



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

Draft resolution on the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals

Submission by Botswana, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, Finland, Italy, Malaysia, Peru, Portugal, Spain and Sweden

The United Nations Habitat Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015 entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and reaffirming the United Nations Habitat Assembly’s commitment to its full implementation as a plan of action for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership, and its pledge that no one will be left behind,

Deeply concerned about the cumulative effects on efforts to realize the Sustainable Development Goals of multiple and interlinked global crises, exacerbating poverty, food insecurity, malnutrition and economic and social inequalities, with severe ramifications for social protection, job markets and access to decent work, thus causing a reversal of years of developmental progress and slowing down future progress, with a disproportionate impact on those living in vulnerable situations,

Noting the impact on cities and human settlements of those effects and the risk posed to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 11 (make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable) by the rising number of people living in slums, unequal access to public transport and services, persistent challenges in municipal solid waste collection, the low proportion of urban areas dedicated to open public and green spaces and the slow progress in setting up financing mechanisms for local implementation of sustainable urban development, among other things,

Recalling the Secretary General’s four-point rescue plan for accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Towards a Rescue Plan for People and Planet”, and the call therein for governments to strengthen national and subnational capacity, including by empowering and supporting local and subnational governments to bring implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals to the ground level,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 74/4 of 15 October 2019, and reaffirming the pledge therein to make the present decade one of action and delivery, and reaffirming also the commitment of the United Nations Habitat Assembly to bolster local action to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including by empowering and supporting cities, local authorities and communities, as well as recognizing their role in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Guided by the New Urban Agenda¹ and the shared vision set out therein of cities for all, seeking to promote inclusivity and ensure that all inhabitants, of present and future generations,

¹ General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.

without discrimination of any kind, are able to inhabit and produce just, safe, healthy, accessible, affordable, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements to foster prosperity and quality of life for all, and emphasizing the contribution of the New Urban Agenda to the implementation and localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated and coordinated manner,

Mindful of the central role played by cities and human settlements in the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of national sustainable development strategies, and welcoming the elaboration of voluntary subnational and local reviews as an essential tool to show progress and foster exchange on local implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Underlining the role of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, as facilitator of the United Nations system-wide strategy for sustainable urban development and as focal point on sustainable urbanization and human settlements, in promoting the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recalling decision 2021/7 of the Executive Board, in which the Board recommended that the Executive Director actively advance the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in support of the Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals through normative guidance, technical assistance, strategic partnerships, harmonized data collection based on the proposed United Nations system-wide urban monitoring framework, and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals Cities Flagship Programme,

Welcoming decision 53/110 of the United Nations Statistical Commission, in which the Commission endorsed the global urban monitoring framework and its further implementation as part of a harmonized global urban United Nations system-wide strategy, and requested UN-Habitat to develop technical assistance programmes and instruments to build human settlements statistics capacities in Member States, with an emphasis on ascertaining consistency of data at the national, regional and city levels,

Welcoming also the comprehensive and integrated approach of UN-Habitat to the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, including the roll-out of the global urban monitoring framework, the normative and operational work to advance the voluntary subnational and local reviews, the flagship initiative “SDG Cities”, the normative and knowledge work on multilevel governance, the engagement with local and regional authorities or governments and multi-stakeholder collaboration,

Welcoming further the Local2030 Coalition, which is permanently co-chaired by UN-Habitat with the other co-chair being another participating United Nations entity appointed for a period of two years on a rotational basis, as a United Nations-led platform and network designed to support and accelerate local-level delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, seeking to leverage existing initiatives and alliances to strengthen advocacy for bottom-up action,

Welcoming the establishment of the Group of 20 Platform on SDG Localization and Intermediary Cities, hosted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and UN-Habitat,

1. *Encourages* Member States and members of the specialized agencies of the United Nations to promote the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals to accelerate action towards the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda, by advancing local implementation in an integrated manner, monitoring and reporting on progress, including by enhancing national frameworks for the coherent and multisectoral implementation of its goals and targets; and by strengthening the inclusion and participation of local communities, particularly of those living in vulnerable situations, in the implementation, planning and reporting processes;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to promote the localization of the 2030 Agenda by:

(a) Continuing to advance efforts in developing normative guidance and practical tools on all the dimensions of the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, including by complementing and participating in relevant ongoing international initiatives, based on the specific experience and expertise of UN-Habitat;

(b) Building capacity, as appropriate, of local and regional authorities or governments, especially of smaller and intermediary cities, to report on progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through voluntary local and subnational reviews, improved reporting standards, more in-depth consideration of specific aspects of integrated urban development in reporting, and aligned consideration of local data and existing local strategies in reporting, and to

contribute to national reporting on progress towards the achievement of the New Urban Agenda by ensuring the dissemination of and access to relevant tools as an integral part of their implementation and reporting efforts on the 2030 Agenda;

(c) Developing capacity, as appropriate, to improve national reporting on the urban dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals, taking into account the principles for follow-up and review of the Goals, including through the establishment of stronger linkages between voluntary national, subnational and local reviews;

(d) Strengthening engagement with and support to the work of local and regional authorities or governments and their associations, as well as other relevant stakeholders, through strategic partnerships with key local, national and international institutions;

(e) Supporting national Governments, upon request, to strengthen effective local and metropolitan multilevel governance to advance the Sustainable Development Goals through stronger policy coherence, cross-sectoral alignment, and multi-stakeholder engagement and participation;

(f) Continuing efforts to mainstream the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals across the United Nations system including by working with, among other initiatives, the Local2030 Coalition, and the Group of 20 Platform on SDG Localization and Intermediary Cities;

3. *Welcomes* ongoing initiatives and capacity-building activities by UN-Habitat to close data gaps and address reporting challenges on human settlements statistics as an essential tool to improve local implementation, monitoring and reporting on the urban dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals, and requests the Executive Director to:

(a) Further encourage and support the use of the global urban monitoring framework, as the United Nations reference framework to monitor urban development, to improve reporting on the New Urban Agenda and the localization of the 2030 Agenda;

(b) Enhance and promote capacity-building activities on human settlements statistics through urban monitoring guidance and tools, such as the application of the degree of urbanization, the national sample of cities approach, and the earth observations toolkit for sustainable cities and human settlements, urban observatories and spatial analysis, in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division and other relevant United Nations bodies;

(c) Enhance initiatives and build capacity towards improving spatial and socioeconomic data on deprived and vulnerable urban and peri-urban areas, including slums and informal settlements, and scale up the analysis and production of accurate maps of such areas;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to present to the Executive Board for its consideration proposals for the implementation of elements in the present resolution with implications for the core budget of UN-Habitat;

5. *Invites* Member States and international financing institutions, multilateral development banks and private sector entities to support the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals by increasing the amounts of concessional financing and improving access to the financing available to local and regional authorities or governments to undertake projects that advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including by encouraging financial instruments and innovative programmes to support the development of enabling environments at all levels;

6. *Encourages* Member States to support the mobilization of human and financial resources through voluntary contributions to strengthen UN-Habitat work on the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals;

7. *Also encourages* Member States to support the Local2030 Coalition, through its secretariat, as the platform for the convergence of networks of local and regional governments and their associations, national governments, businesses, community-based organizations and other local actors, and the United Nations system, seeking to foster collaboration, incubate innovation, share solutions, and implement strategies that advance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by means of territory-based processes;

8. *Invites* Member States to collaborate with the Group of 20 Platform on SDG Localization and Intermediary Cities and to support other similar international initiatives such as the “localization window” of the Joint Fund for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Executive Board on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.