

Draft Ministerial Declaration¹ of the Second Session of the UN-Habitat Assembly

This draft represents the conclusion of discussions held on Thursday 18 May 2023

“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 [\[and achieve\]](#) [\[ARG+\] \[sustainable development\] \[IND+ ARG-\] \[and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.\] \[IND+ ARG-\] \[particularly\] \[CRI+ IND-\] \[in times of global crises\] \[RUS+ CRI-\]](#).
2. We acknowledge [\[that the universal nature of\] \[IND+\]](#) the Assembly as the **main [universal platform] [RUS+] [legislative body] [RUS+ TZA-] 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.
[2-3.2 bis-2 Placeholder: Reference to Human Rights; Mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem services; localization of SDGs; reference to importance of UNH’s mandate within the UN system \(EUN+\)](#)
3. We are, however, deeply concerned by the [\[ongoing\] \[CHL+\] 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, \[economic\] \[ARG+\] and health impacts.\] \[BRA delete, RUS+ ARG+ CRI-\]](#) 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, [\[with social and economic exclusion and spatial segregation often an irrefutable reality in cities and human settlements\] \[BRA+ RUS+ ARG+\] \[fuelling the increasing breakdown of the social contract, instability and conflicts.\] \[BRA+ RUS+ ARG+\]](#)
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 [\[negative\] \[BRB+\] environmental \[impact\] \[ARG+ RUS+\] \[and climate stresses\] \[ARG+ RUS+\]](#). 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.

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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.

3-5. We commit to **advance multilateral engagement** on adequate housing with basic services and inclusive planning; urban climate [\[change\]](#) [{ARG+}](#) 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.

4-6. We therefore commit to pursue the following [\[pathways\]](#)[{CRI+}](#) [\[actions\]](#)[{CRI+}](#), 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; [ad ref 18 May 2023](#)
- (b) [\[Explore realistic urban pathways for \[environmental\] {ARG+ RUS+ BRA+ DZA+} \[climate\] {ARG+ RUS+ BRA+ DZA+} 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;\]](#) [\[reserve RUS\]](#)
- (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; [ad ref 18 May 2023](#)
- (d) Advance effective **multi-level governance**, and ensure integrated local and regional planning and investments, particularly to support intermediary and rapidly growing cities; [ad ref 18 May 2023](#)
- (e) Strengthen **Sustainable Development Goals localization**, and empower local [\[authorities\] \[DZA+ BRA-\] \[and regional governments\] \[DZA+ BRA-\]](#) as central actors in rebuilding the social contract; [\[placeholder: secretariat to identify appropriate alternative language\]](#)
- (f) [\[Advance cross-border territorial cooperation \[through regional multilateralism\] {MAR+ PHL-}, such as cross-border urban corridors, with adequate shared infrastructure investments and multilateral coordination of participatory governance;\]](#) [\[reserve CHL\] \[placeholder: secretariat to provide alternative language on first line\]](#)
- (g) Explore policies and [\[market mechanisms\] {NGA+} \[initiatives\] {NGA+}](#) 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 [\[ing \] {MAR+, NGA+} \[and promoting engagement with\]{NGA+, TZA+} \[which\] {NGA+, MAR+}](#) key multilateral forums [\[that\] {NGA+, MAR+}](#) could benefit from a **stronger and more networked engagement of cities and other local and regional governments**, [\[what\] {MAR+} \[and identifying\]{MAR+}](#) the principles of [\[such\]{MAR+}](#) engagement [\[could be,\] {MAR+} \[and\]{MAR+} \[as well as\]{MAR+} \[what\] {MAR+}](#) their specific role [\[s\]{MAR+}](#) in these forums [\[could be\] {MAR+}](#).

5.7. 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. [Ad ref 18 May 2023](#)

6.8. We aim to ensure that [\[the Ministerial Declaration\]{MAR+}](#) ~~[these pathways]{MAR+}~~ [\[contribute to\]{NGA+}](#) ~~[inform]{NGA+}~~ **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.” [\(Suggested to be moved to between paragraphs 11 and 12\)](#)

7.9. We [\[take note of\]{RUS+}](#) [\[welcome\]{RUS+}](#) the outcomes of the 11th [\[session of the\]{TZA+}](#) **World Urban Forum**, held in Katowice in 2022, and look forward to actively participating in the 12th [\[Urban Forum\]{TZA+}](#) [\[session\]{TZA+}](#), to be held in Cairo in 2024.

8.10. We [\[welcome the\]{TZA+, CRI+, MAR+}](#) ~~[endorse]{TZA+, CRI+, MAR+}~~ the [\[decision 1/1 on the\]{MAR+}](#) extension of the UN-Habitat **Strategic Plan** for the period [\[2020 – 2023 until 2025 to cover the period 2020 – 2025\]{TZA+}](#) ~~[2020-2025]{TZA+}~~ and the [\[highlight\]{ARG+}](#) ~~[focus]{ARG+}~~ on adequate housing for all, urban climate action, urban crisis response, localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals and financing sustainable urban development.

9.11. We [\[reaffirm\]{IND+, RUS+}](#) ~~[recognize and fully support]{NGA+, IND+}~~ [\[reaffirm our recognition and full support for\]{NGA+, IND-, RUS-}](#) the **role** ~~[and expertise]{IND+, RUS+}~~ **of UN-Habitat** as [\[a\]{Chair+}](#) ~~[the]{Chair+}~~ focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements, [\[in collaboration with\]{CRI+, IND+, MAR-}](#) ~~[Member States, local authorities and]{MAR+, RUS+, CRI+, IND+}~~ [\[other United Nations system entities\]{MAR+, RUS+, CRI-, IND-}](#). We stress the importance of **predictable** ~~[and sustainable]{IND+, KEN+, NGA-, TZA-}~~ [\[adequate\]{KEN+, TZA+, IND+}](#) **funding** for UN-Habitat, particularly through voluntary and other commitments, for the Programme to fulfil its mandate.

[11.bis \[suggestion to insert paragraph 8 here\]{MAR+}](#)

~~10.12.~~ 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 [\[the\]{MAR+}](#) mandate [\[of\]{MAR+, TZA+}](#) ~~[and]{MAR+, TZA+}~~ 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.