have added new levels of urban health risks. The spread of disease in cities often occurs because of inadequate infrastructure and services. The outbreak of Ebola fever in West Africa, and subsequent spread to other countries during the years 2013 to 2015, was particularly virulent in the underserved slums of major coastal cities.¹²

The intensification of terrorism and its impacts on civilian lives in cities is clearly demonstrated by the over five-fold increase of terrorism related deaths in the past decade and a half. War itself is now being urbanized, and this has meant greater civilian deaths and destruction of critical infrastructure.

Countries are now responding to these security breaches by urban militarization which entails the extension of military ideas of tracking, identification and targeting into city space and everyday life.¹³ Some countries or cities are investing in facilities and technologies specifically designed for combat in cities.¹⁴ This is evident in the security measures adopted for sporting events, the fortification of border security networks, and the deployment of security details during large international summits.¹⁵ The advancement of digital technologies and the development of the internet have paved a way for a new kind of risk. Cyber insecurity, which goes beyond physical boundaries, has become extremely prevalent in today's digital world. Despite the cascading of different forms of crises, efforts to take back the city's spaces are gaining in momentum in many cities worldwide. These crises are linked to the NUA in that they will negatively impact on achieving sustainable and inclusive urban prosperity and opportunities for all.

In many Latin-American countries the social peace is at risk in cities. Many people in cities are experiencing the passage from middle-class to poverty due to the economic crisis and this can soon leave to exacerbated social conflicts in Latin-American cities.

B. Migration as a challenge and opportunity for improving inclusiveness in cities

Cities are in the frontline in responding to migrant needs and trends. There are clear requirement of new policies globally to integrate refugees into cities in an inclusive manner. Housing for migrants in cities—in the context of an already existing lack of affordable decent housing—is a serious challenge. Connections between domestic labour markets, employment, language and citizenship are other prevailing concerns (see UN, 2016; TMC, 2017). Cities are building strategies (including securing funding and finance) to adapt to these rapid demographic changes, to ensure access to affordable housing, continued inclusive neighborhoods and a good quality of life.

International migration flows have risen to levels not witnessed since World War II (ECE, 2016:26), whether due to displacement, migration from the country-side to cities, or environmental migration. By adopting in 2016 the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, UN Member States recognized the need for a comprehensive approach to human mobility and enhanced cooperation at the global level. EU example from cities--migration is offsetting ageing communities in providing workers, income, life in shrinking cities such as in Germany.

¹¹ UN-Habitat (2016) WCR.

¹² Snyder et al. (2014)

¹³ Svitková, 2014; Graham, 2004.

¹⁴ Svitková, 2014.

¹⁵ Svitková, 2014; Wilson, 2014.

C. New technologies and data as tools, resources, and value

- **Creative industries**

Future urban landscapes are shaped not only by policies and projects but also by the new imaginaries of a growingly urban world, echoed billion times a day by media or social networks. In that new normal, creative industries stand out as a typically urban and metropolitan industry, which potential to help disseminate and localize the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs has been underestimated. This is also a matter of global, regional and local urban economy, as the 11 sectors of creative economy have generated at least \$2,250 billion in revenues with more than 29.5 million jobs worldwide as of 2015, the equivalent to 3% of the World GDP and 1% of the world's active population.¹⁶ While creative industries are open to people of all ages and backgrounds, they provide a significant contribution to youth employment and careers and they are connecting the formal and informal sectors, generations and regions, bearing a largely untapped potential to improve urbanization by 2030.

- **Data as a valuable asset (ref. NUA para. 156-157-159-160)**

The way in which we measure urban performance has a great impact on the implementation of the NUA, not only for the monitoring process itself, but also because it affects the way in which governments at different levels take well-informed decisions, allocate resources, and manage their taxation mechanisms. Data are becoming not only a monitoring tool, but are increasingly seen as a resource for cities and citizens and as a valuable asset of many industries. During the last years, new techniques emerged for the use of big and crowd-sourced data to complement traditional data. These new techniques can reduce the cost of knowledge production for the support of decision-making process.

Example: New programs which integrates data from open and shared platforms with official statistics have been implemented, such as the JRC ENACT project that produced the first spatiotemporal mapping of population in Europe¹⁷ at 100m resolution.

Example: Know your city

- **Urban culture**

The role of social and formal media, change of the rules, homogenization of the "city idea"

What one can see is the emergence of a new urban culture, whereby former governance structures do not apply, and the power to manage is reduced. Examples include messages being conveyed both by formal and informal media.

D. Rise in inequality in cities remains a challenge in implementing the NUA (the group does not agree if this part should be merged in the)

75% of cities around the world are more unequal today than they were 20 years ago. If it is true that cities tend to generate inequality, they are also the places where it is possible to reduce inequalities. The key characteristics of urbanity represent opportunities to reduce disparities in access to services and economic opportunities for all. Despite of that, still today disadvantages for citizens are more and more concentrated in specific places and population groups within cities. The NUA was innovative in proposing a territorial approach in order to reduce inequalities that represent a major threat to a shared prosperity. The goal of the NUA is also to reduce the geography of inequality not only among countries but also within countries. In some regions, the territorial approach has been identified as a key delivery mechanism to implement the NUA.

¹⁶ Television, visual arts, newspapers & magazines, advertising, architecture, books, performing arts, gaming, movies, music and radio, design. Figures EY, 2015

¹⁷ The ENACT project ("ENhancing ACTivity and population mapping") is an ongoing applied research project of the EC Joint Research Centre aiming at producing consistent, seamless, multi-temporal, high-resolution and validated population density grids for Europe that take into account major daily and seasonal population variations. <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/publication/spatiotemporal-mapping-population-europe-enact-project-nutshell>

E. Role of cities in responding to environmental degradation and climate change is increasing

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges that cities must contend with, as indicated in the Paris agreement. With more than 50% of the world's population, cities account for between 60 and 80% of energy consumption and generate as much as 70% of the human-induced greenhouse gas emissions primarily through the consumption of fossil fuels for energy supply and transportation. While climate change is a global issue, it is also a local issue, as urban areas have a crucial role in the climate change arena.

While climate change is a profound global issue, it is also a local issue, as urban areas have a crucial role in the climate change arena. Urban areas concentrate economic activities, households, industries and infrastructures, which are hotspots for energy consumption as well as key sources of greenhouse gases. Urbanization offers many opportunities to develop mitigation and adaptation strategies to deal with climate change especially through urban planning and design. The economies of scale, concentration of enterprises and innovation in cities, make it cheaper and easier to take actions to minimize both emissions and climate hazards.

Links to NUA/SDGs: Urbanization offers many opportunities to develop mitigation and adaptation strategies to deal with climate change especially through urban planning and design. The economies of scale and innovation in cities make it cheaper and easier to take actions to minimize both emissions and climate hazards. **(Environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development)**

F. The NUA has strengthened stakeholder networks

Cities have an increasing role in the New Urban Agenda and other global agendas. They are playing a fundamental role in the appropriation of the implementation process and by doing this, in the achievement of the goals. Cities presently are building new alliances through for instance “the Global Covenant of Mayors”, C40, Global Taskforce, World Mayors Council on Climate Change, US Conference of Mayors and platforms as UCLG and their regional chapters, ICLEI, amongst others are being strengthened. However, there is still potential for better coordination of their action with other stakeholders for increased effectiveness of the implementation of NUA at regional, national, sub-national and local levels. Still an effort to reach all local governments with NUA needs to be done. The realization of the role of cities in implementing the New Urban Agenda also calls for strengthening of multi-level governance arrangements in countries around for instance both promotion and regulation of sharing economies. However, there is big space for bigger and more sustainable support from Member States and donors to the partnerships where these organisations participate to increase their impact on the implementation of the NUA.¹⁸

G. Emerging opportunities for financing the NUA

There is a significant financing gap for the urban sector, estimated at over US\$4.5 trillion per year, compared with the US\$160 billion that are provided globally in Official Development Assistance (ODA) annually, generates the need to leverage both public and private capital in quantity and quality.

For example, analysis for a selected set of Asia Pacific countries over a 5-year period from 2016–2020 shows that public sector reforms on both tax revenues and expenditures can meet around 46 per cent of the annual gap (US\$121 billion out of US\$262 billion) between current and needed investments based on baseline estimates. The result is a 54 per cent gap (or US\$141 billion) specifically for private sector infrastructure finance instruments, including those mentioned below.

¹⁸ Good examples are: Urban Housing Practitioners Hub, groups promoting universal accessibility to the City; Right to the City platform; cities and climate change networks, networks on mobility, urban safety forums, intermediary cities networks, journalism academies, private sector organisations, association of universities and research groups and capacity building platforms. This has provided a follow up to the General Assembly of Partners document “Partnerships for the New Urban Agenda”.

International organisations like World Bank Group (WBG) and UNH are jointly proposing the establishment of a **Multi-partner Implementation Facility for Sustainable Urban Development (IFSUD)** to set countries, cities and human settlements, currently facing urban challenges.¹⁹

Initiatives are also being developed at regional and local levels. For instance, in LAC different institutions led by Mercociudades have been promoting an Ecosystem of Funds towards Sustainable Urban Development in order to facilitate blending of funds, including private funds. C40 has also created the C40 Cities Finance Facility (CFF) to support cities in developing and emerging countries to prepare and deliver sustainable, low carbon and climate adaptation projects.

In addition to that, there is an increasing utilization of a broad range of alternatives on improving financing for urban development including development of municipal bonds, strengthening the revenue capacity of local governments, improving central-local fiscal transfers, mobilizing finance from land value capture, strengthening the financial capacities of public service utilities, expanding and deepening capital market provision of housing and real estate financing, and more effective usage of public financing (e.g. smart and well targeted subsidies) to leverage private financing. Expanding private finance by the required levels is no doubt a major challenge.

H. The role of new technologies in urban employment

An emerging trend in the urban economy is the impact of disruptive technologies on employment patterns, signifying a move towards a knowledge based economy that relies more on intellectual capabilities than physical inputs. Promising profound life changing effects, this ‘fourth’ industrial revolution²⁰ is characterised by major technological breakthrough (automation, robotics, artificial intelligence, Internet of Things).²¹ The transformative effects are manifesting in major and long-lasting impacts on the structure of employment in general, and how work is organised, blurring the conventional differentials between tradeable (manufacturing based) employment and non-tradeable (service based) employment. Two immediate effects have emerged as a results; huge non-tradeable or service jobs have become tradeable and witnessing relocations elsewhere within and across regions, deepening unemployment and job insecurity. Secondly, it is forcing migration within and between countries and regions, intensifying socioeconomic and spatial disparities. By 2025, it is reckoned that almost half of both new and replacement employment within the European Union will be highly skilled employments, forcing highly mobility across Europe.²² As these technologies unfolds, regional disparities are deepening, and particularly as it is the case that migration rates among younger women tend to be higher than men,²³ resulting in low fertility rates in the outward migration areas with potentially damaging effects on resilience to meet demographic challenges.²⁴

Implications for NUA/SDGs: This presents some challenges in fulfilling NUA/SDG agenda of *sustainable and urban prosperity and opportunities for all*, as youth unemployment is relatively more pronounced across global cities, and Cities are having to compete for employment and income generating opportunities, forcing many into erecting trade barriers, as in the case of the United States.

Recommendations

¹⁹ IFSUD facility is also integrating UN System AFPs as UNDP, UNOPS, UNEP, UN Women, WFP, and Global Compact for Cities Member States have already recognized IFSUD as a response to the call by the Secretary-General for more coordinated, efficient and coherent delivery of the 2030 Agenda in two separate resolutions in 2017 (Governing Council, 12 May 2017 - HSP/GC/26/CRP.10; General Assembly, 20 Oct. 2017 - A/C.2/72/L.36).

²⁰ Schwab, K. (2016). The Fourth Industrial Revolution. Geneva: World Economic Forum.

²¹ Brynjolfsson, E., and A. McAfee. 2014. The Second Machine Age: Work, Progress, and Prosperity in a Time of Brilliant Technologies. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

²² ESPON (2017). The Geography of New Employment Dynamics in Europe. www.espon.eu

²³ ESPON (2017). The Geography of New Employment Dynamics in Europe. www.espon.eu

²⁴ ESPON (2017). The Geography of New Employment Dynamics in Europe. www.espon.eu

Boosting the formation of urban knowledge and skills

We recommend that this platform serves as a convening place to nurture and assess the New Urban Agenda and be structured as a place favoring science, short term and long term research, interdisciplinary knowledge and skills. There is an urgent need to move from empirical compilation of data and facts to organized knowledge. Besides, think-tanks are also playing an important incubating and advocating role locally and globally and, as with the T20 under the G20, they should be used as urban knowledge and knowhow incubators. We recommend an agenda for the preparation of the 2nd Quadrennial report be discussed and approved during the 2018 High Level Political Forum on the SDGs in New York in July 2018. We recommend that the Quadrennial reports should take cognizance of regional specific trend in implementing the NUA.

Financing the NUA

Opportunities to leverage private finance for sustainable infrastructure investments are significant. In Asia Pacific for instance more than US\$340 billion was raised by Asian bond issuers in 2017, up from US\$211 billion the previous year, according to analytics group Dealogic using JPMorgan data. This can be extended to urban sector, but for catalising more private finance and create more blended finance deals, there are several needs: measuring the value of the impacts, some standardization of urban intervention modalities meeting New Urban Agenda criteria, predictability of rules, adaptability of regulation as technologies change and more trusted brokers to support those deals

Much has to be done to include with global funding mechanisms and platforms that are being set up as an outcome of the Paris Agreement, inter alii, also directly address urban issues. Such mechanisms as the Implementation Facility for Sustainable Urban Development (IFSUD) now have to be strengthened, ensuring a greater convergence between the private sector and sustainable urban development in cities, metropolitan areas and urban agglomerations worldwide. Such vehicles as the *Cities Program* established under the Global Compact should be acknowledged as drivers of new consistent partnerships involving the public and the private sector, to be broadened and developed. Worldwide, many ongoing experiences are now taking place as multi-stakeholder engagement platforms meant to favor urban innovation, inclusion and sustainable growth. These are the national 21 *Démonstrateurs Industriels de la Ville Durable* (DIVD) program in France such as *Rêve de Scène Urbaine* preparing for the Olympics 2024 in Paris, the *Boiling Points and Inno-cities* programs in the Russian Federation etc...

Mobilization of stakeholders

New Urban Agenda has also triggered a positive mobilisation from stakeholders from different sectors and around collaborative platforms to support implementation but also partial monitoring and feedback. All these efforts constitute a positive trend in itself but it is insufficient and there is a need of relevant and adapted meta-frameworks at regional, subregional and national levels in order to create the necessary synergies and geometrical increase on the number of platforms to allow the implementation of NUA process left no place behind.

Cities should address inequality within and across cities to ensure equality of opportunities for all, thus leaving no one behind.

Cities should seize on the low levels of urbanization especially in developing countries should provide ample opportunities for effective urban planning and design; ensuring that planning takes in line with the pace of urbanization.

Cities should link urban planning to environmental sustainability.

Cities should put small and medium cities at the forefront of the urban planning agenda, this is the particular case for the developing countries.

Investments in education and youth training to the structural changes to employment patterns, as it is the case that there is acute shortage of highly skilled workers

The New Urban Agenda provides the means for localizing the joint implementation of SDG 5 and SDG 11. Being gender equality a specific SDG, integrating gender issues in the NUA provides an important avenue for advancing both SDGs simultaneously.

Chapter 3: Developing a Coherent and Inclusive Reporting System²⁵

Towards an inclusive incremental approach to reporting

The New Urban Agenda reporting process complements and drives the implementation and localization of Agenda 2030 and other global commitments in the world's cities, towns and settlements of all shapes and sizes. It is not about the production of a document alone but an opportunity to build awareness and ownership of the New Urban Agenda in its relationship with other development agendas. This report provides the opportunity to adopt an incremental process: subsequent QRs need to build on previous ones, ensuring that new data and information is progressively improved, new partners are brought to the process in an inclusive manner. By adopting this incremental process, each and every new report is benefiting from the monitoring and reporting and the implementation of the NUA itself. This will help to build awareness of the New Urban Agenda and its transformative commitments and enhancing country ownership of the New Urban Agenda. This will also support broad based monitoring, review and co-implementation of the report recommendations.

A key principle of the New Urban Agenda is the requirement for processes and *governance of reporting to be participatory and inclusive*. Given the integrated nature of the NUA, it is necessary to engage in the quadrennial reporting system all relevant actors and their networks and platforms at different levels. Urban governance is multi-level and multi-sectoral. This means ensuring that all stakeholders, including all levels and sectors of government, civil society and the private sector, members of parliament, and national human rights institutions, are involved in the follow up review and implementation processes.

UN-Habitat, UN Statistical Commission and Regional Commissions, UN programmes and funds and country teams, MDBs and other IFIs, are providing coherent support to the elaboration of national reporting, including for strengthening the capacity of all those involved in different forms of data collection, such as local government, universities, national statistical offices, data systems and evaluation bodies. Based on more reliable and harmonized data, it is possible that the *participation of varied urban stakeholders contributes to the formulateion of more informed decisions*.

The incremental approach to production the subsequent QRs will also give to groups affected by those decisions the opportunity to communicate their needs and interests, producing new layers of information that will complement existing sources of traditional data, systems, and platforms.

This approach will enhance over time the possibility of improving stakeholder engagement and consultation; means; further develop techniques and methods for consultation (face-to-face workshops, online platforms, focus groups, written comments); and properly document the whole process. Efforts

²⁵ As received by Claudio at 19.30 pm- 23/3/18

could include reaching out to legislative bodies, the public, civil society and the private sector. Awareness raising efforts encompass a range of activities such as simplifying and translating the New Urban Agenda into local languages and including the New Urban Agenda in school and university teaching programmes.

Sound and timely data, metrics and reporting systems are needed for the achievement of development goals. This is fundamental for achieving higher levels of urban prosperity and sustainable urban development for all as articulated in the NUA and other global agendas.

Member states endorsed 234 SDGs indicators which align over 60% the key thematic areas of the NUA. Consequently, monitoring and reporting on NUA will continue to benefit from investments into systems strengthening the SDGs and other global agenda platforms for reporting. In addition, UN-Habitat is developing a dedicated platform to collect and capture achievements and trends on the implementation of the NUA at regional, national, and local levels through the City Prosperity Initiative.

Important progress has been made in the refinement of the global monitoring framework adopted by the statistical commission on the SDGs indicators. This process is supporting the monitoring of the NUA, given the important convergence of themes and indicators. The novel nature of SDG 11 indicators poses unique challenges that are being addressed by developing new methodologies for the collection and harmonization of data.²⁶

Furthermore, the city as a unit of analysis is confronted by multiple definitions of what constitutes an 'urban settlement' or city. National Statistics Offices employ varied definitions with very different criteria that are not compatible, making it difficult to aggregate values in a consistent manner. As a result, a standalone functional city definition has been proposed for consideration by countries. UN-Habitat in collaboration with the European Commission and New York University has undertaken pilots demonstrating that two functional definitions based on the 'degree of urbanization' and 'urban extents' provide potential options for monitoring indicators at the city level, overcoming the problem of the differences in administrative city boundaries.

Moreover, in order to ensure a more systemic reporting of aggregated data at country level, a proposal from UN-Habitat to adopt a national sample of cities is also being considered to enable countries to monitor urbanization in a consistent set of cities that will enable them to aggregate values in a more systematic and comparable manner. Progress on spatial data analysis has been achieved during the reporting period which will open further opportunities to disaggregate information for 'not to leave anyone behind'. The Global Human Settlement (GHS) framework by the European Commission uses data from different sources to generate knowledge reporting objectively and systematically about the presence of population and built-up infrastructures across the globe. This opens tremendous opportunities for creating sharing platforms for more accurate and timely reporting of the urbanization process. The need for spatial data has also been addressed by other UN agencies such as [United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management](#) (UNGIM) and other global partners working on earth observations technologies. These efforts in the future need substantive support to national statistical systems and local governments to develop the proper set of skills and systems for collecting and reporting on spatially-dependent global indicators and targets.

Reinforcing platforms for knowledge and meaningful engagement

²⁶ Agreed methodologies for nearly 60 urban related SDGs indicators that are directly linked to the urban monitoring and NUA have been finalized and currently sit as Tier I and II in the global SDGs monitoring Framework. But a significant set of urban related indicators also remain in the Tier III categories (11a-National Urban Policies, 11.7.1—Public Spaces, 11.3.2-Civic participation in urban management). Methodologies for many of these indicators have been produced through consultative processes. Together with partners, UN-Habitat has organized 16 expert group meetings where methodologies for several indicators were refined while generating interest from countries to pilot these methodologies.

The leading role in the reporting lies with National Governments through regular national reports to be developed according to guidelines. To ensure capture all aspects related to the NUA implementation, national Governments have established intersectoral platforms, National Habitat Committees, intersectional bodies and other national monitoring platforms. For instance, in Armenia, Republic of Moldova and Serbia, intersectoral high-level committees with involvement of all key national ministries and agencies were established to work on national action plans on sustainable housing and urban development to support the implementation of urban related SDGs and the NUA. In Asia Pacific, member States came together in the 5th Asia Pacific Urban Forum in Jakarta, Indonesia to submit a ‘call for action’ on regional cooperation for sustainable urban development in partnership with non state actors to implement the New Urban Agenda. The Government of South Africa has developed in a consultative manner a framework to support the localization of the New Urban Agenda at all levels of government. Complimenting this national government led effort, the Gauteng City-Region Urban Observatory in South Africa is considered a good practice in supporting the localization of the New Urban Agenda through informed urban data which can be used for capacity development investments in partnership with university and academic institutions.

Local and regional governments are producing, collecting and providing information on local processes that can substantiate this follow-up process. One example is the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (GTF) that has established a system of monitoring progress made by local and regional governments in the “localization” of the SDGs and the other global goals. In partnership with UNDP and UN-Habitat, the GTF has created dynamic virtual platforms, which have voiced contributions from local authorities and communities all over the world specifically to monitor the development and evolution of local finances and capacity-building for implementation of the global agendas. A result of this action has been the Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment which has been a significant step forward in monitoring change in financial resources available to the subnational level.

The World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments, mandated by the NUA and facilitated by the GTF, has played a central role in the process of implementation and reporting. Research and Knowledge institutions and platforms working with governments and stakeholders have also played a critical role in the follow up and review of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimensions of the SDGs, shining a spotlight on critical gaps.

New forms of data are being developed to deliver accelerate positive change to improve the understanding of urbanization through big data, sex and age disaggregated data and new methods of spatial analysis, based on internationally agreed definition and established methodologies. For example, the Urban Data Platform¹ developed by the European Commission is merging heterogeneous data including traditional sources, fine-scale satellite imagery, census data, volunteered geographic information, and big data, through advanced analytical techniques, for the production of a consistent set of spatial indicators that describe European cities and their surrounding regions. Big data is being backed up by a qualitative analysis and benchmarking leading to the identification of transformative practices, policies and solutions leading to further commitments and alliances between stakeholders towards implementation.

Countries are generating national level data engaging actors from other levels, such as local authorities and non-state actors. However there needs to be greater collaboration and harmonization around data and indicators yet to be accepted and agreed upon by both state and non- state actors.

The goal of leaving no one behind has been supported by data, knowledge, expertise and capacity building demonstrating inclusion in key urban areas. Specific data related to gender and age, persons with disability and other groups being produced by non-State actors in particular is enriching measurements aimed at supporting inclusion in a coordinated manner at different levels. Those efforts have included community based profiling and enumerations which have generated disaggregated data critical for local

empowerment of these groups. A new initiative focused on age related data is the establishment of the Titchfield City Group on Ageing and Age Disaggregated data endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission in 2018.

Regarding gender responsive data, gaps remain in developing data and statistics that are free of gender bias and omissions, as well as to develop innovative gender indicators that interpret other relevant urban aspects such as transport infrastructure. A 2017 survey on mobility patterns in Buenos Aires in partnership with IDB and UNESCO supported stronger data and policy response in the local transportation system to be more responsive to women specific travel needs related to their role in the unpaid care work, under the umbrella category of “mobility of care.”

A territorial approach to data is another crucial component for effectively reporting on the implementation of the NUA. This requires different scales of data production and analysis in order to reflect the spatial dimensions of the NUA and allow for prospective analysis and projections of urban trends at the relevant scales of analysis. Recent progress in technology development enables advanced spatial analysis. An example is the Knowledge Centre for Territorial Policiesⁱⁱ developed by the European Commission: making use of innovative techniques for the production and dissemination of spatial indicators, it promotes a “place-based” approach for the design of policies, taking into account the specificities of each territory, while also integrating the broader context. Specific needs are addressed and opportunities exploited at the most appropriate territorial level, being responsive to expected or emerging challenges. The UN-Habitat Global Urban Observatory has the potential to become a global repository of urban data, addressing the multiple territorial levels needed through the data collection and analysis using the Global Sample of Cities, and that shall be complemented by data generated by UN agencies on topical areas of the NUA and the urban dimensions of the SDGs, as well as the research community. Collaborative data projects have been initiated during the Habitat III process are key sources of data and analysis. For example, the city of Nairobi in partnership with UN-Habitat has set up spatial analysis of using mobile technology to assess the accessibility and safety of public space.

UN agencies are producing global and regional reports, such as, the World Cities Report, Regional State of Cities Reports, which include spatial analysis addressing NUA and urban SDG. Complementary to official member State reporting, reporting carried out by non state actors may be taken into account in the QR process.

The QR mechanism presents an opportunity for mutual learning and support to the NUA implementation to achieve national goals. Promote and show-casing of voluntary commitments are stimulating dialogue engaging all partners. The identification of best practices and policies, as well as policy dialogue can be strengthened and enriched by stakeholders participation, stimulating the engagement and commitments of Member States. Outreach activities initiated after the Habitat III Conference continue fostering engagement and policy dialogue. In particular, the Ninth Session of the World Urban Forum (Kuala Lumpur, Feb 2018) has been a key event to gather inputs from stakeholders and take stock on the first steps of implementation. Upcoming WUFs will become an important platform to capture knowledge and innovations taking place in different parts of the world. The 58 Urban Thinkers Campuses coordinated by the World Urban Campaign in 2017 have been one key platform for partners to articulate commitments and action plans at different levels. The World Cities Summit organized by Singapore is another platform where cities showcase the implementation of sustainable cities policies that support the achievement of NUA/SDG. Those constitute useful mechanisms to engage partners in a cross-sectoral manner such as the World Bank supported Tokyo Development Learning platform.

Regional platforms and mechanisms, notably the Regional Fora for Sustainable Development convened by the Regional Commissions are instrumental platforms for peer learning, addressing regional priorities and linking the national and global levels. Other regional and subregional organisations such as the African Union, the League of Arab States, ASEAN, the European Union, the Caribbean States and others are key players for follow-up and review the implementation of NUA/SDG. As example, the European

response to the 2030 Agenda included joining up the SDGs to the European policy framework and priorities, also identifying the Urban Agenda for the EU as a key delivery mechanism for the NUA within the European Union. The European Commission is also launching a reflection work on developing further a longer term vision to reorient the EU budget's contributions and to engage all stakeholders towards full implementation of the 2030 Agenda: this is being done through gap analysis and the development of harmonised tools for monitoring and reporting across different spatial scales (from global to sub-national).

At the National level, countries such as Uganda, Saudi Arabia, Cuba, Serbia, Tajikistan and others have engaged partners in the review of the implementation of NUA through National Urban Forums and other platforms.

A key platform for reporting is the HLPF. So far international agencies have been able to comply with the global reporting requirements including annually the HLPF linked (50? – insert the number) voluntary national reviews, as well as the annual Secretary Generals SDGs report. Linking these global reporting timelines with NUA should benefit the annual urban assessments of progress made in achieving the urban related targets.

The Quito Platform is a useful tool to gather information, knowledge, innovative ideas, experiences and best practice from diverse partners of the NUA which needs to be strengthened further and complemented by data in order to demonstrate results of the commitments in key areas of the NUA. It has the potential to become an instrument to showcase the most catalytic initiatives to deliver change and implementation at various levels. For future reporting, the Quito platform provides a mechanism to capture information from grassroots and other non-official sources such as data from mapping of informal settlements led by Shack Dwellers International-SDI and its 'know your city' global campaign.

Independent platforms and networks such as GAP and Global Task Force promote partnership and consensus building for the implementation and monitoring of the NUA/SDG. Constituency groups associated to GAP such as farmers, older persons and persons with disabilities are partnering with UN Agencies to support universal design approaches.

The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data is another initiative that links the private sector with civil society. Through its Collaborative Data Innovations for Sustainable Development Fund, it offers financial support to low-income and lower middle income countries to help them achieve the SDGs. It has produced a Data4SDGs Toolbox and Data Roadmaps.

Partnerships with the UN Development System

The New Urban Agenda constitutes the basis of a UN system-wide approach to the implementation of the sustainable urbanization dimensions of the 2030 development agenda and the outcome of Habitat III. Recalling the United Nations Chief Executive Board High Level Committee on Programmes *Urbanization and Sustainable Development: Towards a New United Nations Urban Agenda* (CEB/2014/HLCP-28/CRP.5) eight guiding principles and nine key levers of transformative change towards sustainable urbanization forms the basis of 'A New United Nations Urban Agenda.' It provides a framework for cooperation and showcasing how the UN Development System works in a coherent manner on sustainable urbanization. To support this process a UN collaborative implementation framework for the NUA is being developed and this will help to restore/reestablish the interagency working group on sustainable urbanisation will support the effective implementation, monitoring and reporting of the NUA QR.

In Asia and the Pacific, under the UN Development Group (UNDG), UN-Habitat and UN ESCAP have a joint interagency task team on urbanization made up of 20 different UN Agencies which has prepared

guidelines for UN Country Teams on mainstreaming urbanization into the UNDAF processes. In the Latin America and the Caribbean region, UN-ECLAC, UN-Habitat and the MINURVI-Ministerial Conference of Ministries of Housing and Urban Development have formulated a regional action plan in the aftermath of the Habitat III conference to implement the NUA.

At the regional level the UN regional commissions provide normative and policy support, technical expertise and platforms for policy dialogues. In Asia and the Pacific, UNESCAP convened in November 2017, along with UN-Habitat and the UN Interagency Task Team on Urbanization, a 'Regional Partners Forum' to review the implementation of the outcomes of Habitat III and localization of the SDGs in Asia Pacific during the 2017 SDG Week. Participating stakeholders from over 17 countries emphasized that financing urbanization and the ability of cities to leverage financing from domestic and debt capital markets is one of the most serious challenges for the implementation of Agenda 2030 in cities.

In the UNECE Region, the United Smart Cities programme is being implemented as a multi-stakeholder platform which aims to address the major urban issues in medium-sized cities and supports the implementation of the 2030 Agenda/NUA at the local level. It is part of a 16 UN agencies global United for Smart Sustainable Cities Platform. City Profiles were prepared in Armenia and Ukraine with key performance indicators for smart cities development.

In Russian Federation, under the Ministry of Finance, a programme is being implemented for participatory financing of projects in the cities of public interest which actively engage community savings.

Building capacities to report on the effective implementation of the sustainable urban development agendas

The UN support to countries is taking various forms. A priority in many countries has been to develop the technical capacities in a variety of issues – from data collection to policy development and stakeholder engagement. Many countries are requesting national statistical offices and other relevant national and local bodies to support the collection and use of sub national and local data sources for reporting purposes. The UN system has been providing technical assistance, training, support surveys and data collection, especially at disaggregated levels. The UN Development System convened EGMs and other technical meetings to address the specific capacity gaps in data, particularly on the territorial dimension and use of spatial data for reporting on the NUA. The UN system can also draw on its convening power to organize multi stakeholder consultations that support the forging of national consensus, leveraging existing platforms in the SDG follow up and review process, such as the HLPPF.

Capacity building for the New Urban Agenda and the SDG comprises not only the ability to collect data, analyze and report on progress and achievements but actually the capacity of local and national governments to understand the complexity of urbanization and the ability to design, manage, execute and monitor public policies to address local problems and be able to establish integrated and coordinated efforts. It involves other stakeholders such as NGO's, civil society organizations and universities, training institutions and private sector organizations to create a breath of institutional and human resources capacity to localize and synchronize the NUA/SDG into local and national policy making and implementation. Capacity building transcends training and skill acquisition, it includes peer-to-peer learning, knowledge exchange and south-south and south-north cooperation and addresses identified knowledge, skills and institutional gaps.

Recalling the commitment of member states to report progress on the implementation local and national designated entities and other stakeholders responsible for reporting and implementation are empowered (institutionally, technically, financially) to own and fulfill the responsibilities for the reporting and implementation processes.

Evidences from the ground indicate the need to raise awareness about the content and objectives of NUA/SDG for the regional and local authorities as well as grassroots communities and such sensitization will ensure proper understanding of the relevance and the ownership of the global agendas to transform their lives so that no one is left behind in capacity and understanding.

For effective reporting and implementation, capacity building aims at developing skills and knowledge of all stakeholders from public, private and community sectors and fosters the establishment of knowledge hubs and endogenous capacity building institutions and mechanisms. This helps strengthening local/national universities and training institutions, internship with private sector, peer-to-peer learning, toolkits development, e-learning, training-of-trainers, sharing of best practices, partnerships and exchange of ideas and information.

Institutions are the key vehicles for policy implementation as well as monitoring and reporting on the NUA/SDG. The institutionalization of the reporting process such as governance, legislation, policy frameworks, accountability, capacity building and transparency and other processes are critical to create and enabling environment that ensures effective attainment of its goals.

In this reporting period, the involvement of various tiers of governance in the monitoring, reporting and implementation was not supported with the required finance to undertake capacity building for the tasks and challenges ahead. However not all tasks require additional resources but in some cases redirection/reallocation of existing resources.

The content of the capacity building, information, training materials and goals are conveyed in a simplified and accessible manner and translated into local languages, taking into consideration local realities as well feasible mechanisms.

Recommendations

For consideration of member States, we recommend the creation of long term partnerships and capacity development investments for reporting be strengthened and/or created between national, local and regional authorities in concert with support from non-state actors and international organizations to address persistent and emerging urban challenges and opportunities based on a comprehensive stocktaking, including of capacity development gaps.

National Governments should take a leading role in the FUR through regular national reports to be developed according to agreed guidelines. They should establish intersectoral and multi-stakeholder platforms in order to capture all aspects of the implementation of the NUA and use stakeholder engagement plans to frame the strategic purpose for consultation. National Governments should promote a greater collaboration and harmonization of data and indicators at different scales and sources, including gender and age, to strengthen analysis of urban trends and reporting on implementation to achieve the goal of 'leave no one behind'. **Local and Regional governments** should play a key role in reporting on different scales of local implementation and shall use the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments as a platform for global engagement, peer to peer learning and capacity development mechanisms to support local government reporting on the implementation of the NUA. Local governments should also provide a dynamic space for local communities, universities, and a wide range of urban stakeholders and citizens to participate in the reporting process.

Non-state actors should play a similar role in actively engaging constituencies in contributing analysis, reporting and monitoring of progress in the implementation of the NUA and to ensure all of these actors

work towards a common goal of sustainable urban development. Key platforms of engagement and outreach campaigns shall support this effort.

International organizations

UN agencies and development partners in partnership with the above actors should strengthen analysis of the urban dimension of sustainable development in their reporting processes. Data and analysis generated on topical areas of the NUA and the urban dimensions of the SDGs shall be pulled into the QR process through inter-agency collaborative approaches.

The High Level Committee on Programmes shall play an instrumental role in this process, following the joint commitments by UN agencies towards the NUA. The Committee may consider a comprehensive stocktaking of follow up and review processes, platforms and tools to initiate guidance and encourage policy coherence for member States in the reporting of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of global sustainability agendas. The UN Secretariat and related bodies may also encourage a comprehensive forward-looking review of emerging urban development trends to support member states in the reporting process.

The UN Development System, Regional Commissions and Country Teams should support the development of clear guidelines for reporting to national governments taking into account the involvement of local governments and other non-state actors. UN-Habitat should play a facilitative role with the broader UN Development System and other major actors in strengthening data collection efforts and spatial data analysis at different scales to better capture achievements and trends of the implementation of the NUA and support various levels of implementation. UN agencies may expand relevant methodologies for member States, to be strengthened by expert groups and consultations.

Regional organizations with partners shall play a key role in supporting and driving national efforts for reporting on the NUA/SDG through regional platforms, plans and regional analysis of urban trends and achievements in implementing the NUA/SDG.

International financial institutions shall play an enabling role in providing policy options for the effective financing of the New Urban Agenda for member states.

Year	QR Report	Global Milestones	Outputs and System of Reporting
2018	Quadrennial Report 1	HLPF, review of SDG11 COP24	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Development of the inclusive, multilevel reporting system and framework (NUA para 162, 163, 168, 169)Data testing and validation
2019		Global SDG Report, HLPF Global Climate Summit and COP25	

2020		WUF 10 Abu Dhabi COP26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing and providing inputs of initial experiences in testing the reporting system in preparing first country and other reports as inputs for the QR2 2022 report (NUA para 167)
↓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafting and CD of country and other reporting actors
2022	Quadrennial Report 2	WUF 11 Mid term review of the SDGs COP28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First country and other reports presented based on actual data on implementation progress and inputs for QR (para 166)
↓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the reporting system and guidelines Introduction of new reporting and CD tools and platforms
2024		WUF 12 COP30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second wave of country and other reports shared for inputs to QR Updated reporting guidelines shared
↓			
2026	Quadrennial Report 3	Mid term review of NUA “Quito+10” WUF 13 COP32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convergence of key framework global agendas Take stock of mid term progress and identify next steps for acceleration of progress (NUA, para 175) Definition of the standard for international reporting on the agendas: new baseline for the definition of a new strategic framework aiming at Habitat IV and definition of new consensus Peak of the incremental approach: summit of a process of elevation of commitment for mission and vision; broadening of the reporting base and inclusion of largest possible # of stakeholders
↓			
2028		WUF 14 COP34	
↓			
2030		SDG Summit	

	Quadrennial Report 4	WUF 15 COP36	
↓			
2032		WUF 16 COP38	
↓			
2034	Quadrennial Report 5 (final QR)	WUF 17 COP40	
↓			
2036		Habitat IV COP42	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renewed political commitment to assess and consolidate progress on the NUA (para 174)

Reporting on the New Urban Agenda is also a crucial opportunity to foster a truly incremental approach to NUA and increase ownership by the largest group of stakeholders and recipients possible. Platforms collecting information from different categories of actors and stakeholders – including local and regional governments, civil society and their organizations, private sector, academia, among others – can contribute to an incremental growth of the reporting system, both horizontally and vertically.

Horizontally, this approach would *expand the baseline reference group* able to implement and monitor the NUA and its goals, while also broadening the spectrum of involved stakeholders contributing to its achievement.

Vertically, it would *elevate commitment*, enhancing the mission and vision of the document while letting it evolve alongside new methods of reporting, new available technologies, shifting institutional balances, and new emerging modes of governance.

This incremental approach, while expanding the commitment of the NUA to a wider range of stakeholders and contributions, would be coherent with a progressive timeline, one that sees Quito+10 in 2026 as a long-term objective to define a new standard in the evaluation of and reporting on the NUA, with Habitat IV in 2036 on the horizon.

Chapter 4: Effective Implementation²⁷

1. Effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda (chapeau)

²⁷ As received as peer-reviewed summary from Elkin 15.00 pm – 23/3/2018

The New Urban Agenda is “an accelerator” of implementing the urban and territorial dimensions of the SDGs – as confirmed in the Article 9 of the NUA: “*The implementation of the New Urban Agenda contributes to the implementation and localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated manner, and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including Goal 11 of making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.*”. Therefore, its implementation is inseparable from implementation of the Agenda 2030. Hence measuring effectiveness of implementation of the NUA must be done with reference not only to the NUA itself, but in a wider sense of helping implementation the urban and territorial dimensions of the SDGs.

In December 2017, the United Nations General Assembly invited UN-Habitat, in accordance with its role as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements, including supporting the implementation and review of the New Urban Agenda, to collaborate with other United Nations programmes and entities, Member States, local governments and relevant stakeholders, as well as through the mobilization of experts, to contribute to a United Nations system wide strategy and continue generating evidence-based and practical guidance for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the related dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, as well as to further develop the action framework for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, in close consultation with Member States, local governments and stakeholders.

In creating a methodology to determine efficiency of implementation of the New Urban Agenda, a recognized baseline is required. This baseline can be established as analytical summary aggregation of challenges of sustainable urbanization that have been presented by the Member States in their national and regional reports to Habitat III, as well as massive contributions of stakeholders. The New Urban Agenda has been developed by them as a global response framework to these challenges. Hence the impact and effectiveness of implementing the New Urban Agenda at different scales can be measured by how the implementation helped address the challenges recognized by the Member States and other stakeholders prior to and at Habitat III. This will be accomplished in the next stages of reporting, targeting a milestone of 5-year period after Quito.

This chapter looks at various early examples of recent and ongoing actions in the urban and territorial dimension towards the integrated implementation of the Agendas on all levels: global, regional, sub-regional, national, sub-national, local and communities. The examples have been selected as non-exhaustive references without attempt to fully cover all actions, but instead to offer a illustrative sample that can guide institutions and stakeholders in the implementation of these agendas in the years to come.

The successful implementation of the New Urban Agenda makes it crucial that all means of implementation, including finance, are coordinated and firmly embedded into national legal and policy frameworks. Combining finance with enabling policies and strong institutions is key in achieving lasting results.

2. Building urban governance structure

Building Urban Governance Structure is one component of effective implementation as defined in paragraph 86 of NUA: “*we will anchor the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda in inclusive, implementable and participatory urban policies, as appropriate, to mainstream sustainable*

urban and territorial development as part of integrated development strategies and plans, supported, as appropriate, by national, subnational and local institutional and regulatory frameworks, ... and accountable financial mechanisms."

Good governance perspective requires a legal and policy framework at central level as well as at sub-national level that both enables local authorities to effectively implement national urban policies and empowers them as policy makers benefiting from a sufficient level of autonomy in decision-making in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity. To this end and as stated in the NUA, local authorities are key actors and need to be involved and consulted at all stages of the multi-level policy cycle, from planning to implementation. The resulting multi-level governance system needs political commitment so that there is coordination and cooperation at all levels of government for an efficient and effective share of functional assignments.

At national level this multi-level governance includes national urban policies that set out the overall institutional architecture, with the respective competences, tools and resources clearly defined for each level of governance. Furthermore, these policies should be designed and implemented according to a "place-based" approach, taking into account the specificities of each territory. At local level, local authorities need to be enabled, entitled and empowered to fully assume their role as key actors in the design and implementation of sustainable urban development.

Policy frameworks must be linked with financial means of implementation for a comprehensive approach. Also, integrated financing systems must be articulated with capacity building activities supported by evidence-based knowledge, using both globally comparable data as well as locally generated data.

Outstanding efforts have been made in the last year and a half at different levels to foster stronger coordination and cooperation among the different levels of governments and stakeholders (NUA § 87). In this respect, many regions have already formulated or started to formulate their actions plans and strategies to mainstream NUA into decision-making. At the regional level, some of the strategies and action plans launched include the Urban Agenda for the EU, the Regional Action Plan for Implementation of NUA in Latin America and the Caribbean, Arab Strategy for Housing and Urban Development, while Africa Harmonized Regional Framework for the Implementation and Monitoring of the New Urban Agenda, and Asia partners theme-based guidance are still in the making. Efforts have been also undertaken at the sub-regional level such as the cases of the Union for Mediterranean urban agenda, and the sub-regional action plan for the implementation of the NUA in the Caribbean and the plan for Coastal Cities in Pacific Small Island Developing States.

At the national level, 150 countries²⁸ are in the process of articulating their national urban policies (NUP) at different stages and with various foci. Half of them have adopted explicit NUPs and the majority are in the implementation stage, mostly in Europe and North America while 13% only reached the monitoring and evaluation. Africa, Asia and the Arab region are in the formulation phase with clear signs of prioritizing urbanization in their national agenda. The main motivation of governments behind crafting NUP has been mainly the spatial structure and economic development while the link with environmental sustainability and climate change resilience is still weak. For instance, South Africa has developed its Integrated Urban Development Framework. Chile has produced a National Urban Development Policy and Colombia a Policy for the Strengthening of the System of Cities. Cuba, Argentina Cuba and Saudi

²⁸ Based on the OECD report on Global State of NUP from March 2018

Arabia are also developing their national urban and spatial strategies. Other countries are establishing multi-stakeholder consultation mechanisms to revise and design their urban strategies such as the National Urbanization Council of Turkey or the National Habitat Committee of Nigeria and national urban forums taking place in several other countries. However, a majority of countries lack a specialized agency to oversee the NUP at the national level as well as the technical, financial and human capacities to implement it efficiently. International policy agencies can play a bigger role to improve and report on the NUP processes in the different countries.

The formulation of the NUA was the result of a conscious and inclusive participatory process with multiple stakeholders from different levels (regional, national, local). For an effective implementation, it is of crucial importance that inclusive and active participation remains a key aspect to support a multilevel and a multi-stakeholder approach. Inclusive and active participation of different stakeholders and from different levels is a requirement for building legitimacy, ownership, increasing accountability and trust, and thus a key element to fulfill the principle of inclusion of the NUA. Participation processes are also one of the instruments linked to the right to the city vision included in the NUA (para 11).

In the short period since the adoption of the NUA some experiences have been put in place that reflect this participatory approach at different levels. At the regional level, the European Union launched several consultative processes with national and local governments to design and agree on the Urban Agenda for the European Union. In addition, the EU multi-stakeholder platform for the implementation of the SDGs has recently created a dedicated sub-group on local and regional implementation of both agendas. In Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) in 2017 a Conference of Cities took place as the first of periodic conferences. Participants to the conference included ministries of urban development and housing, subnational governments, academia, private sector and NGOs. The National Urban Forums in several countries are serving to opening up the dialogue with different groups. For example, in Saudi Arabia, the space has been opened for previously excluded groups, for example, women, to attend National Urban Forums.

Gender was successfully introduced in the NUA formulation through the strategic joint work of women in grassroots organizations, academia, and institutions. In the implementation of the NUA, gender issues and the meaningful participation of women have to be integrated into urban planning agendas. There are already examples of this being done, such as gender budgeting at the subnational/local levels. Concretely, in many countries and cities it has become a legal requirement to implement gender budgeting as an instrument for improving allocation of resources, e.g., Penang.

At the same time, there are also concerning signs of processes being initiated related to the NUA that are being limited to particular levels or institutions. For example, in several countries, the development of National Urban Policies is taking place without active participation of subnational and local governments, as well as other non-governmental actors. A next step in the implementation of the NUA would be to further look into what factors are limiting broader participation processes.

Empowering different stakeholders to be active agents of change requires creating an enabling environment that allows for participation for action to take place. As recognized in the NUA (para 86 -91) the multi-level governance system requires political commitment from all levels of government, as well as an “enabling institutional environment that include “appropriate fiscal, political and administrative decentralization, based on the principle of subsidiarity” (para 89). The effective implementation of the NUA and the SDGs requires adequate policies that set out the overall institutional architecture, with the

respective competences, tools and resources clearly defined for each level of governance, as well as effective legal and institutional frameworks and policies to support non-state actors participation at all levels.

In this respect, many countries are undertaking a revision of the legal and policy framework to enable and support the different levels of government and facilitate multi-stakeholders participation to effectively implement national urban policies (e.g. Ecuador, South Africa). However, although decentralization processes have made important progress in the last decade, in many regions decentralization is still uneven with unfinished institutional frameworks, blockages and set-backs. In many countries, and particularly in LDC, existing institutional frameworks prevent urban governments fully delivering on their responsibilities.

3. Planning and management Urban spatial development

New SECTION that needs further development

In their efforts to support the effective implementation of the NUA and the SDGs, regions and countries are making significant progress to integrate and align the global goals into their regional, national and subnational development plans and institutional frameworks.

Cities are also accepting the global task and are therefore making important efforts to integrate the 2030 and the New Urban agendas in their urban and local development plans (e.g. several South African cities such as Durban, as well as Madrid, Buenos Aires, Jakarta, Seoul, etc). The City of Mannheim, Germany, drafted an “Integrated [Charter management](#)” and has identified, in a holistic and participatory approach with the citizens, the city’s priorities and putting them on the top of the daily agenda of their administration units along with monitoring the impact of their efforts.

Examples of effective technical *gender tools* are already embedded in *urban planning systems*. These include developing practical means of implementation at the local level, going beyond general policy statements and objectives. An example of such tool is the Mandatory Gender Impact Statement requirement of all urban and territorial plans in Spain at the subnational/ local levels. Statements are a legal requirement since 2017 and require approval from subnational governments. They are integral in the mandatory technical reports of Urban Plans at all scales.

A key development is the promotion of Urban Integrated Strategies and Projects as a form of articulated place-based interventions able to generate positive impacts in different dimensions of the NUA and 2030 Agenda at the same time. Example is the Central American Development Bank support of new generation of urban operations as basis for housing affordability development in areas like San Jose Costa Rica, San Salvador El Salvador and Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Number of Urban Integrated Operations supported by development banks and other financing structures can be scaled up as one of the local multidimensional implementation mechanism of New Urban Agenda. Similar developments are taking place in Mexico, Colombia, Bolivia.

Housing:

Ensure the right to adequate housing, affordable housing, slum upgrading, regulation of housing sector.

Mobility

An integrated approach to mobility includes analysis of the way mobility is run in your nation/region/town. From there the path should go to sustainable, ecological, inclusive solutions for all.

Culture

Culture is a multi-orientated, integrated approach for developing cities and their neighbourhoods. It is inclusive, integrative, drives change, is value added, gives sense and can be accelerator for education, social cohesion and City (Real Estate) Development, why it should be used in every development plans.

4. Means of implementation

Effective implementation of the NUA is being supported by a wide range of means, including mobilization of financial resources, innovations, enhanced advocacy, awareness and focused capacity building.

Financing

Something needs to be said on how countries are investing directly on implementation of NUA from National Budgets

In addition to efforts made by countries within their national budgets, international organisations like WBG and UNH are jointly proposing the establishment of a Multi-partner Implementation Facility for Sustainable Urban Development (IFSUD) to set countries, cities and human settlements, currently facing urban challenges. IFSUD facility is also integrating UN System AFPs as UNDP, UNOPS, UNEP, UN Women, WFP, and Global Compact for Cities Member States have already recognized IFSUD as a response to the call by the Secretary-General for more coordinated, efficient and coherent delivery of the 2030 Agenda in two separate resolutions in 2017 (Governing Council, 12 May 2017 - HSP/GC/26/CRP.10; General Assembly, 20 Oct. 2017 - A/C.2/72/L.36). This initiative needs to be strengthened in order to further support national and local efforts on effective implementation.

Other multi-stake-holders initiatives to financially support implementation of the NUA are being developed at regional and local levels. For instance, in LAC different institutions led by Mercociudades have been promoting an Ecosystem of Funds towards Sustainable Urban Development in order to facilitate blending of funds, including private funds. C40 has also created the C40 Cities Finance Facility (CFF) to support cities in developing and emerging countries to prepare and deliver sustainable, low carbon and climate adaptation projects. Strengthening and creating synergies with this initiatives will help acceleration of implementation.

Also, in recent years, there has been an increasing recognition of the potentially productive role cities and urban areas in financing and delivering infrastructure to ensure inclusion, prosperity and sustainability. The World Bank estimates that between \$4.5 - \$5.4 trillion is needed to fill the urban infrastructure gap.

Calls to ‘localize the SDGs’ resonate in the AAAA pledge to provide financial and institutional means to transform urban development finance strategies (paragraph 34).

As recognized in the NUA, domestic resources mobilization, integrated and coherent national finances frameworks, as well as fiscal decentralization processes are critical dimensions for its implementation (para 130). During the last years, fiscal decentralization has advanced to some extent in many low- and middle-income countries (LICs and MICs), while less so within the Least Development Countries (LDCs) where urban development will be particularly critical in the coming decades.²⁹

Efforts are being made to increase the mobilization of local resources, such as reforms of property taxes - including in Kabul (Afghanistan), Bogota (Colombia), Maputo (Mozambique) and Lagos (Nigeria), or land value capture to tap increases in land value generated by infrastructures. Recent use of such instruments, as in Brazil, China, Colombia, India and several OECD countries, indicate that it can significantly contribute to SNG investment. Of course, such reforms require conditions that might need to be built in some countries (e.g. adequate land management systems and cadastres). In Georgia, Punjab Province (Pakistan) and Karnataka State (India) reforms that improve own source revenue are also underway. But in general, as local taxation is often insufficiently exploited, urban areas of LIC and MIC SNGs still often depend on transfers for investments³⁰. Strong efforts will be needed to strengthen local government finance systems and management capacities to increase cities revenues and creditworthiness to facilitate urban investments.

On this regard, many countries have been implementing urban financing reforms in recent years, providing a range of options targeting different types of SNG and investment projects. Examples include India (expanded use of municipal bonds), Mexico (future flow securitization and pooled finance schemes), Philippines (through Municipal Development Fund and a private entity, the Local Government Unit Guarantee Corporation), South African (where lending is dominated by one public and one private financial entities, and where larger urban areas, such as Cape Town and Johannesburg have issued municipal bonds). SNG bonds have been limited, but some countries have advanced on this front, including, for example, Brazil, India, Mexico, the Philippines and South Africa, but mostly concentrated in the main urban areas. In LICs, Municipal Development Banks or Municipal Development Funds could play a key role in providing resources and developing creditworthiness, if their management is strengthened. For example, the Government of Bangladesh set up the Bangladesh Municipal Development Fund.³¹

Public-private partnerships (PPPs) in sectors such as housing, transportation and water, are on the rise, particularly in MICs. Many PPPs in LICs and MICs have been centrally implemented due to legal restrictions and limited SNG capacity. But local PPPs remain especially rare in Africa. A key concern

²⁹ OECD-UCLG, *Subnational Governments around the World: Structure and Finance* (2016). Expenditure shares range from an average of 29.7% in high-income countries to 7.5% in low-income countries, which insufficient to ensure their responsibilities.

³⁰ Grants and subsidies represent the primary source of subnational governments revenue in a majority of countries (52.6% of total revenue) while tax revenue accounted for 31.7% and other revenues (tariff user, charges and fees) represented 15.7% of subnational budgets, but with significant disparities between countries. These ratios are base on a sample of 90 countries that represent 82% of the world population, both from HIC, MIC and LIC.. Ibid.

³¹ During the last decade, the BMDF financed infrastructure projects in 154 municipalities, and helped steer municipalities towards increasing their tax revenue by an average of 17.5 percent. However, BMDF projects have addressed only a subset of municipalities, the sustainability of the Fund remains donor dependent and has experienced periods when it was in danger of closure due to a lack of new capital. Source: UN ESCAP, 2018. *Empowering Cities to Implement the 2030 Agenda and New Urban Agenda: Mobilising Municipal Finance for Sustainable Infrastructure in Asia-Pacific*

with regard PPP is that regulatory frameworks should preserve public interests and guarantee the access to the more vulnerable to public infrastructures and basic services.

At global and regional levels, multilateral and regional development banks are progressively increasing their investments in urban infrastructures and strengthen assistance to cities finances. For example, the World Bank created a City Creditworthiness Initiative (CCI) with the aims to strengthen the financial performance of local governments, and prepare them to tap domestic / regional capital markets without a sovereign guarantee³². Different investment facilities in urban areas are also being implemented by the ADB and the IDB. The European Investment Bank has used EU Structural Funds to co-finance infrastructure projects in less advantaged areas in MICs. Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) operations that support risk mitigation for infrastructure projects can be an important mechanism to support cities investments. New mechanisms are being discussed to facilitate cities access to climate changes and greens funds, through City Facilities.

Within the EU region, there is already ample experience in coordinating financial means of implementation with policy frameworks through a close partnership with regions and cities, both in terms of enabling policy environment and by co-financing (with national and local authorities), programs and projects. As a result, needs-oriented services are provided to people and businesses./ The EU relies on a well-established regional cohesion policy which aims at empowering the diversified drivers of economic growth of the EU's regions and cities, in less developed areas in particular. This framework ensures that investments are concentrated on the policy's main priorities and that projects are integrated and coherent at European, national, sub national and local level. / This unique policy which represents the second budget of the EU counts with a strong and increasing urban dimension as one third of this budget is implemented in cities. In order to recognize the key role of cities in achieving the EU's objectives as well as to promote a paradigm shift in the approach to urbanization, significant EU funding is made available for urban areas, directly managed by urban authorities, dedicated to implement integrated strategies for sustainable urban development as well as to promote urban innovation.

Great efforts are needed to meet growing infrastructure needs. A good intergovernmental fiscal system requires an appropriate range of debt finance options, ranging from grants and subsidized loans for poorer SNGs and non-self-financing projects to various forms of loans for more fiscally viable SNGs and self-financing projects. Stronger SNGs should have direct access to capital markets, subject to an adequate regulatory framework. SNGs without direct market access could be served by an MDB/MDF type entity structured according to accepted principles with an appropriate level of private sector involvement that can grow over time. ODA could play an important role to limit risk for investments in LDC and LMIC, such as credit guarantees, co-financing initiatives: Other mechanisms should be mobilised to facilitate secondary market support, the use of bond banks and credit pooling, among others. PPPs may be able to play a role in improving access to SNG finance under appropriate conditions.

Finally, opportunities to leverage private finance for investment on urban integrated operations are significant. But for catalising more private finance and create more blended finance deals, there are several needs: Measuring the value of the integrated positive impacts, some standardization of how urban

³² <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/immersive-story/2018/01/31/3-big-ideas-to-achieve-sustainable-cities-and-communities>. The Bank is also investing in several programmes to improve financial and institutional performances in cities (e.g. 1\$ billion in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania), strengthen value capture and land based financing tools (in Johannesburg and Medellin).

intervention modalities are meeting New Urban Agenda criteria, predictability of rules, adaptability of regulation as technologies change and more trusted brokers to support those deals.

Innovations

Effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda at local levels requires a creation of enabling environments for sharing, technological exchange, learning from and upscaling transformative innovations globally. This can take the form of financial, institutional or regulatory incentives, technological facilitation mechanisms and urban platforms that boost the move to more sustainable practices across the urban sector socially, culturally, economically and environmentally. One promising perspective is in the multiplication of Centers of Excellence or Urban Innovation Districts to support innovation on urban development.

Innovations are being developed at different levels in urban areas in different countries. From the use of new technologies to promote smart cities, shared and circular economies, to develop integrated and cleaner sustainable mobility, improve water management and waste treatment, support alternative sources of energy, zero consumption buildings, urban agriculture and close food circuits, etc. Cities are at the front line of innovation developing new participatory mechanisms or taking the lead in climate changes mitigation and adaptation.

There are also strong examples available globally on *institutional innovations* for more effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The Urban Innovation Finance mechanism created in the Article 8 of the Regional Development Fund of the European Union is a leading example of an enabling institutional approach to encourage, finance and upscale innovations directly with and for cities.

Another example of institutional restructuring for effective New Urban Agenda implementation is the national implementation plan of the New Urban Agenda prepared by the Ministry of Environment of Finland. This has helped the national and local governments and related institutions shift from conventional sectoral planning to a more integrated territorial approach. Similarly, for example the creation of the Ministry of Urban Wellbeing, Local Government and Housing in Malaysia is directly addressing the New Urban Agenda priorities of social and spatial development in its institutional set-up.

The ‘City Scan’ tool created by the Regional Government of Flanders, Belgium, is an example of an innovation for analyzing and solving some critical aspects of urban development. This tool helps to analyze the prevailing use of space in a city area and make the desired adjustments for better alignment to the principles of compact and interconnected cities and territories.

Technologically advanced cities are using internet of things applications to monitor and improve their infrastructure such as the case of Smart Dubai which developed its blockchain strategy to move all of the government's transactions online using blockchain tech by the year 2020, and inform their long-term planning through the generated smart data.

While urban innovations can be catalyzers of transformations across geographical regions and sectorial boundaries, it is necessary to check that innovations are adequately contextualized for gender-sensitive, socially inclusive, and environmentally responsible replication.

Capacity Development

The New Urban Agenda highlights the role of capacity development, including the sharing of best practices, policies and programmes among Governments at all levels as one of the key means of implementation for the realization of the transformative commitments set out in the Agenda. It also recognizes the role of local government associations as relevant promoters and providers of capacity development to facilitate exchanges and for ensuring inclusive and effective decision-making about urban and territorial development.

There is a pressing need for developing toolkits and guidelines on implementation and reporting of the New Urban Agenda as well as providing support at the local level for bridging local data to national and international levels (upscaling local monitoring and reporting efforts). Different national governments are developing training initiatives to involve and support subnational governments in the implementation of the SDGs and the NUA.

In this context, the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments has developed several initiatives for training of local authorities through their networks and the national governments associations. It includes the African Local Government Academy, led by UCLG Africa, to train senior staff of local governments: city managers, city financial officers, city technical officers. UN Habitat, UNDP and UCLG have jointly prepared building modules to disseminate the global agendas and support local and regional governments to align their local development plans with both the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Many cities and local governments have a long tradition of direct cooperation (North-South, South-South, North-north, and triangular) also called decentralized cooperation, facilitated and supported by city networks and global organizations of subnational governments. These horizontal partnerships are playing a decisive role in dissemination, knowledge and peer-to-peer learning to foster the NUA and the SDGS.

There have also been initiatives to improve capacity of urban planning and design and the provision of training for urban planners at the national, subnational and local levels. The Tecnológico of Monterrey and UN-Habitat have developed the first certificate (*diplomado*) to promote the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. In Iraq, an MSc on “Planning Sustainable Cities” will be established by UN-Habitat and Kufa University focusing on NUA aspects applied to Iraq, which demonstrates the eagerness of the academia to be involved in the “operationalization” of NUA. The Transforming Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI) that was launched at Habitat III and is funded by the German Government has held courses on all continents, including the planning of public bicycle rental systems in Quito, integrated urban transport systems in Cairo, a study tour of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in Dar es Salaam, urban road safety in Mexico City among others.

The Singapore UN-Habitat International Leaders in Urban Governance Programme (SG UNHabitat iLUGP 2017) has also been launched by the Centre for Liveable Cities’ as the first dedicated capacity-building programme on sustainable urbanisation for African cities.

An important flagship project within the EU is the URBACT program. Urban official and local politicians in over 500 cities (small, medium and large) from across Europe have been supported by URBACT in adapting to the changing urban circumstances over the past decade. Since the adoption of the NUA, the international urban cooperation program has been launched and is now fostering city-to-city cooperation

among European cities and partner countries. This program is a voluntary contribution by the European Union and UN-Habitat as a contribution to the Quito Implementation Plan.

5. Recommendations on Effective Implementation

- 1- The effective implementation of the NUA and the SDGs requires adequate policies that set out the overall institutional architecture, based on multi-level governance and decentralization with the respective competences, powers and resources clearly defined for each level of governance, as well as effective legal and institutional frameworks and policies to support non-state actors participation at all levels.
- 2- The successful implementation of the New Urban Agenda makes it crucial that all means of implementation, including finance, are strengthened, better coordinated and firmly embedded into national legal and policy frameworks. Combining finance with enabling policies and strong institutions is key in achieving lasting results.
- 3- To define areas of interventions and priorities, countries would benefit from establishing a baseline, which can be based on the national and regional analyses and reports that were done in preparation of Habitat III.
- 4- Empowering different stakeholders to be active agents of change requires creating an enabling environment that allows for participation for action to take place.
- 5- As recognized in the NUA (para 86 -91) the multi-level governance system requires political commitment from all levels of government, as well as an “enabling institutional environment that include “appropriate fiscal, political and administrative decentralization, based on the principle of subsidiarity” (para 89).
- 6- The next steps in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda should strengthen the capacity of the different actors on the different dimensions of the New Urban Agenda, from urban planning, methodological issues, data collection, new fiscal instruments, new modalities of channelling investments at the local level, new legal frameworks, multi-level governance mechanisms.

To be developed: recommendation on integrated planning for sustainable and resilient cities, on territorial cohesion (urban-rural linkages), affordable and adequate housing

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ⁱ <http://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

ⁱⁱ <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/territorial-policies>