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Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters

Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Addendum

Cooperation with agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and other UN-Habitat partners in the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019

Report of the Executive Director

I. Introduction

1. This report presents information on cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and other entities in the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and other UN-Habitat partners during the period from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018.

2. UN-Habitat is dedicated to fulfilling its role of focal point for sustainable urbanization in the United Nations system. Its efforts are evidenced by (a) development of a United Nations collaborative implementation framework and a United Nations system-wide strategy, in cooperation with more than 12 United Nations entities, (b) effective mobilization of partners around the high-level political forum on sustainable development, (c) preparation of a synthesis report on Sustainable Development Goal 11 and the first quadrennial report on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, (d) organization of the World Urban Forum and (e) preparation of the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2020–2025. These activities have increased opportunities for partnerships and cooperation with a diverse range of partners, including United Nations regional economic commissions, specialized agencies, the World Bank, partner networks, civil society, academia, the private sector, local governments and other stakeholders.

3. UN-Habitat has facilitated cooperation and collaboration in the execution of its mandate by working with existing and new partners to expand its outreach. The entities of the United Nations system are working together on sustainable urban development more than ever before. UN-Habitat, in collaboration with 12 United Nations entities, is preparing a United Nations system-wide strategy for sustainable urban development. At the regional and national levels, different organizations and Member States, working with stakeholders, experts and United Nations entities, have embarked on the preparation of regional, subregional, national and local level frameworks for the implementation of the

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2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda, and others have taken on the implementation of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Cities 2030. UN-Habitat also strove to involve non-governmental organizations, United Nations entities and other partners in the preparation of the strategic plan for 2020–2025. UN-Habitat firmly believes that these actions support the realization of its vision of better quality of life for all in a rapidly urbanizing world.

II. Cooperation with organizations and entities within the United Nations system in the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019

A. General Assembly

4. During the period January 2017–December 2018, UN-Habitat continued to engage with partners in normative, operational and advocacy activities, primarily through multi-stakeholder issues-based networks. It also worked in general and strategic multi-stakeholder partnerships with national governments, local authorities, academia, civil society, the private sector, professionals, grassroots organizations and women's and youth organizations, among others. The organization also worked in partnership with various United Nations entities and intergovernmental bodies at all levels. Partners participated in the governance of these networks, as members of advisory boards and steering committees, and in decision-making processes, as well as in programme implementation and the monitoring of outcomes. The successful creation of coalitions, alignment of efforts and leveraging of the strengths of these partners will underpin the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and meeting of the Sustainable Development Goal targets and other related internationally agreed commitments.

5. UN-Habitat cooperation with organizations and entities within the United Nations system is guided by General Assembly resolution 72/226, on implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of UN-Habitat, and General Assembly resolution 71/256, on the New Urban Agenda. In resolution 72/226, the General Assembly reiterated the sections of the New Urban Agenda that called on UN-Habitat to coordinate the preparation of the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, in close collaboration with other relevant entities of the United Nations system, ensuring an inclusive United Nations system-wide coordination process.

6. In resolution 72/226, the General Assembly also invited UN-Habitat, in accordance with its role as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements, including supporting the implementation and review of the New Urban Agenda, to collaborate with other United Nations programmes and entities, Member States, local authorities and relevant stakeholders, as well as through the mobilization of experts, to contribute to a United Nations system-wide strategy and continue generating evidence-based and practical guidance for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the related dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, as well as to further develop the action framework for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, in close consultation with Member States, local authorities and stakeholders. In response, UN-Habitat is leading a task team of 12 United Nations entities to prepare a paper on such a strategy. Key elements of the paper include: the potential of sustainable urbanization as a transformative force; frontier issues; expected outcomes; implementation of the New Urban Agenda at the national and subnational levels; the United Nations collaborative implementation framework; and alignment of the High-Level Committee on Programmes and the United Nations Sustainable Development Group.

7. On 20 December 2018, the General Assembly adopted resolution 73/239 on strengthening UN-Habitat, which established a universal assembly of UN-Habitat to replace the Governing Council. The resolution endorsed the findings and recommendations of the Open-Ended Working Group on the new governing structure of UN-Habitat, which outlined the key responsibilities of the UN-Habitat Assembly, the Executive Board and the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as well as the reporting mechanisms for those governing bodies. The Executive Board is to be established by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its first session.

B. Economic and Social Council

8. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2015/34 on human settlements, encouraged Member States and observers to continue to give consideration to the role of urbanization in sustainable development and to ensure policy coherence in the implementation of the post-2015

development agenda (now the 2030 Agenda), including by promoting the active participation of relevant stakeholders, including local authorities.

9.   The 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council for the annual thematic review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, was held from 8 to 18 July on the theme of "transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies", and included a review of progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 11, "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable". As part of preparation for the meeting, UN-Habitat, as the entity tasked with working on sustainable urbanization and human settlements within the United Nations system, demonstrated its leadership and support for a wide range of partners. UN-Habitat led and coordinated the preparation of the "SDG11 Synthesis Report" and conducted various side events, special sessions and training workshops on reviewing progress on Sustainable Development Goal 11. This was done in collaboration with other United Nations entities, including regional economic commissions, as well as with national and local governments, academia, civil society and a range of other stakeholders.

10.   During the high-level political forum, the Executive Director shared her vision of the reform of UN-Habitat and the overall direction of the organization with member States, United Nations entities and other partners in various forums and with government delegations and heads of agencies in bilateral meetings. Two recommendations arising from these engagements were (a) that progress and status reports coordinated and prepared by UN-Habitat include contributions from local and regional governments, regional economic commissions, the United Nations system and other stakeholders; and (b) that UN-Habitat articulate the ways in which working towards sustainable urbanization can help accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and deliver on other global agendas.

C.   United Nations system: the Office of the Secretary-General, the Chief Executives Board and organs of the United Nations

11.   UN-Habitat worked with the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth to develop the Youth 2030 strategy, which was launched by the Secretary-General in New York on 8 October 2018.

12.   UN-Habitat continued to participate in the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its three pillars: the High-level Committee on Programmes, the High-level Committee on Management and the United Nations Sustainable Development Group.

13.   As a follow-up to General Assembly resolution 72/226 and following the endorsement of the UN-Habitat proposal to establish a task force by the Secretary-General and the Chief Executives Board, the High-level Committee on Programmes established an urban task force, led by UN-Habitat, to prepare a United Nations system-wide strategy for sustainable urbanization to guide how the United Nations system coordinates its efforts to help Member States harness the opportunities and meet the challenges of rapid urbanization. The participating entities are the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Bank Group, United Nations Industrial Development Organization and World Health Organization.

D.   Other inter-agency mechanisms

14.   In 2018, UN-Habitat, in consultation with other entities of the United Nations system, developed a collaborative framework for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimensions of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals. The collaborative implementation framework, which was endorsed by several United Nations entities at the ninth session of the World Urban Forum, facilitates greater coherence and collaboration across the United Nations system's work on sustainable urbanization, leveraging expertise and cross-sectoral capacities and scaling up sustainable urban development interventions that accelerate progress towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The framework's action plan guides its implementation at all levels through four priority areas: knowledge and data for policy advice; operational guidelines and strategies; partnerships, networking and outreach; and financing.

15.   UN-Habitat is involved in the strategic results groups of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, which are the platforms for inter-agency coordination of joint actions at the global level. The four strategic results groups are SDG implementation, strategic partnerships,

business innovations, and financing. Each strategic results group has established three or four time-bound task teams to focus on specific aspects.

16.   UN-Habitat continued to participate actively in the implementing activities of the United Nations Evaluation Group, including evaluation of capacity-building strategies, formulation of strategies for the evaluation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and evaluation of United Nations development assistance frameworks (UNDAFs) to ensure inclusion of urbanization aspects in the development frameworks.

17.   UN-Habitat continued to participate actively in the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, working with other agencies to refine the indicators. In December 2018, indicator 11.3.2 relating to civic engagement in urban management and indicator 11.7.2 relating to public space were reclassified from tier III to II, paving the way for data collection on these two indicators at the country level.

E.   Engagement with specialized agencies, funds and programmes

18.   UN-Habitat worked with IOM to strengthen local capacity to respond and adapt to, and to increase housing resilience against, cyclones. Through this partnership, living conditions of the most vulnerable households affected by Cyclone Dineo in the province of Inhambane in Mozambique were improved. UN-Habitat also partnered with IOM in the provision of sustainable resettlement and reintegration in urban areas in Afghanistan.

19.   UN-Habitat and UNEP have a standing memorandum of understanding setting out programme areas of cooperation, which is a subject of a separate report to the UN-Habitat Assembly on joint operations and programmes implemented by the two agencies. UN-Habitat implemented the Urban Renewal and Green Space Development project in Chengdu, China, jointly with UNEP.

20.   UN-Habitat continues to engage in the implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, with a focus on cities. The executive directors of UN-Habitat and UNEP joined the Government of Kenya and the Governor of Nairobi City County to support the "Waste-Wise Cities" campaign launched by the Kenyan President, Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta during Urban October 2018.

21.   With UNDP, UN-Habitat is developing an umbrella memorandum of understanding identifying key areas for collaboration between the two agencies and updating the 2008 memorandum of understanding and its 2012 addendum. The new memorandum of understanding will be aligned with the strategic plans of the two entities.

22.   UN-Habitat and the UNDP are expanding the State of Cities report series in the Asia-Pacific region by cooperating on the Future of Asia and Pacific Cities 2019 Report, to be published in October 2019, and in the Arab region by collaborating on the next State of Arab Cities report, to be published in 2020. UNDP also supported UN-Habitat with road safety improvements as part of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda. UN-Habitat engagement with UNDP also included providing technical expertise to other contributing agencies on incorporating resilience into their programmes and developing the initial framework for reconstruction of Mosul.

23.   UNDP, including the One United Nations fund, has supported a number of UN-Habitat projects on resilience and conflict prevention, including assessment and technical support to the Land Commission in Darfur, Sudan, to address land concerns at return sites.

24.   UN-Habitat collaborated with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to strengthen the resilience of schools to disasters through increasing child and school community safety from natural hazards. In 2018, the executive directors of the two entities agreed to affirm the partnership between UNICEF and UN-Habitat to build on previous and ongoing work on urban safety, child-friendly city planning, slum upgrading and urban water and sanitation and promote child-responsive programming in urban settings. To this end, the two entities have prepared a letter of intent providing an update on the status of the partnership and guidance for moving forward with it.

25.   Together, UN-Habitat and UNICEF have the potential to effectively address many of the challenges faced by children and young people living in urban settings, especially to bring children to the foreground of urban planning and create thriving, equitable cities where children live in healthy, safe, inclusive, green and prosperous communities. Other areas of collaboration include diagnostics for children in urban settings, particularly data generation and analytics, with a focus on informing urban development (trends, planning, design, services and advocacy), and the inclusion of child- and youth-friendly indicators in urban development and monitoring tools. UNICEF and UN-Habitat intend to develop a child development index with indicators for the national and city/human settlements level

for inclusion in the City Prosperity Index, and to work together on slum area spatial modelling and mapping of services to better understand the situation of children.

26.   Working with UNHCR, UN-Habitat implemented the spatial planning and infrastructure in Turkana County, Kenya. UNHCR also provided funding for the Jabal Amel Union of Municipalities and the municipalities of Aramta, Bazorieh, El Addousieh, Kfar Chouba and Rmeich in South Lebanon, in a bid to improve the plight of refugees and increase access to basic services and infrastructure.

27.   The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) supported UN-Habitat in the development of a national urban policy in Liberia by gathering data required for the process. UNOPS, through the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund, also funded several non-governmental organizations working on improving access to water and sanitation in underserved communities in Nepal, as well as facilitating the "Strengthening local agreements in Syrian cities" project and the Iraq urban recovery programme.

28.   In 2018, UN-Habitat worked with United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to support the integrated provision of basic services (transport, waste and drainage) to Bethlehem City and refugee camps.

29.   During the reporting period, UN-Habitat continued to work with the World Food Programme, enhancing self-reliance in a protracted refugee situation and promoting spatial economic integration of the Maratane refugee camp and its surroundings into the greater Nampula in Mozambique. UN-Habitat also provided input to the World Food Programme's urban strategy document.

30.   As a member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, UN-Habitat has continued to lead the Global Shelter Cluster, providing advice and technical assistance with respect to natural and human disasters experienced by countries in the last two years, including an earthquake in Ecuador, the Rohingya camps in Bangladesh, floods in Myanmar and conflicts in South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic.

31.   The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), in partnership with UN-Habitat, has facilitated reconstruction and resilience-building of communities in affected areas in countries like Iraq, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic, including through the "Urban crisis response in main cities in Lebanon" project and a project for rapid technical assessment of damaged residential buildings in shelter-priority neighbourhoods of Aleppo, Syrian Arab Republic. OCHA also funded projects for emergency shelter support response for internally displaced persons from Mosul, Iraq, and the rehabilitation of critical water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) service infrastructure and shelter in Aleppo's Kallaseh neighbourhood.

32.   UN-Habitat and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) recently signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen their ongoing partnership around urban governance and safety within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda. Areas of cooperation include crime prevention and urban safety; drug control; policing and criminal justice; evidence-based and people-oriented policymaking; corruption; transparency and open government; linkages between transnational and local crime; and terrorism.

33.   UN-Habitat and UNODC continue to share knowledge and good practices and to organize joint programmes where possible. The two agencies, together with various partners, including the Global Network on Safer Cities and other United Nations entities, have developed United Nations system-wide guidelines on safer cities and human settlements to support system-wide action on safety for all in cities. The guidelines are expected to be endorsed by the UN-Habitat Assembly.

34.   Along with UN-Habitat, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is an active member of the Global Land Tool Network, an alliance of 80 organizations working on promoting pro-poor and gender-sensitive security of tenure for all and a continuum of land rights. The main areas of FAO engagement are defined in a memorandum of understanding between FAO and UN-Habitat. FAO is also a co-chair of the United Nations regional task team on sustainable urban development in the Asia-Pacific region, along with UN-Habitat and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

35.   IFAD is also a member of the Global Land Tool Network, and together with partners has developed a range of land tools, including the Social Tenure Domain Model, of value to national and local governments, civil society, land administration and governance institutions, grassroots organizations and communities alike. IFAD has funded UN-Habitat projects on land and conflict, resilience, poverty alleviation and security of tenure in Kenya, Nepal, Uganda, Zambia and elsewhere.

III. Cooperation with development partners and financial institutions

36.   UN-Habitat has strengthened its engagement with private-sector organizations on strategic mobilization of resources and expertise for increased investments in sustainable urbanization. UN-Habitat collaborated with the World Bank Group in the development of the Multi-Partner Implementation Facility for Sustainable Urban Development. The Facility supports developing countries in implementing urbanization priorities and transformational measures by leveraging public and private funding for sustainable urban development; creating a coordination mechanism for the international community to support country- and city-led urban development programs; and developing a systematic monitoring process for sustainable development. The countries in the Facility's pilot programme are Egypt, Kenya, Mexico, Rwanda and Uganda.

37.   UN-Habitat has collaborated with the Global Development Incubator to establish a capital advisory platform for the purpose of identifying needs for capital and mobilizing private financing to complement public and aid resources for sustainable city infrastructure development as well as enhancing the implementation of IFSUD.

IV. Cooperation with intergovernmental organizations and development institutions outside the United Nations system

38.   The harmonized regional implementation, monitoring and reporting framework for the New Urban Agenda in Africa was developed under the leadership of the African Union's subcommittee on urban development and human settlements and the technical leadership of the Economic Commission for Africa, in partnership with UN-Habitat. The framework was endorsed by representatives of the housing and urban development ministries of African Union member States during the third ordinary session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization, held in Addis Ababa in December 2018. As guided by the framework, United Nations country teams are revising their UNDAFs, among other things to align them with the requirements of this framework for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

39.   In June 2018, UN-Habitat and the Africa Development Bank launched the "State of African Cities 2018: The geography of African investment" report, with an emphasis on foreign direct investment as key to Africa's development. The report lays out how Africa can plan to finance its development by attracting foreign direct investment to its cities. It serves as a guide to the complex subject of global investment in Africa. The authors of the report assert that if harnessed properly, foreign direct investment can help lift millions of people out of poverty and support manufacturing, services and technological innovation.

40.   The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme, initiated by the Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP), is funded by the European Commission and executed by UN-Habitat. The third cycle of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme was launched at the ninth session of the World Urban Forum, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where the European Commission pledged an additional €10 million in support of ACP countries.

41.   The European Commission has also funded several technical cooperation programmes and projects in the Asia-Pacific region, Europe, Africa and the Latin American region. These include "Accelerating climate action through the promotion of urban low emission development strategies", "Myanmar Climate Change Alliance", "Peace and development programme in South Sudan: Housing for veterans and one stop youth centres", "Development and implementation of retrofitting guiding tools for hazard resistant learning spaces in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa" (Pakistan), and "Innovative durable solutions for internally displaced people and returnees in Mogadishu".

V. Cooperation with local governments

42.   Local and regional governments are strategic partners in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimensions of the 2030 Agenda. General Assembly resolution 72/226 recognizes the strong collaboration between UN-Habitat and regional and local governments, including through the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA) and other platforms, working closely with other United Nations entities, within their mandates and in accordance with national polices and priorities. Local and regional governments have demonstrated their influence over global and national decisions, particularly in the promotion of sustainable urban development priorities. They have also been instrumental in mobilizing support for concrete commitments and actions at all level to facilitate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimensions of the 2030 Agenda.

43.   During the reporting period, UN-Habitat worked closely with local governments and their associations to identify policy trends, create capacities at the local level, collect experiences and best practices and create opportunities for political dialogue between local, national and territorial spheres of government. In Kenya, for instance, UN-Habitat provided advisory services to Homa Bay County on improving service delivery and local economic development.

44.   UN-Habitat, in partnership with UNACLA, promoted dialogue between central and local governments and increased communication between local governments and the United Nations system. UN-Habitat co-organized the Sustainable Cities Dialogue for mayors, ministers, governors and other stakeholders, in coordination with United Cities and Local Governments and with the support of UNACLA and the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments. Participants acknowledged urban governance as "the cornerstone of effective and sustainable implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 11 and the link between the urban targets". The dialogue also served as a forum for the preparation of a joint local-national contribution to the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the holding of the first Local and Regional Government Forum, recognized as the first forum bringing together representatives of local and regional governments, member States and other stakeholders to support the participation of local authorities in Sustainable Development Goal follow-up and review processes.

45.   UNACLA also supported "Venice City Solutions – Financing the SDGs at local level", an event co-organized by UN-Habitat, UNDP, the United Nations Capital Development Fund and United Cities and Local Governments, where national and local governments from 25 countries discussed the importance of funding of the 2030 Agenda at the local level for achieving global aspirations.

46.   UN-Habitat, together with UNDP and the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments, coordinates the Sustainable Development Goal localization project, which supports local governments and other local stakeholders in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. An online platform has 31,000 registered users who connect from 3,300 different cities. The platform hosts 412 documents, 244 stories and information on 291 events related to local implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

47.   UN-Habitat was instrumental in the creation of a new community of practice on transparency and open local government, together with United Cities and Local Governments. The community is currently composed of more than 20 institutions. The community supports local governments across the world in increasing accountability and creating awareness about how open government can be a tool for preventing corruption and increasing institutional efficiency.

48.   There is a growing need for advice and technical support on digitalization and effective use of data by local authorities. The UN-Habitat Future Cities Programme, which provides urban planning and management services to 19 cities in Brazil, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nigeria, the Philippines, South Africa, Thailand and Turkey and is advising mayors and urban managers on how to make effective use of data, including management of big data and creation of open data platforms. This work would benefit greatly from more strategic thinking and a consolidated organizational approach, as well as strengthened capacity of the staff of UN-Habitat and partner organizations.

VI.   Cooperation with the private sector

49.   UN-Habitat takes a multidimensional approach to safety that promotes the role of local government in assuring the safety and security of their inhabitants and providing social crime prevention that focuses on at-risk young people and the safety of women and girls, as well as looking at how the physical urban environment, such as inclusive, well-managed public spaces, can contribute to making cities safer.

50.   As part of the Safer Cities Programme, UN-Habitat recently started collaborating with Huawei, a Chinese telecommunications company, to produce a white paper on how big data can help make cities safer. The biennial Smart and Safe City Challenge, a collaboration between UN-Habitat and the Land and Housing Corporation of the Republic of Korea, provides technical assistance to local governments and their partners to develop effective crime prevention and urban safety policies and programmes using smart, innovative solutions. The challenge invites cities to submit safety proposals that include smart, innovative solutions, with the best proposals granted funding to test the solutions on a pilot basis at the neighbourhood level.

51.   In 2015, Microsoft, Mojang and UN-Habitat launched the Block by Block Foundation, which raises funds for the improvement of public spaces using the Block by Block participatory design process worldwide. Building on the Block by Block approach, UN-Habitat, in collaboration with Ericsson, has been researching and testing how "mixed reality" can be used to boost community

participation and how people experience urban design. Two technology tests have been carried out so far: one in Johannesburg, South Africa, in September 2017 and another in Stockholm, Sweden, in September 2018. These initial tests indicate that mixed reality has significant potential for citizens to experience and engage with urban design processes in completely new ways. UN-Habitat is preparing a report on the potential of mixed reality to democratize urban planning and design, to be published by December 2019.

52.   In 2015, UN-Habitat, through a collaboration with Ericsson, developed Maji Wazi ("open water" in Swahili), a concept and prototype of a community-managed, decentralized sensor network for water management in informal settlements. UN-Habitat continues working with utility companies to develop standards for the Internet of things (IoT) and basic infrastructure. In connection with the United for Smart Sustainable Cities platform, UN-Habitat is also conducting research into the impact of smart city and frontier technologies for urban sustainability. Three reports are being produced, on the impact of artificial intelligence, data processing and sensing technologies in cities.

53.   Artificial intelligence is increasingly important for cities and will become more so in the future, for everything from surveillance and policing to autonomous vehicles and drone deliveries. Predictive models and machine learning could help cities become more efficient and perhaps remove some biases, but there are also serious privacy and governance concerns that need to be dealt with. UN-Habitat is engaged in the question of artificial intelligence as a member of the United for Smart Sustainable Cities platform, which is developing indicators for IoT and big data in cities. UN-Habitat is also a co-chair of the ITU Focus Group on Data Processing and Management to support IoT and Smart Cities and Communities.

VII.   Collaboration with regional economic commissions

54.   ESCAP established a United Nations regional task team on sustainable urban development just before the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito in October 2016. The aim was to create a framework to enable the United Nations system to plan and strategize on the implementation of the urban aspects of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda in the Asia-Pacific region.

55.   Co-chaired by ESCAP, UN-Habitat and FAO, the regional task team worked to prepare knowledge products on migration and organized a panel discussion on progress toward Sustainable Development Goal 11 and other human settlement indicators in preparation for the Asia-Pacific regional review of the Sustainable Development Goals within the context of the high-level political forum.

56.   In November 2018, UN-Habitat and ESCAP jointly organized a regional workshop that brought together a range of participants, including local authorities, United Nations entities and civil society organizations. The aim of the workshop was to strengthen multi-stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda. A key outcome of the workshop was the development of a publication on municipal finance.

57.   Some regional task team members participated in the Asia Pacific Partners Forum, which took place on 23 and 24 January 2017 in Bangkok. Participants pledged a number of actions to be carried out upon return to their respective countries. For example, participants from Indonesia and Malaysia translated the New Urban Agenda into their local languages to improve readership and understanding.

58.   In 2018, the regional task team decided to explore the possibility of support for United Nations country teams on mainstreaming sustainable urbanization in UNDAFs. The focus was to support the development of two interlinked areas for collaboration: first, provision of evidence and data on current and emerging urban development issues and trends, and second, development of a strategic value proposition for the United Nations country teams and United Nations system at the country level to respond to persisting and emerging sustainable development challenges in cities.

59.   In October and November 2018, joint missions by members of the Asia-Pacific regional task force on sustainable urban development took place to two pilot countries, Cambodia and Nepal. These countries were selected partly based on the readiness of the United Nations country team to engage, the state of the UNDAF and the support of the United Nations Resident Coordinators' Office. The objective of the exercise was to produce an evidence-based strategic value proposition for thematic areas already identified in the UNDAF. The value proposition identified the benefits (value) of the products/services the United Nations country team/United Nations system could offer to clients/partners and provided a strategic and operational framework to support the value proposition. In Cambodia, the priorities aligned with the UNDAF were data and evidence, urban governance, management and planning, tourism and infrastructure, land and affordable housing, while in Nepal, the

UNDAF priorities were data and evidence, urban governance, management and planning, resilient infrastructure and services, eco-tourism and cultural heritage.

60.   The Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with UN-Habitat, provided technical assistance to the African Union to develop an Africa regional framework on implementation of the New Urban Agenda, building on the Africa common position on Habitat III approved by African Heads of State in 2016. UN-Habitat supports the Economic Commission for Africa in its efforts to mainstreaming urbanization in national development policies and plans. This partnership emphasis a need for national urban policies to inform national development and the linkage between macro-economics, urban planning and local economic development. The rural urban linkages and the need to plan for cities and regions are crucial factors in economic growth, poverty alleviation and sustainable development. The Economic Commission for Africa and UN-Habitat also collaborated closely on the finalization and publication of the Habitat III regional report for Africa.

61.   The United Nations regional economic commissions worked together to organize joint side events on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda at the ninth session of the World Urban Forum.

62.   The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, UN-Habitat, the Forum of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Housing and Urban Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and other stakeholders from the region launched the regional action plan for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin American and the Caribbean 2016–2036 as an accelerator for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. They also shared a subregional action plan for the Caribbean that responds to the region's unique situation. These two instruments were developed with national and local governments, entities of the United Nations system, multiple stakeholders and experts working together to achieve a common good. The challenge is to domesticate these regional action plans at the national and local levels.

63.   All the regional economic commissions also focused on the review of progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 11 and on other human settlement indicators during the regional reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in their respective regions. These actions formed a concrete background against which a high-level dialogue on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 11 at the high-level political forum was organized, in collaboration with the United Nations Sustainable Development Group.

64.   All the regional economic commissions contributed to the preparation of the first quadrennial report on implementation of the New Urban Agenda and monitoring of progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 11. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, ESCAP and the Economic Commission for Europe were represented at the write-shops that developed the four-year report, and some contributed case studies and materials that enriched the reports. This spirit of cooperation is likely to increase understanding of the value urbanization adds to national development. Much more remains to be done, however, particularly with regard to sufficient integration of urbanization into the agendas of regional and subregional intergovernmental bodies and national development plans, especially in the least developed countries, where the rate of urbanization is so high.

VIII.   Cooperation with civil society

A.   Civil society and accessibility of the city, urban basic services, mobility and infrastructure

65.   During the reporting period, within the areas of pro-poor urban planning, reduction of poverty and inequality and promotion of rural-urban linkages, UN-Habitat collaborated with civil society, academia and other implementing partners to deliver transformative projects and programmes in many countries. For instance, HelpAge International - Sri Lanka facilitated the "Human development initiative through empowerment and settlement improvement in the plantation settlements in Sri Lanka" project, and the Palestinian Housing Council is implementing a programme on fostering tenure security and resilience of Palestinian communities through spatial-economic planning interventions with funding from the European Commission, while Stichting Vredesbeweging Pax Nederl is working on fostering inclusive development and good governance in northern Kosovo.

66.   UN-Habitat also worked with civil society organizations, local governments, utility companies and other institutions to increase access to urban basic services, mobility and infrastructure, to ensure that no one is left behind. In Nepal, with funding largely from UNOPS, the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund project helped local governments deliver different aspects of a programme to improve access to water and sanitation facilities, with the participation of many civil society organizations, including the Bagmati Welfare Society, Bimkom - Planners For Planning Rights, Birat Community Learning Centre,

Community Development Society, Community Power, Environment and Childhood Development, Good Neighbours Nepal, Human Development Center, Integrated Development Society; Karnali integrated rural development and research centre; Motherland Women Society, Nari Bikash Sangh, Nepal National Social Dalit Welfare, Prakash Awareness Groups, Renaissance Society Nepal, Sagarmatha Community Development Centre, Sahara Nepal, Samaj Utthan Yuwa Kendra and Society for Youth Activity. An evaluation of the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund operations in Nepal was under way but had not yet been completed at the time of preparation of this report. The impact of the programme and lessons learned will inform future programmes in Nepal and beyond.

67.   UN-Habitat collaborated with the Nam Papa State-Owned Enterprise on phase I of the "Water for life campaign project for Asia and the Pacific region" in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, funded by Fukuoka Habitat Institute, as well as on a project to enhance pro-poor water, sanitation and hygiene governance through improved decision-making and performance management, funded by UNDP and the One United Nations Fund.

B.   Public space

68.   The UN-Habitat global programme on public space, funded by the Block by Block Foundation, aims to improve accessibility and liveability of cities for all, without discrimination. Projects under the programme were implemented in partnership with All India Institute of Local Self-Government, Centre of Live and Learn for Environment, Healthbridge Foundation of Canada and the Johannesburg Development Agency. In Lebanon, the Municipality of Bourj Hammoud also facilitated a UN-Habitat public space project, "Promoting integrated and sustainable urban development through networks", funded by Humble Bundle/Mojang.

C.   National urban policy – Territorial and metropolitan planning

69.   National urban policies and territorial and metropolitan planning benefited from collaborative efforts between UN-Habitat and the following organizations: AEDES Network Campus Berlin GGMBH ("UN-HABITAT - USMID technical assistance for territorial and metropolitan planning in Uganda"), Da Nang Institute for Socio Economic Development ("Rapid planning - Sustainable infrastructure, environmental and resource management for highly dynamic metropolises") and Korea Land Housing Corporation ("Pilot phase of the national urban policy programme: Developing national urban policies and smart city strategies in three selected countries").

D.   Land and security of tenure

70.   Promoting pro-poor security of tenure and land rights for all has been a priority for the Global Land Tool Network since its establishment in 2006. During the reporting period, Global Land Tool Network partners including the Community Self Reliance Centre (Nepal), Huairou Commission, International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (Nairobi), Lusaka City Council, Norwegian Refugee Council, People's Process on Housing and Poverty in Zambia, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University, Technical Assistance Movement for People and the Environment and Uganda Community Based Association for Child Welfare. All were all engaged in producing land tools and implementing practical measures to improve the living standards of many and influence government policies and programmes, including empowering the urban poor and improving their tenure security. The Global Land Tool Network is largely funded by IFAD.

71.   In April 2018, the Global Land Tool Network held its seventh global partners meeting in Nairobi to explore how to deliver improved security of tenure for all. In preparation for the meeting, a peer-to-peer learning exercise for partners largely from the Asia-Pacific region was organized just before the ninth session of the World Urban Forum.

E.   Prosperous cities for all

72.   UN-Habitat collaborated with Homa Bay County and the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy to improve service delivery and local economic development in secondary towns in Kenya. The Institute for Transportation and Development Policy was also engaged to support projects on "Promoting sustainable transport solutions for East African cities" and "Strengthening development planning and management in Greater Cairo", the latter funded by the New Urban Communities Authority and UN-Women. In Somalia, the "Joint programme on local governance and decentralized service delivery" project helped Oodweyne Municipality provide a range of services to residents.

F.   **Resilient cities – addressing inequality in conflict situations**

73.   UN-Habitat collaborated with Action pour la Paix et la Concorde on an integrated stabilization project in North Kalehe, in the province of South Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and with Ahl Al Kher Society on support for stabilization through the rehabilitation of infrastructure and housing in contested areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, while non-governmental organization Alisei facilitated a programme on "improving living conditions of Roca Sundy through sustainable resettlement" in Sao Tome and Principe. The Asian Institute of Technology and Myanmar Engineering Society, funded by Action Aid, contributed to the strengthening of community and institutional resilience to natural hazards in Myanmar, while partners Azm and Saade Association, GAME Lebanon, Popular Aid for Relief and Development and the municipality of Bourj Hammoud all contributed to the "Urban crisis response in main cities in Lebanon" project.

74.   Other such projects carried out by UN-Habitat with partners included "Towards a housing, land and property-based methodology for stabilizing and creating conditions for peace in countries affected by the Syria crisis" (with The Basmeh and Zeitooneh Lebanese Association); "Supporting the Palestinians' right to development in East Jerusalem" (with Bimkom-Planners For Planning Rights); "Emergency shelter support response to internally displaced persons from Mosul – Provision of emergency shelter kits" (with Engineering Association Development Environment and Zoa Refugee Care – Netherlands); "Rehabilitation of critical WASH services and shelter in Kallaseh neighbourhood in Syria" (with For Aleppo Association); "Peace and development programme in South Sudan: Housing for veterans and One Stop youth centres" (with Rombur Community Development Association and Hope Agency for Relief and Development); and "Myanmar consortium for capacity development on disaster management" (with the Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early Warning System).

G.   **Stakeholder engagement in UN-Habitat intergovernmental processes and programmes**

75.   Recognizing the importance of stakeholder engagement in policy and programme development, implementation, monitoring and reporting, UN-Habitat has embarked on the development of a stakeholder engagement policy that will also guide the stakeholder accreditation procedure, and of an institutional mechanism to enhance stakeholder consultations on relevant processes. The aim is to ensure effective use of the knowledge, expertise, urban solutions and good practices available among diverse stakeholders, old and new, in the realm of sustainable urban development.

76.   Other mechanisms that have enhanced stakeholder participation on the work of UN-Habitat include the formulation of the stakeholder collaborative implementation framework, creation of an internal stakeholder steering committee and establishment of an external stakeholder advisory board to be launched at the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. Stakeholders were consulted during the preparation of the strategic plan for 2020–2025, especially on the key priority areas and how they would want to interact with UN-Habitat. A first Global Stakeholders' Forum will take place prior to the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly to allow stakeholders to formulate coordinated contributions on the issues to be discussed by the Assembly.

H.   **Stakeholder monitoring of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda**

77.   Through the capacity-building programme on monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda, UN-Habitat, with the support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, worked to build the capacity of civil society, local government representatives and other stakeholders to monitor Sustainable Development Goal 11 and other human settlement indicators. The training also provided an opportunity for civil society to understand the formal process of monitoring and reporting and to interface and build relations with national statistical offices in charge of monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals at the country level, as well as national urban observatories and ministries of housing and urban development.

78.   Representatives of Slum Dwellers International, United Cities and Local Governments, the Asia-Pacific region, Huairou Commission and Kemitraan Habitat participated in the training for national statistical offices and urban observatories in Bangkok.

79.   During the training workshops, civil society and academia shared approaches to data collection and preparation of qualitative information relevant to national, regional and global reports. Slum Dwellers International shared their experiences working in Mukuru kwa Njenga slum in Nairobi and in Lagos, Nigeria. Representatives of the Gender Equality Group of Mexico shared their methodologies for women's empowerment, while students and faculty from The New School in New York City presented the Habitat Commitment Index. The city also shared its monitoring framework

for the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 11, which entails working with a diverse group of stakeholders ranging from citizens and communities to United Nations agencies.

80.   Stakeholders also highlighted challenges to data collection, use and dissemination. Participants provided feedback on various modules, especially tier II and tier III indicators, for which the methodology, concepts and protocols are still being developed. They also expressed a need to be involved in ongoing work on the definition of cities, crucial for monitoring Sustainable Development Goal 11 and other indicators. Stakeholders emphasized the centrality of UN-Habitat in supporting monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda. They applauded the UN-Habitat approach of involving civil society, academia, women and other stakeholder in monitoring, which they said was an improvement over the approach to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, when they were not consulted. As a follow-up to the capacity development workshops, some governments and civil society organizations have requested the organization of similar learning programmes at the national and local level.

IX.   Cooperation within coalitions of multiple partner types

81.   Emerging from the Habitat III preparatory process and the conference itself was the establishment of the Habitat III Civil Society Working Group, facilitated by the UN-Habitat New York Office. This group is keen to keep issues around sustainable urbanization at the forefront of the global debate, which can be challenging as there is no urban group as such among the Major Groups and Stakeholders coordinated by the NGO Branch of the Department for Social and Economic Affairs or the Department of Public Information. During the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development, the Executive Director met with partners, including coalitions of partners, such as the Huairou Commission, the General Assembly of Partners, the World Urban Campaign, international real estate companies and youth groups, to share her vision and mission and listen to partners' views. Partners welcomed her decision to establish an international stakeholder advisory board and internal steering committee.

82.   The UN-Habitat networks and advisory boards, including the Advisory Group on Gender Issues and the Youth Advisory Board, through their respective regular meetings, considered mainstreaming gender in the monitoring framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

83.   The preparatory process for the strategic plan for 2020–2025 provided for consultations with stakeholders, networks and coalitions. Many networks took up this challenge and provided comments on the draft strategic plan. The Global Stakeholders' Forum to be held prior to the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly was co-organized by UN-Habitat and its partners to provide an opportunity for greater interaction with member States and other delegates.

X.   Conclusion

84.   In line with the United Nations Reform, UN-Habitat will continue to strengthen its focal point role of coordinating and facilitating coherent support to countries in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The United Nations system-wide strategy for sustainable urbanization will inform the strategies of United Nations entities and facilitate inter-agency partnerships, including with UN-Habitat, at the country, regional and global levels. The need for investment of both financial and human resources in support of a strong role for UN-Habitat in inter-agency cooperation cannot be overstated.

85.   Given the significant financing gap in infrastructure, housing and urban basic services, engagement with the private sector is vital to the effort to increase investment in and financing of sustainable urbanization. The innovation and knowledge of the private sector must be fully harnessed in co-creating cities and human settlements of the future. UN-Habitat has a critical role to play in supporting countries in creating an enabling environment for private-sector investment and partnerships and in championing global norms and standards.

86.   UN-Habitat will continue to work with stakeholders to maximize their comparative advantages, expertise, knowledge and influence. Both vertical and horizontal connections are needed to deepen impact, go to scale and increase advocacy and knowledge of and investment in cities and human settlements development. UN-Habitat will count on partners within and outside the United Nations system, governments and non-governmental organizations.

87.   There is a need to be innovative when talking about partnerships and stakeholder engagement. Key to this is collaboration and cooperation among all actors at all levels to assist in the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda and the UN-Habitat strategic plan for 2020–2025. UN-Habitat trusts that the digital age, advancement in technology and socioeconomic innovations will lead to new ways of cooperating and collaborating.

88.   It is essential for UN-Habitat to have a renewed mandate on stakeholder engagement at all levels, including intergovernmental processes and programme design, implementation, monitoring and reporting. The agency also needs friends of cities and human settlements as it moves forward with the implementation of the global and regional commitments and the strategic plan for 2020–2025. Working together and contributing effectively in the areas of UN-Habitat expertise will enable the organization to keep sustainable urban development on the development agenda, reduce spatial inequality and poverty, stimulate investments and enhance prosperity, innovation and resilience to disaster, whether natural or caused by humans.

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