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Follow-up to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 21 December 2020

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/75/459, para. 10)]

75/224. Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions on the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), including its resolutions [32/162](#) of 19 December 1977, [56/206](#) of 21 December 2001, [65/165](#) of 20 December 2010, [66/207](#) of 22 December 2011, [67/216](#) of 21 December 2012, [68/239](#) of 27 December 2013, [69/226](#) of 19 December 2014, [70/210](#) of 22 December 2015, [71/235](#) of 21 December 2016, [72/226](#) of 20 December 2017 and [73/239](#) of 20 December 2018,

Reaffirming its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,



Reaffirming also its resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement,¹ and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change² that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Recalling its resolution [71/256](#) of 23 December 2016, entitled “New Urban Agenda”, in which it endorsed the New Urban Agenda, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016, as contained in the annex to the above-mentioned resolution,

Reaffirming its resolution [71/243](#) of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and its general guidelines and principles, as well as its resolution [72/279](#) of 31 May 2018 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Reaffirming also the commitment to urban and rural development that is people-centred, protects the planet and is age- and gender-responsive and to the realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, facilitating living together, ending all forms of discrimination and violence and empowering all individuals and communities while enabling their full and meaningful participation, and reaffirming further the commitment to promoting culture and respect for diversity and equality as key elements in the humanization of our cities and human settlements,

Reaffirming further the commitment to promoting the systematic use of multi-stakeholder partnerships in urban development processes, as appropriate, establishing clear and transparent policies, financial and administrative frameworks and procedures, as well as planning guidelines for multi-stakeholder partnerships,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

Noting that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030³ can contribute to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda,

Reaffirming the role and expertise of UN-Habitat, given its role within the United Nations system as a focal point on sustainable urbanization and human settlements, including in the implementation, follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda, in collaboration with other United Nations system entities,

Reiterating that the implementation of the New Urban Agenda contributes to the implementation and localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in

¹ Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

³ Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

an integrated and coordinated manner at the global, regional, national, subnational and local levels, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders,

Reiterating also its recognition that, over the years, the responsibilities of UN-Habitat have changed considerably in their scope and complexity,

Recalling UN-Habitat Governing Council resolution 26/8 of 12 May 2017, entitled “Promoting the effective implementation, follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda”,⁴

Recognizing the role of national, subnational and local governments, as appropriate, and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, throughout the process, including policymaking, planning, design, implementation, operation and maintenance, and monitoring, as well as the financing and timely delivery of services,

Aware that the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda requires enabling policy frameworks at, as appropriate, the global, regional, national, subnational and local levels, effective means of implementation, including finance, capacity-building, technology development and transfer, on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, and mutually beneficial partnerships,

Reaffirming the importance of accountability, transparency and improved results-based management and further harmonized results-based reporting for increasing the quantity and quality of funding for operational activities, while recognizing the need to ensure an adequate quantity and quality of funding for the operational and normative activities of UN-Habitat, including its core resources, and the need to make funding more predictable, efficient and effective,

Recognizing the need to strengthen Member States’ ownership, leadership and oversight of UN-Habitat,

Affirming that the focus of the work of UN-Habitat, in line with the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, should remain within the framework of sustainable development, with the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions as its overarching objective, consistent with the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat),⁵

Reaffirming the role of the World Urban Forum as an advocacy platform for all stakeholders in the fields of human settlements and sustainable urbanization, based on its non-legislative nature, and expressing its appreciation to the Government of the United Arab Emirates and to the city of Abu Dhabi for hosting the tenth session of the Forum from 8 to 13 February 2020, focusing on the theme “Cities of opportunities: connecting culture and innovation”,

Noting with great concern the threat to human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to help to

⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/72/8)*, annex.

⁵ *A/75/296*.

reduce the risk of future shocks, and recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation,

Recognizing that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has generated new demands for UN-Habitat support to response and recovery plans and strategies promoting sustainable development, as illustrated in the policy brief by the Secretary-General on COVID-19 in an urban world, in the United Nations framework for the immediate socioeconomic response to COVID-19, with a pillar dedicated to social cohesion and community resilience, and in the UN-Habitat COVID-19 response plan, and further recognizing the decision of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to endorse the United Nations system-wide strategy on sustainable urban development,⁶ as a “whole-of-system” approach by the United Nations to harness the opportunities and mitigate the challenges of rapid urbanization, while also welcoming the launch of the Urban Agenda Platform, in October 2020 in Surabaya, Indonesia, to voluntarily share the progress and contributions by all stakeholders, in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda,

Governance of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

1. *Welcomes* the work of the Open-ended Working Group established by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), pursuant to General Assembly resolution [72/226](#), as well as its report,⁷ and its endorsement of its findings and recommendations on changing the governance structure of UN-Habitat;

2. *Notes* the dissolution of the UN-Habitat Governing Council as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and its replacement with the UN-Habitat Assembly, in line with the findings and recommendations of the Open-ended Working Group, also notes the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, which was held in Nairobi from 27 to 31 May 2019, and built upon the preparations already carried out for the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council, and further notes that this took effect upon commencement of the first session;

3. *Notes* that, in 2019, the Executive Board, after the election of its members by the UN-Habitat Assembly, met for its first session in Nairobi for a duration of three days;

4. *Further notes* that the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat prepared draft rules of procedure for the UN-Habitat Assembly, which were adopted at the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, in its decision 1/1 of 31 May 2019;⁸

Ensuring adequate funding and improving information to monitor funding trends

5. *Decides* that the additional requirements, including those to service the new intergovernmental governance processes of UN-Habitat, should be met by existing structures and by streamlining operations, and encourages Member States to make voluntary contributions for the sustainability and predictability of financial resources;

6. *Invites* Member States, international and bilateral donors and financial institutions to contribute to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary financial contributions, especially non-earmarked contributions, to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, including the urban basic services trust fund and other technical cooperation trust funds, invites Governments and other stakeholders

⁶ [CEB/2019/1/Add.5](#).

⁷ [A/73/726](#).

⁸ [HSP/HA.1/HLS.2](#).

to provide predictable multi-year funding and increased non-earmarked contributions to support the implementation of its mandate, and requests the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to ensure that reporting on funding is transparent and easily accessible to Member States, including through the creation of an online registry that contains relevant financial information;

7. *Invites* all Member States making financial contributions earmarked for the operational activities of UN-Habitat to ensure that such resources are fully aligned with the strategic plan of UN-Habitat and are in accordance with the priorities of Member States benefiting from those contributions;

Implementation of the New Urban Agenda to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

8. *Reaffirms* that, by readdressing the way cities and human settlements are planned, designed, financed, developed, governed and managed, the New Urban Agenda⁹ will help to end poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions, reduce inequalities, promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in order to fully harness their vital contribution to sustainable development, improve human health and well-being, foster resilience and protect the environment;

9. *Acknowledges* the central role that cities and human settlements can play in sustainable development, and urges UN-Habitat to further support increased participation of governments at all levels and regional organizations in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals relevant to cities and other human settlements, in particular by providing technical assistance aimed at developing the capacity of all levels of governments, especially in developing countries, to plan and implement sustainable urbanization and human settlements programmes and projects;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda at the national, subnational, local, regional and global levels, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national legislation and practices, as well as policies and priorities;

11. *Urges* UN-Habitat to continue to develop innovative methods, approaches and guidelines for data collection, analysis, monitoring and implementation, with the objective of supporting Member States, especially developing countries, when needed, in dealing with emerging urban challenges and opportunities;

12. *Recognizes* the need to ensure that UN-Habitat has appropriate capacity to generate, manage and disseminate its evidence-based urbanization knowledge, based on its normative and operational work, building on existing international instruments, assessments and information networks to raise public awareness of critical, as well as emerging, urbanization issues;

13. *Urges* UN-Habitat to ensure that its normative and operational activities are balanced, that its normative work guides and is integrated into its operational work and that its experiences in the operational field feed into its normative work;

14. *Encourages* UN-Habitat to continue to work closely with other entities of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, as key partners in reaching out to Member States in the regions for the effective implementation of the

⁹ Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

New Urban Agenda and the urban and human settlements dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;¹⁰

15. *Reaffirms* the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind and commit to taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first;

16. *Encourages* UN-Habitat to continue its collaboration with international development banks and the private sector to ensure coherence of policy support and the alignment of large-scale urban investments with the principles of the New Urban Agenda and to facilitate increased investment in sustainable urbanization, including through, but not limited to, the Multi-Partner Implementation Facility for Sustainable Urban Development, the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Adaptation Fund and the Climate Investment Funds;

17. *Calls upon* UN-Habitat to continue to provide normative guidance and operational support to cities and human settlements during the recovery from COVID-19 in order to foster inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and to strengthen the urban dimension in response to the pandemic so as to achieve sustainable development: (a) by facilitating the implementation of the United Nations system-wide strategy on sustainable urban development in close cooperation with the resident coordinator system; (b) by supporting efforts of the Statistical Commission to establish a functional definition of urban areas and develop a common methodology for aggregating subnational urban statistics; and (c) by expanding efforts to secure predictable and stable general purpose funding for UN-Habitat normative and operational activities, while noting the work of the UN-Habitat Executive Board in this regard and its approval of the draft resource mobilization strategy reflected in the report of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat;¹¹ requests the President of the General Assembly, within the existing conference-servicing entitlement of the General Assembly, to convene a one-day high-level meeting during the seventy-sixth session, in collaboration with UN-Habitat, in New York in 2022, to assess progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), taking into account the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to be presented that year, also calls for voluntary contributions for the preparations of the meeting, and encourages the regional forums for sustainable development to include this topic in their deliberations as inputs for the meeting;

Review and implementation

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish a special voluntary trust fund for the purpose of assisting developing countries in attending UN-Habitat Assembly and Executive Board sessions, and invites Member States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make financial contributions to the voluntary trust fund;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a progress report to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution, to be entitled “Follow-up to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)”;

¹⁰ Resolution 70/1.

¹¹ HSP/EB.2020/12/Rev.1.

20. *Decides*, for its next consideration of this topic, to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-seventh session the item entitled “Follow-up to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)”.

*48th plenary meeting
21 December 2020*
