



**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**

France, South Korea, Germany

International guidelines on people-centred smart cities

The United Nations Habitat Assembly,

Recognizing the profound and dynamic impact digitalization and smart cities are having on human settlements and human lives; both in positive ways by providing new ways to support [evidence-based] sustainable urban development, [delivering urban services] providing job opportunities, enhancing access to basic services and improving information sharing and collaboration between various stakeholders including governments and urban residents; and in negative ways if not managed well, by exacerbating existing inequalities [and accessibility barriers], reducing sustainability and compromising economic growth, as well as, [the right to privacy] [the right to be free from arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy] [in the digital age];

Noting the definition of smart city by United for Smart Sustainable Cities, the UN smart city platform co-chaired by UN-Habitat, ITU and UNECE and supported by 14 other UN agencies, as follows : “an innovative city that uses ICTs and other means to improve quality of life, efficiency of urban operation and services, and competitiveness, while ensuring that it meets the needs of present and future generations with respect to [human rights and] economic, social, environmental [as well as], cultural aspects [among others]”,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in particular paragraph 15 which recognizes that the “spread of information and communications technology and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies”; *further recalling* Sustainable Development Goal 11 to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable,

Reaffirming [the] [t][T]argets [17.8 and] 17.6 [and 17.8] [target] of the Sustainable Development Goals in Agenda 2030 and [its] [their] [will] [objectives] to “fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology” and “enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level”; *Further reaffirming* the pledge set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that no one will be left behind,

Recalling General Assembly Resolution 71/256 of 23 December 2016 entitled “New Urban Agenda” and *reaffirming* its commitment in paragraph 66 to “[a]dopting a smart-city approach that makes use of opportunities from digitalization, clean energy and technologies, as well as innovative transport

technologies[”]and its commitment in paragraph 156 to promoting [“]the development of national information and communications technology policies and e-government strategies, as well as citizen-centric digital governance tools, tapping into technological innovations, including capacity development programmes, in order to make information and communications technologies accessible to the public, [including] [in particular] women and girls, children and youth, persons with disabilities, older persons and persons in vulnerable situations, to enable them to develop and exercise [civic responsibility,] [their human rights] broadening participation and fostering responsible governance, as well as increasing efficiency[”] [in line with its acknowledgement in paragraph 19]

[Recalling the General Assembly resolution 77/211 of 15 December 2022 [on] [entitled] “ The right to privacy in the digital age”, which “calls upon [all] States to respect [human rights and [,in particular,] protect the right to privacy, both online and offline, including in the context of digital communications and new and emerging technologies”, [“]according to which no one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference of their privacy, family, home or correspondence and the right to the protection of the law against such interference[”]; which also calls on [all] States [“]to take measures on a national level to put an end to violations of[the right to] privacy and to create the conditions to prevent such violations, including by ensuring that relevant national legislation complies with [their obligations under] international human rights law[”] and furthermore [“]calls upon all] [recommends that] States [to establish or] maintain [or establish] existing independent, effective, adequately resourced and impartial judicial, administrative and/or parliamentary domestic oversight mechanisms capable of ensuring transparency, as appropriate, and accountability for State surveillance of communications, their interception and the collection of personal data,[“]];

Recalling the [Human Rights Council Resolution] [47/23] on new and emerging digital technologies and human rights, which recognizes the potential of digital technologies to facilitate efforts to accelerate human progress, to promote and protect human rights and [express] fundamental freedoms, to bridge digital divides, to support rights of persons with disabilities, [the advancement of] [to advance] gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and to ensure that no one is left behind in the achievement of the SDGs,

[7.bis Noting the UN-Habitat flagship programme “People-Centered Smart Cities”, which seeks to make urban digital transformation work for the benefits of all, driving sustainability, inclusivity, and prosperity and the realization of human rights, including privacy, by empowering local communities, promoting equitable access to technology, responsibly managing data and digital infrastructure, building trust by securing digital assets, and building multi-stakeholder capacity,]

Noting the UN Secretary-General’s Roadmap on Digital Cooperation in which the Secretary-General sets out a global agenda on internet connectivity, digital inclusion, digital capacity building, digital human rights, artificial intelligence and digital trust and security,

1. Requests the Executive Director to further support Member States and relevant stakeholders in promoting a smart cities approach which is people-centred [[and follows a human rights approach] {EUN+ ARG+} {reserve IND, EGY}, to ensure that innovation and digital technologies are used to help cities and human settlements in order to achieve the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda, taking into account the following considerations:

- a. [[[Ensuring] {EUN+ USA+} [Promoting] {EUN+ USA+} the [equitable] involvement [and values] {EUN+ USA+} of people, [including marginalized communities] [, including the urban poor[, women [and girls], {ARG+ USA+} [children and] {ARG+ USA+} youth, [older persons,] {ARG+ USA+} people with disabilities] {EUN+ USA+} and [those in vulnerable situations] {ARG+ USA+} [other vulnerable groups] {ARG+ USA+},] and] ensuring digital and new technologies help [reduce] {EUN+ USA+} [in-reducing] {EUN+ USA+}- spatial [, economic, social] {EUN+ USA+} and digital inequalities [, overcome economic and social development challenges] and [[respecting]- [protecting human rights]] {EUN+ USA+} for [respect human rights] {EUN+ USA+} [for] {EUN+ USA+} [inclusive cities] {EUN+ USA+};] {delete entire para a RUS+}

[ALT a: [Ensuring digital and new technologies help to reduce economic and social development challenges.] {RUS+ CHN+} {EUN reserve}]

- b. Ensuring that urban digital infrastructures contribute to reducing the environmental impact of cities and minimizing pollution and the consumption of natural resources of digitalization itself [ad ref 31 May 2023 19.39](#)
- c. Building the appropriate capacity and skills for people-centered smart cities, including by promoting digital literacy, education and training national, regional and local authorities or governments officials and technical staff in digital transformation, digital accessibility, data governance, smart city planning and digital public participation, among others, leaving no one behind [ad ref 31 May 2023 19.47](#)
- d. Facilitating appropriate multi-level digital governance to guide the development of people-centered smart cities, including data governance, management and use, system and data interoperability, the ethical considerations of technologies such as artificial intelligence, the privacy and human rights of individuals and communities and appropriate collaboration frameworks between governments, the private sector, academia and civil society, [ad ref 31 May 2023 19.49](#)
- e. Creating economic opportunities [~~as well as vibrant and~~] {RUS+ EUN-} an enabling environment through innovation and smart technologies, including to reduce socio-economic inequalities and fostering cities' [shared] {RUS+ EUN-} prosperity;
- f. Centering smart city activities on people's needs by maximising community participation, representation, transparency and control, [ad ref 31 May 2023 19.57](#)
- g. Safeguarding public trust by putting cyber security measures in place that protect data and infrastructure, including trusted, secure and resilient digital infrastructure, [ad ref 31 May 2023 19.57](#)

2. *Encourages* Member States to implement people-centered smart city approaches, in the preparation and implementation of smart city regulations, plans and strategies to promote equitable access and life-long education and training of all people to the opportunities provided by data, digital infrastructure and digital services in cities and human settlements and to favour transparency and accountability; [ad ref 31 May 2023 20.52](#)

3. *Requests* the Executive Director, subject to the availability of funding, to initiate the development of international ~~[[voluntary] {ARG+ IND+ BRA+ FRA-}] {EUN reserve}~~ guidelines on people-centered smart cities ~~[that are non-binding] {FRA+} [that will act] {ARG+ IND+}~~ as a ~~[global] {ARG+ IND+ FRA- EUN-}~~ framework for developing national and local smart city regulations, plans and strategies, which ensure that digital urban infrastructure and data contributes to making cities and human settlements sustainable, inclusive, prosperous and respecting human rights and to present them for consideration and provisional approval to the Executive Board at its first session session of 2025 and for the final approval during the resumed session of the UN-Habitat Assembly;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to ~~[ensure] {EUN+} [organize] {EUN+}~~ [an inclusive consultative process] [with] [including] [through] the [existing] regional [and country] offices of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, [an inclusive consultative process] [with] [national Governments] [Member States] [and Members of United Nations specialized agencies], [international associations of local authorities,] [including United Cities and Local Governments] {RUS+ DZA-}, [all] [national and international associations of local authorities recognised and accredited by UN-Habitat] relevant United Nations organizations, international finance institutions, development agencies [and] , [relevant international and national professional associations and members of the Habitat Professional Forum], non-governmental organizations, academia, civil society organizations, the private sector and other national and international stakeholders, taking into account traditional knowledge[s] , in order to inform the drafting process with best practices and lessons learned from different contexts and at different scales;

[5. [Invites [Encourages] Member States [and members of United Nations specialized agencies] and all relevant stakeholders to participate in the development of the guidelines for people in the smart cities];

6. *Urges* Members States [and relevant stakeholders] to technically and financially support the process for the [development] [elaboration] of the guidelines [and to host related field projects;]

7. *Encourages* the Executive Director to leverage technological platforms, such as the United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities (UNITAC), to support the [development] [of the guidelines] [elaboration] and implementation of the people-centered smart city [international guidelines [approach], [when approved,] subject to availability of funding, and [*Encourages* Member States to support the establishment of smart cities hubs to implement the [international guidelines] [people centered smart cities approach] [,when approved,] [and the New Urban Agenda] [in a balanced manner];]

[8. *Requests* the Executive Director to [update] [report] on the progress of the implementation of this resolution to the [Executive Board] until the completion of the work.]