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**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; [Ad ref 31.05.23 16.09](#)

[PP2] *Recalling* further that the New Urban Agenda² includes an implementation plan to address sustainable urbanization and human settlements, and is a critical lever to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs, particularly SDG 11; [Ad ref 31.05.23 16.18](#)

[PP3] *Noting* that a slum³ is an informal settlement or housing in which the majority of the household 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 or safety, 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 urbanization being experienced in many countries is often accompanied by an urbanization of poverty as people migrate to cities to escape lack of opportunities, poverty, conflict, lack of access to basic services, the negative impact of climate change and other hardships; [Ad ref 31.05.23 16.32](#)

[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,

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>

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and do not have sufficient capacity to face them and that infrastructure is not always capable of absorbing the influx; [Ad ref 31.05.23 16.33](#)

[\[PP6\]](#) *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; [Ad ref 31.05.23 16.34](#)

[\[PP7\]](#) *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– 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; [Ad ref 31.05.23 16.35](#)

[\[PP8\]](#) *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 [\[the estimated\]](#) [\[MAR+\]](#) one billion people living in slums currently and another two billion people expected to be living in slums in the next 30 years, which represents approximately one hundred and eighty three thousand people per day; [\[Reference to be provided ZAF\]](#)

[\[PP8 bis\]](#) *Acknowledging efforts by Member States to address the plight of slums and informal settlements through various successful programmes including upgrading in-situ and relocation of dwellers to adequate and affordable housing;* [\[DZA+\]](#)

[\[PP9\]](#) *[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.]* [\[ZAF+\]](#) *[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

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.

slum and informal settlements dwellers today [\[and 3 billion in 2050⁶, if no action is taken\]](#) [\[ZAF+\]](#)

[\[OP\]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](#)

[\[OP\]3.](#) *Supports* the following [\[ten key actions\]](#) [\[approaches\]](#) [\[MAR+\]](#) towards scaling slum transformation [\[EUN reserve\]](#):

- a) [\[Institutionalize\]](#) [\[ZAF+\]](#) Multi-level participatory governance: adopting a whole of 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) [\[Enable\]](#) [\[ZAF+\]](#) 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 urban [\[expansion\]](#) [\[BRA+ MAR+, USA-\]](#) [\[extension\]](#) [\[BRA+, MAR+, USA-\]](#) that negatively [impacts](#) the environment. 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 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) [\[Collect\]](#) [\[ZAF+\]](#) 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, local, city and settlement level.
- d) [\[Develop\]](#) [\[ZAF+\]](#) Policies: Review and design enabling, user-friendly and simplified legal, regulatory, planning, investment, and institutional frameworks at national, local and city levels, establishing transformation targets with a long-term perspective with mid-term benchmarks, to create, mandate and capacitate institutions for implementation.
- e) [\[Implement\]](#) comprehensive packages of adequate housing targeting incremental and progressive provision of habitable, accessible, affordable, and resilient housing [\[coupled\]](#) [\[BRA+, ZAF+\]](#) [\[starting\]](#) [\[BRA+, ZAF+\]](#) with the creation of socioeconomic opportunities and sustainable livelihoods [\[EUN reserve\]](#).
- f) [\[Diversify\]](#) [\[ZAF+\]](#) 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, communities and international financial institutions. 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.

- g) [\[Manage\] {ZAF+} 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+, TZA-}](#) for housing through underutilized and vacant land and buildings [\[, without minimizing their environmental benefits or social functions\] {EUN+, USA+, BRA reserve}](#). 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) [\[Strengthen\] {ZAF+} 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) [\[Advance\] {ZAF+} Skills and Education](#): Collaborate with universities, technical schools, NGOs and other institutions, to develop and promote courses on slum and informal settlements transformation, capturing the knowledge and experiences from practitioners, research and case studies.
- j) [\[Promote\] {ZAF+} 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, and regularly revisited during regular international events, such as the biennial World Urban Forum.

[{OP}4. Encourage](#) Member States to accelerate transformative actions in slums and informal settlements and take relevant measures in view of the anticipated slum growth ahead in line with the above key actions and putting the needs of slum dwellers first. [Ad ref 31.05.23 15:43](#)

[{OP}5. Requests](#) the Executive Director to [\[mainstream\] {ZAF+}](#) [\[continue to place\] {EUN will propose language}](#) the transformation of slums and informal settlements [\[in its\] {ZAF+}](#) [\[at the center of\] {ZAF+}](#) 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}](#)

[\[{OP}6 Alt Request](#) the Executive Director to develop a technical guideline on multilevel partnerships for accelerated action to transform informal settlements and slums globally] [{ZAF+, USA reserve}](#)