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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 ~~[and accessibility barriers] {FRA+}~~, reducing sustainability and compromising economic growth, as well as, ~~[the right to privacy] {USA+ FRA-}~~ ~~{RUS reserve}~~ ~~[the right to be free from arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy] {USA+ FRA-}~~ ~~[in the digital age] {GHA+ FRA+}~~;

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 ~~[human rights and] {ARG+, EGY-}~~ 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 22 May 2023 12.26](#)

Reaffirming ~~[the] {USA+, FRA+}~~ ~~[t]argets {USA+, FRA+} [17.8 and] {NLD+} 17.6 [and 17.8] {NLD+} {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 ~~[“] {FRA+}~~ adopting a smart-city approach that makes use of opportunities from digitalization, clean energy and technologies, as well as innovative transport technologies~~[“] {FRA+}~~ and its commitment in paragraph 156 to promoting ~~[“] {FRA+}~~ 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+ NLD-} [in particular] {GHA+ NLD-} women and girls, children and youth, persons with disabilities, older persons and persons in vulnerable situations, to enable them to develop and exercise [~~civil~~ responsibility]{ARG+} [their human rights]{ARG+, EGY-} broadening participation and fostering responsible governance, as well as increasing efficiency^[?] {FRA+}, [in line with its acknowledgement in paragraph 19] {PSE+ BRA+ DZA+}

Recalling the General Assembly resolution 77/211 of 15 December 2022 [~~on~~] {USA+} [entitled] {USA+} “~~T~~he right to privacy in the digital age”, which “calls upon [all] {USA+} States to respect [human rights]{ARG+, EGY-, USA reserve} and [, in particular,]{ARG+} protect the right to privacy, both online and offline, including in the context of digital communications and new and emerging technologies”, [“ {FRA+} 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^[?] {FRA+}; **which** also calls -on [all] {FRA+} States [“ {FRA+} 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]{ARG+} international human rights law^[?] **and** furthermore [“calls upon all] {FRA+} [~~recommends that]~~ {FRA+} States [to establish or] {FRA+} maintain [~~or establish]~~ {FRA+} 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,[“]{FRA+}] {RUS reserve}

Recalling the Human Rights Council Resolution [47/23] {RUS +, TZA+} {placeholder name of resolution RUS} 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]{USA+} 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, building trust by securing digital assets, and building multi-stakeholder capacity,] {USA+} {FRA suggest to move as last preambular para}

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 22 May 2023 12.52

OPERATIVE CLAUSES

1. [Urges] {CMR+} [Requests] {CMR+} the Executive Director [to further support] {CMR+} [~~and]~~ {CMR+} Member States [in promoting] {CMR+} [~~to promote]~~ {CMR+} a smart cities approach which is people-centred [and follows a human rights approach] {IND+ CMR+ NGA+ RUS+ EGY+ ZAF+ TZA+ ARG- USA- CRI- NLD- FRA- BRA- DEU- FIN-} in order to achieve the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda, which is based on the following principles:

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+, DEU+, EGY-} and digital inequalities[, overcome economic and social development challenges]{EGY+} and [respecting]{ARG+, EGY-} [protecting]{ARG+, EGY-} human rights for]{CRI+, CHL+, IND reserve, RUS reserve, EGY reserve} [respect human rights]{USA+} [inclusive cities]{USA+};~~

b. Ensuring that ~~[smart city approaches and]{FRA+}~~ urban digital infrastructures contribute to reducing the environmental impact of cities[, building resilience]{PHL+} and [to ensure] {ARG reserve, FRA Delete} that digitalization itself does not contribute to increased [greenhouse gas emissions] {DEU+} emissions and **the consumption of** natural resources,]{RUS reserve}

c. Building the appropriate capacity and skills for people-centered smart cities, including by promoting digital literacy, education and training national and local [and regional]{Chair+} [governments/]{FRA+, CRI+, USA+, NGA-} [government] {DZA+} [and other local]{Chair+} [authorities] {DZA+, NGA+, FRA-} officials and technical staff in digital transformation, [digital accessibility]{FRA+}, data, smart city planning and digital public participation, among others,

d. ~~[Ensuring] {TZA+, NGA-, } [Facilitating] {TZA+, NGA+, SWE+, IDN+, NLD-, MAR-} [Promoting]{MAR+} appropriate multi-level digital governance to guide the development of people-centered smart cities, including data governance, management and use, system and data [interoperability]{NGA+, IND+, IDN-, SWE-, FRA-, CRI-} [standards]{NGA+, IND+, IDN-}, the ethical considerations of technologies such as artificial intelligence, the privacy and [human]{ARG+, EGY-} rights of individuals and communities and appropriate collaboration frameworks between governments, the private sector, academia and civil society,~~

~~Alt1. d Multilevel digital governance and appropriate collaboration frameworks between governments, private sector, academia and civil society {CMR+}~~

e. **Creating economic opportunities [, as well as vibrant and [competitive]{IDN delete} [an enabling]{IDN+} environment] {DEU+} through innovation and smart technologies, including to reduce [socio-economic inequalities]{EGY reserve} and fostering cities' [shared] {USA+} prosperity ;**

~~[Alt 1.e Economic opportunities creation through innovation and smart technologies.] {CMR+, EGY+, RUS+}~~

f. ~~[Centering smart city activities on people's needs by maximising community participation, representation, transparency and control,~~

g. ~~Safeguarding public trust by putting cyber security measures in place that protect data and infrastructure, including trusted, secure and resilient digital infrastructure.]{USA+}~~

~~{CMR reserve OP1a to e, to adapt principles language}~~

2. ~~[Encourages] {CMR+} [Requests] {CMR+} the Executive Director [and] {CMR+} [to support] {CMR+, NGA+} Member States [and members of United Nations specialized agencies] {PSE+} [to] {CMR+} [in] {CMR+} [promote] {CMR+} [promoting] {CMR+} people-centered smart city approaches, [notably~~

though 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; 22 May 2023

3. **Requests the Executive Director-** [, subject to the availability of funding,]{NLD+} to initiate-[, in collaboration with Member States,]{MAR+} the [elaboration]{NLD+} [development]{NLD+} 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; 22 May 2023

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,]{EGY+, USA-} [including United Cities and Local Governments] {DZA+, EGY+, MAR-, RUS-}, [a#] {NGA+} [national and international associations of local authorities recognised and accredited by UN-Habitat]{EGY+, DZA+, NGA+, USA-, NLD reserve} 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; 22 May 2023

[4bis [Invites]{CMR delete} [Encourages]{CMR+} Member States [and members of United Nations specialized agencies]{PSE+} and all relevant stakeholders to participate in the development of the guidelines for people in the smart cities]{NLD+, PSE+, CMR+}

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

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+} [of the guidelines]{FRA+} [elaboration] {SLE+} and implementation of the people-centered smart city [international guidelines]{FRA+, CMR-} [approach]{FRA+, CMR-}, [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]{FRA+,CMR-} [people centered smart cities approach]{FRA+, CMR-}, [when approved,] {ARG+, FRA+, GHA reserve, CMR-} [and the New Urban Agenda]{FRA+} [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}