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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

**Review of the outcome of the United Nations
Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban
Development (Habitat III)**

Review of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

Report of the Executive Director

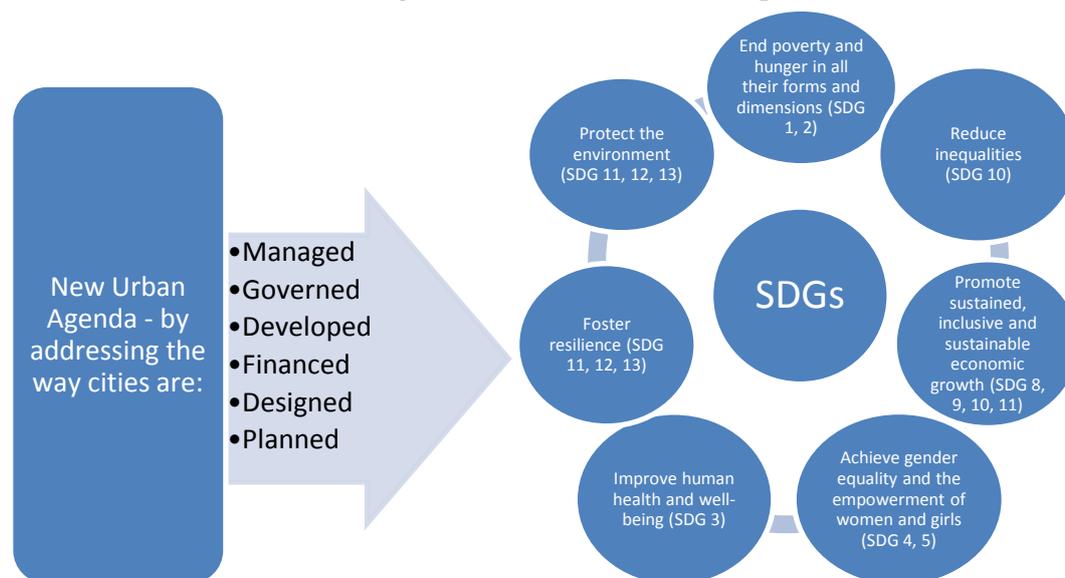
I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 71/256, the General Assembly of the United Nations endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), entitled “New Urban Agenda”, adopted by Heads of State and Government, ministers and high representatives in Quito in October 2016. The explicit recognition in the New Urban Agenda that urbanization is a strategic issue for development at the national, subnational and local levels is a major novelty. The outcome document of Habitat III consolidated the vision of urbanization as an endogenous source of development and employment.

2. Replacing the Habitat Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements in June 1996, as the strategic framework for urbanization, the New Urban Agenda sets a new global standard for sustainable urban development for the next 20 years, providing a road map spanning two decades for sustainable urbanization in an increasingly urbanizing world. It underscores the need to recognize urbanization as an engine of sustained and inclusive urban growth, social and cultural development, resilience and environmental protection, and its potential to contribute to transformative and sustainable development.

* HSP/GC/26/1.

Figure 1

Contribution of the New Urban Agenda to the Sustainable Development Goals

3. The implementation of the New Urban Agenda contributes to the implementation and localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated manner and to the achievement of a number of Sustainable Development Goals and targets, in particular Goal 11 (make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable). The Goals, particularly Goal 11, contain some targets and indicators against which the New Urban Agenda can be measured. The New Urban Agenda also broadly outlines the means of implementation for cities, critical for the achievement of Goal 11 and beyond.

4. By creating an action-oriented road map for implementation, the New Urban Agenda also contributes to the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change and the outcome of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the World Humanitarian Summit and the high-level plenary meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants.

II. The journey to Quito: contributions of UN-Habitat

5. In the preparatory process for Habitat III and in the development of the New Urban Agenda, UN-Habitat:

- (a) Participated in the United Nations Task Team on Habitat III;
- (b) Co-led the policy unit for National Urban Policy, one of the key elements in the New Urban Agenda, and provided technical support to several policy units;
- (c) Led or co-led the development of 19 out of the 22 issue papers that constituted the building blocks that underpin the New Urban Agenda;
- (d) Chaired the High-level Committee on Programmes Working Group on a New United Nations Urban Agenda, comprising 24 core United Nations system organizations; led the preparation of a paper entitled “Urbanization and sustainable development: a United Nations system input to a new urban agenda”, endorsed by the Chief Executives Board for Coordination in Vienna in April 2016; and led the preparation of a joint statement of the Chief Executives Board, delivered at Habitat III;
- (e) Produced and disseminated guidelines for the development of Habitat III national reports;
- (f) Working closely with the regional economic commissions, supported the development of Habitat III regional reports;
- (g) Provided expertise in the preparation of the global Habitat III report;
- (h) Produced the inaugural issue of its new flagship report, *World Cities Report*, which provided evidence-based background information for the Habitat III preparatory process. The 2016 report was entitled “Urbanization and development: emerging futures”;

(i) Facilitated the participation of a wide range of constituencies in the Habitat III preparatory process, including governmental and non-governmental organizations through the World Urban Campaign, which led to a common position called “The city we need” and launched the General Assembly of Partners, a broad-based deliberative platform for non-governmental partners to develop a consensus towards the New Urban Agenda;

(j) Offered capacity development support in Africa to national Governments and partners to strengthen national habitat committees and develop Habitat III national reports under the Strengthening Partnerships for an Africa Urban Agenda programme. The programme also supported the development of a common position for the African region on Habitat III;

(k) Supported the activities of the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments for the Post-2015 Development Agenda towards Habitat III, including the elaboration of the position document “Key recommendations of local and regional governments towards Habitat III” in March 2016 and the participation of mayors and governors in the three sessions of the World Assembly of Local and Regional Authorities, held in New York, Bogotá and Quito. The Global Task Force is a group of all major networks of local and regional governments representing 323,000 territorial governments from small towns to big metropolises and including all national associations of local government in the world.

III. What the New Urban Agenda means for UN-Habitat

6. In the Quito Declaration on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements for All, set out in the New Urban Agenda, Governments underlined the importance of the role of UN-Habitat in the United Nations system as a focal point on sustainable urbanization and human settlements development, including in the implementation, follow-up and review of the New Urban Agenda, in collaboration with other United Nations entities.

7. Governments further called on UN-Habitat, other United Nations entities and multiple groups of stakeholders to generate evidence-based and practical guidance for implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals. UN-Habitat was urged to continue its work to develop normative knowledge and to provide capacity development tools. UN-Habitat was mandated to coordinate the preparation of the quadrennial reports in close collaboration with other United Nations entities, ensuring an inclusive United Nations system-wide coordination process with inputs from all relevant actors.

8. The following two graphics provide a snapshot of what the New Urban Agenda means for UN-Habitat in view of the Programme’s existing mandate and the new roles acquired as a result of the New Urban Agenda (figure 2); and the interpretation of the focal point role of UN-Habitat for sustainable urbanization and human settlements, including for the implementation, follow-up and review of the New Urban Agenda (figure 3).

Figure 2

What the New Urban Agenda means for UN-Habitat: UN-Habitat, a focal point on sustainable urbanization and human settlements, including in the implementation, follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda

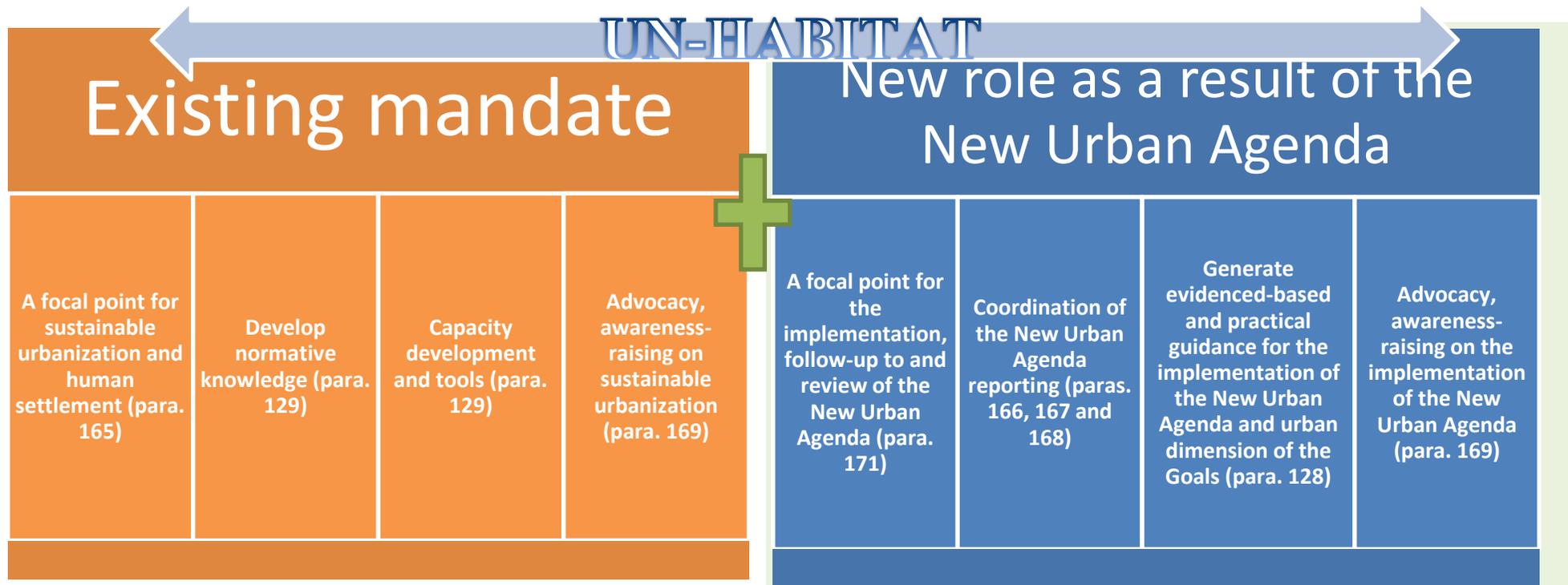
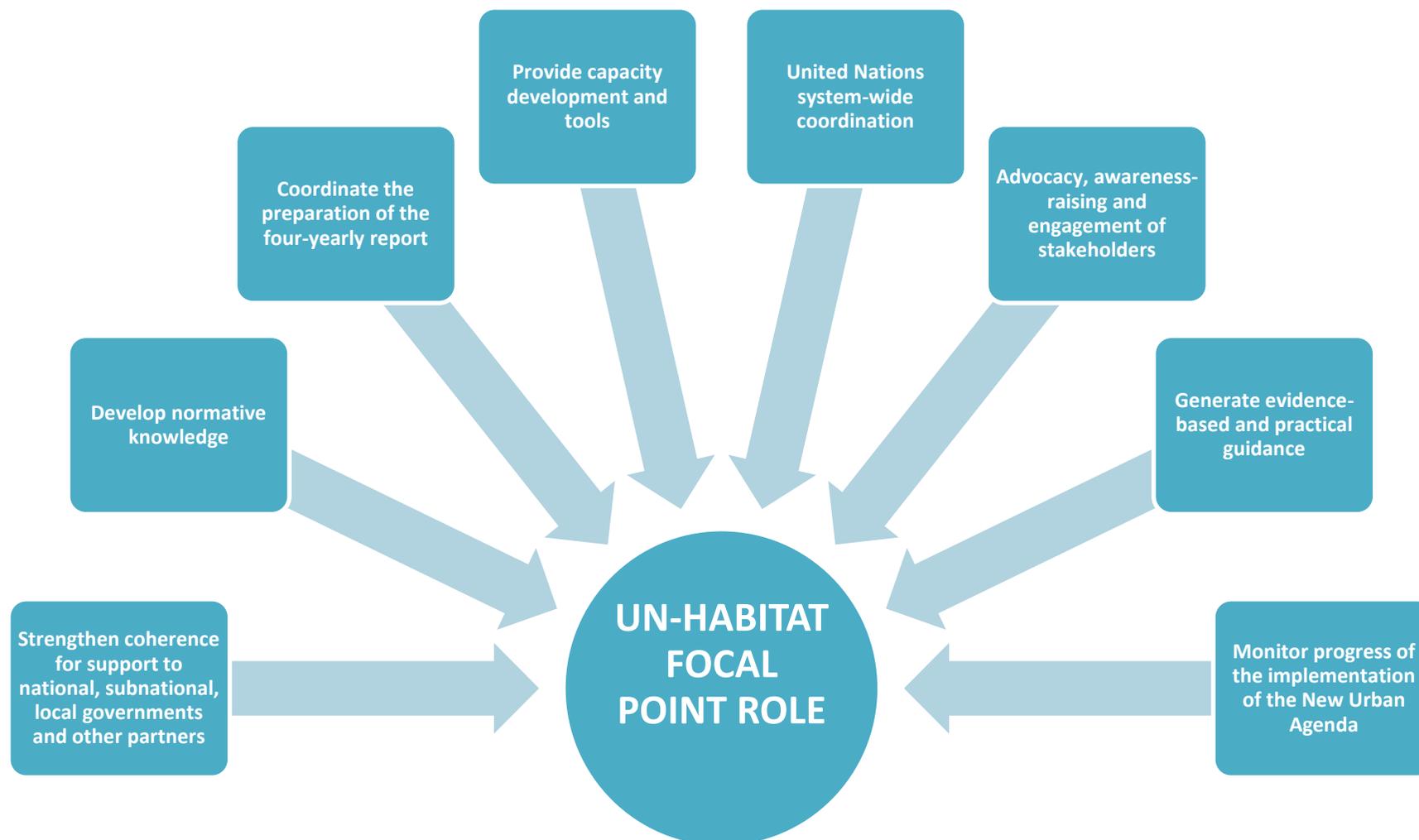


Figure 3
What the New Urban Agenda means for UN-Habitat: a focal point role



IV. Alignment of the UN-Habitat strategic plan for 2014–2019 with the New Urban Agenda

9. Following the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, UN-Habitat began reviewing its strategic direction, including its policies and programmes, to ensure coherence with the Agenda. The work programme and budget for the biennium 2016–2017 already aligns well with relevant goals and complements the New Urban Agenda. As part of its mid-term review process, the strategic plan for 2014–2019 has also been revised to ensure full alignment with the New Urban Agenda and other recent global agreements. The strategic framework and work programme and budget for the biennium 2018–2019 have also been developed to provide the implementation framework for the strategic plan.

10. Both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda reaffirm the importance of the work of UN-Habitat in the seven subprogrammes of the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019. UN-Habitat will therefore continue to implement its plan, with some adjustments to further reinforce elements of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda.

11. For example, in addition to the three-pronged approach, which emphasizes urban legislation, land and governance; urban planning and design; and urban economy and municipal finance, the New Urban Agenda also calls for the integration of other dimensions (infrastructure, housing, ecosystems and food). In response, UN-Habitat will further develop approaches and tools that ensure such integration in planning and in implementation phases. It is proposed to deepen the work of some subjects that have gained particular relevance under the scope of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda, such as urban planning and design and technology; mitigation of greenhouse gases, and adaptation and climate resilience; and air quality and short-lived climate pollutants. With regard to information and communication technology (ICT), both the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda emphasize the use of ICT to promote sustainable urban development for social inclusion and ending poverty by increasing access to equitable and affordable urban services, and to provide relevant information related to modern and renewable energy, safe drinking water and sanitation, safe waste disposal and sustainable mobility, among others. UN-Habitat will continue to integrate the use of ICT in its programmes.

V. Towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda

12. The implementation of the New Urban Agenda requires a wide range of approaches including advocacy, research and knowledge generation, provision of guidelines and frameworks for implementation, technical assistance, capacity-building, and monitoring and reporting. Guidelines for implementation and a framework for monitoring and reporting by Governments and other partners must be developed and rolled out. One innovative new tool is the City Prosperity Initiative, a global monitoring framework that has been adapted for the monitoring and reporting by Governments of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, with technical support and guidance provided by UN-Habitat.

13. To facilitate the reading of the New Urban Agenda in a pragmatic and efficient implementation framework, UN-Habitat analysed the New Urban Agenda using eleven categories, and separately through the perspective of the four cross-cutting areas indicated in its strategic plan (human rights, gender, youth and climate change). The following 11 “pillars” constitute an ordered framework: United Nations principles and values; linkages between urbanization and sustainable development; national urban policies; rules and regulations; urban planning and design; financing urbanization; urban basic services; housing and slum upgrading; risk reduction; research and capacity development; and local implementation (see <http://nua.unhabitat.org/dev/list1.htm#>). It is expected that the tool may be used for better internal and external understanding of the New Urban Agenda, to popularize the Agenda and to increase support for sustainable urban development.

14. Although there are many challenges ahead, tight deadlines have been set, with the first report on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session in 2017, and a further update on the implementation of Goal 11 to be submitted to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2018.

15. In that context, the following actions are key: developing guidelines to support countries through an action framework for implementation of the New Urban Agenda; advocacy, awareness creation and engagement of stakeholders in implementation, monitoring and reporting on the New Urban Agenda; monitoring the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, including the preparation of global progress reports; and United Nations system-wide coordination in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Those actions are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Strong commitment

and contributions from relevant actors will be required to ensure that meaningful feedback is received that leads to effective policymaking and enhanced implementation.

16. The present section provides a brief overview of implementation activities of UN-Habitat and its partners, in various thematic areas and regions of its work.

A. Action framework for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda

17. UN-Habitat has developed an action framework for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (the draft action framework can be viewed at <http://nua.unhabitat.org/>). The action framework sets out the essential components for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, provides an indication of who should lead each component, proposes how to measure progress and establishes links to the provisions of the New Urban Agenda.

18. The action framework is a global, action-oriented practical guide for Governments and other partners to facilitate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, with consideration given to various entry points depending on the various situations and development level of countries. The framework is a living document that will be further refined and complemented with supporting materials, including tools and case studies for each action area.

19. The key elements of the action framework are grouped into five categories: national urban policies; urban legislation, rules and regulations; integrated urban design and territorial planning; financing urbanization; and local implementation. Not addressed explicitly, but equally important to nearly all of them, are the cross-cutting principles of participation, transparency and priority setting.

20. To prepare for the action framework, UN-Habitat undertook a study of the content of the New Urban Agenda, cataloguing elements into 15 areas of implementation, beginning with the principles and values of the United Nations, and reflecting the seven subprogrammes (urban legislation, land and governance; urban planning and design; urban economy and municipal finance; urban basic services; housing and slum upgrading; risk reduction, rehabilitation and urban resilience; and research and capacity development) and four cross-cutting issues (human rights, climate change, gender and youth) of UN-Habitat. The tool will help partners and staff quickly refer to the New Urban Agenda and identify its relevance to specific aspects of the daily work of sustainable urbanization.

B. Advocacy, awareness creation and the engagement of stakeholders in the implementation and monitoring of, and reporting on, the New Urban Agenda

21. In order for Governments and stakeholders to effectively use the New Urban Agenda as a tool for development, it must be fully understood, internalized and supported by them. The more the New Urban Agenda is understood by policymakers and other key stakeholders, the more it will effect changes in policies, programmes and resource allocation in support of sustainable urbanization and human settlements development at all levels. Existing structures, such as the World Urban Forum, national habitat committees and existing specialist networks are also powerful tools in increasing the understanding of and garnering support for the New Urban Agenda.

22. As part of the outreach and communications efforts in maximizing the visibility of the New Urban Agenda, the Executive Director has contributed a wide range of publications on the New Urban Agenda, including media articles and op-eds in local and international media, forewords and articles in scientific publications and video messages to international events, which are available on the UN-Habitat website. In addition, UN-Habitat is designing a Programme-wide communication and advocacy strategy on the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

23. To complement this global advocacy, UN-Habitat plans to facilitate debates, dialogues and discussions in selected regions and countries among relevant government departments and institutions, including the legislative assemblies, multisector stakeholders and the United Nations system on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The contributions of stakeholders, local authorities, the private sector and other non-State actors to those debates and dialogues will be presented at World Urban Forum sessions, ensuring that such knowledge can then be shared more widely. By focusing on both multi-stakeholder issues-based partnerships (vertical relations) and cross-sectoral linkages (horizontal partnerships), the networks reflect the multidisciplinary nature of urbanization and human settlements development and the range of issues covered by the New Urban Agenda.

24. National habitat committees are potentially powerful resources in spearheading national-level and local-level implementation of the New Urban Agenda, and strengthening the linkages with related international agreements, such as the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement.

25. Multi-stakeholder platforms and networks, which facilitated participation of an expanded range of 15 constituencies in the Habitat III process through a partnership platform, including civil

society organizations, local government, the private sector, the research community, trade unions, parliamentarians, professional organizations and youth and women's groups, are essential to sustainable urban development. This structured and cohesive voice can be maintained and nurtured for implementation, monitoring and reporting on the New Urban Agenda.

26. Other, pre-existing networks can play a key role in disseminating, implementing and reporting on the New Urban Agenda. The diversity of partners in the Global Land Tool Network, for example, can contribute to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda through tools and capacity development.

27. The New Urban Agenda set out the importance of continuing to engage in its follow-up and review with subnational and local government associations represented at the World Assembly of Local and Regional Authorities. Through the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA), UN-Habitat will support the strengthening of the voice of local governments in the United Nations system in the process of implementation. UNACLA membership has been reinvigorated and is in the process of becoming a platform for stronger engagement and policy influence with United Nations entities; a mechanism for real-time information and knowledge exchange; and a channel of engagement and dialogue with Member States. UNACLA complements the advocacy work of the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments.

28. The private sector is a key partner in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, particularly in the delivery of urban infrastructure and services. Partnerships in this area provide the potential for non-traditional solutions for urban transformation and in facilitating innovative financing of and investments in sustainable urban development initiatives. In addition, at the local level, private investment is closely linked to municipal finance in terms of financing local infrastructure. UN-Habitat will therefore develop a robust private-sector strategy aimed at building on innovative and proven public-private partnership models, and strengthen partnerships with local, subnational and national governments to create an enabling environment for strategic private-sector investments for sustainable cities. In concrete terms, this means supporting conditions through rules and regulations to allow the private sector to invest in and create public-private partnerships and joint ventures. At a more global level, the engagement of UN-Habitat with the private sector will be premised on the principles and guidelines of the United Nations Global Compact. In that regard, UN-Habitat will work closely with the Global Compact Cities Programme to promote effective public-private partnerships in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in particular and the work programme in general.

C. Some partnerships that have evolved post-Habitat III

29. UN-Habitat has engaged with partners in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda through memorandums of understanding that are being finalized or have already been signed. This includes a memorandum of understanding to be signed between the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the League of Arab States and UN-Habitat on the implementation of urban-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda; between the United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia section and UN-Habitat on the implementation of the targets related to urban Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda; between the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and UN-Habitat, including a jointly produced regional action plan; and between the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and UN-Habitat on mutual efforts to achieve urban transformation by implementing the New Urban Agenda (under consideration with the secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States);

30. New partnerships and collaborations include those with:

- New York University
- International City Leaders
- United Nations regional commissions
- National statistical offices
- European Commission Joint Research Centre
- World Bank
- Korea Appraisal Board
- Conference of the Cities (Latin America and the Caribbean)
- Regional network for neighbourhood integrated improvement

- Regional ecosystem of funds for sustainable urban development

31. In addition, partnership discussions are being conducted to develop support networks in the global South. For example, UN-Habitat is exploring a partnership with Human Cities Coalition, a Dutch public-private partnership platform for community development and sustainable urbanization in delta cities, starting with Manila and Jakarta. In Latin America and the Caribbean, UN-Habitat, ECLAC and the meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI) are exploring the adaptation of the global framework through a multi-partner regional action plan for implementation of the New Urban Agenda; and collaboration with the volunteers network to support implementation of the New Urban Agenda and Goal 11 through primary technical assistance to small municipalities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

32. The evolving partnership between UN-Habitat and the European Union has taken several thematic directions. In the field of regional and urban policy, the partnership has been strengthened by three voluntary commitments announced by the European Commission in Quito:

(a) Implementing the New Urban Agenda through the Urban Agenda for the European Union: there will be one action plan for each of the 12 identified priority themes. The action plans will have policy inputs (to increase regulation, funding and knowledge) and present good practices and projects to be transferred and scaled up in the European Union;

(b) Fostering city-to-city cooperation for effective implementation: the European Union is committed to expanding opportunities for city-to-city cooperation at the regional and international levels to contribute to implementing the developing capacities of the New Urban Agenda and fostering exchanges of urban solutions and mutual learning at all levels and by all relevant actors;

(c) Developing a global people-based definition of cities and settlements: a global definition of cities and settlements will be tested and the results will be presented to a variety of stakeholders for comment. The new method will rely on the definition of “city” of the European Union and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the degree of urbanization of the European Union.

33. A memorandum of understanding between the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and UN-Habitat on mutual efforts to achieve urban transformation by implementing the New Urban Agenda is being considered with the secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States.

34. Urban Waters Hub, a network of partners with a common goal of improving urban water management, was launched by UN-Habitat, the Global Water Partnership, the International Water Management Institute, the World Water Council, the International Water Association, the Stockholm International Water Institute, Akvo and the University of South Florida. The hub will be hosted by UN-Habitat.

35. A preliminary agreement was signed with the Islamic Development Bank to cooperate on capacity-building with regard to public water utilities in the member States of the Islamic Development Bank, through water operators’ partnerships and common follow-up capacity-building interventions.

D. Activities in support of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda

1. Global

36. A side event held in the margins of the meeting of the United Nations Statistical Commission in New York on 6 March 2016 brought together actors and experts to discuss and deliberate on the delivery of integrated high-quality, accessible, timely and reliable data to support, track and inform on the progress made in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including discussions on the development and acceptance of a global definition for settlements and cities, to be able to deliver comparable data for indicators related to urban and human settlements.

37. UN-Habitat is working together with the European Commission’s Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development on several initiatives aimed at piloting the key elements of implementation of the New Urban Agenda at the city and country levels. The goal is to increase the capacity of cities to plan and implement sustainable urban development programmes through blended finance, combining national and subnational funds and financing from international financial institutions and the private sector.

38. The Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative was launched by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development and the following partners: the Asian Development Bank; the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group; the German Agency for International Cooperation; the

Andean Development Corporation; the KfW Development Bank; Local Governments for Sustainability; the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy; the Partnership on Sustainable, Low-Carbon Transport; UN-Habitat; and the World Resources Institute. The \$1.3 billion initiative will assist cities and metropolitan regions in developing and emerging economies in finding solutions for their overloaded transport systems.

39. The Quito Action Plan on Sustainable Urban Mobility, a global, open and transparent platform, was launched with discussions on how existing voluntary transport commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and set out in the Global Climate Action Agenda, among others, are incorporating New Urban Agenda transport provisions.

2. Africa

40. The New Urban Agenda has been translated into the six official languages of the United Nations, as well as into Portuguese for dissemination in the five lusophone African countries.

41. The development of a concept note for consideration by the Government of Belgium to support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Africa is ongoing.

42. UN-Habitat co-organized an expert group meeting on the theme “The New Urban Agenda and demographic dividend: investments for Africa’s youth” during the tenth joint annual meeting of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration, held in Dakar in March 2017.

43. At an interministerial committee meeting held in Yaoundé in December 2016 to prepare the national urban policy linked to the New Urban Agenda values and principles, the Council of Ministers was briefed on the New Urban Agenda and discussions were held on its implications for Cameroon.

44. On 1 February 2017, Togo dispatched a high-level mission to discuss with UN-Habitat the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Togo. There is an ongoing exchange and discussions are being held with Togo on support from UN-Habitat to review the Togo National Urban Policy and land regulations.

45. The Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development of Kenya is developing a popular version of the New Urban Agenda that will have an implementation matrix and a follow-up mechanism, which will be included in an annex highlighting the role of different stakeholders. The new version will focus on Kenyan priorities.

46. Also in Kenya, a technical meeting on human settlements indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals took place in Elementaita, during which UN-Habitat explained its custodian role in 9 out of the 15 indicators pertaining to Goal 11.

47. UN-Habitat is in contact with the Government of Mauritania to support national housing initiatives.

3. Asia and the Pacific

48. In the Asia-Pacific region, UN-Habitat supported the mainstreaming and implementation of the New Urban Agenda at the sixth Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, held in New Delhi from 14 to 16 December 2016. Participants discussed the implementation of the New Urban Agenda for the Asia-Pacific region in a special session held on 15 December 2016, during which several standing working groups adjusted their thematic scope to the comprehensive vision of the New Urban Agenda.

49. UN-Habitat will work with the Government of Japan to promote national urban policies in the Asia-Pacific region. Building on preparatory meetings during the regional meeting for Habitat III and thereafter, a platform is being established to encourage policy dialogue between national Governments and cities on national urban policies. The Government of Japan and UN-Habitat hosted a national symposium on promoting the Asia-Pacific regional platform on the New Urban Agenda and national urban planning in Fukuoka on 28 February 2017. Further initiatives will be outlined during the twenty-sixth session of the UN-Habitat Governing Council and the ninth session of the World Urban Forum.

50. Discussions are ongoing for an expert group meeting or stakeholder gathering on the New Urban Agenda and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the World Bank and United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific in October 2017, provisionally to be held in Indonesia. Urban public space initiatives have been launched in Nepal and China.

51. A forthcoming report on cities in Pakistan will incorporate the principles and elements of the New Urban Agenda.
52. The Government of Timor-Leste has requested the assistance of UN-Habitat to formulate a national social housing programme.
53. National urban policies are being developed in the Solomon Islands.
54. The Partners Forum for Delivering the New Urban Agenda Together in Asia and the Pacific, organized by UN-Habitat and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand, was held in Bangkok from 23 to 25 January 2017.

4. Arab States

55. UN-Habitat supported the League of Arab States in its preparation of a document entitled “Towards an Arab Urban Agenda”, on the alignment of national and regional urbanization strategies and the New Urban Agenda. It is considered a guiding document for the localization of the Arab Strategy for Housing and Sustainable Urban Development 2030. An implementation plan is currently being developed, building on the suggested set of indicators derived from the City Prosperity Index.
56. The Arab regional programme on sustainable, inclusive and evidence-based national urban policies in selected Arab States was launched at Habitat III and encompasses five countries (Jordan, Morocco, Lebanon, Sudan and Tunisia).
57. A regional programme on public space is being developed, and two pilot interventions will be implemented in Tripoli and Djerba Island, Tunisia.
58. National urban policies are being developed in Egypt, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

5. Europe

59. In the international cooperation framework of the European Union, sustainable urbanization is now firmly established as a key driver of sustainable development in the revised European Consensus on Development and the future of the European Union partnership with the African, Caribbean and Pacific States.
60. UN-Habitat presented the land and legal frameworks within the New Urban Agenda to European Union delegations at a meeting held in Brussels on 8 February 2017 that brought together relevant European Union entities working on urbanization.
61. An international transdisciplinary seminar on the New Urban Agenda and its implementation is scheduled to be held at the Faculty of Law of the University of Barcelona in October 2017.
62. The Nordic Urban Ways conference, held in Stockholm on 16 December 2016, provided an opportunity for discussion on urban policy issues in Nordic countries and cities as a follow-up to Habitat III.

6. Latin America and the Caribbean

63. In partnership with the Urban Housing Practitioners’ Hub, Habitat for Humanity and Cities Alliance, efforts were made to speed up the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal 11 in Latin America and the Caribbean through dissemination, transfer and adaptation of lessons learned, facilitating exchange of practices, disseminating applied research and fostering linkages among practices, peers, stakeholders, sectors and countries.
64. With key regional partners (Mercociudades, the Latin American Federation of Cities, Municipalities and Associations, the Ibero-American and Caribbean Forum of Best Practices, the Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness of Spain and EAFIT University), UN-Habitat made a public call for urban practices that could inspire the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean. Four inspiring practices were identified (Sao Paulo, Brazil; Curridabat, Costa Rica; Cuenca, Ecuador; and Caño Martín Peña, Puerto Rico), to be used as a reference for other municipalities and cities in the region. UN-Habitat will continue to use the public call instrument to support advocacy and ownership, as well as South-South transfer of inspiring practices towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
65. A diploma course on the New Urban Agenda was inaugurated at the prestigious Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education in Mexico by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat in March 2017.
66. National urban policies are being developed in Argentina.

67. The elaboration of a national strategy for Cuba to facilitate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda is ongoing.
68. A new regional report on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in cities in Latin America and the Caribbean will be developed with the Inter-American Development Bank.
69. A subregional facility to support Central American countries in structuring concrete projects under criteria of the New Urban Agenda is being discussed with the Central American Bank for Economic Integration.
70. Four key institutions with activities in Latin America and Caribbean (UN-Habitat, Rockefeller Foundation, Local Governments for Sustainability and Mercociudades) are joining efforts to create an enabling environment in Latin America and the Caribbean for emerging regional platforms aimed at supporting the implementation of specific aspects of the New Urban Agenda.

E. Upcoming meetings related to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda

71. The Transform Africa Summit, to be held in Kigali in May 2017, will include a session on smart cities led by the President of Rwanda, Mr. Paul Kagame.
72. The Government of Kenya is planning a high-level meeting on Kenya's popular version of the New Urban Agenda.
73. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and Indonesia have scheduled an expert group meeting on the New Urban Agenda and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, to be held in October 2017.
74. The Government of China/Centre for Urban Development and UN-Habitat will host a high-level international forum on sustainable urban development in Chengdu, China, on 21 and 22 July 2017.
75. In collaboration with the University of Ottawa, the second International Conference on Canadian, Chinese and African Sustainable Urbanization: Smart Urban Development: Local to Global Actions, to be held in Yaoundé from 12 to 14 December 2017, will be one of the first transcontinental conferences to address the challenges identified by the New Urban Agenda.
76. The second Arab Ministerial Forum for Housing and Urban Development will be held in Morocco in December 2017.
77. The 2017 Arab Forum for Sustainable Development will feature a side event on urban Goal targets and their implementation across the Arab region, during which the New Urban Agenda will be highlighted.
78. A MINURVI meeting will be held in Buenos Aires in June 2017 to discuss inputs towards a regional action plan to implement the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean.
79. MINURVI, ECLAC and UN-Habitat will organize a conference of cities in Santiago de Chile in August 2017 to advance in planning the regional action plan for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
80. The Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty was held in Washington in March 2017 and dedicated to the New Urban Agenda and land management in urban transformation.
81. UN-Habitat will be co-organizing a conference entitled "Promoting the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Urban Development in Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States Region" in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 1 to 3 June 2017 (dates to be confirmed). The conference will include a high-level segment and a public forum, providing a platform on which to discuss concrete challenges, initiatives and impacts of programmes promoting sustainable urban development at three levels: the city of St Petersburg; Russian Federation; and the broader Commonwealth of Independent States region.
82. The "Implementing the New Urban Agenda" conference, to be held in Melbourne, Australia, on 4 and 5 May 2017, will provide the first opportunity in Australasia and South East Asia for those working in planning, infrastructure, economic development, social inclusion, equality and sustainable urban environments to explore the implications of the New Urban Agenda and begin the development of a road map for its implementation.

F. Implementation facility for sustainable urban development

83. In response to the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (especially but not limited to Goal 11) and the New Urban Agenda, UN-Habitat and the World Bank Group are leading a

multipartner initiative to catalyse effective, coordinated and accelerated implementation of integrated sustainable urban development. The new initiative brings together several development partners, both within and outside the United Nations system under the common aim of better supporting countries and cities in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and implementing the New Urban Agenda. A key feature of this new effort is a public-private partnership platform that includes 38 global companies and is supported by the Government of the Netherlands. UN-Habitat is also partnering with the United Nations Global Compact, the primary business network of the United Nations.

84. The facility will take a demand-driven, investment-oriented approach to sustainable urbanization that is based on local conditions and needs. It will act as both a catalytic vehicle for transformative investments in urban development at scale, and a facilitation mechanism for cooperative partnership. This includes drawing together committed partners, relevant stakeholders, all levels of Government and the private sector. It is envisaged that early emphasis would be placed on supporting the enabling environment needed to attract, leverage and sustain investments – for example, through the development of national urban policies and other forms of legislation that address such issues as land tenure, planning and municipal revenue authority.

85. The action framework for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda would provide the basis for those initial interventions by equipping national and local governments, as well as other stakeholders, with the necessary guidelines, tools and other capacity-building programmes delivered in cooperation with key partners. In addition and given regional specificities, UN-Habitat, together with the Inter-American Development Bank and Mercociudades, is promoting a specific “ecosystem” of funds (private and public) for urban sustainable development aimed at creating and facilitating an enabling environment for increased quality investment in urban integrated projects that can concretize the New Urban Agenda in the field.

VI. Monitoring the implementation of the New Urban Agenda including the preparation of global progress reports

86. In the Quito Declaration on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements for All, Heads of State and Government, ministers and high representatives requested a report on the progress made in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda every four years, with the first report to be submitted during the seventy-second session of the General Assembly.

87. The report will provide a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the progress made in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and internationally agreed goals and targets relevant to sustainable urbanization and human settlements. The analysis will be based on the activities of national, subnational and local governments, UN-Habitat, other relevant entities of the United Nations system, relevant stakeholders in support of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the reports of the UN-Habitat Governing Council.

88. The preparation of this report will be coordinated by UN-Habitat, in close collaboration with other relevant entities of the United Nations system, ensuring an inclusive United Nations system-wide coordination process. The report will be submitted to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council and will also feed into the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly, with a view to ensuring coherence, coordination and collaborative linkages with the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

89. The implementation, monitoring and reporting of the New Urban Agenda is closely linked to the urban-related Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 11. The global framework of the City Prosperity Initiative can assist States in monitoring and reporting to avoid duplication; adopt similar standards; have comparability mechanisms; and have the possibility of aggregating values at the national level using a consistent set of cities and indicators.

90. In preparation for its monitoring role and its coordination of the New Urban Agenda four-yearly report, UN-Habitat has commenced various initiatives. It has created a global and local monitoring framework for the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals that is already being implemented in several cities. The Global Land Indicators Initiative has been established to support the monitoring of land-related Sustainable Development Goal indicators in collaboration with the Global Land Tool Network. UN-Habitat held the first technical meeting on the methodological work on development of indicators for Sustainable Development Goals related to human settlements. Some other ongoing initiatives at different stages of completion are as follows:

(a) Working on connections between the New Urban Agenda and urban Sustainable Development Goal indicators. Work will conclude with the production of a monitoring framework and metadata and the establishment of partnerships with institutions for monitoring purposes;

- (b) Preparing databases for the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 11, and as a result strengthening and expanding the global sample of cities;
- (c) Developing new tools and techniques, such as spatial data analysis, which is important for disaggregation of information at the location level;
- (d) Providing and creating guidelines for monitoring and reporting;
- (e) Supporting States through training courses and other capacity-building measures;
- (f) Developing the next *State of the World's Cities* report with a focus on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda;
- (g) Creating tools and guidelines to localize the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals and providing training and capacity development to all levels of government on implementation, monitoring and reporting.

91. UN-Habitat envisages that data collection and analysis of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda will be undertaken by the Global Urban Observatory; and that the City Prosperity Initiative will support the monitoring and reporting of the New Urban Agenda and urban-related Sustainable Development Goals, using an expanded version of the Global Sample of Cities and other key thematic databases that respond to critical issues of the New Urban Agenda, such as urban legislation, planning, finance and housing.

92. Monitoring and reporting work related to the New Urban Agenda will be supported by existing UN-Habitat initiatives, including the National Urban Policy Database, which provides qualitative analysis of the state of national urban policies; the UrbanLex platform, which hosts a collection of urban legislation from across the world; monitoring of the implementation of the *International Guidelines on Decentralization and Access to Basic Services for all* and the *International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning*; the emerging Global Municipal Finance Database; and the global Land Indicator Initiative.

VII. Upcoming activities

93. UN-Habitat will continue to enhance its preparedness for the implementation and monitoring of the New Urban Agenda, reporting on its implementation and discharging other roles it has acquired as a result of the New Urban Agenda.

94. UN-Habitat is currently completing the mid-term review of its strategic plan for the period 2014–2019. Also, in the light of the New Urban Agenda and with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of UN-Habitat, an independent assessment of UN-Habitat as requested in the New Urban Agenda is due to commence. The report of the assessment will contain recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and oversight of UN-Habitat.

95. The outcome of the assessment and the report of the mid-term evaluation of the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2014–2019 will provide further guidance in directing the next steps and actions towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
