



---

**Twenty-sixth session**

Nairobi, 8–12 May 2017

Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*

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

## UN-Habitat Global Activities Report 2017

### Note by the secretariat

1. The *UN-Habitat Global Activities Report 2017* aims to provide updates on the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) programmatic delivery at the national, regional and global levels for the biennium 2015–2016. There has been growing recognition of urbanization as an engine of sustainable development over the past two years, as reflected in the outcome document, entitled “New Urban Agenda,” of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito in October 2016. The New Urban Agenda highlights the urgent need to reconsider the way cities and human settlements are planned, designed, financed, developed, governed and managed. Prior to that, at the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, held in New York in 2015, heads of State and Government and high representatives adopted the summit outcome document entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 11 (make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable), which were subsequently adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/1. Other important recent global agreements also emphasize the role of urbanization and local authorities in promoting resilience and risk reduction as well as in mitigating and adapting to climate change around the world.

2. Against this background, the *UN-Habitat Global Activities Report 2017* focuses on selected normative and operational activities initiated by UN-Habitat in collaboration with partners to support Governments at various levels in planning and designing appropriate national urban policies and building institutional and human capacities for sustainable urbanization. In particular, the report pays tribute to the partnerships that have been established in support of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals in pursuit of a better urban future for all.

3. The report is divided into two major parts:

(a) Part I highlights some of the global initiatives and partnerships developed or expanded in 2015–2016, contributing to the effective implementation of the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2014–2019. It demonstrates the wide range of thematic areas covered by the mandate of UN-Habitat in its focal point role in the area of housing and sustainable urban development. The global initiatives selected to appear in the report are focused on supporting countries and cities in establishing the foundation for harnessing the power of urbanization for sustainable development, peace and security and human rights, ensuring that no one and no space is left behind;

(b) Part II sheds light on the regional commitments and strategic partnerships of UN-Habitat as well as selected country activities in support of the early implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the country level, UN-Habitat aims to support Governments in the formulation of appropriate policies and strategies related to

---

\* HSP/GC/26/1.

sustainable urbanization, while promoting national and local ownership of joint operations. Technical advisory services and capacity-building contribute to the development and implementation of urban development policies as key pillars of UN-Habitat interventions. The report also shows how national resources and external support are mobilized for improving human settlement conditions around the world.

4. The *UN-Habitat Global Activities Report 2017* complements the annual progress reports, which track the level of achievement of the expected accomplishments of the work programme and budget of UN-Habitat. The report translates those accomplishments into stories that provide evidence of the ability of UN-Habitat to deliver successfully on its mandate, while building innovative partnerships for impact and ownership.

5. The report is available from [www.unhabitat.org/gc26](http://www.unhabitat.org/gc26).