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

Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

The present report summarizes the response of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to the resolutions adopted by the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session. It is complemented by addenda (HSP/GC/26/2/Add.1–4) that provide more detailed information on activities undertaken in response to specific resolutions.

* HSP/GC/26/1.

I. Introduction

1. In implementing the seven resolutions adopted by the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) continued its three-pronged approach to sustainable urbanization and human settlements development. The approach highlights the strategic importance of three focus areas of the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019: urban legislation, land and governance; urban planning and design; and urban economy and municipal finance. During the reporting period, emphasis was also placed on national urban policies and local implementation through planned city extensions. Significant progress was also achieved in the remaining focus areas of the strategic plan: urban basic services; housing and slum upgrading; risk reduction and rehabilitation; and research and capacity development.

II. Implementation of resolutions pertaining to the strategic plan, the work programme and the budget

2. Specific action in the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019 and the work programme and budget for the biennium 2016–2017 was pursued within the framework of two resolutions: resolution 25/3, entitled “Strategic plan for 2014–2019 and the work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2016–2017”, and resolution 25/4, entitled “Implementation of the strategic plan for 2014–2019”. The progress achieved in the implementation of those resolutions is described in sections A and B below.

A. Resolution 25/3: Strategic plan for 2014–2019 and the work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2016–2017

3. As of 31 December 2016, a total of 42 per cent of the outputs planned for the biennium 2016–2017 had been delivered, 19 per cent were in progress and 39 per cent were yet to be started. A total of 119 new projects were launched between January and October 2016, with a total value of over \$307 million. Of the new projects, 24 were in Africa, 22 in Asia, 23 in Latin America and the Caribbean, 20 in the Arab States and 1 in Europe.

4. Programme delivery faced a number of constraints during 2016. Following the rollout of the enterprise resource planning tool Umoja, some business processes were significantly prolonged, particularly recruitment and procurement of goods and services. Another major constraint was the lack of core resources in relation to a high demand from Member States of the United Nations. As a result, maintaining in-country presence within humanitarian and development environments to promote sustainable urbanization and human settlements proved difficult.

5. In spite of those constraints, a number of opportunities emerged for the implementation of the urbanization and human settlements agenda. A higher level of expectation of financial support by Member States for the urbanization and human settlements agenda was generated by the adoption of the New Urban Agenda at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Sustainable Development Goal 11, on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, and other goals relevant to urbanization, presented another opportunity to raise the profile of urbanization and human settlements globally. Yet another opportunity was the accreditation of UN-Habitat to the Adaptation Fund in 2015 and the active exploration of its accreditation to the Green Climate Fund.

6. UN-Habitat continued to achieve improved application of results-based management and demonstration of results in its normative and operational interventions, as recognized by independent evaluations, such as that of the Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network and of the framework of the cooperation agreement between UN-Habitat and Sweden. Staff capacity in results-based management has been enhanced at all levels as a result of training of staff and UN-Habitat partners undertaken at the United Nations Office at Nairobi and of staff based in Central and West Africa undertaken in Maputo and Accra, respectively. The production of a comprehensive results-based management handbook – an important reference tool – as well as online training products and an online library were completed.

7. The UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2014–2019 was revised to respond to the outcome document of Habitat III, the New Urban Agenda, to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 11 on cities and human settlements, and to recent international agendas relevant to sustainable urbanization and human settlements. The revised plan is expected to be

approved by the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session. In that context, the strategic framework for 2018–2019 was also revised, leading to the preparation of the proposed work programme and budget for 2018–2019.

8. As of the end of December 2016, preliminary figures showed that total core revenue amounted to \$29.9 million, of which the regular budget allocation accounted for \$14.1 million (47.2 per cent), foundation general purpose funds accounted for \$4.8 million (16.1 per cent) and programme support funds accounted for \$11 million (36.8 per cent). Total earmarked revenue amounted to \$211.3 million, of which foundation special purpose funds accounted for \$55.7 million (26.4 per cent) and technical cooperation funds accounted for \$155.5 million (73.6 per cent).

9. During 2016, UN-Habitat continued to implement a strengthened resource mobilization strategy aimed at widening its donor base to include emerging-economy countries and to expand its earmarked project portfolio, including through regional resource mobilization action plans. UN-Habitat continued its participation in the United Nations system-wide risk treatment working group focusing on enhancing income from voluntary extrabudgetary contributions.

10. The streamlining of full cost recovery continued, in line with the principles outlined by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/226, to enable more accurate attribution of costs to projects, thus reducing the subsidization of earmarked projects by core funds. The attribution to earmarked projects for 2016 is expected to exceed the \$2.4 million achieved at the end of 2015. The streamlining of cost recovery in Umoja and organizational procedures is being finalized to ensure that cost recovery is incorporated into the budgets and cost plans of every project.

11. UN-Habitat continued to control core expenditure through a wide range of measures, including the continuation of low levels of travel costs, the limitation of new recruitment for core-funded posts to critical positions, closer alignment of expenditure with forecast income and more flexible allocation of staff. However, non-earmarked voluntary contributions continued to decline.

B. Resolution 25/4: Implementation of the strategic plan for 2014–2019

12. Resolution 25/4, also known as the “omnibus” resolution, covered a wide range of the substantive work of UN-Habitat and was implemented through each of the seven subprogrammes of the work programme and budget, with each focusing on relevant paragraphs and cross-cutting issues.

1. Urban legislation, land and governance

13. During the reporting period, the work of the UN-Habitat subprogramme on urban legislation, land and governance responded to paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 6 and 14 of resolution 25/4.

14. UN-Habitat developed a number of tools and methodologies to systematically review and reform urban legal frameworks to improve their effectiveness and enforcement potential. The UN-Habitat legal method was applied primarily to planning and development control. Legal maps were developed for planning law in Ecuador, Egypt, Mozambique, the Philippines, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia and Zambia.

15. UN-Habitat also developed the planning assessment framework, a rapid self-assessment tool that can be used by local and national governments to verify the effectiveness of their planning law frameworks. The framework was tested in Colombia, Egypt, Mozambique, the Philippines, Rwanda and Saudi Arabia. A similar assessment tool for law and regulation relating to informal settlements was developed in the context of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme.

16. UN-Habitat developed and delivered the legislative and regulatory element of the rapid planning studio. The studio is a training package based on UN-Habitat principles for sustainable neighbourhood planning and the *International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning*, and integrates urban legislation, urban finance and economy, and urban planning and design.

17. All the tools and methodologies were piloted and tested through technical assistance programmes at the country level, including in the Achieving Sustainable Urban Development city extension projects in Colombia, Egypt, Mozambique, the Philippines and Rwanda.

18. At the global level, increased awareness and access to urban legislation was achieved through the global urban law database, UrbanLex, which includes almost 600 laws from 68 countries, organized according to seven areas of urban law that are essential to the sustainability and development of urban areas.

19. UN-Habitat supported the implementation of the component of the Global Land Tool Network entitled “Conflict sensitive land governance initiative within the urban-rural nexus context”. The following outputs were produced: a guidance note, *Land and Conflict*, which is one of five

components of the *Toolkit and Guidance for Preventing and Managing Land and Natural Resources Conflict* and which was presented to the United Nations working group on transitions in March 2016; *Scoping and Status Study on Land and Conflict: Towards UN System-Wide Engagement at Scale*; and the second draft of the “Framework analysis of land as a root cause of conflict”.

20. The Land and Conflict Coalition Forum was held in Washington, D.C., in March 2016. The Forum was attended by 40 participants from various United Nations and non-United Nations entities. Capacity development initiatives were also carried out, including training for Department of Political Affairs Desk Officers, held in New York in March 2016, and a two-day high-level learning event for United Nations senior officials in the Great Lakes region on land, conflict and natural resources, held in Kigali in November 2016.

21. In addition, land mediation was carried out by UN-Habitat in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and agreements were made to implement the Social Tenure Domain Model and other key tools in Iraq and Lebanon and to establish partnerships for the roll-out of Global Land Tool Network tools in areas affected by conflict.

22. UN-Habitat supported the initial activities of the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments for the Post-2015 Development Agenda towards Habitat III. The task force was instrumental in channelling the voice of local governments in the negotiations in recent United Nations global conferences and agendas relevant to the responsibilities of local governments.

23. UN-Habitat continued to host the secretariat of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities. UN-Habitat, mostly through the Advisory Committee, also provided support for the contributions of the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments to Habitat III. The Assembly held three Habitat III preparatory sessions, in New York (on 15 May 2016), Bogotá (on 14 October 2016) and Quito (on 16 October 2016).

24. The UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme continued to develop the Global Network on Safer Cities in order to strengthen crime and violence prevention and enhance urban safety. This was reflected in the activities of the following partner-led technical working groups on safer cities and the regional forums that supported the development of United Nations system-wide guidelines on safer cities:

- (a) Technical working group on the confluence of urban safety and peacebuilding practice;
- (b) Technical working group on urban smart technologies for safer cities;
- (c) Technical working group on gender, youth and safer cities;
- (d) Africa Forum for Urban Safety;
- (e) Asia-Pacific Forum for Urban Safety.

25. The climax of the urban safety activities of these groups was the Habitat III preparatory process, in the context of which the Safer Cities Programme convened the Habitat III task force on the issue paper on safer cities, with the participation of seven United Nations entities.

2. Urban planning and design

26. During the reporting period, the UN-Habitat subprogramme on urban planning and design responded to paragraphs 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, 18, 25, 35 and 36 of resolution 25/4.

27. UN-Habitat continued to focus its provision to local authorities of normative guidance, tools and partnership development in support of improved policies, plans and designs at the city and neighbourhood level. In this connection, training based on the guide entitled *Urban Planning for City Leaders* continued in Asia and the Caribbean. The guide has now been translated from English into seven other languages.

28. Rapid planning studio sessions were conducted for the elected leaders and technical staff of local authorities and for communities in Kenya, Nigeria and the Philippines, focusing on the planning process and the critical decisions linked to urban expansion and renewal.

29. Two new public space tools were launched in 2016: the citywide public space inventory and assessment tool was finalized and tested in Nairobi and a markets assessment tool was developed for Haiti. The tools are being adapted and assessments are being conducted in cities in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya and Rwanda.

30. The training of local governments on the *International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning* began in 2016 and several countries, including Afghanistan, Belarus, China, Kosovo, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe and the State of Palestine, began using them.

31. Under the Global Public Space Programme, which works to promote public space as a key element in creating sustainable cities and improving the quality of life of urban residents, UN-Habitat completed 26 projects during the reporting period.
32. During 2016, the Urban Planning and Design Lab of UN-Habitat supported citywide strategies, planned city extensions and urban infill and renewal projects in more than 30 cities in 40 countries, including in Afghanistan, Ghana, Haiti, Kenya, Myanmar, the Philippines, Somalia and South Africa.
33. In addition, a Global Network of Urban Planning and Design Labs was established to support local governments in achieving sustainable urban development. The Network convened global expert group meetings in Barcelona, Spain, and Venice, Italy, in 2016 to exchange planning lab methodologies and to discuss effective practices.
34. UN-Habitat provided support to 27 countries in different phases of developing and implementing national urban policies. Several guidelines and tools for the various phases of the process were published. In addition, an international database on national urban policies was developed and launched at Habitat III. In addition, UN-Habitat, in partnership with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Cities Alliance, launched the National Urban Policy Programme, also at Habitat III.
35. With respect to health, UN-Habitat contributed to the sub-theme on the built environment and public health during the Caribbean Urban Forum in April 2016, from the perspective of public space. During Habitat III, UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the World Health Organization and the Government of Norway, also organized a parallel event on planning for clean, green and healthy cities, which attracted over 80 participants.
36. UN-Habitat, in close collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Turkana county government (Kenya), supported the planning and development of settlements in which refugees are integrated with host communities.
37. In December 2015, at the twenty-first session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UN-Habitat, together with 45 endorsing partners, launched a publication entitled *Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning*. During 2016, UN-Habitat and partners undertook field missions to cities in India, Mozambique and Scotland to apply those principles.
38. UN-Habitat launched a publication entitled *Addressing Climate Change in National Urban Policy: A Policy Guide for Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Urban Development* and a report entitled “Sustainable urbanization in the Paris Agreement: comparative review of nationally determined contributions for urban content”, as well as a number of other normative publications.
39. UN-Habitat, in partnership with ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability and the European Commission, also assisted a number of cities in assessing their vulnerability to climate change, conducting baseline greenhouse gas assessments and developing climate action plans through the Promoting Low Emission Urban Development Strategies in Emerging-Economy Countries (Urban-LEDS) project.
40. Lastly, in August 2015, in a development that is paving the way for UN-Habitat to play an expanded role in helping cities to adapt to climate change, the Adaptation Fund accredited UN-Habitat as one of its multilateral implementing entities. UN-Habitat has also adopted an environmental and social safeguards policy that further expands its mainstreaming of the environment.

3. Urban economy and municipal finance

41. In response to paragraphs 5, 6 and 11 of resolution 25/4, UN-Habitat carried out a number of activities related to local economic development. It produced and disseminated discussion papers on harnessing municipal economies, and the role of cities in productive transformation. It also conducted group training on local economic assessment for city extension in Ethiopia and Mozambique and on local economic development and livelihoods strategies for young people in Kenya.
42. With respect to operational aspects, UN-Habitat enhanced the capacity of partner cities to adopt urban strategies supportive of inclusive economic growth in Colombia, Egypt, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria and the Philippines.
43. The capacity for developing spatial strategies for supporting local economic development was strengthened through projects under the Achieving Sustainable Urban Development programme in cities in Egypt, Mozambique, the Philippines and Rwanda. Six other cities were supported to prepare local economy assessments: two in Haiti and four in Kenya.

44. In response to paragraphs 22, 31 and 33 of resolution 25/4, UN-Habitat produced non-recurrent publications on young refugees, young people and land and information and communications technology, urban governance and young people. It also organized an expert group meeting on the power of sport to drive social change and conducted group training for youth fund grant recipients in Colombia, Kenya, Mauritius, and Nepal and on capacity-building for Sharek Youth Forum members in the State of Palestine.

45. With respect to operational youth-related outputs, advisory services and technical assistance were provided to eleven cities in Brazil, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Nigeria (two cities), Somalia, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

46. Four operational youth programmes were implemented. The Youth and Livelihoods Programme operated through three anchor projects: the Urban Youth Fund (supported by the Government of Norway) and the India and Lotte youth funds. Fifteen projects under the India and Lotte funds were implemented while, since its inception in 2009, the Urban Youth Fund has supported 277 youth groups in 70 developing countries and 172 cities.

47. The One Stop Youth Centre model was scaled up through the replication of the initial project in Kigali in 29 of the 30 districts in Rwanda as part of the Youth and Public Space Programme. The programme also works with young people in urban slums, creating new models on how to develop public space. In addition, new post-conflict One Stop Youth Centres were established in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Mogadishu.

48. As part of the Youth and Post Conflict Programme, UN-Habitat worked closely with sister United Nations entities, civil society and the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth to support the passage of Security Council resolution 2250 (2015), on the maintenance of international peace and security.

49. As part of the Youth and Governance Programme, the Innovation Marketplace project was implemented, as part of the Innovate Kenya initiative, with the assistance of Ericsson Research and the Samsung Corporation. The project promotes innovation by young Kenyans through a "hackathon" to solve local public transport, space and housing problems. Under the Innovate Kenya initiative, six youth information and communications technology and entrepreneurship centres were set up and over 30,000 young people were given training on e-learning.

50. UN-Habitat also implemented a number of activities on municipal finance, in response to paragraphs 10, 11 and 13 of resolution 25/4. On the normative side, it produced non-recurrent publications on financing planned city extension and planned city infill, finance for city leaders, property taxation, and rapid financial feasibility assessment for planned city extension. It also organized expert group meetings on land-based financing and land value sharing.

51. On the operational side, UN-Habitat provided advisory and capacity-building support to many urban authorities to improve their revenue-generating capacity. In Somalia, improved financial management systems were established in 15 districts.

52. The cities of Cagayan de Oro, Iloilo and Silay, Philippines, finalized their financial models for planned city extensions in 2015. In Afghanistan, improved methods of land surveying and registration, and tax invoicing and collection resulted in a 15 per cent increase in revenue in four cities.

53. In Haiti and Kenya, three revenue enhancement projects laid the foundation for improving municipal finance and fostering inclusive economic development. In Kiambu County, Kenya, this resulted in a revenue increase of 60 per cent between 2014 and 2016.

4. Urban basic services

54. The UN-Habitat subprogramme on urban basic services responded to paragraphs 23 and 24 of resolution 25/4.

55. The financing available in the Urban Basic Services Trust Fund increased during the reporting period, with support from a number of governments, regional development banks, United Nations system organizations and private sector organizations.

56. A number of water and sanitation activities were carried out within the framework of the Trust Fund and other sources, including the following:

(a) The Global Expanded Monitoring Initiative, which developed and tested monitoring methodologies in seven pilot countries: Bangladesh, Fiji, Jordan, the Netherlands, Peru, Senegal and Uganda;

- (b) Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance, which supported over 200 water utilities serving over 1.5 million customers;
- (c) New pro-poor urban water supply tariff in Rwanda, which was developed under the training and capacity-building component of the Lake Victoria Region Water and Sanitation Initiative, Phase II;
- (d) Improving sanitation in the low-income settlements of Mwanza, United Republic of Tanzania, under the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Initiative – Mwanza Project, which aimed to deliver over 300 sanitation facilities to meet the sanitation needs of about 250,000 people;
- (e) Improving water, sanitation and hygiene in peri-urban areas of the settlements of Mzuzu and Karonga in Malawi, that aimed to increase access to sustainable water supply and improved sanitation for 51,000 beneficiaries;
- (f) Building flood-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure in disaster-prone communities in Ghana, which improved sustainable access to disaster-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in 265 communities in 24 districts with 200,000 beneficiaries;
- (g) Building small-scale climate-resilient rural infrastructure in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, which was successful in providing some 100,000 people with safe drinking water and some 223,000 people with access to improved sanitation;
- (h) Global Sanitation Fund programme in Nepal, which supported the national goal of achieving 100 per cent access to sanitation by 2017;
- (i) Decentralized wastewater management in the United Republic of Tanzania, which supported the demonstration of a decentralized wastewater management system in Dar es Salaam.

57. The following activities were carried out in the area of urban mobility:

- (a) The Solutions Project and the Urban Electric Mobility Initiative, which supported the uptake of sustainable urban mobility solutions in Europe and other regions in the world;
- (b) The Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative, which aims at mobilizing more than \$1 billion for sustainable urban mobility projects;
- (c) The Promoting Sustainable Transport for East African Cities project, which provided assistance in developing the service plan for the first Demonstration Bus Rapid Transport Corridor in Nairobi, expected to cost \$867 million;
- (d) A sustainable urban mobility plan for Ruiru, Kenya, which provided support to the town for the development of walking and cycling facilities;
- (e) Technical assistance in developing a road map for bus rapid transit in Bogor, Indonesia;
- (f) Advice on developing a bike-sharing scheme in Hyderabad, India.

58. A number of activities were implemented with respect to urban energy:

- (a) A project on promoting energy efficiency in buildings in East Africa, under which a "green building charter" was developed and support was provided for the development of national energy-efficient building codes in Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania;
- (b) Regional conference on energy, cities and climate held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, and attended by participants from over 20 African countries;
- (c) Hands-on training of young people on renewable energy, as a result of which 60 young people received training on renewable energy and on access to clean energy and renewable energy technologies;
- (d) Integrating energy and resource efficiency measures in university curricula, by means of which UN-Habitat engaged with East African universities offering architecture training programmes to review their curricula in order to integrate energy-efficiency and resource-efficiency measures.

59. Lastly, in the area of solid waste management, UN-Habitat continued to implement the Solid Waste Management Project with the Fukuoka Method (semi-aerobic sanitary landfill) in Kiambu County, Kenya.

5. Housing and slum upgrading

60. The UN-Habitat subprogramme on housing and slum upgrading directly addressed paragraphs 16 and 17 of resolution 25/4 and indirectly addressed paragraphs 4, 6, 10, 12, 15, 25, 38 and 44.

61. Since May 2015, UN-Habitat has promoted the approach of repositioning housing at the centre of cities. Over the past two years, 44 local and national governments received UN-Habitat advisory services on housing. In October 2015, the UN-Habitat position paper entitled “Housing at the Centre” was published to advocate for an integrated approach to housing delivery.

62. The leading voice of UN-Habitat on the centrality of housing for sustainable cities was strongly demonstrated through the housing issue paper (number 20) in the lead-up to Habitat III, which was produced in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

63. UN-Habitat helped to develop or update nine national housing profiles (in Afghanistan, Angola, Cuba, Egypt, Guyana, El Salvador, Lesotho, Liberia and Sri Lanka), five national housing policies (in Afghanistan, Ghana, Lesotho, Sri Lanka and Zambia) and three national housing policy implementation strategies (in Ghana, Lesotho and Mozambique). UN-Habitat also launched Global Housing Panorama, a database that compiles a list of best practices from local and national governments around the world.

64. UN-Habitat also continued to advocate and facilitate partnerships for green housing design and construction, as well as energy-efficient solutions. In May 2015, UN-Habitat launched the Global Network for Sustainable Housing, which is now a 12-partner strong community of practice and an important peer-learning platform.

65. In addition, UN-Habitat ensured that Governments have the necessary tools to build environmentally sustainable homes, and has helped develop and promote the Sustainable Habitat Evaluation Rating and Participative Approach (SHERPA) housing design tool for urban decision makers and designers. The tool provides an ex-ante evaluation of the environmental sustainability of projects in developing countries.

66. To further strengthen knowledge management and promote sustainable building materials, UN-Habitat co-organized with the EcoSur network – the network for an ecologically and economically sustainable habitat – the “EcoMaterials 5” conference in Riobamba, Ecuador, from 12 to 14 October 2016.

67. The inclusion of Sustainable Development Goal target 11.1 (by 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, and upgrade slums) was a significant outcome of the advocacy efforts of UN-Habitat and a wide range of partners.

68. During the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, held in New York in September 2015, the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme was endorsed as a flagship programme for delivering target 11.1 through its tripartite partnership between the European Commission, the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and UN-Habitat. This endorsement was the foundation of the “Up for slum dwellers – transforming a billion lives” initiative implemented in the framework of the World Urban Campaign.

69. In addition, the endorsement led to the agreement to expand the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme to all 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries and facilitate worldwide learning and peer exchange through a network of city mayors, planners and universities.

70. UN-Habitat, jointly with the Government of South Africa, prepared the background paper for the Habitat III thematic meeting on informal settlements, held in Pretoria in April 2016.

71. During 2015 and 2016, UN-Habitat worked with 160 local governments and 41 national Governments in preparing strategies for inclusive citywide in situ slum upgrading and in developing key prevention strategies. All the strategies promote a community-driven, incremental and integrative approach.

72. In Africa, nine countries and nine cities implemented pilot projects based on those strategies. In Kenya, the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme introduced a participatory neighbourhood planning approach, particularly for land tenure regularization. About 3,765 households will be afforded the opportunity to improve their settlements and gain access to municipal services.

73. All the governments involved provided support for implementation through co-financing and welcomed the community-managed funds approach, with particular focus on the needs of women and

young people. For example, the Ga Mashie Community Development Committee in Accra has introduced a microfinance service in partnership with a local bank to support small-scale businesses run by women and young traders.

74. In total, 4 million slum dwellers were involved in the implementation of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme and 500,000 slum dwellers had the opportunity to learn about the community-managed funds.

6. Risk reduction and rehabilitation

75. Work under the UN-Habitat subprogramme on risk reduction and rehabilitation addressed paragraphs 25, 26, 39 and 45 of resolution 25/4.

76. UN-Habitat continued to influence and improve emergency response in cities and other human settlements through its membership in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. It continued to lead the work of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force on Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas, and established an online emergency response portal to enhance knowledge management and knowledge-sharing.

77. Throughout 2016, UN-Habitat contributed to strengthening the focus among the international humanitarian community on displaced populations in urban emergencies, including the development of new approaches to recovery and response through area-based programming, the engagement of local authorities and the participation of affected communities to increase accountability. This focus was evident in some of the responses to disasters in 2016, including in Ecuador and Haiti, and in ongoing emergencies and recovery operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia and the Syrian Arab Republic.

78. UN-Habitat supported settlements recovery and reconstruction interventions in several countries in 2015 and 2016, including in Haiti, Iraq, Liberia, Nepal, Somalia, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic. UN-Habitat also led or supported post-disaster needs assessments in Ecuador, Haiti and Sri Lanka, providing crucial insights on urban issues and community-led, holistic approaches to recovery.

79. As a result of UN-Habitat engagement in the Global Shelter Cluster and the secondment of a UN-Habitat staff member to the post of Cluster Coordinator Americas, a paper on migration entitled “The Cuban dream” was prepared. The purpose of the paper was to raise awareness as a first step towards improving the living conditions of Cuban migrants to the United States of America.

80. With respect to shelter rehabilitation programmes, UN-Habitat supported sustainable shelter solutions in Iraq and Lebanon, treating internally displaced people and refugees with dignity and providing higher quality support solutions. This was achieved partly through a renewed focus on the principles on housing and property restitution for refugees and displaced persons as rights-based guidelines for shelter construction and the resettlement of internally displaced persons.

81. In 2016, three new projects were initiated under the City Resilience Profiling Programme: “Making cities sustainable and resilient: implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 at the local level”, funded by the European Commission’s Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development and co-implemented in 24 cities; “Resilience to cope with climate change in urban areas”, a four-year programme funded by the European Commission’s Horizon 2020 programme and focusing on applied research related to urban resilience in the context of climate change hazard impact on water systems in Barcelona, Spain, Lisbon and Bristol, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and the “Guidelines and toolkit for decision makers on promoting compliance to resilient construction” project, funded by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, involving four case studies in Haiti, Indonesia, Pakistan and the Philippines.

82. In January 2016, the City Resilience Profiling Programme undertook a scoping mission to Yakutsk in the Russian Federation to explore the challenges of cities located in extreme climates. The outcome was the agreement by the city of Yakutsk to join the programme, and to host the Arctic Resilient Cities Network. The programme also prepared and coordinated the “Barcelona resilience week” conference, attracting some 300 participants from over 50 cities.

83. An additional 13 cities in 13 countries are now engaging directly with the City Resilience Profiling Programme, all of which have or are putting in place risk reduction and resilience-building policies, strategies and programming. The programme also continued functioning as the Medellin Collaboration for Urban Resilience secretariat.

84. Over 50 representatives of humanitarian agencies produced an urban strategy within the newly formed Global Alliance for Urban Crises, launched during the World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul, Turkey, in May 2016, consolidating the efforts and commitment to the Urban Crises Charter of over 70 humanitarian, development, academic and professional agencies, institutions and associations.

85. In the global community of practice, the programme is increasingly seen as having the highest standard mechanisms for the promotion and implementation of urban resilience and influencing sustainable urban development agendas of cities, regions and countries.

7. Research and capacity development

86. Work under the UN-Habitat subprogramme on research and capacity development addressed two key paragraphs of resolution 25/4: paragraphs 29 and 31.

87. Sustainable Development Goal 11, with 10 targets, is focused on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Since the creation by the Statistical Commission of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, UN-Habitat has supported and assisted national statistical offices, including through the Group's third meeting held in Mexico City from 30 March to 1 April 2016. The meeting was hosted jointly with the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI – Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico.

88. UN-Habitat also coordinated the inputs of other United Nations system entities on the review and refinement of the indicators for Goal 11 and for other Sustainable Development Goals with an urban dimension and led the compilation of metadata for the same. In addition, UN-Habitat prepared a global monitoring framework guide for Goal 11, which will assist countries and cities in setting national targets.

89. In addition, UN-Habitat advised a number of countries and cities in their efforts to integrate national and local planning processes in response to the indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals. It also initiated the preparation of specific tools and guidelines that are intended to assist in the provision of technical advisory services to States in localizing indicators at the city level.

90. The UN-Habitat Global Urban Observatory has created a global sample of cities to report on world urbanization trends, conditions and developments. The sample is currently using data from 200 cities on the expansion of urban areas between 1990 and 2015 and will be used to monitor further urban evolution around the world.

91. In close collaboration with the United Nations regional commissions, UN-Habitat made progress with regard to the preparation of regional meetings to assess monitoring and reporting needs, including training and capacity development in data collection and monitoring.

92. UN-Habitat carried out a number of activities designed to improve knowledge of sustainable urbanization and human settlements. It published the *World Cities Report 2016*, subtitled *Urbanization and Development: Emerging Futures*, which was the first edition of the series, following the merging of the two previous flagship annual global reports of UN-Habitat: the *Global Report on Human Settlements* and *The State of the World's Cities*. The objective of the first edition was to take stock of urban developments over the past two decades, with a view to contributing to the formulation of a new urban agenda for the twenty-first century.

93. In collaboration with the European Commission, UN-Habitat also published the *State of European Union Cities 2016*, subtitled *Cities Leading the Way to a Better Future*, which was launched in October 2016. It completed the preparation of the first phase of the research for the *State of African Cities 2017*, analysing financial flows for urban development. The research findings of the first phase were an integral part of the *African Economic Outlook 2016*, published by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in May 2016.

94. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat further developed the City Prosperity Index, measuring prosperity at the local level against the main targets of the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal 11 and other urban-related targets of the Sustainable Development Agenda. The index has now been applied in more than 400 cities across the world.

95. The City Prosperity Initiative is gaining importance in Latin America and the Caribbean as a key area of the technical cooperation work of UN-Habitat. A new regional City Prosperity Initiative is currently providing technical advisory services in Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Peru.

III. Implementation of other resolutions

A. Resolution 25/1: Contribution of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to the post-2015 development agenda in order to promote sustainable urban development and human settlements

96. In implementing resolution 25/1, UN-Habitat focused on paragraphs 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 13. Much of the work revolved around national urban policy as a tool for providing national structure, organization and direction to the process of urbanization, harnessing the opportunities of urbanization, mitigating its negative externalities and promoting well-planned and well-managed urbanization.

97. National urban policy was identified as a key tool to support the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda, and was selected as the topic of Habitat III policy unit 3, which was co-led by UN-Habitat alongside the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. The policy unit produced a framework document and a policy paper while its expert group highlighted 10 key recommendations for the New Urban Agenda.

98. The adoption of Sustainable Development Goal 11 demonstrates clear international recognition of the need for sustainable and inclusive urban growth. It would be difficult to achieve many of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals without addressing what happens in urban areas, as recognized in the Habitat III policy paper prepared by policy unit 3.

99. UN-Habitat activities and engagement in the national urban policy process included, but were not limited to, country assessments; advice on setting up national processes and stakeholder participation; documentation of good practices to support national processes; advisory services, including technical support to the formulation process; facilitation of local-national dialogue on reforms; design of the policy monitoring framework; policy review and evaluation; capacity development in national urban policy processes across the full range of relevant actors; and dissemination of national urban policies. The countries to which UN-Habitat provided advisory services included Angola, Argentina, Cameroon, Liberia, Myanmar, Rwanda, the Sudan, Zambia and Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania.

100. In its normative work, UN-Habitat identified a number of entry points for urban-rural linkages, including the following:

- (a) Spatial flow of products, services and information between urban and rural areas;
- (b) Mobility and migration between urban and rural areas;
- (c) Rural urbanization – the development of small and intermediate cities;
- (d) Food security systems and a “sustainable chain” for all.

101. UN-Habitat integrated diverse recommendations for strengthening urban-rural linkages in tools and when providing advisory services to support countries in the process of developing their national urban policies. For instance, during the provision of advisory services in Cameroon, strengthening urban-rural linkages was one of the main aspects considered in developing the country’s national urban policy.

102. With respect to the development and dissemination of tools and good practices for promoting urban-rural linkages, UN-Habitat started collecting international good practices that promote urban-rural linkages. Those case studies will serve as a basis for the development of specific tools and good practices and contribute to peer-to-peer learning. It is intended to publish a compendium of good practices for urban-rural linkages during 2017.

103. Concerning collaboration with intergovernmental organizations and stakeholders to strengthen urban-rural linkages, UN-Habitat organized an expert group meeting on the topic, which was held in Montería, Colombia, in October 2015. The meeting brought together over 20 national and international participants from both developing and developed countries. The expert group published a communiqué entitled “The role of intermediate cities in strengthening urban-rural linkages towards the New Urban Agenda”.

104. UN-Habitat also supported States in their efforts to enhance the capacity of local, subnational and national authorities to plan and manage sustainable urbanization in order to address existing and emerging challenges, including response to climate change across the human settlements continuum. It published a policy guide for low-carbon and climate resilient urban development, entitled *Addressing Climate Change in National Urban Policies*.

B. Resolution 25/2: Strengthening national ownership and operational capacity

105. With regard to resolution 25/2, UN-Habitat focused on paragraph 1, on implementing General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review in the work programme of UN-Habitat, as well as on paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

106. UN-Habitat worked within the context of resolution 67/226 to further develop its efficiency in operational activities, mainly through the implementation of the enterprise resource planning system Umoja. The aim of this work was to improve key business processes, such as procurement, human resources recruitment, travel and meetings.

107. UN-Habitat depends on the linkages between its operational and normative work to build its expertise and capacity to provide advice on the right policies to support sustainable urbanization. It has continued to develop programmes based on the three-pronged approach (which focuses on urban legislation, land and governance; urban planning and design; and urban economy and municipal finance) in order to achieve better integration between the different areas of capacity and knowledge of the organization.

108. The UN-Habitat country programme documents mechanism has been a key planning tool for articulating national urban development challenges. The mechanism also provides an overview of national urban policy and urban governance needs, while highlighting national urbanization and human settlements priorities. In addition, it supports the inclusion of urban development issues in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) in line with the “One United Nations” approach.

109. UN-Habitat issued a set of guidelines and designed a new template for the habitat country programme documents, which take into account the UNDAF cycles at the national level and establish a direct linkage with Sustainable Development Goal 11 and the New Urban Agenda. Twelve new habitat country programme documents were developed in four regions and additional ones are under preparation.

110. UN-Habitat maintained a healthy strategic collaboration with regional ministerial groups. In Africa, the collaboration with the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, now the Sub-Committee on Human Settlement and Urban Development of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee no. 8 on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization, continued to focus on developing a new urban agenda for Africa as a contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals and to the Habitat III preparatory process. At a regional preparatory meeting for Habitat III, held in Abuja in February 2016, African ministers of housing and urban development adopted the Abuja Declaration for Habitat III, which was later endorsed by African Heads of State in Kigali in July 2016.

111. At the twenty-fourth General Assembly of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Jamaica in August 2015, UN-Habitat initiated consultations on a draft regional strategic plan to be aligned with the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2014–2019.

112. UN-Habitat facilitated a crucial meeting of the League of Arab States Ministerial Council for Housing and Construction Executive Bureau, held in Cairo in May 2015 to harmonize views on a common strategy for localizing the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab Region, in particular Goal 11.

113. UN-Habitat also provided support for the preparations for the sixth Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, held in New Delhi in December 2016. The theme of the conference was “Emerging urban forms: policy responses and governance structure in the context of the New Urban Agenda”.

114. UN-Habitat developed regional strategies for Africa, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean. As business plans, they provide opportune vehicles for driving policy change and programming, as well as the prioritization of sustainable urbanization and human settlements issues at the regional and national levels.

115. UN-Habitat implemented a number of initiatives relevant to resolution 25/2:

(a) A project on capacity development in the New Urban Agenda that promotes data-driven integrated urban management and urban planning practice, integrating urban design, economy and municipal finance and legislation;

(b) A United Nations Development Account capacity development programme on accountability and localizing the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin American cities, implemented in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

(c) Collaboration between the UN-Habitat partnership with universities worldwide, known as “Habitat UNI”, and cities in their efforts to achieve sustainable urban development, with experiences being documented at the Habitat UNI online portal (uni.unhabitat.org).

C. Resolution 25/5: Support by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and the role of national Habitat committees in its preparation and implementation

116. UN-Habitat contributed to all the phases of the Habitat III preparatory process, as requested in paragraph 5 of resolution 25/5 and provided technical inputs to the New Urban Agenda, such as issue papers, as well as contributing to the Habitat III policy units. UN-Habitat participated in the preparation of Habitat III issue papers, leading or co-leading 18 of the 22 papers. It led the preparation of Habitat III issue paper 3, on safer cities; 5, on urban rules and legislation; 8, on urban and spatial planning and design; 10, on urban-rural linkages; 11, on public space; 20, on housing; and 22, on informal settlements. In addition, UN-Habitat provided technical support to all the Habitat III policy units, co-leading the unit on national urban policies.

117. With respect to the contribution of the United Nations system, UN-Habitat played a key role through the United Nations Task Team on Habitat III. The Task Team, comprising representatives of more than 40 United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, was established in January 2015 to mobilize the United Nations system towards the preparatory process for Habitat III. Contributions by the United Nations Task Team included: the preparation of 22 issue papers (mentioned above) on topics addressing significant urban issues; the provision of advisory services to the policy units and to thematic and regional meetings; the provision of key recommendations for the New Urban Agenda through cross-cutting expert group meetings; and the organization of special sessions and United Nations events and exhibitions at the One United Nations Pavilion during Habitat III.

118. In addition, UN-Habitat continued to chair the working group on a new United Nations urban agenda of the High-level Committee on Programmes. The working group, which comprised representatives of 24 core United Nations system organizations, prepared a paper entitled “Urbanization and sustainable development: a United Nations system input to a new urban agenda” and a joint statement of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to Habitat III. Both the paper and the joint statement were endorsed by the Chief Executives Board at its meeting held in Vienna in April 2016. The paper was submitted to the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III at its third session, held in Surabaya, Indonesia, in July 2016, while the Board’s joint statement was submitted to Habitat III in October 2016.

119. In response to paragraph 4 and 6, UN-Habitat, working closely with the United Nations regional economic commissions, supported the development of Habitat III regional reports. At the national level, UN-Habitat supported the preparation of several national urban forums and national Habitat III reports in Africa, Asia and Latin America, as well as the mobilization of national habitat committees and other national platforms on preparations towards Habitat III.

120. UN-Habitat promoted the wide, effective and improved participation of and contributions by major groups and other stakeholders at all stages of the Habitat III process. The partners in the World Urban Campaign organized several urban thinkers campuses during the preparatory process and published “The city we need” – a manifesto of nine principles on how to achieve sustainable urban development – as an input to the New Urban Agenda. The General Assembly of Partners, an independent Habitat III partners’ platform, was a special initiative of the World Urban Campaign consisting of 16 partner constituent groups from among United Nations system organizations and other relevant stakeholders. The Assembly brought together a large number of organizations, urban experts and actors from around the world to leverage stakeholders’ engagement in and contributions to the conference, playing an important role in the preparations for Habitat III and in the conference itself.

121. Given its mandate on local authorities, UN-Habitat was also actively engaged in the activities of the Global Task Force on Local and Regional Governments for the Post-2015 Development Agenda towards Habitat III, which produced a consensus document entitled “Key recommendations of local and regional governments towards Habitat III”.

122. During Habitat III, UN-Habitat partnered with relevant organizations in a large number of side and networking events focusing on policies, plans and programmes at the local, national, regional and global levels to promote the role of sustainable urbanization as a driver of sustainable development.

D. Resolution 25/6: International guidelines on urban and territorial planning

123. In responding to resolution 25/6, UN-Habitat focused on four main areas in its efforts to advance the implementation of the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning: developing tools and building capacity; pilot projects; building partnerships, and disseminating the guidelines and raising awareness.

1. Developing tools and building capacity

124. In response to paragraph 4 of resolution 25/6, UN-Habitat developed a handbook and a toolkit for the local implementation of the guidelines, comprising a set of methodologies to assist Governments and other stakeholders in reviewing and reforming their planning systems, including a self-assessment questionnaire and a monitoring framework.

125. In addition, to facilitate the adaptation of the guidelines and develop the capacity of planning constituencies, a learning package was developed that includes an instructor's guide and a participant workbook.

2. Pilot projects

126. The guidelines have been downloaded over 100,000 times and launched in four countries (Belarus, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan) and awareness of the guidelines has been raised in various settings and countries.

127. In addition, the guidelines are being tested, in collaboration with local planning constituencies and authorities, for the development, review and implementation of urban and territorial planning and policy frameworks in four countries (Belarus, China, Saudi Arabia and the State of Palestine).

128. UN-Habitat also provided technical assistance to China and Sri Lanka in the form of a rapid assessment of their regional and local development plans. One training event and two seminars were held in Minsk to improve processes for and the outcomes of city and neighbourhood planning.

3. Building partnerships

129. In response to paragraph 5 of the resolution, partners' contributions and involvement were sought in order to provide technical expertise and validate the content of the guidelines' implementation resources. The International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP), United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the Economic Commission for Europe supported the adoption of the guidelines by providing channels for their dissemination and validation.

130. 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, held in Durban, South Africa, in July 2016; dissemination of the localization package to local governments at the fifth UCLG Congress, held in Bogotá 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.

131. The United Nations Centre for Regional Development and the Economic Commission for Europe joined in efforts to implement the guidelines. In addition, the Government of Japan announced its commitment to establish a platform to implement international initiatives for urban and territorial planning.

4. Disseminating the guidelines and raising awareness

132. In order to ensure their dissemination from the global to the local level, the guidelines have been translated into Arabic, Chinese, French, Indonesian, Japanese, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese.

133. Several communication instruments were also developed, including an online video entitled "International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning: a synopsis", in which the guidelines are summarized and broken down according to their main achievements, as well as bookmarks, factsheets and flyers prepared for the third session of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III and for Habitat III itself.

134. In addition, the guidelines have been diffused across a series of other events. At Habitat III, six events were held to promote the guidelines and to strengthen existing partnerships.

135. Lastly, as encouraged in paragraph 6 of the resolution, the guidelines have been cited in eight magazine and academic articles and in multiple postings on social media. They were explicitly referred to in the Habitat III message from Prince Charles of the United Kingdom. They are also referred to in the New Urban Agenda as a medium for its effective implementation.

E. Resolution 25/7: United Nations Human Settlements Programme governance reform

136. In resolution 25/7, the Governing Council decided to strengthen the oversight role of the Governing Council and the Committee of Permanent Representatives by requesting the Committee to establish a working group on programme and budget. As at March 2017, the working group on programme and budget had held four formal meetings, in September 2015, in March and October 2016, and in February 2017, each lasting two days, resulting in key actionable recommendations to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat. The working group also held seven informal meetings between June 2015 and February 2017.

137. At its first formal meeting in September 2015, the discussions of the working group focused on the 2015 report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the evaluation of UN-Habitat (E/AC.51/2015/2), the financial status of the Programme, resource mobilization, business transformation and the strategic positioning of UN-Habitat. The working group made recommendations to the Executive Director, including on the need to strengthen the Programme's communication and external relations functions.

138. At its second meeting, in March 2016, the discussions of the working group focused on the status of implementation of the recommendations arising from the report of the 2015 evaluation by the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services and on oversight, regional and country strategies, the communication strategy of UN-Habitat, business transformation and the strategic positioning of the Programme, in particular in the light of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on climate change and the expected outcomes of Habitat III. The UN-Habitat secretariat also provided an overview of the status of implementation of the recommendations made by the working group at its first meeting.

139. At its third meeting, in October 2016, the working group discussed UN-Habitat project portfolio projections; the status of the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services evaluation recommendations; communication strategy; resource mobilization strategy; implementation of the work programme and budget, including habitat country programme documents and regional strategic plans; and financial status, budget and implementation.

140. At its fourth formal meeting, in February 2017, the working group focused on the implementation of the work programme; the financial status of UN-Habitat; the budget for the biennium 2016–2017; the proposed budget for 2018–2019; the independent assessment of UN-Habitat agreed upon at Habitat III; and the implementation of the recommendations of United Nations oversight bodies.

141. The Executive Director and senior managers of UN-Habitat participated in every meeting of the working group, and members expressed their appreciation for the open, frank and informative discussions at the meetings. More detailed information, including on the Group's actionable recommendations, is contained in the report of the Executive Director on the working group on programme and budget (HSP/GC/26/2/Add.1).