



Twenty-sixth session

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

Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Addendum

Progress towards implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The present report reviews progress with regard to the priority areas of the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019 of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the cross-cutting issues in the plan as listed below.
2. The strategic plan for the biennium 2018–2019 establishes four priority areas:
 - (a) Urban legislation, land and governance;
 - (b) Urban planning and design;
 - (c) Urban economy;
 - (d) Urban basic services.
3. The strategic plan also establishes four cross-cutting issues:
 - (a) Gender;
 - (b) Youth;
 - (c) Climate change;
 - (d) Human rights.

II. Progress made in priority areas

4. UN-Habitat has made significant progress towards achieving substantive results in each of the four priority areas, as demonstrated in the evolution of the Programme's portfolio. Proof of the success of the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019 is most evident in the substantial increase in urban planning and design activities. With regard to urban legislation, land and governance, sound progress has been achieved in acquiring new projects, but not yet in terms of

* HSP/GC/26/1.

delivering such projects. On urban economy and urban basic services, additional efforts will be made during the second half of the implementation of the strategic plan with a view to achieving similar success. The New Urban Agenda, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), emphasizes the priority areas already mentioned in the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019.

5. Urban economy, including municipal finance, is an area that is gaining relevance in the work of UN-Habitat, as one of the three basic tools for achieving sustainable urbanization. However, special attention is still needed in that focus area in order to see the results envisaged in the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019.

6. The situation is similar with regard to urban basic services, which have had a very good track record of portfolio evolution in recent years, although additional work is required. Urban mobility continues to be one of the strategic issues of urbanization and one of the common problems of poor urbanization, requiring attention in order to promote and advocate for stronger policies. Water and sanitation remains an issue of concern in many developing countries and requires the attention of governments at all levels, from local to national, throughout the process of service provision, from financing to implementation.

7. Special mention should be made of urban energy, as a part of urban basic services. Given that urbanization increases the consumption of energy, the linkage between urbanization and the provision of energy is crucial. Energy is also a critical consideration in addressing climate change. Greater emphasis should therefore be placed on urban energy in the continuing implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019, thereby building capacity in the provision of basic services and in addressing climate change.

III. Progress made in cross-cutting issues

8. UN-Habitat has successfully developed several mechanisms to ensure that the gender perspective is properly addressed in the activities of UN-Habitat. This includes the development and incorporation of a Gender Equality Marker to be systematically and comprehensively applied to all UN-Habitat projects. In December 2016, UN-Habitat began the process of gender resource expense tracking as part of meeting the requirements of the United Nations System-wide Policy on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

9. In the area of youth, UN-Habitat has developed a consistent programme of activities, with special emphasis on the contribution of sustainable urbanization to youth employment, one of the strategic issues at stake in urbanizing countries, primarily in the developing world. Substantive contributions have been made to improve the situation of youth within the scope of the UN-Habitat mandate.

10. Climate change is a key component of the work of UN-Habitat and for the United Nations as a whole. The topic of cities and climate change was prominent at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015, and is reflected in the various agreements adopted at the session. As urbanization is responsible for some 70 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions, the relevance of this cross-cutting issue for UN-Habitat is fundamental. While UN-Habitat has a good track record of involvement in climate change in the context of urban planning and design, it is necessary to continue emphasizing climate change in the other subprogrammes, especially in strengthening climate change action components in urban basic services, which will constitute a fundamental instrument for the successful implementation of climate change policies in cities.

11. Lastly, UN-Habitat is widely recognized for its involvement in human rights issues, notably in addressing unlawful forced evictions and promoting or advocating for security of tenure for women and the right to housing. Continued effort is required to advance human rights as a cross-cutting issue in projects implemented worldwide.

12. In conclusion, excellent results have been achieved in the urban planning and design priority area and continuing efforts will be focused on achieving greater progress in the other three priority areas. In terms of the four cross-cutting issues, a great deal has been achieved in the area of gender; acceptable progress has been made in the area of youth; efforts should be increased in extending the scope of the work on climate change to all the subprogrammes of UN-Habitat, especially in urban basic services and in risk reduction and resilience; and human rights continues to be one of the pillars of the work of the United Nations and of fundamental importance in the UN-Habitat programme of work.

Current gender-disaggregated staffing data (total staff)

	<i>Women</i>		<i>Men</i>		<i>Total</i>
	#	%	#	%	#
SMC*	3	50.0	3	50.0	6
D-1	1	14.3	6	85.7	7
P-5	5	12.8	34	87.2	39
P-4	19	36.5	33	63.5	52
P-3	25	47.2	28	52.8	53
P-2	16	61.5	10	38.5	26
Total Professionals	69	37.7	114	62.3	183
General Service staff	79	71.8	31	28.2	110
Total	148	50.5	145	49.5	293

* Senior Management Committee, including the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Directors (D-2) and the Chief of Staff

Overview of delivery per subprogrammes in the strategic plan for the period 2014–2016
(data in millions of United States dollars using the moving average method)

