



**Committee of Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
Second open-ended meeting: preparations for the
second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly
Nairobi, 29–31 May and 2 June 2023**

South Africa

Accelerating Transformation of Informal Settlements and Slums by 2030

The United Nations Habitat Assembly,

{PP1} *Recalling* Resolution 24/7¹- Making slums history: a worldwide challenge- adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its twenty-fourth session and the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, and its Target 11.1 by 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, and upgrade slums, which establish the link between well managed urbanization and improving the lives of slum and informal settlement dwellers;

{PP2} *Recalling* further that the New Urban Agenda² ~~was adopted~~ **{CMR+}** [includes] **{CMR+}** ~~as a blueprint~~ **{EUN+, ZAF+, BRA+}** ~~including~~ **{USA+}** [with] **{USA+, CMR-}** an implementation plan **{EUN+, ZAF+}** [and its commitment to promote national, subnational and local housing policies that support the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing for all as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living while enabling the participation and engagement of communities and relevant stakeholders in the planning and implementation of these policies according to their national legislation] **{MAR+, ZAF-, BRA-, RUS-}** to address sustainable urbanisation and human settlements, ~~including in support of SDG 11 implementation~~ **{EUN+, ZAF+}** [and is a critical lever to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs, particularly SDG 11] **{EUN+, ZAF+, BRA+}**;

{PP3} *Noting* that a slum³ is [an informal settlement or housing] **{MAR+}** ~~defined as a settlement~~ **{MAR+}** in which the majority of the households experience one or more of the following deprivations: lack of secure tenure, lack of access to improved water sources, lack of improved sanitation facilities, [lack of security / safety] **{MAR+}** insufficient living space, poor structural durability of the dwelling;

{PP4} *Recognising* that the creation of sustainable human settlements is one of the key developmental challenges facing the global community and that rapid urbanisation being experienced in many countries is often accompanied by an urbanisation of poverty as people migrate to cities to escape lack of

¹ United Nations (2013) Decision and resolutions adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its twenty-fourth session, <https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2014/12/Decisions-and-resolution-GC-24th-session.pdf>

² United Nations (2017) New Urban Agenda, Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 23 December 2016, No. A/RES/71/256, United Nations, New York, https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_71_256.pdf

³ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-11-01-01.pdf>

opportunities, poverty, conflict, lack of access to basic services the negative impact of climate change and other hardships;

{PP5} *Further recognising* that much of the urban expansion takes place in slums and informal settlements that many cities and towns are inadequately prepared for the unprecedented levels of population growth, and do not have sufficient capacity to face them and that infrastructure is not always capable of absorbing the influx;

{PP6} *Acknowledging that* the global spread of COVID-19 has exacerbated the social, economic, and political challenges, as inhabitants of slums and informal settlements are often excluded from wealth, health and socio-economic safety nets and basic service delivery, are reliant on informal economies, live in high density areas with limited security of tenure and often in hazardous environments;

{PP7} *Acknowledging* the findings of the UN Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022⁴ highlighting the Sustainable Development Goal Target 11.1 – reduce the proportion of urban population living in slums[, informal settlements or inadequate housing] **{USA+, MAR+}** – is one of 9 SDG targets having globally regressed in their implementation, thus underlining the need for more concerted efforts to meet the Target by 2030;

{PP8} *Underlining* the need to accelerate actions to improve living conditions in slums and informal settlements as one of the most pressing problems of the 21st Century and addressing the needs of one billion people living in slums globally, in the context of 161 countries around the world having more than 30 percent of their urban population living in slums and informal settlements, causing the total number of slum dwellers to continue to grow by nine million people a year since 2000

{PP9} [*Appreciating* the contribution of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme, initiated by the Organization of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries, financed by the European Commission, and implemented by UN-Habitat, and recognizing that the Programme has provided a joint vision of what is needed to scale transformative actions in informal settlements and slums.] **{ZAF+, MAR+}** [Also welcoming UN-Habitat’s programmes on slums implemented in different countries] **{MAR+}**

{PP10} [*Recalling* the 1999 Action Plan for Moving Slum Upgrading to Scale, developed by Cities Alliance, and recognizing the need to expand partnership models, coordination, advocacy, monitoring.] **{ZAF+, RUS reserve}**

{PP11} [*Welcoming*] **{MAR+}** [*Taking note of*] **{MAR+}** the Launch of a *Global Action Plan – Accelerating for Transforming Informal Settlements and Slums by 2030* at the International Meeting hosted by the Government of South Africa in October 2022⁵] **{ZAF+, USA reserve}**

{OP}1. *Calls* for utilizing the remaining seven years to 2030 to build the foundation for a transformation that meets the needs of [\[the estimated existing\]](#) **{MAR+}** 1 billion slum and informal settlements dwellers today–[\[and 3 billion in 2050⁶, if no action is taken\]](#) **{ZAF+, MAR reserve}**;

{OP}2. *Seeks* to undertake the transformation of slums and informal settlements by 2030 as part of a long-term and sustainable plan to transform our neighborhoods and cities into integrated urban settlements that accommodate, support and enable a decent standard of living for all who inhabit them, thus transforming slums and informal settlements into functional settlements where people can get access to adequate, safe, liveable and affordable housing and other basic services, including water, education, health and waste management among others; [Ad Ref 30 May 2023 12.31](#)

⁴ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2022.pdf>

⁵ UN Habitat (2022) Global Action Plan, Accelerating for Transforming Informal Settlements and Slums by 2030.

⁶ UN Habitat (2017), Pretoria Declaration: Outcome Document of the Habitat III thematic meeting on informal settlements. Available at: <https://habitat3.org/wp-content/uploads/Pretoria-Declaration.pdf>.

{OP}3. Supports the following [:] {EUN+} [ten [key-actions] {EUN+} [principles] {EUN+, ARG reserve}] [approaches] {MAR+} towards scaling slum transformation] {EUN delete}:

- a) Multi-level participatory governance: adopting a whole of a government and a whole of society approach to institutionalize multi-level participatory governance, integrated frameworks with multi-sector, horizontal and vertical coordination among government spheres[at national, regional and local levels] {DZA+, TUR+} [at all levels] {BRA+}, enabling democratic and effective participation of all groups, especially communities and civil society, to ensure that capacities of public sector, private sector and civil society are fully leveraged.
- b) Spatial planning: Strengthen land management and statutory planning of land, for citywide recognition and integration of informal settlements into the urban fabric, maximizing the availability, use and access to public land for adequate housing purposes. Design strategies for balanced densification, including development of the city periphery, to foster rural-urban connections and avoid non-planned [and environmentally] {BRA+, EUN-} [harmful] {MAR+, BRA+, CRI-} [detrimental] {EUN+} [prejudicial] {MAR+} urban [expansion] {BRA+, MAR+} [extension] {BRA+, MAR+} [that impacts negatively the environment] {MAR+}. Bolster urban development in secondary cities and neighborhoods vulnerable to sudden and slow onset shocks and stresses. Ensure equitable and empowered participation of the inhabitants for direct involvement in integrated planning and decision-making [considering the role of agency, bottom-up approaches and community networking of these particular territories in the development of local and sustainable solutions] {BRA+}, to enable culturally adequate and inclusive design of interventions and solutions, following a sustainable, people-centred, age and gender [and disability] {EUN+} responsive and integrated approaches to urban development .
- c) Data: Improve methodologies of mapping and enumeration to reflect more accurately the reality of informal settlements and households and disaggregate data. Collect data across all settlements, regardless of tenure status or legal regularization, through an integrated approach that goes beyond the isolated settlement level, including transformation costs and affordability as well as impacts of interventions, and dynamics of movements of households after interventions. Ensure data availability and use of available data for decision-making at national, [subnational,] {ARG+, ZAF+} [local,] {MAR+, ZAF+} city and settlement level.
- d) [Policies: Review and design enabling, user-friendly and simplified legal, regulatory, planning, investments, and institutional [at national, local and city levels] {MAR+, ZAF+} frameworks, [at—local, [metropolitan] {BRA+}—and—national—levels,] {MAR+, ZAF+} establishing transformation targets with a long-term perspective with mid-term benchmarks, to create, mandate and capacitate institutions for implementation. [~~This will require the establishment and integration of high level policy coordination mechanisms for implementation and follow up monitoring. Mainstream community participation in the formulation, implementation and review of transformative public policies.~~] {ZAF+}
- e) [Comprehensive packages of adequate housing: Target incremental and progressive provision of habitable, accessible, affordable, and [social] {USA+, MAR+, ZAF+} [resilient] housing [with] {USA+, MAR+, ZAF+} [that] {USA+, MAR+, ZAF+} uses sustainable [, energy efficient and climate resilient] {EUN+, MAR+, BRA reserve} local materials [and technologies and methods] {USA+, MAR+, ZAF+} that lower the costs [and protect climate and environment] {EUN+} [of construction in maintenance] {USA+, MAR+, ZAF+} [~~and of available basic services,~~] {USA+} [and of high quality, needs-based basic services] {EUN+} in thriving locations characterized by availability of [basic services,] {USA+, ZAF+} [such as] {MAR+} education and social facilities, integrated and targeted health care services, and safe and accessible public spaces of high quality, connected through inclusive [sustainable] {EUN+} mobility options. Interventions need to target spatial and socioeconomic impacts, creating access to jobs and livelihoods, for which housing will be incorporated within city structures in well-located areas where there are job opportunities and services. Include all relevant groups, build their capacity to participate and localize interventions. The outcomes should build responsiveness [in resilience] {USA+, ZAF+} of all populations [groups] {USA+, ZAF+} to [climate change and natural] {USA+, ZAF+, EUN-} disasters, [as well as] {USA+, ZAF+} pandemics [and other public health threats]

~~{USA+, ZAF+, ARG+} [or climate change for risk reduction] {USA+, ZAF+} [to reduce exposure to minimized harm and ensure equitable recovery from disasters and other] {USA+, ZAF+} [and management of] {USA+, ZAF+} external shocks and stresses.]~~
~~{BRA reserve on EUN edits}~~

Alt e) [Design comprehensive packages of adequate housing targeting incremental and progressive provision of habitable, accessible, affordable, and resilient housing starting with the creation of socioeconomic opportunities and sustainable livelihoods] {ZAF+}

f) [**Finance:** Establish and adequately resource flexible finance models to respond to the needs of lowest income groups and communities accommodating mechanisms for localization and responsiveness. Apply integrated fiscal transfers, enabling slum transformation to go to scale, leveraging multiple partnerships and investments, including from the private sector civil society, ~~and~~ {MAR+} communities [and international financial institutions] {MAR+}. Strengthen municipal fiscal health, for instance public financial management as well as including land-based finance mechanisms and implementation of special vehicles as intermediary instruments especially for smaller municipalities to coordinate and mobilize funds from government, private sector, financial institutions and other partners. Establish accountability frameworks for the resources mobilized towards progressively achieving transformation benchmarks. Encourage funding for collective infrastructure and basic services supportive of housing. [- this coupled with security of tenure unlocks private finances]. {ZAF delete para, USA, EUN incorporate in PP 3(d)}

g) **Land:** Recognizing the social function of public and private land through guaranteeing secure tenure and land regularization and increasing the affordable supply of well-located land [, including land protected from climate change risks and natural hazards,] {USA+, ZAF+} for housing through underutilized and vacant land and buildings. Recognize the continuum of land rights and property rights and ensure safeguards in cases of relocation, which is to be minimized and negotiated, avoiding forced evictions.

h) **Community Resilience and Empowerment:** Produce and create new knowledge based on the local experiences on resilience and community approaches, including place-based adaptation and mitigation measures for multiple environmental and social risks, establishing platforms to enable horizontal exchange between stakeholders to enhance capacities. Support innovations in identifying potentials of the community in data generation and solution finding in collaboration with the public agencies. Implement actions to strengthen community-based organization. Support and identify key stakeholders within communities and incorporate them through various engagements in the planning and implementation process. Draw on community capacity and skills for economic development and job creation.

i) [~~Capacities~~] {USA+, EUN+} [Skills and] {EUN+, ZAF+} [Education:] {USA+, EUN+, ZAF+} Collaborate with universities, technical schools, NGOs and other ~~relevant~~ {EUN+} institutions, to develop and promote courses on slum and informal settlements transformation, capturing the knowledge and experiences from practitioners, research and case studies.] {ZAF+, SWE+}

j) **Collaboration for implementation:** Initiate open and regular dialogue on all levels of governance, engaging with other ministries from national government, subnational administration, civil society and communities, private sector agents, media and academia to review and specify the central action areas and identify key actions. Commit to co-establish multiple partnership frameworks at different levels (global, regional, national, local) and participate in regional consultations to inform the way forward, expanding and diversifying existing partnerships in consolidated and coordinated structures, and promoting exchanges, [accelerating and monitoring the implementation of the Global Action Plan and the SDG11] {USA+, ZAF+} and regularly revisited during regular international events, such [as] {ZAF+} the biennial World Urban Forum.

{OP}4. [~~Urge~~] {MAR+, EUN+} [Encourage] {MAR+, EUN+} Member States to accelerate transformative actions in slums and informal settlements and take ~~pro-active~~ {EUN+} measures in view of the anticipated slum growth ahead in line with the above key actions and putting the needs of slum dwellers first.] {ZAF+, MAR+, EUN+}

{OP}5. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to place the transformation of slums and informal settlements at the center of its strategic plan and programmes [in consultation with the Executive Board] {USA+}

{OP}6. [*Request* the Executive Director to develop an action-oriented technical implementation guideline for accelerating the transformation of informal settlements and slums] {USA, EUN reserve}