

Technical Inputs for the framing of the Draft Ministerial Declaration¹ of the Second Session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

“A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crises”

1. We, the Ministers responsible for cities and human settlements, gathered for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, being held in Nairobi from 5 to 9 June 2023, together with representatives of local authorities, international organizations and other stakeholders, recognize that **urbanization constitutes both a challenge and an opportunity** to promote sustainable development in times of global crises.
2. We acknowledge that the universal nature of the Assembly as the **main legislative body for global urban policymaking** provides us with an opportunity to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 11, by making cities and other human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
3. We are, however, deeply concerned by the **multiple crises** that threaten the very future of humanity and the fate of our planet. Indeed, the world is sliding backwards instead of accelerating towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The consequences of the triple planetary crises – climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss – coupled with global economic challenges, have deep environmental, social and health impacts. More people and places are being left behind as the ripple effects of various cascading shocks threaten communities globally. Multidimensional inequalities continue to deepen between and within countries and territories, fuelling the increasing breakdown of the social contract, instability and conflicts.
4. We welcome the 2022 report of the Secretary General on the **Progress on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda**. We acknowledge the importance of local action for tackling global challenges. We recognize how well-managed urbanization enables countries to increase productivity and enhance economic growth, inclusion and stability, while reducing environmental and climate stresses. We are convinced that expanding such transformative approaches and solutions is necessary to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
5. We commit to **advance multilateral engagement** on adequate housing with basic services and inclusive planning; urban climate mitigation and adaptation and environmental sustainability; urban crisis reduction and recovery; Sustainable Development Goal localization and multilevel governance; and sustainable financing for infrastructure and urban basic services.
6. We therefore commit to pursue the following **pathways**, through inclusive and effective multilateralism, as appropriate:
 - (a) Explore mechanisms and platforms to advance evidence-based structural solutions to achieve the universal right to **adequate housing** and assess and share the implications of the lack of affordable housing and homelessness;

¹ Further elements for the draft Ministerial Declaration may be derived from the Draft Resolutions, the High-Level Segment of the Assembly, the National Statements and the Dialogue on the Special Theme of the Assembly.

- (b) Explore realistic urban pathways for **climate action**, and ways in which integrated urban climate action, measures to curb waste and pollution and biodiversity action can be strengthened, such as through the recently launched initiative on Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation (SURGe) and other global and regional initiatives;
 - (c) Promote inclusive **urban recovery frameworks** that empower cities to respond to urban crises and support national recovery efforts, considering that crises are increasingly urban and cities are increasingly the places of arrival for displaced people;
 - (d) Advance effective **multi-level governance**, and ensure integrated local and regional planning and investments, particularly to support intermediary and rapidly growing cities;
 - (e) Strengthen **Sustainable Development Goals localization**, and empower local and regional governments as central actors in rebuilding the social contract;
 - (f) Advance cross-border territorial cooperation through **regional multilateralism**, such as cross-border urban corridors, with adequate shared infrastructure investments and multilateral coordination of participatory governance;
 - (g) Explore policies and market mechanisms to ensure that **financial flows directed towards urban development** are coordinated, guided and sequenced for effective, transparent and distributed expenditures and capital investment planning, while encouraging municipal level value-sharing and local development; and
 - (h) Identify which key multilateral forums could benefit from a **stronger and more networked engagement of cities and other local and regional governments**, what the principles of such engagement could be, and what their specific role in these forums could be.
7. We concur that inclusive and effective action with regard to these pathways requires a **multi-level, multi-stakeholder and multi-sector approach**, with strong attention to data systems and knowledge for evidence-based policies and results monitoring, innovation, advocacy and communications, partnerships, capacity building and digital transformation for accelerated progress.
 8. We aim to ensure that these pathways **inform the outcomes of upcoming meetings**, including the High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development, the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, and the “Summit of the Future: multilateral solutions for a better tomorrow.”
 9. We welcome the outcomes of the 11th session of the **World Urban Forum**, held in Katowice in 2022, and look forward to actively participating in the 12th session, to be held in Cairo in 2024.
 10. We endorse the extension of the UN-Habitat **Strategic Plan** for the period 2020-2025 and the focus on adequate housing for all, urban climate action, urban crisis response, localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals and financing sustainable urban development.
 11. We recognize and fully support the **role and expertise of UN-Habitat** as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements, in collaboration with Member States, local authorities and other United Nations system entities. We stress the importance of continued **predictable and sustainable funding** for UN-Habitat, particularly through voluntary and other commitments, for the Programme to fulfil its mandate.

12. We call upon the Executive Director, to **follow up on the progress** in the implementation of the actions set out in the present declaration which fall within mandate and UN-Habitat, as part of the overall follow-up of the progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan.