

THE STRATEGIC PLAN

2020-2023

COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO UN-HABITAT

First open-ended meeting / High-level midterm review

29 June – 1 July 2021

AGENDA ITEM 3 - Progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda

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| Agenda Item 3 - Progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda

- a) Preparation of the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda
- b) Implementation of the ministerial declaration adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its first session
- c) High-level meeting to assess progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda



| Agenda Item 3 - Supporting documents

Agenda item 3(a):

- **HSP/OECPR.2021/3:** Report on the update on the preparation of the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda

Agenda item 3(b):

- **HSP/HA.1/HLS.1:** Ministerial declaration adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its first session
- **HSP/OECPR.2021/INF3:** Report on the implementation of the ministerial declaration adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its first session

Agenda item 3(c):

- **General Assembly resolution 75/224** on implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and Strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)



Agenda item 3

Progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda

3(a): Preparation of the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda



General status of the resolution:



Endorsement of the New Urban Agenda



Requests member states to support and periodically follow-up to review the New Urban Agenda



Requests the Secretary-General to report on implementation of the New Urban Agenda every four years



| Guidelines for preparations of the Quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda

- ✓ **The Process** – Voluntary, country-led, open, inclusive, multilevel, participatory and transparent
- ✓ **Participatory** – Takes account of contributions of national, subnational and local levels of government, United Nations system, regional and sub- regional organizations, major groups and stakeholders
- ✓ **Frequency** – Continuous process aimed at creating and reinforcing partnerships among all relevant stakeholders
- ✓ **Role of UN-Habitat** – A focal point on sustainable urbanization in the implementation, follow-up, and review of the New Urban Agenda, in collaboration with other United Nations system entities





Drafting partners:

- 23+** United Nations entities
- 5** Regional economic and social commissions
- 30** Partners coordinated by UN-Habitat

UN wide status:

12+ UN entities adopt strategies for implementation of the New Urban Agenda

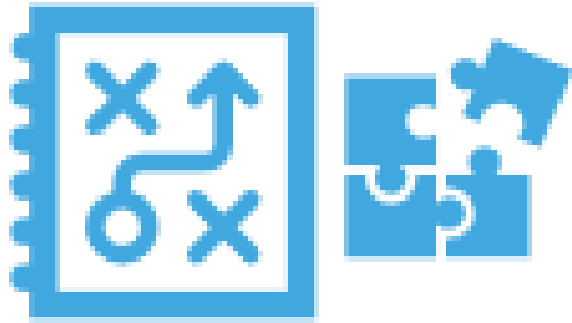


Recommendations:

- Systems to produce user-friendly and participatory data platforms
- New and expanded platforms for engagement on knowledge production and reporting
- A UN system-wide coordination mechanism that strengthens and expands partnerships
- Developing capacities to report on the effective implementation of the sustainable urban development agendas



| Preparation of the Second Quadrennial Report on the New Urban Agenda

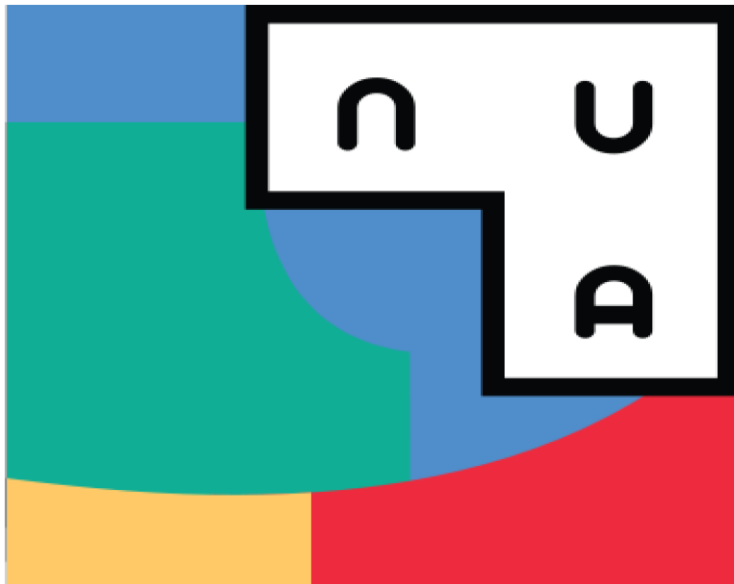


- The monitoring process draws on the system of indicators and data from the **2030 Agenda monitoring framework**
- The report will include data on the implementation process from diverse sources, including **Member States' reports**
- UN-Habitat proposed a national sample of cities for consistent set of more comparable data
- Leave no one behind: analysis and data disaggregation (gender, age, disability, other groups)



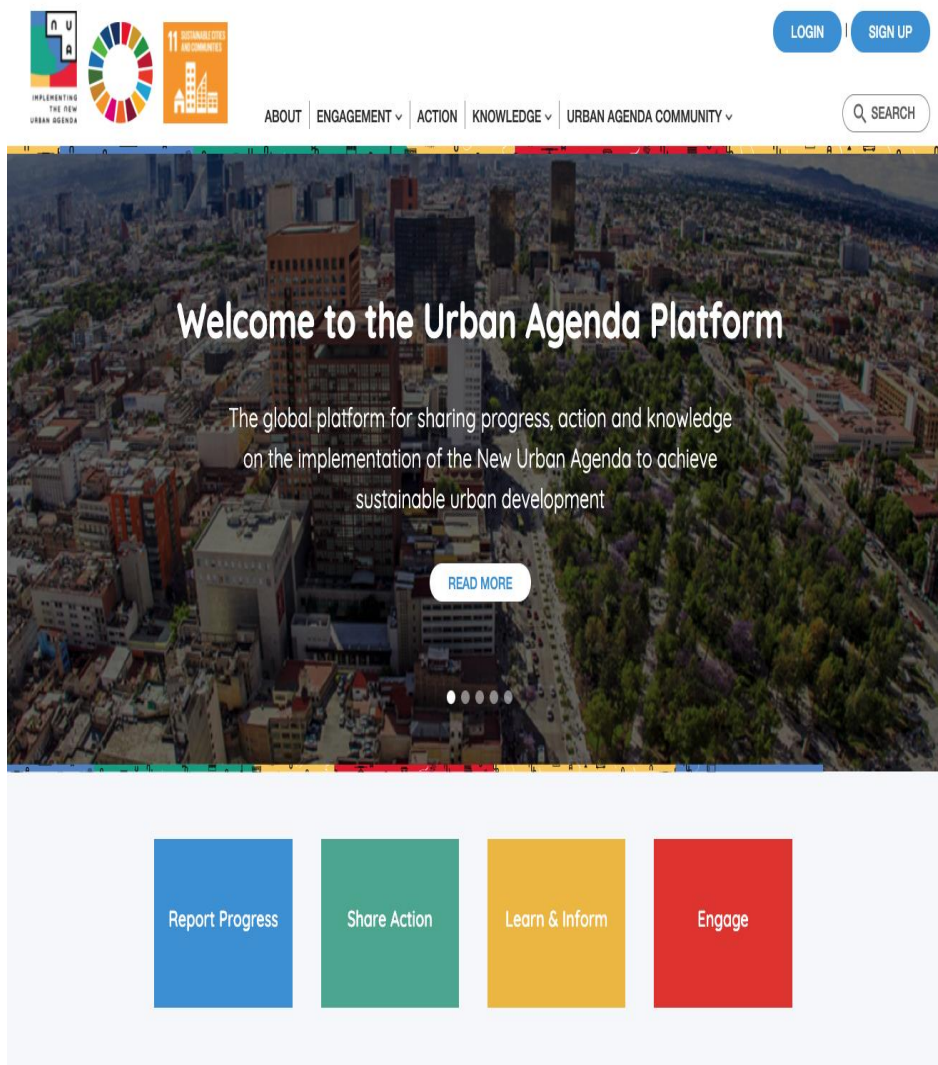
| Preparation of Guidelines for Country Reporting on implementation of the NUA

Guidelines for Reporting on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda



- Guidelines were prepared by UN-Habitat, along with orientation and training sessions
- November 2020 – initial date for submission of reports
- 31 March 2021 – new date for submission of reports
- Submission of Reports encouraged as soon as possible as input to UNSG Quadrennial Report

| Development of the Urban Agenda Platform



Components of the portal:

- Reporting by Member States on implementation of the New Urban Agenda and urban SDGs
- The New Urban Agenda Monitoring Framework and related indicators
- Urban Best Practices database and case studies
- Learning and capacity development tools, courses
- Urban Agenda Community to engage with other stakeholders

www.urbanagendaplatform.org



| Urban Indicators Programme and NUA Monitoring Framework

Established a new consolidated Urban Indicators Programme for monitoring SDGs and the New Urban Agenda

Developed the City Prosperity Index to synchronize progress on the New Urban Agenda

Developed capacities to collect urban data for monitoring progress in the achievement of the urban SDGs

320+ local and national urban observatories supporting local data production for urban indicators database

Data has directly influenced policy and developed an evidence base for transformative actions

Urban indicators as a means to monitor and evaluate global urban conditions and trends through data



| Global Urban Monitoring Framework

Objective: Harmonized reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and other development agendas

Lead – UN-Habitat

Partners – United Nations agencies, regional commissions and 25+ partner institutions

Scope – Key urban development dimension ideal for a consolidated approach to reporting on sustainable urban development

Beneficiaries – Framework can be used by **any city** to assess its progress in transforming its urban fabric into a more sustainable form



| Why is a Global Urban Monitoring Framework needed?



A monitoring framework to harmonize existing urban indices and tools, and lead towards an agreed universal framework to track performance of the urban SDGs and the New Urban Agenda (NUA).

Serve as a monitoring tool for the UN-Habitat Flagship Programme SDG Cities.

A potential tool for guiding Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and the preparation of urban data for the Common Country Assessments with the UN Country Teams.

Constraints on preparation of the Quadrennial Report

Low number of reports submitted by member states

- **14 Member States have submitted reports** (Kenya, Spain, Egypt, Czech Republic, Algeria, Germany, Sweden, Malawi, Colombia, Turkey, Mexico, Cuba, Senegal, Tunisia)

- **16 reports are under preparation** (France, Bahrain, Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Kuwait, Pakistan, Ecuador, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Botswana, Philippines, Thailand, Lao PDR and Indonesia.)

Low awareness of benefits of urban commitments in the New Urban Agenda

Lack of/poor institutional policy and financial capacity in many countries



Requests for the consideration of the CPR

- **Enhanced support** for data monitoring systems and collection and analysis by subnational and local authorities.
- **Submit national reports** on the Urban Agenda platform: www.urbanagendaplatform.org
- **Develop** inclusive, evidence-based and integrated national urban policies
- **Support and welcome complementary reports** prepared by local authorities and other stakeholders



Agenda item 3

Progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda

3(b): Implementation of the ministerial declaration adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its first session



| Implementation of the ministerial declaration adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its first session

Faced with unprecedented rapid urbanization, the Ministerial Declaration reiterated:

- i. The need to accelerate implementation of the New Urban Agenda
- ii. The transformative power of urbanization
- iii. The role of cities as drivers of solutions to global challenges and as hubs for technological and social innovation
- iv. The importance of innovative solutions in accelerating implementation of the New Urban Agenda
- v. The need to address decent and dignified housing, urban development, and urban-territorial and urban-rural linkages through innovative solutions



Commitment A

Adopt and implement place-based innovative, integrated and systemic solutions

- Local governments continue to implement incremental slum upgrading programmes with the participation of civil society
- Work with Member States to strengthen capacity for building resilient cities and other human settlements.

Commitment B

Promote smart, sustainable and inclusive strategic planning and integrated technologies

- Planning safer cities by mainstreaming the participation of women and girls
- Using innovative mapping tools
- Launch of road improvement strategy in Ethiopia with UN Road Safety Trust Fund in June 2020
- SDG6 gaining ground on water and sanitation for all: **1.5 million** people have benefitted from improved access to water and sanitation in **39 countries** since 2019



Commitment C

Seek state-of-the-art and creative solutions to current and new urban challenges

- Development of Urban-Rural Linkages — Guiding Principles working with more than **130 partners**
- Providing strategic planning and advisory services in humanitarian and urban development
- Protecting vulnerable groups against the pandemic

Commitment D

Strengthen regional, national and local legislation and policies

- Supporting the development of urban policies: **56 countries** supported in the development of national urban policies
- Developing tools to guide national and local governments in enhancing urban legal frameworks
 - ✓ UrbanLex: an urban legislation database developed by UN-Habitat has over **2,250 legal instruments** on urban law



Commitment E

Promote sustainable and innovative financing opportunities and mechanisms

- Leveraging innovative financing mechanisms to achieve SDG 11 and implement the NUA.
- ✓ Launch by China of the Shanghai Green Urban Financing and Services Company as an innovative intermediary facility.

Commitment F

Unlock new capital for investment in sustainable urbanization

- Expansion and redistribution of liquidity from developed to developing countries
- Establishment of multilateral funds: example of the Fund Against COVID-19 Economics (FACE) proposed by Costa Rica



Commitment G

Improve urban, village and rural monitoring and forecasting systems

- More than **150 countries** have participated in capacity development initiatives designed to improve monitoring and reporting on the SDGs and NUA
- More than **90 countries** participated in the harmonization of the definition of urban and rural areas
- Developing methodologies and definitions

Commitment H

Recognize the importance of developing monitoring tools

- **353 urban observatories** active in Africa, Asia and Latin America, gathering data for decision-making.
- Participants from **over 90 countries** trained on urban monitoring and reporting tools
- Launch of the Urban Agenda Platform in 2020



Commitment I

Engage citizens, communities and civil society, the private sector, institutions etc.

- Many cities and countries are implementing innovative approaches to ensure participatory and inclusive urban governance.
- Online training on the New Urban Agenda through the Urban Agenda Platform and the online handbook *The New Urban Agenda Illustrated*

Commitment J

Strengthen mobilization and advocacy efforts

- Highest level of global participation in Urban October 2020
- World Habitat Day 2020 co-hosted by UN-Habitat and the Government of Indonesia
- World Cities Day 2020: “Valuing our Communities and Cities”
- Launch of UN-Habitat’s Flagship World Cities Report 2020: *The Value of Sustainable Urbanization*



| Way Forward and Recommendations

- i. Support the development of innovative solutions that will accelerate recovery from the effects of the pandemic
- ii. Address the challenges and bottlenecks that impede the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
- iii. Build the capacity for periodic reviews of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda & SDGs.
- iv. Deploy the necessary resources to implement the commitments of the Ministerial Declarations
- v. Build the economic, social and environmental resilience including appropriate governance and institutional structures
- vi. Embed aspects of the Ministerial Declarations in the recalibration of the Strategic Plan



Critical for the recalibration of the strategic plan

- A. Adopt and implement place-based innovative, integrated and systemic solutions
- B. Promote smart, sustainable and inclusive strategic planning and integrated technologies
- D. Strengthen regional, national and local legislation and policies
- E. Promote sustainable and innovative financing opportunities and mechanisms
- I. Engage citizens, communities and civil society, the private sector, institutions etc.

Accelerators of the strategic plan

- C. Seek state-of-the-art and creative solutions to current and new urban challenges
- F. Unlock new capital for investment in sustainable urbanization
- G. Improve urban, village and rural monitoring and forecasting systems
- H. Recognize the importance of developing monitoring tools



Critical for the recalibration of the strategic plan

- A. Adopt and implement place-based innovative, integrated and systemic solutions
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Accelerators of the strategic plan

- C. Seek state-of-the-art and creative solutions to current and new urban challenges
- F. Unlock new capital for investment in sustainable urbanization
- G. Improve urban, village and rural monitoring and forecasting systems
- H. Recognize the importance of developing monitoring tools



Agenda item 3

Progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda

3(c): High-level meeting to assess progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda



Mandated Meeting of General Assembly

General Assembly Resolution 75/224 on implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and Strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Operational Paragraph 17

High-Level Meeting “requests the President of the General Assembly, within existing conference-servicing entitlements of the General Assembly, to convene a one-day high-level meeting during the seventy-six session, in collaboration with UN-Habitat, in New York in 2022, to assess progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development (Habitat III)”

Secretary-General’s Report “taking into account the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to be presented that year”

Preparatory Process “calls for voluntary contributions for the preparations of the meeting”

Regional Component “encourages the regional forums for sustainable development to include this topic in their deliberations as inputs for the meeting”



Notional Dates, Sessions, and Preparations

28 April 2022 - Department of General Assembly and Conference Management and President of the 75th Session of the General Assembly have registered provisional date and will convey to President-elect of the 76th Session of the General Assembly for approval in September 2021.

Morning Session - will begin with opening segment of Heads of State, President of General Assembly, Secretary-General, followed by inter-active dialogue, with select constituencies of New Urban Agenda

Afternoon Session – to include statements of Member State Delegations followed by adoption by the General Assembly of outcome document, “Quito+5 Declaration,” following tradition, in 2001, of “Istanbul+5 Declaration.”

Preparatory Meetings – in February-March 2022 Regional Forums for Sustainable Development; and in days prior to HLM events held by constituencies of New Urban Agenda: Local and Regional Governments, housing organizations; private industry, and ECOSOC (to formally receive SG’s Report on New Urban Agenda and transmit to General Assembly HLM)



Prospective Outcomes

Decade of Action – Commitment by Member States to elevate the New Urban Agenda as a road map for accelerating the Paris Agreement and the Decade of Action for Sustainable Development.

Cities and Pandemics – Recognition of role of cities in COVID-19 response and contributing to and spearheading the implementation of healthy, just and sustainable national recovery pr

New Social Contract – Alignment of New Urban Agenda with Our Common Agenda on the future of multilateralism, with integration of housing, services, health, and basic incomes

Climate Action – Strengthening of local government contributions to nationally-determined commitments on climate mitigation and adaptation, with strategic focus on green infrastructure and resilience for the urban poor

Peace and Security – Call for Global Action Plan on inclusive urban planning in countries in post-conflict and disaster situations, strengthening social cohesion through the provision of durable solutions



Opportunities

Critical Juncture – at a time when urbanization prospects warrant investment in just, healthy and sustainable urban development, most Member States have all but ignored the New Urban Agenda

National Reporting – only 18 countries are preparing national reports on New Urban Agenda

Voluntary National Review – just a handful of governments include urban issues in VNRs

Nationally Determined Commitments – very few governments incorporate cities in NDCs

Opportunity -- HLM offers Member States opportunity to revive the New Urban Agenda

Strengthening UN-Habitat -- high-level review of implementation of the New Urban Agenda will renew interest in the mandate of UN-Habitat with consideration of ways to strengthen UN-Habitat



Strategic Alignment

COP26 (Nov 2022)

SG's Report on New Urban Agenda (January-Feb 2022)

Regional Forums (Feb-March 2022)

HLM (28 April 2022)

World Urban Forum (27-30 June 2022)

Second Committee of General Assembly (October-December 2022)

Second Session of United Nations Habitat Assembly (June 2023)



| CONCLUDING MESSAGES : EXPECTATIONS AND PROPOSED OUTCOMES

Strong Preparation

Strategic Alignment

Political Momentum



THANK
YOU

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