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**Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements
Programme, including coordination matters**

Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Addendum

Cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and other UN-Habitat partners in the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019

Report of the Executive Director

I. Introduction

1. The present report reviews progress in cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and other entities within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and other UN-Habitat partners during the period from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016.
2. The new global development framework of the United Nations following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change recognizes the key role of sustainable urbanization in the sustainable development agenda and the need to innovate in partnership to meet agreed targets. The adoption of the New Urban Agenda at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development (Habitat III) held in Quito in October 2016 sets out a common vision for achieving sustainable urbanization in a collaborative way.
3. The preparatory process for Habitat III during the reporting period created a unique framework for strengthening the implementation of the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2014–2019 by means of existing partnerships within the United Nations system, and with non-governmental organizations and other UN-Habitat partners. It has also led to new initiatives with urban stakeholders all around the world that were not active in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, especially in regions such as Asia and the Pacific and Africa that have experienced significant growth in their urban populations in the last two decades. The participatory approach of Habitat III has contributed to increased recognition of UN-Habitat as the entity leading sustainable urbanization and increased cooperation capacity with local governments, professionals, civil society organizations, grassroots and local communities and the private sector in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and sustainable urban development.

* HSP/GC/26/1.

II. Cooperation with organizations and entities within the United Nations system in the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019

A. General Assembly

4. During the period under review, UN-Habitat continued to engage with partners in normative, operational and advocacy activities, primarily through multi-stakeholder issues-based networks, and general and strategic multi-stakeholder partnerships with national Governments, local authorities, academia, civil society, the private sector, professionals, grassroots organizations, and women and youth organizations, among others. The organization also worked in partnership with various United Nations entities and intergovernmental bodies at the global, regional and local level. Partners were fully engaged in the governance of these networks as members of advisory boards, steering committees, decision-making processes, as well as in the implementation of programmes and the monitoring of outcomes. The successful creation of coalitions, alignment of efforts and leveraging of the particular strengths of these partners will underpin the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the achievement of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant internationally agreed commitments

5. UN-Habitat cooperation with organizations and entities within the United Nations system was guided by General Assembly resolutions 70/210, on the implementation of the outcome of Habitat III and strengthening of UN-Habitat, and 71/256, entitled “New Urban Agenda”. In resolution 70/210, the Assembly encouraged UN-Habitat and other relevant United Nations bodies to continue to support and assess, in line with existing mandates and resource and in consultation with Member States, progress towards the achievement of sustainable urbanization for sustainable development. In resolution 71/256, the Assembly endorsed the New Urban Agenda, in which heads of State and Government, ministers and high representatives emphasized the need to improve United Nations system-wide coordination and coherence in the area of sustainable development, recognized the role of UN-Habitat role in providing substantive and technical support to developing countries in areas related to sustainable cities and human settlements and reaffirmed the role and expertise of UN-Habitat, within its mandate, as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements, in collaboration with other United Nations system entities.

B. Economic and Social Council

6. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2015/34 on human settlements, encouraged Member States and observers to continue to give appropriate consideration to the role of urbanization in sustainable development and to ensure policy coherence in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda (now the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development), including by promoting the active participation of relevant stakeholders, including local authorities. To that end, UN-Habitat was an active member of the United Nations Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda, working closely with other United Nations entities to ensure the inclusion of urbanization in the Goals, which resulted in the adoption of Sustainable Development Goal 11 (make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable) and other urban-related targets in the Goals.

7. Since the creation by the Statistical Commission of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, UN-Habitat has been supporting and assisting national statistical offices, particularly at its meetings held in New York in June 2015, Bangkok in October 2015 and in Mexico in March 2016.

8. UN-Habitat continued to work with local and regional government networks, urban service providers, academic institutions, the private sector and non-governmental organizations to ensure that the partnerships advocating for Goal 11 were involved in the Habitat III preparatory process and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda.

9. UN-Habitat continued to work with the Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), UN-Energy, the World Bank, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), to elaborate indicators and monitoring mechanisms for relevant sustainable development targets.

C. United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

10. UN-Habitat continued to participate in the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its three pillars, the High-level Committee on Programmes, the High-level Committee on Management and the United Nations Development Group.

11. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat continued to chair the High-Level Committee on Programmes Working Group on a New United Nations Urban Agenda, which was established in early July 2014 with a membership comprising 24 United Nations system entities.

12. The Chief Executives Board ensured a United Nations system-wide coordinated approach to Habitat III, emphasizing in a paper entitled “Urbanization and sustainable development: a United Nations system input to a new urban agenda,”¹ the need for policy coherence and cooperation in the preparation of the New Urban Agenda and in the implementation of the cities and human settlements dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

13. On 27 April 2016, the Board issued a joint statement on Habitat III, expressing its commitment to promoting policies that would allow the achievement of sustainable and equitable urban development and would strengthen the contribution of urbanization to economic growth and employment creation. The Board members pledged their collective support to Member States in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

D. Other inter-agency mechanisms

14. UN-Habitat intensified its participation in the United Nations Development Group at the global, regional and national levels through, inter alia, joint programmes and programming, as part of the “One United Nations” framework, albeit with some challenges, especially in those countries without a UN-Habitat presence. In most of the regions, UN-Habitat regularly participated in thematic and coordination meetings of the United Nations Development Group (through the Resident Coordinator system) in order to promote a better understanding of the urban agenda and ensure a more appropriate reflection of its priorities within multilateral programming instruments and the development of joint programmes and activities. In the Arab region, UN-Habitat actively engaged in the Peer Support Group, providing technical support and feedback on ongoing and planned United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks in the region.

15. As part of the fulfilment of commitments under the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP), UN-Habitat and UN-Women, in consultation with other United Nations entities, developed a gender equality marker and a gender catalogue for tracking progress and expenditures on projects for internal use. Prior to the launch of the gender catalogue, UN-Habitat, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Office at Nairobi and the World Food Programme (WFP) conducted gender resource training, and training for finance officers on compliance with indicators set out in UN-SWAP.

16. In 2016, UN-Habitat continued to work closely with the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, United Nations entities and youth organizations in supporting United Nations Member States to adopt Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015) on Youth, Peace and Security. UN-Habitat had continued to engage with the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development to increase the effectiveness of United Nations work in youth development by strengthening collaboration and exchange. Notable milestones in this area included the adoption by the Chief Executives Board of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth, support to the Youth 21 initiative to increase the engagement of youth in the United Nations system, and support to the ECOSOC Youth Forum. The Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development was a key partner in engaging youth in the Habitat III process.

III. Cooperation with the Office of the Secretary-General and organs of the United Nations

17. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat worked with the Rule of Law Unit of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General on the creation of the *United Nations Guidance Note on Land and Conflict*. This entailed a functional analysis of over 18 United Nations entities and their work on land and conflict issues. UN-Habitat also collaborated with the Climate Change Support Team of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General in the context of the United Nations Subnational Climate Action Hub.

¹ <http://www.unsceb.org/content/urbanization-and-sustainable-development-united-nations-system-input-new-urban-agenda>.

18. On transport-related issues, UN-Habitat supported the work of the Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport, through its membership in a technical working group by preparing issue papers on urban mobility and inter-city and intra-city transport as well as contributing to the drafting of the *Global Sustainable Transport Outlook Report*. In collaboration with DESA, UN-Habitat jointly chaired the Global Sustainable Transport Conference held in Turkmenistan in November 2016.

19. The Global Water Operators Partnerships (GWOPA), hosted by UN-Habitat, was identified by the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation as a critical element in improving access to water for the world's poorest. GWOPA has supported over 200 water utilities serving over 1.5 million customers, which allowed the recipient utilities to work with their mentor partners in identifying long-term priorities for the improvement of the overall performance of the utility, and in developing performance improvement plans that reflected those priorities.

20. Through the Regional Coordination Mechanism mandated by the Economic and Social Council, UN-Habitat has been actively engaged in the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism, participating in numerous high-level meetings during the reporting period. UN-Habitat was also represented at the meetings of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, including at the retreat on African Union-United Nations collaboration in support of emerging issues, especially the implementation of the African Union Commission Strategic Plan for the period 2014–2017 and the continental action plan developed by the African Union entitled "Agenda 2063: the Africa we want."

IV. Cooperation with specific offices, departments, agencies, funds, programmes and other entities within the United Nations system

21. UN-Habitat maintained strong and effective working relationships with United Nations offices, departments, agencies, funds and programmes during the reporting period.

A. Regional economic commissions

22. UN-Habitat and the United Nations regional economic commissions, in collaboration with the Habitat III Secretariat, worked on the elaboration of the five Habitat III regional reports, and participated in the Habitat III regional meetings held in Jakarta in October 2015; in Abuja in February 2016; in Prague in March 2016 and in Toluca, Mexico, in April 2016.

23. UN-Habitat contributed to the development of the United Nations-African Union partnerships for development in support of the first 10-year strategic framework of Agenda 2063 spearheaded by the Economic Commission for Africa.

24. UN-Habitat also worked closely with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in support of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in the cluster on environment, with a focus on sustainable cities, climate change and disaster risk reduction. Both organizations collaborated in the Asia Pacific Urban Forum that took place back to back with the Habitat III Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting in Jakarta in October 2015.

25. UN-Habitat maintained a strong relationship with the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia around the identification and development of strategic plans and regional programmes. It contributed an urban chapter to the Arab Sustainable Development Report. In 2016, the Commission became an implementing partner in the regional programme on sustainable, inclusive and evidence-based national urban policies in selected Arab States.

26. With the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, UN-Habitat helped to enhance capacities on accountability and localizing the Sustainable Development Goals in Brazil, Bolivia and Peru.

27. UN-Habitat has continued its partnership with the Economic Commission for Europe and the World Bank to raise awareness and make progress in finding solutions to the issues of housing finance and affordability in both developed and developing countries in that region.

B. Engagement with specialized agencies, funds and programmes

28. UN-Habitat worked with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals and on other local governance issues, training and capacity-building, disaster risk reduction and recovery. It collaborated with other specialized United Nations entities such as the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) on the implementation of the City Resilience Profiling Programme and the campaign to make cities resilient; with UNESCO on urban planning related to cultural heritage sites and migration; with

UNICEF on the urban emergency response strategy and the Safer Cities Programme; and with UN-Women on gender mainstreaming, women, and the Safer Cities Programme.

29. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat continued to work closely with UNEP towards the shared goal of promoting better environmental policies and programmes aimed at reducing pollution and improving urban environmental management. To that end, in 2016, the two Programmes established strategic partnerships on urban environment assessments, resource-efficient cities, green buildings and sustainable housing and land. UN-Habitat collaborated with UNEP and the World Bank in the development of the *Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning*,² launched at the twenty-first session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, together with 45 endorsing partners including financial institutions, United Nations entities, local governments, development partners, member States, and civil society organizations.

30. UN-Habitat also collaborated with UNDP and UNEP in the Global Support Programme on National Adaptation Plans. With funding from the trust fund of the Sustainable Buildings and Construction Programme of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, UN-Habitat is supporting a two-year project to mainstream sustainable housing in India with researchers from the Energy and Resources Institute, Oxford Brookes University and the Development Alternatives Group.

31. UN-Habitat and WHO organized joint events entitled “Health as the pulse of the New Urban Agenda” and “Addressing urban health inequity through slum upgrading” in the lead up to Habitat III. UN-Habitat also joined the “Urban Health Initiative”, which addresses the health impacts of short-lived climate pollutants involving local governments, focusing on urban design and planning and their impact on prevention and control of non-communicable diseases; strategic interventions in water, sanitation, and waste management and drainage, including in urban emergencies; and disease risk assessments. UN-Habitat, WHO and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) initiated “smart healthy cities” to improve health conditions in urban settings, in support of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

32. UN-Habitat and UNFPA co-chaired the Youth Summit during the World Humanitarian Summit, the culmination of over a year of global consultations with young people on the role of the youth in humanitarian issues. The Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action was launched at the World Humanitarian Summit and was signed by over 30 multilateral, private sector and youth agencies who committed to engaging young people in humanitarian issues.

33. UN-Habitat drafted with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) various key publications on the right to adequate housing, including on alternatives to forced evictions in informal settlements, breaking the cycle of homelessness and a handbook on mainstreaming human rights for housing and slum upgrading.

34. In Turkana County in Kenya, UN-Habitat and FAO created a land information management system using pro-poor land administration tools, especially the Social Tenure Domain Model.

35. UN-Habitat also worked with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on strengthening land and natural resources tenure security in Eastern and Southern Africa.

36. World Habitat Day 2015 was celebrated under the theme “Public spaces for all” and focused on the creation of gender-equal public spaces for all. The celebration was organized worldwide as partnership between UN-Habitat and the HeforShe initiative promoted by UN-Women.

37. UN-Habitat and the Universal Postal Union established a joint initiative to support efforts to address low-income urban populations entitled “Addressing the unaddressed”. The initiative aims to develop physical systems that address low-income areas to enable improved access to basic services and to help local authorities develop tools for measuring inequities in services and tracking key urban health status.

38. In 2016, UN-Habitat signed a memorandum of understanding with the International Civil Aviation Organization to strengthen their relationship and establish closer cooperation in the fields of aviation safety, air navigation capacity and efficiency, aviation security and facilitation, and the economic development of air transport and environmental protection, in the context of the sustainable integration of airports in urban, metropolitan, national and regional development. The two organizations piloted a joint project on synergy between cities and airports for sustainable development in five airports in Eastern and Southern Africa. The aim was to improve the coordination

² <https://unhabitat.org/books/guiding-principles-for-climate-city-planning-action/>.

of urban planning and design and aviation development for sustainable urbanization and human settlements development.

39. Much of the collaborative work of UN-Habitat has been in a multi-agency format, focusing on joint priority areas, including the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. In Somalia, for example, under the Joint Programme on Youth Employment Somalia, UN-Habitat collaborated with UNDP, the International Labour Organization and FAO to improve the capacity of Mogadishu Municipality to implement youth employment programmes. In order to facilitate discussions on migration and public space, and other priority themes in the Arab region, UN-Habitat, together with the International Organization for Migration and UN-Women, organized expert group meetings. It also contributed to the development of the 2016–2017 regional framework on young people for the Arab States. As part of the “One United Nations” in the Syrian Arab Republic, UN-Habitat contributed to the Syria Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan.

Linking humanitarian action with development

In a joint programme, UN-Habitat worked in partnership with UNHCR to plan a new refugee settlement and to improve the planning of the resettlement and reintegration of refugees in Kenya. This pioneering initiative has the potential for replication in other countries, given the longevity of some refugee camps.

UN-Habitat and UNHCR also collaborated on the provision of basic water and sanitation services in refugee camps and in displaced communities. The collaboration was intended to promote new and improved approaches to the selection of systems with greater sustainability.

40. UN-Habitat has been very active in the United Nations inter-agency coordination mechanisms on water resources and energy (UN-Water and UN-Energy), and chaired UN-Energy Africa. The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Disaster-prone Communities programme, a joint programme of UN-Habitat, UNDP, UNICEF and WHO, aims to strengthen community resilience in disaster-prone regions by building human and institutional capacity in disaster risk management and expanding access to resilient water, sanitation and hygiene services.

41. UN-Habitat is a member of Partner Network 5 on accelerating sustainable solutions at the local level of the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development led by UNESCO. The objective of Partner Network 5 is to scale up education for sustainable development at the community level and involve multi-stakeholder networks. In 2016, UN-Habitat joined the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative, a partnership among United Nations entities including UNESCO, UNEP, the United Nations University and more than 800 higher education institutions.

V. Cooperation with intergovernmental organizations and development institutions outside the United Nations system

42. In preparation for Habitat III, UN-Habitat and the Economic Commission for Africa provided technical support to the African Union to develop the common African position on Habitat III. Drafted after consultations with Member States and stakeholders, the common African position on Habitat III was adopted at the twenty-seventh ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Kigali in July 2016.

43. UN-Habitat continued to support the Land Policy Initiative for Africa Consortium, the African Development Bank and the African Union Commission in the implementation of the Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa adopted at the thirteenth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of States and Government of the African Union in Sirte, Libya, in 2009. UN-Habitat is a member of the Land Policy Initiative Steering Committee, and led the capacity development component of the initiative in support of African Member States in the implementation of the Declaration.

44. UN-Habitat continued its partnership with the League of Arab States, in particular through its support to the “Arab Strategy for Housing and Sustainable Urban Development 2030”, endorsed by the twenty-seventh session of the Arab Summit Conference. The strategy represents the regional implementation mechanism for Sustainable Development Goal 11, other relevant urban targets and the New Urban Agenda. The League of Arab States played an important role in the preparations for Habitat III and the organization of the Arab Ministers’ Forum for Housing and Development.

45. In 2016, UN-Habitat, the European Union and the Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States agreed to develop phase III of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme,

which covers 35 countries at present. The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme is incorporated in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks in 25 countries and brings together relevant national and local government departments, civil society, grassroots organizations and slum dwellers, United Nations entities and other stakeholders.

46. UN-Habitat and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) have partnered on a number of substantive publications and events. Highlights include the *OECD Regional Outlook 2016: Productive Regions for Inclusive Societies*, to which UN-Habitat contributed the chapter on the role of urbanization in sustainable development.

47. During the reporting period, the Technical Centre for Disaster Risk Management, Sustainability and Urban Resilience launched its 10-Year strategic plan, which sets out the centre's main priorities and areas of intervention. A major achievement in 2016 was the presentation of the Centre's flagship product, the City Resilience Action Planning Tool, jointly developed with and successfully tested by UN-Habitat. UN-Habitat continued collaborating with the Centre on safer schools in Mozambique to strengthen the resilience of schools to disasters, through "building back better" interventions and strengthening the resilience of children and communities to natural hazards. The new model employed as part of this collaboration is based on disaster risk reduction techniques, local materials and community participation to scale up schools construction in a quick and sustainable manner.

VI. Cooperation with development partners and financial institutions

48. Following the successful implementation of Phase I of the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Initiative, UN-Habitat entered into a partnership with the African Development Bank and the East African Community to extend the programme to 15 additional towns. UN-Habitat is responsible for the training and capacity-building component of the programme, while each of the five East African Community partner member States is responsible for implementing the physical infrastructure component. Separately, the African Development Bank supported the strengthening of the public works sector in Somalia through a programme that aims to increase the delivery of equitable, affordable and sustainable services that promote national peace and reconciliation. UN-Habitat, together with African Development Bank, published the report entitled *Housing Market Dynamics in Africa*, which sets out recommendations for Governments, development finance institutions, the private sector and other stakeholders.

49. Through its partnership with the European Investment Bank, UN-Habitat has delivered over 300 sanitation facilities to meet the sanitation needs of about 250,000 persons, including 150 schools in the slums of Mwanza, United Republic of Tanzania.

50. UN-Habitat and the Asian Development Bank Institute collaborated on housing finance activities, including the organization of an expert group meeting on innovative housing finance solutions, involving 36 experts from 19 countries, held in Madrid on 10 and 11 May 2016. The expert group meeting was also supported by the European Investment Bank.

51. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat signed and implemented agreements with the Inter-American Development Bank, the Charities Aid Foundation, and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration.

52. Following the devastating earthquake in Nepal in April 2015, a UN-Habitat partner, Global Sanitation Fund, mobilized volunteers to rehabilitate damaged toilets and to carry out hygiene awareness campaigns in the affected areas. The partnership has enabled more than 1.5 million people to live in open, defecation-free environments in the target areas.

53. In 2016, UN-Habitat qualified for funding under the Climate Adaptation Fund. A number of climate change-related projects have been funded as a result, including the Lao People's Democratic Republic Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Project.

VII. Cooperation with local authorities

54. Capable local government, which benefits from proximity and legitimacy in most urbanized settings, is key to ensuring inclusive and sustainable urban development. UN-Habitat worked closely with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) in developing a global platform of implementing partners on public space, tools, policy guidance and accompanying regional strategies for implementation. UN-Habitat strengthened its links with UCLG and its commissions and regional associations in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, North America and the Mediterranean region through

capacity-building sessions, workshops and city-to-city exchanges to enhance local governments' management capacities to achieve sustainable development.

55. As host of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA) secretariat, UN-Habitat supported the new membership structure of UNACLA to reflect the participation of the major local government networks already active in the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments for the Post-2015 Development Agenda towards Habitat III. The new membership has been key to ensuring the incorporation of the perspectives of local authorities into global agendas, and has improved the participation of networks in UNACLA meetings. The UNACLA Quito Declaration, issued at the second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments, includes recommendations and the local government vision for sustainable cities and territories for all.

56. UN-Habitat is an active member of the Development Partner Working Group on Decentralization and Local Governance. In 2016, work with the Group focused on the overarching agenda of localizing the Sustainable Development Goals through the exchange of strategies, technical know-how and new ideas on sustainable local development financing, decentralized local governance, and urban and territorial governance.

57. In addition, UN-Habitat increased its cooperation with the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments, including in the context of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda and the process leading to the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

58. The City Prosperity Initiative is a global initiative that enables local governments and local stakeholders to identify opportunities and potential areas of intervention, to create indicators using baseline information, and to establish a space for policy dialogue towards sustainable urban development. To date, more than 400 cities are members of the initiative.

Information and communication technology enhances municipal revenue collection for local governments

In Somalia, financial management systems were established in 15 districts under the United Nations Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery. An automated municipal finance system combined with the use of a GIS-based property survey improved transparency, accountability, revenue generation and the financial management procedures of local governments. The increased municipal revenue realized enhanced investments in the construction and rehabilitation of key infrastructure projects in both Somaliland and Puntland, improving trust between the people and local councils.

In Kenya, the revenue enhancement project in Kiambu County laid the foundation for municipal finance and for fostering inclusive economic development. Upon the implementation of the fully automated revenue collection system, county revenue increased by 60 per cent. A strategy for a long-term programme for sustainable infrastructure development was formulated. Technical and legal support was provided to design an infrastructure development fund, which is expected to meet current and future infrastructure financing challenges in the county.

In Afghanistan, local government revenue increased due to land and property taxation by Afghan cities. UN-Habitat supported the implementation of improved methods of land surveying, land registration, tax invoicing and collection and spending tax revenues for the provision of urban services. This resulted in a 15 per cent revenue increase in Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif, Jalalabad and Kandahar municipalities.

VIII. Cooperation with private sector organizations

59. In 2016, UN-Habitat continued to engage with private sector organizations on strategies for strengthening corporate commitment and contributions to urban development activities. UN-Habitat has collaborated separately with various consortiums of private sector partners and cities. Within the framework of the Future Policy Modelling project, a research project funded by the European Union's research and innovation programme, UN-Habitat contributed its knowledge of the global South and the urban dimension in addressing e-participation in developing cities and information and communication technologies in support of public policy design. UN-Habitat and the Human Cities Coalition – a network of 38 global companies jointly assessed urban issues in the cities of Jakarta and Manila with the aim of channelling private sector funding into affordable housing, urban regeneration and reducing vulnerability to climate change.

60. UN-Habitat participated in the World Economic Forum Global Future Council on Cities and Urbanization, leading two high-level events on the role of business in delivering the New Urban Agenda in advance of and during Habitat III. A World Economic Forum report, prepared in collaboration with PricewaterhouseCoopers, entitled *Harnessing Private Sector Capabilities to Harness the New Urban Agenda*,³ was launched in Quito and was widely disseminated at the 2017 annual meeting of the World Economic Forum held in Davos, Switzerland.

61. The World Business Council for Sustainable Development continued its collaboration with UN-Habitat to support advocacy and policy dialogue and to contribute to the organization of key events to raise awareness on the role of business and industries in sustainable urbanization.

62. UN-Habitat reaffirmed its partnership with Microsoft/Block by Block focusing on the development of a tool to enable communities to participate in designing public spaces in their localities.

IX. Cooperation with civil society organizations

63. UN-Habitat continues to emphasize the importance of partnerships with civil society, including grassroots organizations, youth and women's organizations. Civil society organizations took part in the design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of UN-Habitat normative and operational programmes, and were actively engaged in the Habitat III process and the development of the New Urban Agenda through the General Assembly of Partners for Habitat III.

64. Legal Action Worldwide collaborated with UN-Habitat in the development of policy and legal frameworks as well as the provision of capacity-building in the area of land governance.

65. In support of local and regional governance, UN-Habitat and Transparency International responded jointly to the challenges of transparency and accountability, building capacity for local and regional leaders, and developing innovative tools.

66. With the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and Building Research Establishment, UN-Habitat developed a tool for post-disaster reconstruction on quantifying sustainability in the aftermath of natural disasters. The tool is a comprehensive built-environment tool organized into eight categories, including shelter, settlements and infrastructure, and provides the user with an overall performance score at the end of the process. It will help Governments, humanitarian entities and donors to understand the impact of their work in disaster zones, pinpoint the most effective strategies and establish benchmarks of sustainability success.

X. Cooperation with professionals

67. UN-Habitat continued to work with 13 professional organizations on developing pro-poor and gender-appropriate land tools to address land tenure security for the poor and vulnerable.

68. The International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP), UCLG and the Economic Commission for Europe supported the adoption of the *International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning*⁴ by providing channels for their diffusion and validation. A number of training and awareness events were organized during 2016, including a training event for planning professionals on the localization of the guidelines, held during the 52nd ISOCARP Congress in Durban, South Africa, in July 2016; dissemination of the localization package to local governments at the 5th UCLG Congress in Bogota, Colombia, held in October 2016; and a training event for both ISOCARP and UCLG on the use of the localization package, held at Habitat III in October 2016.

UN-Habitat signed a memorandum of understanding with the Town Planners Registration Council of Nigeria pertaining to collaboration in enhancing inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacities for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlements, and regional planning and management in Nigeria, and strengthening national, regional, metropolitan, town and urban development planning to support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas. These activities will be implemented in close collaboration with the Centre for Human Settlements and Urban Development of the Federal University of Technology Minna in Nigeria.

³ http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Harnessing_Public-Private_Cooperation_to_Deliver_the_New_Urban_Agenda_2017.pdf.

⁴ <https://unhabitat.org/collection/international-guidelines-on-urban-territorial-planning/>.

XI. Cooperation with academic, research and training institutions

69. During the reporting period, the membership of the University Network Initiative increased by 460 individual members and 15 associated university partners. Altogether there are eight thematic hubs on themes synchronized with UN-Habitat priorities. The thematic hubs are consortiums of universities that agree to collaborate on a specific thematic focus and jointly develop research and educational and project initiatives in cooperation with UN-Habitat. The current thematic hubs are informal urbanism, climate change, urban governance, gender issues, safer cities, urban regeneration, and urban accessibility.

70. UN-Habitat, together with London Metropolitan University, developed a depository of Urban Case Studies to support UrbanLex – a database of urban law on seven critical areas considered essential to the sustainability and development of urban areas. UN-Habitat partnered with Colegio de Jurisprudencia Urbanística to populate UrbanLex and serves as focal point in the region. UN-Habitat also established research partnerships in the context of UrbanLex with the Istanbul Technical University, International Islamic University Malaysia, Renmin University of China, Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná, Tel Aviv University and Peking University. In 2016, UN-Habitat entered into partnership to exchange data between UrbanLex and FAOLEX, the FAO database which maps national laws, regulations, international agreements and policies related to food, agriculture and natural resources management.

71. Under the Safer Cities programme, University College London organized the City Leadership Initiative in 2015. UN-Habitat and University College London jointly supported the “Safer, smarter and sustainable cities” project to investigate the smarter, safer and more sustainable goals and agendas prioritized by cities as well as strategies put in place to achieve those goals, and practical applied solutions.

72. Other university initiatives included a partnership with École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne around an open online course on the management of urban infrastructure and innovative governance of large urban systems, a two-year executive master’s programme focused on urban governance or large urban systems. In a twin approach to collaboration, UN-Habitat provided technical expertise and supported training for local government officials and urban practitioners, while the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies provided capacity development support to UN-Habitat.

73. UN-Habitat and the cities programme of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE–Cities) formed a partnership around the new urban governance and urban age programmes. Through this initiative, in 2015 and 2016, UN-Habitat, LSE–Cities and UCLG explored new ways of communicating on urban governance for public dissemination and comparative policy and research analysis. As a result, more than 120 cities released data on urban governance and the mapping of urban governance models.

74. UN-Habitat and the Korea Land and Housing Institute jointly initiated research for the development of an international guide on sustainable new town development. The guide will assist in understanding good practices and principles in existing new towns, the different potential benefits that they could offer and more sustainable approaches that could be applied for future developments.

75. UN-Habitat, the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and the Inter-American Development Bank jointly organized a “Mayors’ City Lab” on land-based finance. They also jointly developed and delivered the fifteenth edition of the training programme on informal land markets and informal settlement regularization.

76. UN-Habitat and the Centre for Liveable Cities in Singapore developed a global capacity-building programme for city mayors and decision makers. A memorandum of understanding between UN-Habitat and the Government of Singapore was signed at Habitat III in order to implement a global joint programme to support developing countries in building their capacity for planning and managing sustainable urban development.

XII. Cooperation within coalitions of multiple partner types

77. The development of national urban policies spearheaded by UN-Habitat in collaboration with OECD, the Cities Alliance and other stakeholders, brings together multiple stakeholders at the global, regional and national levels, including traditional and new partners, in the preparation of much needed policy instruments in support of integrated, compact, inclusive and sustainable cities.

78. The World Urban Campaign, a platform for increasing awareness on sustainable urbanization challenges led by UN-Habitat, has continued to grow in terms of membership which currently comprises 188 organizations and networks, representing 15 partner constituent groups. A total of 84 of these organizations joined in 2015–2016. In 2016, the World Urban Campaign partners prepared a manifesto entitled “The city we need” after the organization of 26 Urban Thinkers Campuses engaging more than 7,000 participants from 2014 to 2016. A total of 74 Urban Thinkers Campuses are planned for 2017. In addition, 164 urban solutions, representing tangible actions to inspire the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, were identified.
79. During the reporting period, the General Assembly of Partners, which is an independent partnership platform, was established by members of the World Urban Campaign steering committee to mobilize non-governmental partners that included the Habitat Agenda Partners as well as the Agenda 21 Major Groups and other key stakeholder groups that had not previously been represented to contribute to the drafting of the New Urban Agenda, and to Habitat III.
80. The General Assembly of Partners enabled over 1,000 independent organizations with a reach of millions of participants to contribute to the design of the New Urban Agenda, as members of the advisory boards of the regional and thematic meetings, consolidating input from their wide constituencies in written and oral statements as well as comments and input submitted on each draft version of the document via feedback matrices. They further contributed to Habitat III as co-organizers of the assemblies and stakeholder round tables, as well as stakeholder caucuses and other events.
81. The General Assembly of Partners was initially established to contribute to the Habitat III process and the Conference itself; however, in the light of its success as an independent platform in mobilizing new urban partnerships and individual experts not previously engaged in United Nations processes, the group voted unanimously at its plenary meeting at Habitat III to continue its work, focusing on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
82. In May 2016, UN-Habitat, together with UCLG and the International Rescue Committee, with support from the Rockefeller Foundation and the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, launched the Global Alliance for Urban Crises, a network comprising over 70 humanitarian and development agencies, academia and professional associations. The members of the Global Alliance signed an “Urban Charter”, which is intended to better frame and plan humanitarian response to critical events in urban settings. Furthermore, in 2016, UN-Habitat and other partners welcomed Cities Alliance to the network. Also in the area of resilience, UNISDR announced the renewal of the Making Cities Resilient campaign with a pledge to grow its network in 2016. UNISDR confirmed UN-Habitat as the chair of the steering committee comprising United Nations and non-United Nations entities, including civil society organizations and local government networks such as UCLG and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability. UN-Habitat further coordinated an expert group meeting on “Linking relief, rehabilitation and development: gender-responsive engagement in post-conflict contexts.” The meeting was attended by high-level United Nations officials, academics and civil society and grassroots experts, who reviewed different aspects of gender-responsive engagement in post-conflict situations.
83. The UN-Habitat partnership with the Global Water Partnership, International Water Management Institute, World Water Council, International Water Association, Stockholm International Water Institute, the Akvo Foundation and the University of South Florida resulted in the establishment of an Urban Waters Hub, a network of partners with a common objective of improving urban water management, to be hosted by UN-Habitat.
84. UN-Habitat was a co-chair of the Global Wastewater Initiative, a multi-stakeholder platform comprising United Nations entities, international organizations, Governments, scientists and the private sector.
85. In October 2016, a memorandum of understanding for collaboration on tracking the sustainable development indicators on transport was signed between UN-Habitat and the Stichting Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport (SLoCAT) Foundation, a multi-stakeholder partnership of more than 90 organizations (including United Nations entities and multilateral and bilateral development organizations).
86. UN-Habitat continued to work with multiple partners on the cross-cutting issue of youth. As previously mentioned, in collaboration with UNFPA, it co-chaired the Youth Summit during the World Humanitarian Summit, representing the culmination of over a year of consultations with young people around the world on the role of youth in humanitarian issues. The Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action was launched at the World Humanitarian Summit and was signed by over

30 multilateral, private sector and youth entities who committed to engaging young people in humanitarian issues. As the lead on action point 3 of the Compact, it has continued its efforts to strengthen the capacity of youth to be effective humanitarian actors and support local youth-led initiatives, especially in slums and informal settlements. At Habitat III, UN-Habitat collaborated with the major group for children and youth, the youth and youth-led agencies to organize a series of consultations culminating in two conferences. Participants in the pre-Habitat III YouthHab conference adopted the Youth Declaration for Sustainable Urbanization, and called on youth and local government to work closely together to achieve the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Participants in the YouthHab also adopted the Indigenous Cities Declaration and the LGBTI Declaration on Sustainable Urbanization. The World Urban Youth Councils Network was also launched at YouthHab.

87. UN-Habitat convened two high-level discussions on financing the New Urban Agenda in Quito in 2017 in the margins of Habitat III – one with ministers and other senior-level representatives of member States, and another with mayors, and representatives of local authorities' associations and the private sector. These consultations produced a road map for developing a multi-partner implementation facility for sustainable urban development.

XIII. Conclusions

88. UN-Habitat work with partners in 2015–2016 led to greater awareness of the centrality of sustainable urban development issues and the leveraging of resources and the delivery of programmes. New partners were mobilized during the preparatory process for Habitat III and the subsequent adoption and implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

UN-Habitat is fit to fulfil its mandate of leading the United Nations system in matters pertaining to sustainable urbanization and human settlements and in the partnership approach required to achieve sustainable urban development.

89. There is a need to expand and sustain the level of cooperation fostered in the Habitat III process, to ensure effective participation by partners in the implementation of, follow-up to, and monitoring and reporting on the New Urban Agenda. Advocacy, knowledge management and capacity-building, especially for stakeholders, should be stepped up.

90. United Nations system-wide inter-agency coordination should be more systematic at all levels. Sustained engagement by UN-Habitat in the United Nations Development Group, regional coordination mechanisms, and United Nations country teams in the context of the United Nations Development Action Frameworks, is more necessary than ever before in promoting the prioritization of sustainable urban development in national and regional priorities.

91. Moving forward, the re-affirmed role of UN-Habitat as the focal point in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda should be enhanced to mobilize key actors in the United Nations system, civil society, the private sector and Governments at multiple levels to promote a coherent and inclusive approach to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the urban dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant global commitments. UN-Habitat has been tasked with coordinating support within the United Nations system and mobilizing other knowledge-based and financing stakeholders to support country and local level implementation, as well as monitoring of and reporting on the New Urban Agenda. This critical role involves the development and dissemination of implementation guidelines; development and implementation of a monitoring and reporting framework that is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goal framework; scaling up of the financing of sustainable urbanization initiatives; advocacy and knowledge management as well as the provision of technical and policy advice to countries. It is therefore important that the normative role of UN-Habitat is adequately resourced.
