



UN-HABITAT

2024 FIRST JOINT MEETING OF BUREAUX OF THE GOVERNING BODIES OF UN-HABITAT

**AGENDA ITEM 4: STATUS OF PREPARATION OF THE
NEXT STRATEGIC PLAN (2026-2029)**

Date: 21 March 2024

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Assistant-Secretary-General
And Acting Executive Director

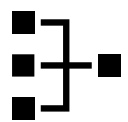
Purposes of a strategy for UN-Habitat

From the **UN-Habitat mandate** perspective: select and articulate priority challenges in the society, formulate attainable goals for the medium-term period, define action to be taken by the UN-Habitat in the multi-lateral system to attain the goals;

From the **project-funded entity** perspective: profile UN-Habitat as feasible actor which can address issues prioritized by the donors and final beneficiaries, set the goals fundable by the donors, and create flexible organizational structure of capacities and competences to respond to opportunities of getting its work funded;

From the **UN Secretariat entity** perspective: provide guiding structure and articulation to the work of UN-Habitat, approved by the Member States - to inform structuring the work in sub-programmes.

Guiding principles



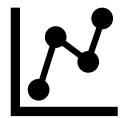
Ambitious, relevant, and responsive: defining the role of UN-Habitat in the UN adding value, and responding to the needs of the Member States;



Focused and Prioritized: addressing reasonable and workable number of relevant priority issues articulated as challenges



Flexible and adaptable: allowing for flexibility and adaptability to respond to the Member States' demands in specific contexts







Evidence and knowledge-based: informed by data, scientific research, and experience by UN-Habitat and other partners and stakeholders;



Manageable, realistic, effective, and measurable: clearly structured in measurable objectives unambiguously assigning responsibilities for attaining them.

Balancing considerations

-  **Continuity and foresight:** retaining successful and relevant legacy themes, keeping proven impact, experience, and existing capacity and attending to the rapid changes in the world, identifying competences to be developed and capacity to be built;
-  **Unique proposition and added value:** engaging in the field of activities where no other multilateral actors engage, empowering UN-Habitat to build on its comparative advantages, and identifying where UN-Habitat can “add value” with its experience and expertise to the work of other multilateral actors;
-  **Urbanization and human settlements:** addressing urbanization at a national scale as e.g. system of human settlements and working with individual human settlements;
-  **Globally relevant, locally applicable:** proposed interventions of UN-Habitat address articulated global priorities translatable to the diverse contexts of the regions and countries to respond to the requests of the Member States.

Proposed train of thought for the Strategic Plan

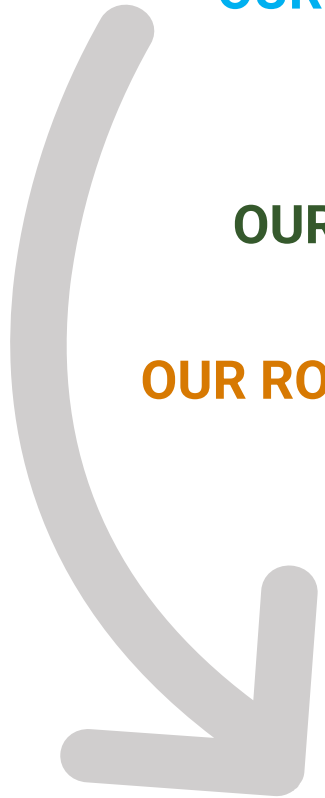
OUR VALUES-BASED VISION e.g., human settlements in harmony with nature; equitable prosperity for all; resilience of human settlements to crises and building back better

OUR SCOPE FOR 2026-29 Priorities articulated as **challenges** to the global society

OUR ROLE What can UN-Habitat do to **address those challenges** in the multilateral system

OUR FOCUS What **goals** UN-Habitat will set for itself to address the challenges

OUR ACTION What will UN-Habitat do to attain the goals



Tentative entry points to challenges and priorities



Leveraging urbanization to advance **equitable prosperity** and achieve adequate standard of living for all (e.g., gender equality, improving universal access to housing, infrastructure, and basic services);



Harmonizing human settlements and nature mitigating pollution, environmental degradation and climate change impacts, enhancing biodiversity and ecosystems services, and harnessing the full power of circular economy;



Building urban resilience to conflicts and crises by addressing human settlements dimension of **migration and displacement** and building back better in post-conflict and post-disaster situations.

Potential approaches to challenges



Integrated and effective national policies and legislative frameworks for **territorial planning, management, and investment** at all levels and scales, including intermediary cities and rural-urban linkages and connecting development planning and finance flows;



Planning system and multi-level governance, enabling coherence between national and regional spatial and economic development strategies, based on whole-of-government approach, and **driven by localizing SDGs**;



Evidence-based policy making supported by **robust and innovative data capacities and systems**; **improved and systematized knowledge management** and strengthening **people-centered digital systems**, while enabling inclusive decision making and innovative solutions that create city-level impact and systems change.

Proposed roadmap

Apr 8	MS Dialogue 3: train of thought for Strategic Plan and detailed roadmap	ad-hoc WG
Apr 15-16	UN-Habitat staff retreat	
Apr 25	regional dialogue with African MS	Africa Retreat
May 6-8	MS Dialogue 4: Principles, framing considerations, train of thought	EB
Week of May 27	MS Dialogue 5: priority challenges, role of UN-Habitat, strategic goals	MS retreat 2
May-Aug	Drafting strategic goals and UN-Habitat action and its measurable objectives	
Jul tbd	<i>Margins of HLPF: coordination with UN System</i>	<i>UN retreat</i>
Aug	Incorporating alignment with UN and competences/capacities to be developed	
Sep tbd	MS Dialogue 6: action defined in the SP discussed	MS retreat 3?
Sep tbd	check in global and local links: other regional dialogues on strategic goals	
Sep 27 tbd	Advanced full draft of SP submitted to SGB	
Nov	Consultations at the WUF12 in Cairo	
Dec 3-5 2024	MS Dialogue 7: SP draft endorsed in principle; action discussed	EB
Dec-Mar	Drafting the presentation to EB in Mar 2025; resolving contentious issues	
Mar 2025	MS Dialogue 8: SP final draft endorsed	EB
Apr-May	Polishing final draft of SP	
May 29-31	SP presented to the UN-Habitat Assembly	UNHA 2