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

## **Draft resolution on urban planning and sustainable infrastructure**

### **Submission by the Group of African States and Pakistan**

*The United Nations Habitat Assembly,*

*Affirming* that urbanization is one of the defining characteristics of our time, as more than half of the world's population currently lives in urban areas, making it essential to ensure that urban planning and infrastructure development are given requisite attention in order to mitigate the challenges and maximize the benefits associated with urbanization,

*Recognizing* the importance of increased efforts towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and specifically Sustainable Development Goal 11, in which Member States commit themselves to making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable,

*Recalling* Governing Council resolution 22/8 of 3 April 2009 approving the international guidelines on access to basic services for all,<sup>1</sup> as well as resolution 25/6 of 23 April 2015, in which the Governing Council approved the international guidelines on urban and territorial planning<sup>2</sup> as a valuable guide towards the achievement of sustainable development and encouraged Member States to consider urban and territorial planning principles outlined in the guidelines while developing, reviewing and implementing their national urban policies and urban and territorial planning frameworks,

*Recalling also* the adoption of the New Urban Agenda<sup>3</sup> at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Quito in October 2016, and its endorsement by the General Assembly in resolution 71/256 of 23 December 2016, and reiterating the importance of the attainment of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and specifically Goal 11,

*Reaffirming* Member States' shared vision as enshrined in paragraph 11 of resolution 71/256, specifically on the equal use and enjoyment of cities and human settlements, where all persons enjoy equal rights and opportunities, and on the commitment to develop and implement urban policies at the appropriate level, including in local-national and multi-stakeholder partnerships, building integrated systems of cities and human settlements and promoting cooperation among all levels of government to enable the achievement of sustainable integrated urban development,

*Recognizing* the efforts by Member States to develop and implement national urban policies and the importance of effectively linking national urban policies to national, regional and urban planning and infrastructure development and of translating policies into action,

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<sup>1</sup> HSP/GC.22/2/Add.6, annex.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution 71/256 of 25 January 2017, annex.

*Recalling* the commitment to working towards an urban paradigm shift, including by adopting sustainable, people-centred, age- and gender-responsive and integrated approaches to urban and territorial development by implementing policies, strategies, capacity development and actions at all levels, based on fundamental drivers of change, including but not limited to paragraph 15 (c) (i) of the New Urban Agenda, on long-term and integrated urban and territorial planning and design, and paragraph 15 (c) (iv), on innovative and sustainable financing frameworks and instruments, as well as the pledge to leave no one behind,

*Recalling also* paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 75/224 of 21 December 2020, in which the Assembly urged 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,

*Recalling further* paragraph 20 of Governing Council resolution 26/8 of 12 May 2017, in which the Council encouraged the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, within the scope of the available resources and existing mandate of UN-Habitat, to develop further the Urban Planning and Design Lab,

*Noting* the current challenges related to urban planning and infrastructure development, including increasing urban population, urban sprawl, traffic congestion, environmental degradation, natural disasters, water shortages and an increase in urban inequalities and informal settlements, challenges exacerbated during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

*Emphasizing* the importance of an integrated approach to urban planning and infrastructure development in promoting sustainable development and in addressing the global challenges arising from rapid urbanization, including health, and of social and economic development also taking into account the need to maintain meaningful urban-rural linkages,

*Acknowledging* the importance of improving access to and adoption of integrated urban and infrastructure planning, through national experience-sharing on innovative approaches and by making available relevant state-of-the-art tools, expertise and knowledge for all countries and cities,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Executive Board, as appropriate, to develop a user-friendly and easily accessible global technical digital platform for urbanization and infrastructure development that harnesses, to the greatest extent possible, existing tools and knowledge bases, to serve as a resource of flexible and adaptable tools for holistic urban planning and sustainable infrastructure, providing for the following elements, among others:

(a) Relevant technical resources, including innovative policy initiatives, tools, good practices and solutions for integrated urban and infrastructure planning, addressing, among other things, spatial data management, transportation systems, capital investment planning and financing options for infrastructure development;

(b) Mechanisms for capacity-building, knowledge exchange and access to technical assistance for integrated urban and infrastructure planning to support its adoption and adaptation in different contexts;

(c) Collaboration mechanisms to facilitate access to technical and other forms of assistance for developing countries;

2. *Encourages* Member States and members of United Nations specialized agencies to identify their urbanization needs through evidence-based analysis and profiling of territories and urban areas and to undertake the assessment of their planning systems in line with the international guidelines on urban and territorial planning and the international guidelines on access to basic services for all, in order to inform the strengthening of planning systems and facilitate the identification of capacity-building needs and of relevant tools for development and sharing;

3. *Encourages* Member States to avail themselves of the variety of tools and technical support available for integrated and inclusive urban planning and sustainable infrastructure and to customize tools and methods to their specific contexts;

4. *Invites* Member States, partners and stakeholders to consider voluntary contributions to the global technical digital platform incorporated into the programme of work and budget of UN-Habitat to advance the platform's objectives;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources and in line with the existing mandate of UN-Habitat, to allow for information and guidance from multilateral and bilateral financing institutions and other financing actors on the provision of sustainable financing, in

demonstration of the commitment espoused in General Assembly resolution 71/256 and the global commitment to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically Goal 11;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources and in line with the existing mandate of UN-Habitat, and building on the lessons and gains of the global platform and its regionalization efforts, to provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to countries and cities and other stakeholders in developing and implementing participatory and sustainable integrated urban planning and infrastructure development initiatives, and to establish localized centres of excellence, urban labs or development agencies to support participatory and sustainable integrated urban planning and infrastructure development through best-practice applications and tools and by building local capacity and knowledge within government structures;

7. *Calls on* all stakeholders, including Member States, United Nations entities, international, regional and national finance institutions, local and regional authorities and their associations, civil-society organizations, private-sector entities and relevant professional associations, to work together in a coordinated manner to promote and share best practices for sustainable urban planning and infrastructure development through the global technical digital platform;

8. *Calls on* the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources and in line with the existing mandate of UN-Habitat, to provide regular updates on the operationalization and uptake of the global technical digital platform to the Executive Board.

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