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United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
United Nations Habitat Assembly of the
United Nations Human Settlements Programme Second session
Nairobi, 5-9 June, 2023.

Draft resolution - international guidelines on people-centered smart cities

The United Nations Habitat Assembly,

Recognizing the profound and dynamic impact digitalization and smart cities are having on human settlements and human lives; both in positive ways by providing new ways to support [evidence-based][RUS reserve] sustainable urban development, [delivering urban services] {USA+}; providing job opportunities, **enhancing** access to basic services and improving information sharing and collaboration between various stakeholders including governments and urban residents; and in negative ways if not managed well, by exacerbating existing inequalities, reducing sustainability and compromising economic growth, as well as, [the right to privacy] {USA, RUS reserve} [in the digital age] {GHA+};

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Noting the definition of smart city by United for Smart Sustainable Cities, the UN smart city platform co-chaired by UN-Habitat, ITU and UNECE and supported by 14 other UN agencies, as follows: “an innovative city that uses ICTs and other means to improve quality of life, efficiency of urban operation and services, and competitiveness, while ensuring that it meets the needs of present and future generations with respect to economic, social, environmental [as well as] {CHL+, FRA-}, cultural aspects [among others] {CHL+, FRA-}”;

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in particular paragraph 15 which recognizes that the “spread of information and communications technology and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies”; *further recalling* Sustainable Development Goal 11 to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable, [Ad ref 8 May 2023 10.13](#)

Reaffirming [the] {USA+, FRA+} [the] [T]argets {USA+, FRA+} 17.6 [and 17.8]{DZA+, USA+} [target] {USA+} of the Sustainable Development Goals in Agenda 2030 and [its] {USA+} [their] {USA+} [with] {USA+, FRA+}[objectives] {USA+, FRA+} to “fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology” and “enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level”; *Further reaffirming* the pledge set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that no one will be left behind,

Recalling General Assembly Resolution 71/256 of 23 December 2016 entitled “New Urban Agenda” and *reaffirming* its commitment in paragraph 66 to adopting a smart-city approach that makes use of opportunities from digitalization, clean energy and technologies and its commitment in paragraph 156 to promoting the development of national information and communications technology policies and e-government strategies, as well as citizen-centric digital governance tools, tapping into technological innovations, including capacity development programmes, in order to make information and communications technologies accessible to the public, [including] {GHA+} [in particular] {GHA+}

women and girls, children and youth, persons with disabilities, older persons and persons in vulnerable situations, to enable them to develop and exercise civic responsibility, broadening participation and fostering responsible governance, as well as increasing efficiency, [placeholder PSE, BRA: suggestion to insert language of para 19 of the NUA]

Recalling the General Assembly resolution 77/211 of 15 December 2022 ~~[on]~~ {USA+} [entitled] {USA+} “The right to privacy in the digital age”, which “calls upon ~~[all]~~ {USA+} States to respect and protect the right to privacy, both online and offline, including in the context of digital communications and new and emerging technologies”, according to which no one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference of their privacy, family, home or correspondence and the right to the protection of the law against such interference; **which** also calls ~~_on~~ States to take measures on a national level to put an end to violations of the ~~[right to]~~ {USA+} privacy and to create the conditions to prevent such violations, including by ensuring that relevant national legislation complies with their obligations under international human rights law **and** [furthermore recommends that States maintain or establish existing independent, effective, adequately resourced and impartial judicial, administrative and/or parliamentary domestic oversight mechanisms capable of ensuring transparency, as appropriate, and accountability for State surveillance of communications, their interception and the collection of personal data,] {RUS reserve}

Recalling the Human Rights Council Resolution [41/11] {RUS +, TZA+} on new and emerging digital technologies and human rights, which recognizes the potential of digital technologies to facilitate efforts to accelerate human progress, to promote and protect human rights and express fundamental freedoms, to bridge digital divides, to support rights of persons with disabilities, [the advancement of] {USA+} [to advance] {USA+} gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and to ensure that no one is left behind in the achievement of the SDGs, [Placeholder “insertion of exact language of resolution”]

[7.bis Noting the UN-Habitat flagship programme “People-Centered Smart Cities”, which seeks to make urban digital transformation work for the benefits of all, driving sustainability, inclusivity, and prosperity and the realization of human rights, including privacy, by empowering local communities, promoting equitable access to technology, responsibly managing data and digital infrastructure, build trust by securing digital assets, and building multi-stakeholder capacity,] {USA+}

Noting the UN Secretary-General’s Roadmap on Digital Cooperation in which the Secretary-General sets out a global agenda on internet connectivity, digital inclusion, digital capacity building, digital human rights, artificial intelligence and digital trust and security, Ad Ref 8 May 2023 10.42

OPERATIVE CLAUSES

1. *Urges* the Executive Director and Member States to promote a smart city approach ~~_which is~~ ~~_people-centered~~ [and follows a human rights approach] {ARG+, USA+, CRI+} through developing guidance for national and local [governments] {DZA+} [authorities] {DZA+} and ensuring that innovation and digital technologies are used to help cities and human settlements achieve the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda and that smart cities are based on the following approaches:

[Alt 1 Requests the Executive Director in collaboration with Member States to develop guidelines that promote a smart city approach as defined by the United for Smart Sustainable Cities as well as the UN smart city platform, which are people-centered and ensure that innovation and digital technologies are used to aid cities and human settlements achieve the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda for use of Member States based on the following approaches :] {NGA+}

[Alt 2 Requests the Executive Director to further support Member States who have not yet done so to develop guidance for national and local [governments] {DZA+}[authorities] {DZA+} and ensure that

innovative and digital tech are used to help cities achieve SDGs and NUA through the following approaches
:] {CMR+}

- a. [Ensuring] {TZA+, RUS+} [Promoting]{TZA+, RUS+} the [equitable] {RUS+} involvement [and values] {USA+} of people, [including marginalized communities] {RUS+, NGA reserve} [, including the urban poor and other vulnerable groups.] {USA+, RUS-} and ensuring digital and new technologies help [reduce] {USA+} [in reducing] {USA+} spatial [, economic, social] {USA+} and digital inequalities and respecting human rights for inclusive cities,
- b. Ensuring that smart city approaches and urban digital infrastructures contribute to reducing the environmental impact of cities[, building resilience]{PHL+} and [to ensure] {ARG reserve} that digitalization itself does not contribute to increased [CO2] {DEU+} emissions and **the consumption of** natural resources,
- c. Building the appropriate capacity and skills[~~-set~~] {USA+} for people-centered smart cities, including by promoting digital literacy, education and training national and local [government] {DZA+} [authorities] {DZA+} officials and technical staff in digital transformation, data, smart city planning and digital public participation, among others,
- d. [Ensuring] {TZA+} [Facilitating] {TZA+} appropriate multi-level digital governance to guide the development of people-centered smart cities, including data governance, management and use, system and data interoperability, the ethical considerations of technologies such as artificial intelligence, the privacy and rights of individuals and communities and appropriate collaboration frameworks between governments, the private sector, academia and civil society,
- e. **Creating economic opportunities through innovation and smart technologies, including to reduce socio-economic inequalities and fostering cities' [shared] {USA+} prosperity ;**

2. [Encourages] {CMR+} [Requests] {CMR+} the Executive Director [and] {CMR+} [to support] {CMR+, NGA+} Member States [and members of United Nations specialized agencies] {PSE+} [†] {CMR+} [in] {CMR+} [promote] {CMR+} [promoting] {CMR+} people-centered smart city approaches, [notably through the localization of the SDGs and in particular with regards to the urban poor, including] {CMR+} [by involving local [governments] [authorities]{DZA+, NGA+} [and people, including the urban poor and other vulnerable groups,-] {CMR+} in the preparation and implementation of smart city charters, plans and strategies to promote [equal] {USA+} [equitable] {USA+} access and life-long education and training of all people to the opportunities provided by data, digital infrastructure and digital services in cities and human settlements and to favour [transparency and] {USA+} accountability;

3. **Requests the Executive Director** to initiate the elaboration of international guidelines on people-centered smart cities that will act as a global framework for developing national and local smart city charters, plans and strategies, which ensure that digital urban infrastructure and data contributes to making cities and human settlements sustainable, inclusive, prosperous and [respecting] {MAR+} [respectful of] {MAR+} human rights and **to** present them for [consideration and eventual] {ARG+} approval to the Executive Board at its last session of 2025;

4. **Requests the Executive Director to organize** [an inclusive consultative process]- {USA+} [with] [including] {USA+, FRA+, GHA+} [through] {GHA+, TZA+, MAR+, SLE+, USA+} the [existing] {MAR+} regional [and country] {MAR+} offices of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, [an inclusive consultative process] {USA+} [with] {SLE+, GHA+} [national Governments] {FRA+} [Member States] {FRA+} [and Members of United Nations specialized agencies] {PSE+}, international associations of local authorities, [including United Cities and Local Governments] {DZA+, MAR-, RUS-}, [aH] {NGA+} relevant United Nations organizations, international finance institutions, development agencies [and] {DZA+, USA-}, [relevant international and national professional associations and members of the Habitat Professional Forum] {DZA+}, non-governmental organizations, academia, civil society

organizations, the private sector and other national and international stakeholders, taking into account traditional knowledge[s] {USA+}, in order to inform the drafting process with best practices and lessons learned from different contexts and at different scales;

5. *Urges* Members States [and relevant stakeholders] {CMR+} to technically and financially support the process for the [development] {SLE+} [elaboration] {SLE+} of the guidelines and to host related field projects;

6. *Encourages* the Executive Director to leverage **technological platforms, such as** the United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities (UNITAC), to support the [development] {SLE+} [elaboration] {SLE+} and implementation of the people-centered smart city international guidelines, [when approved,] {ARG+} subject to **availability of funding**, and *Encourages* Member States to support the establishment of smart cities hubs to implement the international guidelines [when approved,] {ARG+, FRA+, GHA reserve, CMR-} and the New Urban Agenda [in a balanced manner] {NGA+};] {CMR reserve}

[7. *Requests* the Executive Director to [update] {USA+} [report] {USA+} on the progress of the implementation of this resolution **to** the [Executive board] {MAR reserve} until the completion of the work.] {MEX reserve}