"A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL IN AN URBANIZING WORLD"

THE STRATEGIC PLAN

2020-2023

UN@HABITAT

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UN-HABITAT

First session of the year 2022
29-31 March 2022

AGENDA ITEM 7

Briefing by the Executive Director on the implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, including reporting on the programmatic activities of UN-Habitat in 2021 and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities.

Raf Tuts, Director,
Global Solutions Division

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Introduction

Effective and continuous transfer of knowledge between the field operations and normative development work of the UN-Habitat is critical for improving the organization's technical advisory cooperation with Member States.

The thematic focus of both normative and operational work is in line with the priorities set out in the UN-Habitat strategic plan 2020–2023.

Examples of long-running priority work themes of UN-Habitat:

1. **People's process in Afghanistan**
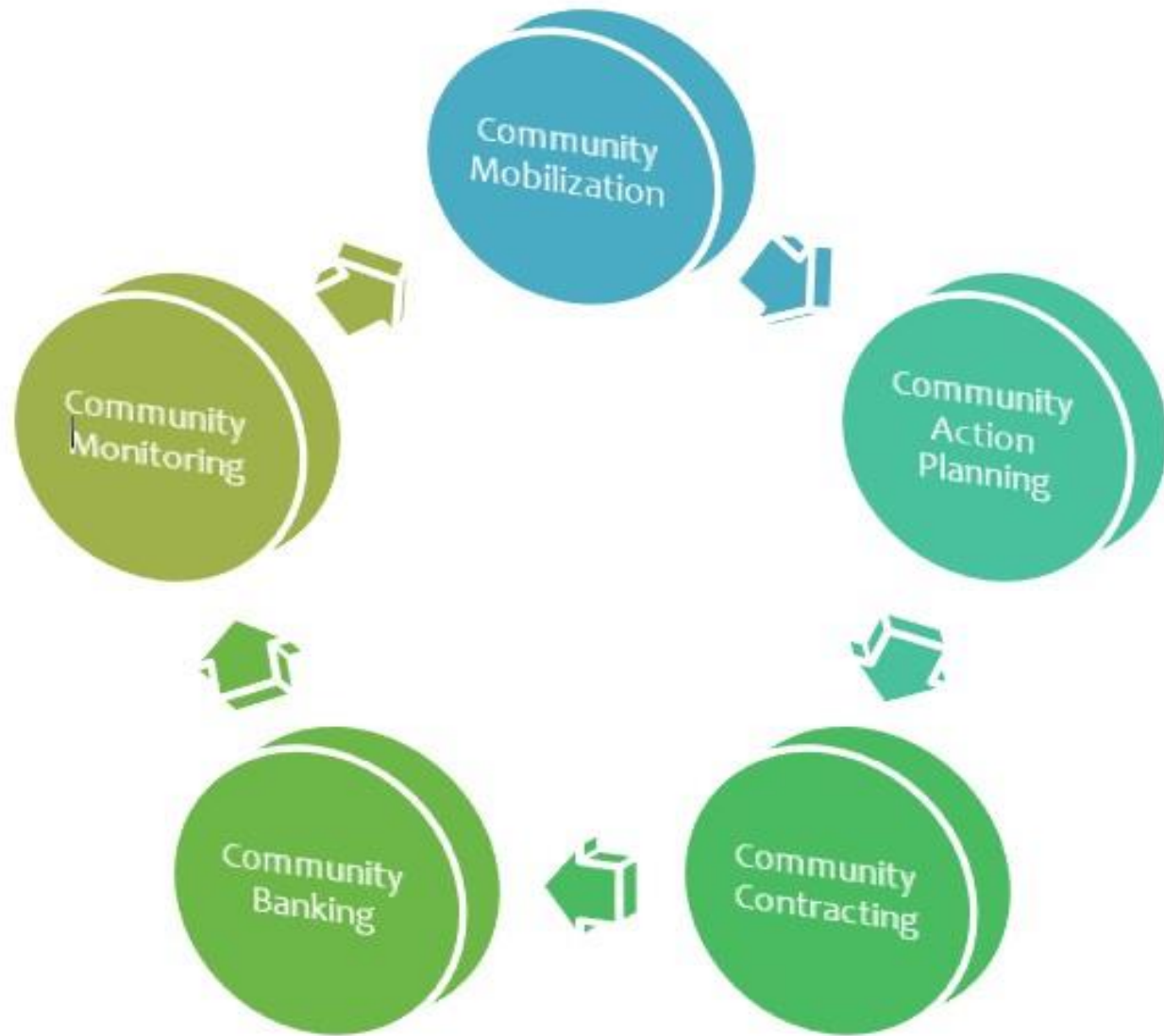2. **The global urban monitoring framework**
3. **Work on climate change**

1. People's process - Background

The people's process is a development and crises recovery approach based on **mobilizing the affected communities to take decisions on their recovery** and supporting them in this process

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The people's process approach

Community contracting

Builds community resilience through

- **stronger social cohesion**

- **community entrepreneurship**

- **empowerment of the most vulnerable and marginalized**

- **development solutions based on capacity-building and creation of employment opportunities**

- **community banking and contributions**

- **community monitoring**

ACHIEVEMENTS
IN AFGHANISTAN
-
EXAMPLES

People's process in Afghanistan

Delivering humanitarian, peace and development benefits

People's process **builds trust and takes action** between the host government and beneficiary communities in Afghanistan.

Establishes **Community Development Councils** (CDCs) and **Gozar Assemblies** (clusters of CDCs) as instruments of needs determination, solution design and project implementation, but achieves more by **CDCs becoming instruments of community governance and an actively participating civil society** in country's socioeconomic fabric.
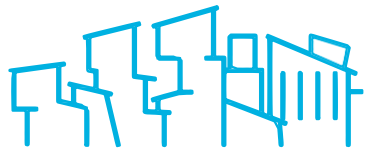
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City for All programme (2015-2021) - Actions

Effective land management

Over 900,000 properties registered with the national Land Authority using community participatory methods.

Strategic urban planning

36 Strategic Action Plans for local infrastructure investment projects.

Increased municipal finance

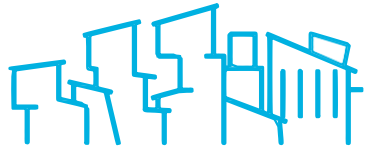Improved business licensing, tax invoicing and collection, by policy review and implementation.

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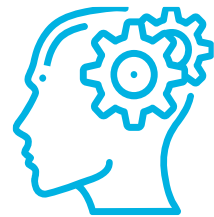
City for All programme (2015-2021) - Results

Effective land management

New housing, land and property regulations and improved access to property rights for millions of residents, especially for women, in informal settlements.

Strategic urban planning

Improved on basic urban services delivery.

Increased municipal finance

Service charge revenues increased up to 413%.

Afghanistan Urban Safety and Security programme (2016 - 2021)

Improved **government legitimacy and trust between citizens and the State** to make cities safer and more secure.

Strengthened **demand-driven policy development** and **participatory governance mechanisms**, making urban communities' active members of the society and governance systems.

Main outcomes at three levels

Communities
Increased engagement of communities, including women, young people, IDPs and returnees, in municipal governance and urban safety services by introducing security and safety functions into existing CDCs.

Municipal
Fostered demand-driven service delivery and opportunities for citizen engagement in municipal planning and management processes.

National
An enhanced national framework for accountable municipal governance on safety and security. Increased capacities on protecting public spaces, advocated advocating for equal access to public spaces.

Evidence on the results of the people's process approach (2019)

The combined findings for respondents from Myanmar and Afghanistan provided the following evidence on the results:

RELEVANCE

95%

recognized that programmes empowered people

EFFICIENCY

65%

reported that CDCs were more efficient in achieving results

EFFECTIVENESS

75%

rated very good in terms of livelihood generation

5%

felt that decisions were made by the authorities

40%

believed that government support led to greater efficiency

40%

felt that revenue generation lagged targets

Highlights on the way forward

Humanitarian crises in Afghanistan

-18.5 million people affected

- 24.5 million of the 40 million Afghans reside in urban areas

- 3.5 million displaced Afghans need immediate settlement solutions

People's process response of UN-Habitat

A resilience roadmap:
strategic interventions using **the network of CDCs in 13 provinces** supporting critical humanitarian action, augmenting of social cohesion and human security, and accelerating socioeconomic recovery.

Interplay of normative and operational activities is increasing
Resource mobilization: $9.7m between Oct 2021 and Jan 2022.

delivery of basic services

infrastructure improvements

social cohesion

safety and security

livelihoods for displaced Afghan communities

2. The global urban monitoring framework (UMF)

Secretary-General's note to the UN Statistical Committee session in March 2019 on the report of UN-Habitat on human settlements statistics (E/CN.3/2019/18) summarized the **progress on global monitoring of the urban dimensions of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda.**
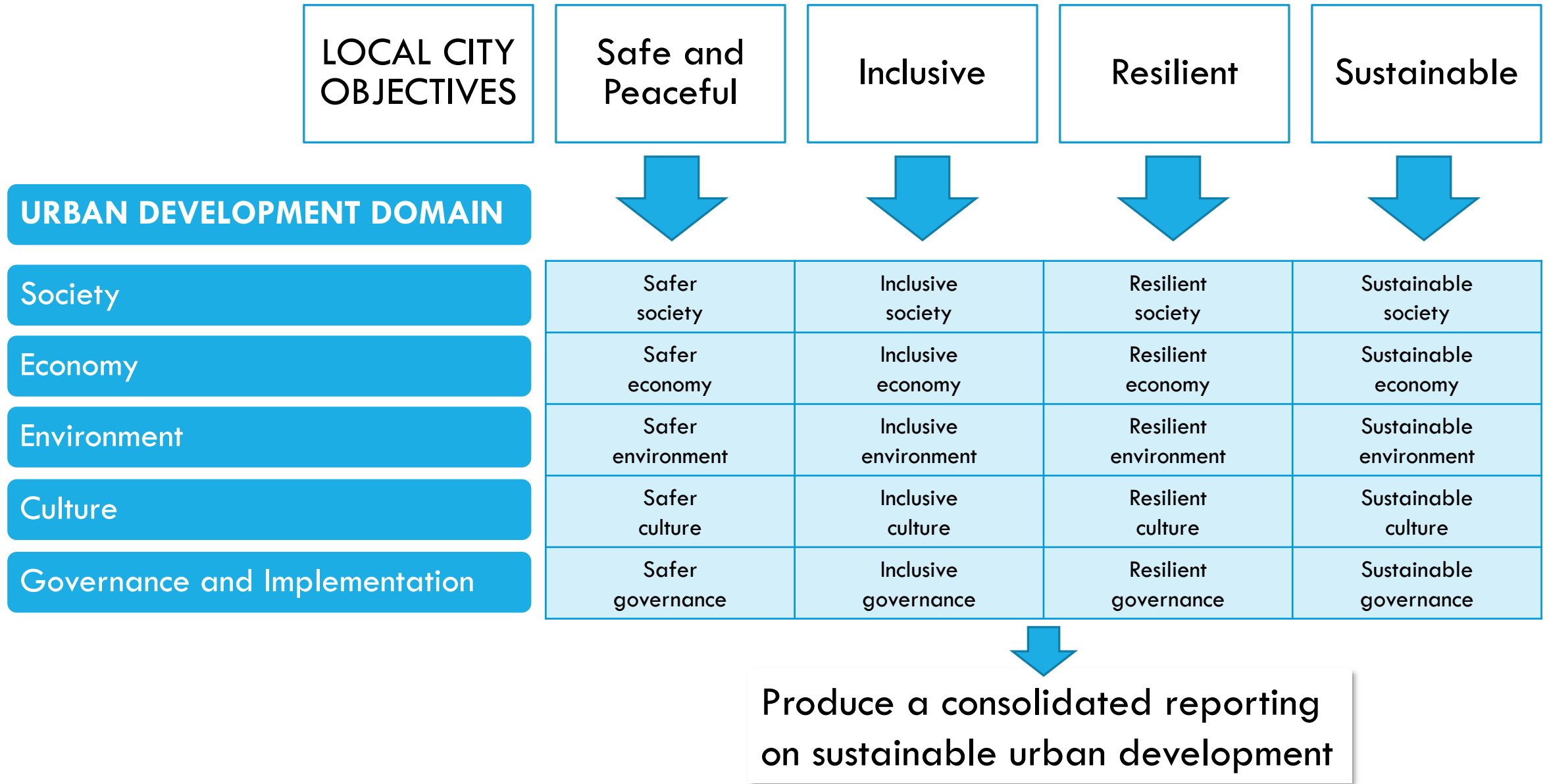
Actions to implement the main recommendations set out in the report included the development **of a harmonized global urban monitoring framework.**

UN-Habitat has led the process of developing the global urban monitoring framework in collaboration between UN entities, UN regional commissions, city representatives and 25 partners from institutions working with urban indicators within the private sector, civil society and academia.

Final endorsement by the UN Statistical Commission at its 53rd session in March 2022.

Structure of the urban monitoring framework

LOCAL CITY OBJECTIVES	Safe and Peaceful	Inclusive	Resilient	Sustainable

URBAN DEVELOPMENT DOMAIN

	Safe and Peaceful	Inclusive	Resilient	Sustainable
Society	Safer society	Inclusive society	Resilient society	Sustainable society
Economy	Safer economy	Inclusive economy	Resilient economy	Sustainable economy
Environment	Safer environment	Inclusive environment	Resilient environment	Sustainable environment
Culture	Safer culture	Inclusive culture	Resilient culture	Sustainable culture
Governance and Implementation	Safer governance	Inclusive governance	Resilient governance	Sustainable governance

Produce a consolidated reporting on sustainable urban development

| The UMF Wheel

The UMF Wheel allows cities to represent their baseline and targets across all attributes graphically.

SUSTAINABLE GOVERNANCE
- Statistical capacity indicator for SDG monitoring
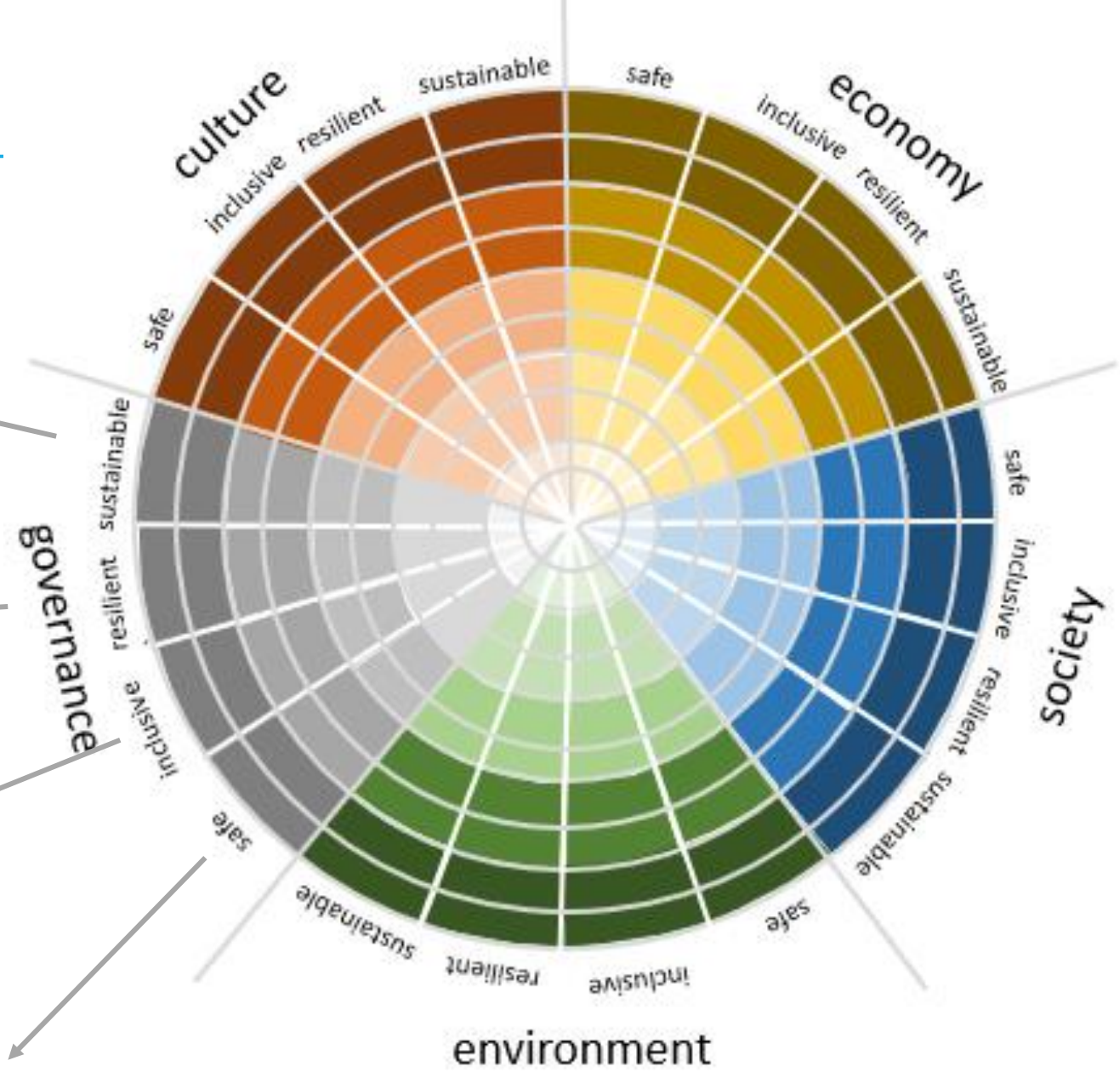- Governance of culture

RESILIENT GOVERNANCE
- Own Source Revenue
- Presence and implemention of local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies
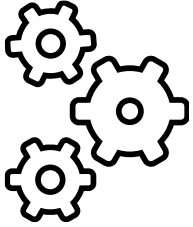
INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE
- Proportion of seats held by women in local government
- Presence of legal frameworks to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex

SAFE GOVERNANCE
- Proportion of victim of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities
- Percentage of total budget that the local/sub-national government have discretion over to decides on priorities

Highlights on the way forward with UMF

Designed to facilitate the achievement of the SDGs at the local level.

Pilots in cities will guide adaptation in national NUA reports, by local governments working on voluntary local review preparation, SDG Cities flagship and in urban analysis of UN Country Teams.

UMF indicator system provides a harmonized universal means of tracking the performance of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda.

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3. Work by UN-Habitat on climate change

Climate Action for Cities task team of UN-Habitat, 2021

Supporting cities on five themes aligned with the COP26 and the UN-SG's climate change priorities:

1
Entering pathways to net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

2
Leading climate change adaptation to protect people, livelihoods and assets.

3
Support national governments in facilitating urban climate actions to achieve national climate goals.

4
Facilitate the delivery of climate finance to cities – also using the COVID-19 recovery financing opportunity.

5
Ensuring that transition plans for a net-zero and resilient future are just and that no one is left behind.

Climate action by UN-Habitat in 2021

Acceleration of urban climate action

Internal mobilization to expand and intensify both normative and operational work. Agency-wide community of practice on climate change for regular exchange between the normative and technical cooperation teams.

27 Urban Thinkers Campuses on climate action. 520 Urban October events on climate.

Innovate4Cities Conference

"Science and innovation partnerships driving inclusive, resilient and climate neutral cities"

Develop a framework for the revised Global Research and Action Agenda.

Outcomes will guide city-level climate action and research and innovation and help close the implementation gap.

Climate action by UN-Habitat in 2021

UNFCCC 26th Conference of Parties

The engagement of UN-Habitat at the 26th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention had two main results:

1) *Sharing knowledge and good practices*: Shared updates from the Innovate4Cities 2021 conference as well as findings on the analysis of the urban content of the latest nationally determined contributions.

2) *Engage with governments:* Technical and policy advisory services to Member States in support of the overall inclusion of urban issues into climate action.

Way forward - Roadmap towards COP27

Opportunities in 2022 and beyond for UN-Habitat to advance local climate action:

(a) To advance the research, innovation and action agenda

Disseminate the updated Global Research and Action Agenda on Cities and Climate Change Science, global knowledge exchange, normative guidance and tools to member States, programme scale-up

(b) To support global urban climate change policy and action

Support development of IPCC special report on cities and climate change, support urban climate action content in the high-level meeting of the GA and WUF11, support preparation for COP27

Conclusion on the normative and operational activities

In the decade of action and the report of the SG on **Our Common Agenda** local level action has been placed centre stage in plans for intensified efforts to achieve the SDGs.

People's process in Afghanistan

Application of community-led development and recovery concept in a volatile crisis context

Climate change in cities

Tools for action against major global development challenge in urban areas

Global urban monitoring indicators

Expertise for the global development agendas and partners in tracking progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the local level

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