

# **UN HABITAT**

**FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE**

**65<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVES OF UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS  
PROGRAMME**

**29 JUNE 2017**

**Agenda Item 9:**

**Report on the status of implementation of the New Urban Agenda  
(HSP/CPR/65/9)**

At the 26th session of the Governing Council (GC 26) in May 2017, UN-Habitat presented a report on the 'Review of the Outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)', in which, the report provided highlights on: the contributions of the New Urban Agenda to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, what the New Urban Agenda means for UN-Habitat, and what UN-Habitat's Focal Point role means. The report also presented the Action Framework for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda (AFINUA) and the Implementation Facility for Sustainable Urban Development (IFSUD), both of which gained approval during the GC26, within the approved Resolution (26/8) 'Promoting the effective implementation, follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda', and are both currently at advanced stages of development. In addition, the report provided examples of post Habitat III engagements, activities, events, advocacy work and new partnerships; all geared towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda were provided.

As reported, following the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, UN-Habitat reviewed its strategic direction, including its policies and programmes, to ensure coherence with the New Urban Agenda. The work programme and budget for the biennium 2016–2017 envisaged and so already aligned well with relevant goals and complements the New Urban Agenda. As part of its mid-term review process, the strategic plan for 2014–2019 was revised to ensure full alignment with the New Urban Agenda and other recent global agreements; the revised strategic plan was approved at the GC26 through the Resolution 26/3 'Revised strategic plan for 2014–2019 and work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2018–2019'.

Armed with the Resolutions GC/26/3, GC/26/8 and other relevant resolutions; most of the activities of UN-Habitat continue to be geared towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda; the Agency also continues to enhance its preparedness for the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the New Urban Agenda, and discharging other roles it has acquired as a result of the New Urban Agenda.

Whilst most of the planned events and initiatives as reported have taken place or are ongoing; new initiatives and events specifically geared towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda continue to be developed and new partnership continues to evolve as UN-Habitat continues to engage with partners in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

Some initiatives and events that occurred during and post GC26 are:

- A Ministerial Dialogue on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Africa and Briefing on Key Issues was held during the GC26.
- The Municipality of Dubai and UN-Habitat agreed to align the prestigious Dubai Award to the New Urban Agenda and the UN-Habitat's Action Framework for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The call for submission is currently open until August 2017
- The New Urban Agenda Conference organized by Compass Housing, a leading non-governmental social housing provider in Australia was held in May 2017 in Australia. The event was opened by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat
- In collaboration with Madrid City Council, UN-Habitat is organizing a forum titled: 'New Realities, New Solution: Implementing the New Urban Agenda'. The forum will be held on

29<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and aims to identify: contents, new approaches, and ways of conceiving the theme towards the creation of the city as a space of prosperity and coexistence

- The Ministry of Urban Development and Housing of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (MUDH) and UN-Habitat signed a Memorandum of Understanding to jointly promote and implement the New Urban Agenda
- UN-Habitat is developing a New Urban Agenda based survey of planning and development control law, based on the global sample of cities
- The Government of Senegal (with the Kingdom of Morocco) is organizing an 'International Housing Fair' in October 2017, and part of the event will focus on the 'Mainstreaming of the New Urban Agenda'
- Following the approval of Resolution 26/2 'Enhancing the role of UN-Habitat in urban crisis response'; UN-Habitat has commenced the revision of its Strategic Policy on Human Settlements in Crisis to provide the framework of engagement for UN-Habitat in crisis affected countries and ensure alignment with the New Urban Agenda
- A workshop for the Gulf States organized in Kuwait "City Prosperity Initiative for Monitoring Sustainable Development Goals and Urban Targets - SDG 11 in focus" took place from 22 - 25 May 2017. The workshop introduced the City Prosperity Initiative methodology to provide an urban diagnostic and monitoring framework connected to SDGs and the New Urban Agenda, and advocated mainstreaming it into the national statistics systems to guide the identification of urban development priorities and formulation of related policies
- UN-Habitat signed a Host Country Agreement with the Government of the Republic of Tunisia in May 2017, which enables UN-Habitat to provide technical cooperation to support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Tunisia
- The Second International Conference on National Urban Policy was co-hosted by the OECD and UN-Habitat in Paris from 15 to 18 May 2017. This was the first opportunity following the Habitat III Conference to consider, in a global forum, the role of National Urban Policy in implementing the New Urban Agenda. This year's theme, "National Urban Policies: Implementing the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda", touched on to what extent progress is being made on developing and implementing National Urban Policies to support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Conference attracted more than 350 participants representing over 30 international organizations, 14 Ministers, 9 Mayors and regional representatives, 141 speakers and representatives from more than 50 countries
- The Global Housing Strategy (GHS) tools have been reviewed to better fit the purpose of implementing the New Urban Agenda. The most recent GHS outputs, such as the National Housing Strategy for Myanmar and the National Housing Profile for Afghanistan have their directives and roadmaps aligned to support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda
- The latest version of the City Resilience Profiling Programme is an action-oriented mechanism integrating the five dimensions of the New Urban Agenda
- Caribbean Ministers working group on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda was held on 21 June 2017
- The fourth Urban Law Day is planned to take place on 14 July 2017 at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (University of London) and will address specific legal issues linked to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The overall objective of the Urban Law Day is

to highlight the links between policy objectives and commitments in the New Urban Agenda and the enabling legislative and governance frameworks required for their implementation.

- The final Habitat III UN task team meeting was held in New York from June 12-16, 2017. This event was an important milestone; further details is therefore provided below:

## Outcome of the final Habitat III UN Task Team meeting – New York (12-16 June 2017)

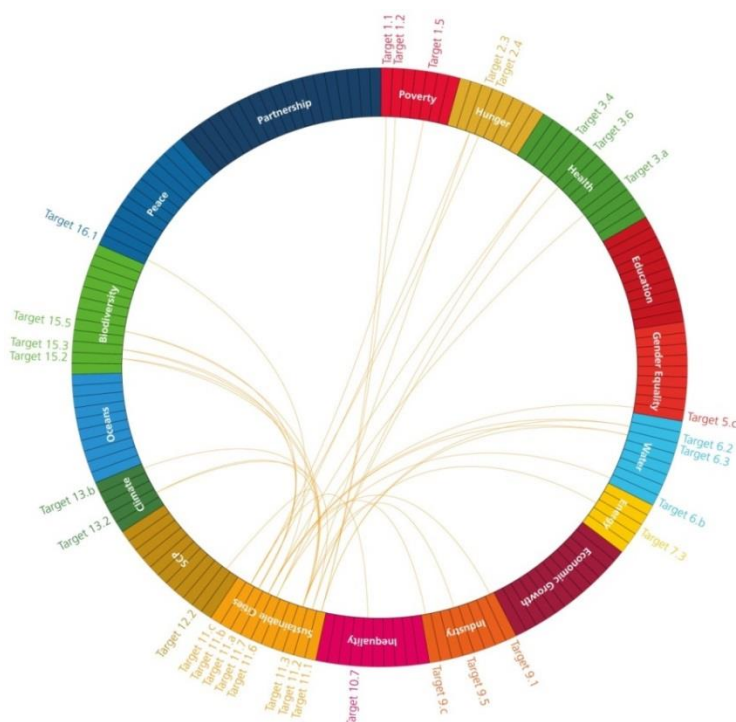
The objectives of the meeting were:

- Evaluate the work of the United Nations Task Team for Habitat III: lessons learnt
- Review the Habitat III Issue Papers thematic areas within the framework of the New Urban Agenda: update on key drivers for action and identification of future/existing platforms and projects
- Expected accomplishments per area within the United Nations system action framework in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda
- Identification of priorities for action and potential collaboration within the United Nations system on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda
- Develop a roadmap on key activities 2017-2018 to follow-up on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda

### Results

The meeting allowed for UN-Habitat to start articulating its role as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements, including in the implementation, follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda, in collaboration with other United Nations system entities, as the Habitat III Secretariat is wrapping up its reporting. Some key agreements are outlined below.

### Implementing the New Urban Agenda is key to deliver on the Urban Dimensions of SDGs and the SDGs overall



There is a shared understanding that the implementation of the New Urban Agenda is key to deliver on the urban dimensions of the SDGs. The interconnectedness between the targets across the goals and the centrality of SDG 11 was also acknowledged. There was also recognition of the fact that delivery on all SDGs will benefit from a more territorial approach.

For this to happen, it is understood that we need to maximize the transformative potential of well-planned and well-managed urbanization and territorial

development (ex. through National Urban Policies).

This requires focusing on the foundational elements of what needs to be done, as outlined in the Action Framework for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda (AFINUA) presented at the recent Governing Council. Discussions also clarified that this often requires necessary and complementary action and will leverage further thematic interventions mobilizing the full UN Development System.

**Increasing the coherence, the integration and the alignment between UN efforts: internally and with our partners and guided by the broader UN Development System reform**

There was a clear common understanding of the need to focus on maximizing the coherence, integration and alignment of UN efforts both internally and with external partners.

It was also clearly understood that this requires a close look at the functions the UN should focus on and the need to be fully aligned with the ongoing reform of the UN Development System.

**Four main areas for increased coherent and integrated engagement:**

1. Joint programs / joint programming
2. Selective joint normative work
3. Support to implementation, follow up and review
4. UN system coherence and collaboration

Joint programs / joint programming

- UN agencies to prioritize joint catalytic action and coherence in programming at global, (sub-) regional, national and local levels;
- Use the mapping conducted through the Habitat III UN Task Team meeting as a starting point for further more detailed planning exercises.

Selective joint normative work

- Use the mapping conducted through the Habitat III UN Task Team meeting as a starting point for further more detailed planning exercises, taking into account that some could be at the global, regional or sub-regional level (need to contextualize);
- Examples given during the meeting: transformative urbanization; human rights based approaches to urbanization; multi-level governance; work in urban settings affected by crises; knowledge generation on key concepts and normative standards.

Support to implementation, follow up and review

- Including (a) Guidelines for implementation of the New Urban Agenda that build on the mapping and take into account different contexts, (b) knowledge management, (c) capacity development, (d) evidence-based advocacy and maximizing political will for action, (e) leveraging partnerships and (f) funding/financing;
- Need to properly organize coordinated monitoring and reporting linking the reporting on the urban dimensions of the SDGs with that on the NUA, avoiding duplication of processes.

UN System Coherence and Collaboration

- Continue with ad hoc consultation and collaboration while more formal structures are designed, as part of the broader UNDG / UNDS architecture;
- Develop a common understanding on the principles and structures (global, regional, local) for UN system wide coherence and collaboration and define a clear road map.

## **Way forward**

Major Milestones: In-depth review of Goal 11 in 2018, World Urban Forum (WUF), reporting in 2018 and 2022, plus interim reporting

Additional:

1. Work with Habitat III Secretariat on synthesis of EGM;
2. Continue to engage the members of the Habitat III UN Task Team ad hoc for the time being;
3. Engage with the UNDS reform to define longer term organizational arrangements.