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**Review of progress in the implementation of the
New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for
Sustainable Development**

**Progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and
the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

The present report surveys progress made in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda¹ and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development since the publication of the Secretary General's May 2018 report on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Section I describes the context and purpose of the report; section II presents the recent global trends in the context of which urbanization is taking place; section III focuses on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda, describing key stepping stones towards effective implementation; and section IV presents recommendations on what is needed to renew political commitment and accelerate the implementation and monitoring of the global urban agendas.

*HSP/HA/1/1.

¹ A/RES/71/256. See also <http://habitat3.org/wp-content/uploads/NUA-English.pdf>.

I. Introduction

1. Nearly four years ago, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a global vision for people, the planet and long-term prosperity, charting a vision and a plan for the future and defining a clear course of action. One year later, the international community endorsed the New Urban Agenda at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, as a new framework that lays out how cities should be planned and managed to achieve sustainable development. The New Urban Agenda recognizes the importance of integrating the relevant global agendas and developing synergetic interactions that produce long-lasting results. It is considered an accelerator for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in their urban and territorial dimensions.

2. Four years may seem a short span of time, but systems, practices, implementation tools, monitoring mechanisms and methods have advanced dramatically, along with our capacity to report on progress made on these agendas. We now know much better what is driving urban growth and prosperity and which policies and actions work, and where. We also know what is constraining development and preventing global and local commitments from being honoured. These aspects are outlined further in this report.

3. Combining normative and operational work in global, regional and national initiatives, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) plays a catalytic role in the advancement of the sustainable development agenda.² It has been entrusted with a double responsibility: it has been designated both as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements development, including in the implementation, follow-up and review of the New Urban Agenda, and as a custodian entity for most of the indicators for Sustainable Development Goal 11 and a supporting entity for others.

4. UN-Habitat has taken a number of actions to respond to these responsibilities, understanding that this work cannot be done in isolation, without the leadership of national, subnational and local governments and the active participation of partners, other United Nations entities and a plethora of development actors. This report provides an account of the progress made in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

5. At the global level, UN-Habitat has continued to advocate the recognition of urbanization as a transformative force with the power to influence other development agendas and contribute to development outcomes. UN-Habitat has repositioned the narrative of sustainable urban development as a way of achieving global agendas. It has reinforced the “cities for all” vision that was unanimously endorsed in 2018 at the ninth session of the World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur. As part of its effort to be recognized as a centre of excellence and innovation, UN-Habitat is facilitating sustainable solutions, supporting innovative projects that can be adapted and taken to scale by countries to advance the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

6. At the regional and national levels, UN-Habitat has continued to work with various development partners, including United Nations regional commissions, to develop regional action plans and dedicated forums to mainstream the New Urban Agenda and localize the Sustainable Development Goals. This enhances policy coherence and alignment of country interventions and renews the possibilities of large-scale interventions.

7. At the local level, UN-Habitat is working closely with the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities and Other United Nations entities to give local governments a voice regarding global agendas and make the Sustainable Development Goals a reality locally. It has been supporting the participation of local and regional governments in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, promoting dialogue between central and local governments. With United Cities and Local Governments and other partners, UN-Habitat is supporting local governance mechanisms and the empowerment of local governments as a driver of sustainable cities.

² The numbers speak for themselves: 35 countries and 160 cities are involved in slum upgrading activities and 550 cities in the improvement of monitoring tools; 58 cities in 28 countries are working on enhancing planning and public space; 16 cities are strengthening preparation and mitigation plans; 2 million inhabitants have seen improved living conditions through better access to basic services; over 470 trained decision makers and technical experts from 52 countries and 87 cities are using their capacities to implement the agenda at the local and national levels; and \$100 million is invested annually in eight crisis-affected countries to develop durable solutions.

II. Recent global trends and conditions

8. The New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were adopted in times of profound global changes. The Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Cities 2030, adopted in 2018 at the ninth session of the World Urban Forum, acknowledged several trends and challenges in our increasingly urbanized world that have transformative implications for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and other global development agendas.

9. *Demographic change and related trends:* The world continues to experience an increase in its urban population. When the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted in 2015, 54 per cent (4 billion) of the world's population lived in urban areas; by the end of the 20-year period (2036) covered by the New Urban Agenda, 62 per cent (5.4 billion) of the world's population are expected to reside in urban areas.³ The New Urban Agenda recognizes urbanization as a transformative trend of twenty-first century that can serve as an engine of sustained and inclusive economic growth. Urbanization, when well-managed, fosters socioeconomic advancement, as it is associated with greater productivity and opportunity and improved quality of life. Cities offer greater societal freedom, generate employment and drive human progress as they harness the forces of agglomeration.

10. *Gender, young people and the elderly:* Gender and women's issues are at the core of the development agenda, with implications for the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Urbanization provides a unique opportunity to advance gender equality. The increased number of women-headed households in cities and the participation of women in the labour market imposes new requirements on the location of homes vis-a-vis places of employment and urban services, as well as on the layout and management of transportation systems, all of which are articulated in the New Urban Agenda.

11. The world's youth population (aged 15 to 24) is projected to rise to 1.4 billion in 2050 from the current 1.2 billion.⁴ By the same year, Africa's youth population, which in 2015 accounting for 19 per cent of the global youth population, will make up 35 per cent of the youth population. Currently, youth and children collectively account for nearly 40 per cent of the world's population. A high youth population presents the challenge of youth unemployment, which is two to three times higher than adult unemployment. The New Urban Agenda recognizes of the needs of the youthful population, promoting young people's access to education, skills development and employment to achieve increased productivity and shared prosperity.⁵

12. Ageing of the population is occurring all over the world. Globally, the population aged 60 and over is growing, at 3.3 per cent per year, faster than any other age group. Planning for an ageing urban population requires innovation to meet the increased demand on healthcare, recreation, transportation, housing and other facilities for the elderly,⁶ as well as implications for social protection and pension schemes.

13. *Rising levels of inequality in cities:* Inequality has become a major trend that has implications for achieving both the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The gap between the rich and the poor is presently at its highest level in the past 30 years; the top 1 per cent of earners has captured twice as much of the global growth since the 1980s as the poorest 50 per cent.⁷ At the urban level, 75 per cent of the world's cities have higher levels of income inequality than they did two decades ago.⁸ Inequality is more visible in cities than in rural areas, with women, young people and the aged especially affected by inequality. The New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development address inequality by seeking to leave no one behind, which entails

³ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *2018 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects*. May 2018. Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/publications/2018-revision-of-world-urbanization-prospects.html>.

⁴ Population Reference Bureau, "2017 World Population Data Sheet with a Special Focus on Youth". Available at <https://www.prb.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/WPDS-2017.pdf>.

⁵ United Nations, "New Urban Agenda". Available from www.habitat3.org. See para. 61.

⁶ UN-Habitat, *Global Report on Human Settlements 2009: Planning Sustainable Cities* (Malta, Gutenberg Press, 2009). Available at <http://mirror.unhabitat.org/pmss/getElectronicVersion.aspx?nr=2831&alt=1>.

⁷ F. Alvaredo and others, *World Inequality Report 2018* (Berlin, World Inequality Lab, 2017). Available at <https://wir2018.wid.world/files/download/wir2018-full-report-english.pdf>.

⁸ UN-Habitat, *Urbanization and Development: Emerging Futures: World Cities Report 2016* (Nairobi, 2016). Available at <https://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/WCR-%20Full-Report-2016.pdf>.

providing equal infrastructure and basic services and adequate, affordable housing and promoting productive employment and decent work for all.⁹

14. *Housing remains largely unaffordable:* Housing affordability has become a global challenge that affects virtually all households. Globally, prospective homeowners are compelled to save more than five times their annual income to afford the price of a standard house.¹⁰ Renter households often spend more than 25 per cent of their monthly income on rent. High levels of unaffordability mean that inadequate housing, informal settlements and slums remain the only housing option for low-income people. Today, 1.6 billion people globally live in inadequate housing,¹¹ including 1 billion in slums and informal settlements. The provision of affordable housing options is a recurrent theme in the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

15. *Climate change and cities:* Climate change is one of the greatest challenges that cities must contend with. Cities account for 60–80 per cent of energy consumption and generate as much as 70 per cent of the human-induced greenhouse gas emissions. Cities are also highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and extreme weather events. In addition to being a global issue, climate change is thus also a local issue, and cities have a crucial role to play in addressing climate change and meeting the target of the Paris Agreement. Partnerships have formed to address the effects of climate change in cities,¹² and the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development offer many opportunities to develop climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, especially through environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development.

16. *Migration – an opportunity and challenge for improving inclusiveness in cities:* Migration is the main factor driving much of the increase in urbanization and, in the process, making cities diverse places in which to live.¹³ There are 258 million international migrants in the world up from 220 million in 2010 and 173 million in 2000,¹⁴ which means that every seventh person in the world is a migrant. Most of these migrants are found in urban areas. In cities such as Sydney, London and New York, migrants represent over one third of the population, and in some cities, such as Brussels, Doha, Dubai and Kuwait City, international migrants significantly outnumber the local population. The rise in international migration calls for new policies to integrate migrants into cities. In 2016, United Nations Member States adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants,¹⁵ signalling their recognition of the need for a comprehensive approach to human mobility and enhanced cooperation at the global level.

17. Member States went on to adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Marrakesh, Morocco, in December 2018,¹⁶ underlining their determination to enhance cooperation on international migration in all its dimensions. Also, in December 2018, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the Global Compact on Refugees¹⁷ in a bid to strengthen the international response to large movements of refugees and protracted refugee situations and define processes for shared responsibility. Both global compacts recognize the role of local authorities as key to their local implementation.

18. *Decline in international development assistance for urbanization:* The New Urban Agenda and other development agendas are being implemented within the context of stagnation or even possible decline in the share of development assistance available for urban programmes. Estimates suggest that the world needs to spend \$3.7 trillion annually until the year 2035 on economic

⁹ This is part of the transformational shifts of the New Urban Agenda.

¹⁰ UN-Habitat, *The Fundamentals of Urbanization: Evidence Base for Policy Making* (Nairobi, UN-Habitat, 2016). Available at <https://unhabitat.org/books/the-fundamentals-of-urbanization-evidence-base-for-policy-making/>.

¹¹ UN-Habitat, *Urbanization and Development: Emerging Futures: World Cities Report 2016* (Nairobi, UN-Habitat, 2016). Available at <https://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/WCR-%20Full-Report-2016.pdf>.

¹² For example, the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group. See www.C40.org.

¹³ International Organization for Migration (2015), *World Migration Report 2015: Migrants and Cities: New Partnerships to Manage Mobility*. Available at http://publications.iom.int/system/files/wmr2015_en.pdf.

¹⁴ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, *International Migration Report 2017: Highlights* (2017) (ST/ESA/SER.A/404).

¹⁵ In 2016, the first summit at the Heads of State and Government level on large movements of refugees and migrants took place in New York City. It resulted in the unanimous adoption of General Assembly resolution 71/1, the “New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants”.

¹⁶ www.un.org/en/conf/migration/.

¹⁷ A/73/12 (part II).

infrastructure – roads, railways, ports, airports, power, water and telecommunications – in order to keep pace with projected economic growth.¹⁸ Estimates by UN-Habitat show that \$40 trillion is required by 2020 to upgrade slums and provide alternatives to slums, along with another \$3.6 trillion per year until 2030. These estimates, which are conservative, are far higher than the development assistance available for urban development. There is an increasing need to develop a broad range of alternatives for financing urban development. These include developing municipal bonds, strengthening the revenue capacity of local governments, improving central-local fiscal transfers, mobilizing resources from land-based financing, strengthening the financial capacities of public service utilities, expanding and deepening capital market provision of housing and real estate financing and making more effective use of public financing to leverage private financing.

19. *Cities in crises:* Insecurity represents an emerging urban trend. Cities are increasingly affected by new and pervasive risks such as terrorism, urban warfare, heightened securitization, the spread of disease and food shortages. Some of these crises have precipitated an increase in refugees and displaced persons.¹⁹ These crises undermine the long-term sustainability of cities worldwide and their ability to implement the New Urban Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Violence, crime and the different forms of conflict that have increased in recent years underscore the need to foster social cohesion, integration and equal access to employment and public services. Such trends are increasingly urbanized, leading to more deaths and greater destruction of critical infrastructure. In addition, the spread of disease in cities often occurs because of inadequate infrastructure and public services. All these risks are highly interconnected,²⁰ and an integrated approach as outlined in the New Urban Agenda is key to addressing them.

20. *Urban expansion and low-density development:* As the urban population increases, the land area occupied by cities is increasing at an even higher rate. On average, urban land area is increasing twice as fast as urban population.²¹ This has resulted in declining density, with more dispersed patterns of urbanization in the form of urban sprawl. Low-density development is not only wasteful, it results in increased distance travelled and energy consumption, a higher cost of providing infrastructure, a reduction in the economies of agglomeration and decreased urban productivity. The New Urban Agenda addresses low-density development through infills and urban extension strategies to trigger economies of scale and agglomeration.²²

21. *Impact of innovation and technology on urban employment:* One emerging trend is the impact of innovation and technology on urban labour markets. While technologies are often referred to as disruptive,²³ this trend signifies a move towards a knowledge-based economy that relies more on intellectual capabilities than physical inputs. This fourth industrial revolution²⁴ is characterized by major technological breakthroughs – automation, robotics, artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, etc.²⁵ This has profound effects on the employment structure of the city. One visible effect is that a huge number of non-tradeable or service jobs have become tradeable, with relocations occurring within and across regions. While this creates new forms of employment in some cities, it is also deepening unemployment and job insecurity in others. This is forcing migration within and between countries, intensifying socioeconomic and spatial disparities in the process. By 2025, it is reckoned

¹⁸ Jonathan Woetzel and others, “Bridging Infrastructure Gaps: has the world made progress?” (McKinsey Global Institute, Oct. 2017). Available at www.mckinsey.com/industries/capital-projects-and-infrastructure/our-insights/bridging-infrastructure-gaps-has-the-world-made-progress.

¹⁹ UN-Habitat, *Urbanization and Development: Emerging Futures: World Cities Report 2016* (Nairobi, UN-Habitat, 2016). Available at <https://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/WCR-%20Full-Report-2016.pdf>.

²⁰ John Scott, “The risks of rapid urbanization in developing countries”, Zurich Insurance Group (14 Jan. 2015). Available at www.zurich.com/en/knowledge/articles/2015/01/the-risks-of-rapid-urbanization-in-developing-countries.

²¹ Lincoln Institute of Land Policy (2016), *The Atlas of Urban Expansion*, vol.1. Available at www.lincolnst.edu/sites/default/files/pubfiles/atlas-of-urban-expansion-2016-volume-1-full.pdf

²² *New Urban Agenda*, para. 52.

²³ A disruptive technology is one that displaces an established technology and shakes up the industry or a ground-breaking product that creates a completely new industry.

²⁴ Klaus Schwab, *The Fourth Industrial Revolution* (Geneva, World Economic Forum, 2016).

²⁵ Erik Brynjolfsson and Andrew McAfee, *The Second Machine Age: Work, Progress, and Prosperity in a Time of Brilliant Technologies* (New York, W.W. Norton, 2016).

that almost half of both new and replacement employment within the European Union will be highly skilled employment, forcing high mobility across Europe.²⁶

22. *Increased availability of integrative urban data platforms:* Over the last few years, advances in data have facilitated decision-making at the urban level. The new forms of data are essential for evidenced-based policymaking, effective investments and city management.²⁷ The way in which urban performance is measured has a significant impact on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and other global development agendas. It also affects the way in which Governments at different levels make decisions, allocate scarce resources and manage their taxation mechanisms. For example, the Urban Data Platform, developed by the European Commission, is merging traditional information sources, fine-scale satellite imagery, census data, volunteered geographic information and big data to form multifaceted data sets and produce consistent spatial urban indicators.²⁸

23. The ever-increasing use of big data is driving the phenomenon of smart cities; this relates to the innovative application of information and communication technologies to improve quality of life, efficiency of urban operation and services and competitiveness in cities.²⁹ Smart cities can guide better decision-making with respect to prosperity, sustainability, resilience, emergency management and effective and equitable service delivery. The global smart city market is predicted to increase by 14 per cent annually, from \$506.8 billion in 2012 to \$1.3 trillion in 2019.³⁰ To realize the potential of innovation and technology in achieving sustainable urbanization, an enabling environment must be created with the appropriate institutions to ensure inclusion and bridge the digital divide.³¹

24. *The increasing importance of creative industries:* Creative industries are at the crossroads of the arts, culture, business and technology.³² They stand out as typically urban, with the potential to help localize the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. These industries contribute to the global, regional and urban local economy: they generated over \$2.2 trillion, which is equivalent to 3 per cent of the world's gross domestic product, and employ 29.5 million people, or 1 per cent of the world's economically active population.³³ While creative industries are open to people of all ages and backgrounds, they provide a significant contribution to youth employment and are connecting the formal and informal sectors, generations and regions. The role of the creative economy is clearly linked to the New Urban Agenda transformative commitment of providing sustainable and inclusive urban prosperity and opportunities for all.

III. Progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

25. Effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda and reporting thereon require a wide range of approaches, including mobilization of financial resources, innovations, enhanced advocacy, awareness and capacity development, in addition to a broad range of tools, innovative and frontier technologies and improved access to accurate, timely data.

²⁶ Simone Busetti and others, *The Geography of New Employment Dynamics in Europe* (ESPON, 2017). Available at www.espon.eu/employment.

²⁷ UN-Habitat, *Urbanization and Development: Emerging Futures: World Cities Report 2016* (Nairobi, 2016). Available at <https://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/WCR-%20Full-Report-2016.pdf>.

²⁸ The ENACT project (“ENhancing ACTivity and population mapping”) is an ongoing applied research project of the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre aiming at producing consistent, seamless, multi-temporal, high-resolution and validated population density grids for Europe that take into account major daily and seasonal population variations. See <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/publication/spatiotemporal-mapping-population-europe-enact-project-nutshell>.

²⁹ International Telecommunications Union, Focus Group on Smart Sustainable Cities [online]. Accessed on 14 April 2019 at <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/focusgroups/ssc/Pages/default.aspx>.

³⁰ Transparency Market Research, *Global Smart Cities Market: Industry Analysis, Size, Share, Growth, Trends and Forecast, 2013–2019* (2014).

³¹ UN-Habitat and Ericsson, “The Role of ICT in the Proposed Urban Sustainable Development Goal and the New Urban Agenda” (Nairobi, UN-Habitat, 2014). Available at <https://unhabitat.org/the-role-of-ict-in-the-proposed-urban-sustainable-development-goal-and-the-new-urban-agenda/>.

³² United Nations, *Creative Economy Report 2008: The Challenge of Assessing the Creative Economy: Towards Informed Policy-making* (New York, 2008). Available at https://unctad.org/en/docs/ditc20082cer_en.pdf.

³³ See <https://en.unesco.org/news/new-report-shows-cultural-and-creative-industries-account-295-million-jobs-worldwide>.

26. As highlighted throughout this report, and based on UN-Habitat analysis of the voluntary national reviews of the Sustainable Development Goals prepared for the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development, as well as qualitative and quantitative information and various data sources, some Member States are in the process of adopting varied approaches towards implementing the New Urban Agenda and other global agendas that respond to their regional and national challenges. Although Member States are cognizant of the interrelated nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda, few are undertaking policy interventions in this regard. More needs to be done in terms of commitment to implementing the agendas at the national and subnational level.

27. Since the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, the growth of urban populations, especially in developing regions, has resulted in concepts such as urban growth, urbanization, urbanism and sustainability becoming increasingly recurring and important. Likewise, terms such as shrinking cities, urban decay, ageing population and different forms of exclusion are becoming more present in the policy language of the developed world.

28. Climate change, transport, housing and governance remain the greatest challenges in the pursuit of sustainable urbanization for developed and developing countries. Some of the interventions of the developed world address specific challenges or indicate an intent to do so, such as initiatives related to greener cities, disaster mitigation, air quality, non-motorized transport, heritage preservation, rehabilitation and affordability of housing and urban sprawl. In the developing world, the focus has been on housing deficits and slums, inadequate infrastructure and transport services, urban and rural linkages and heritage preservation.

29. The approaches identified in the voluntary national reviews to address these challenges cut across four themes:

(a) *Reinvigorate governance and civil society participation*: Develop effective institutions and structures to oversee the implementation of national urban plans; strengthen urban governance and stakeholder collaboration; increase civil society participation; and incorporate urban planning into local development;

(b) *Reinforce financial mechanisms*: Create financial frameworks that attract sustainable investments; promote fiscal decentralization, especially in developing countries; enhance collaboration among international development banks and the private sector to scale up urban investment with New Urban Agenda principles; and increase the productive role of cities and urban territories;

(c) *Capacity development*: Enhance human resources and the capacity of decision makers and technical personnel to implement the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(d) *Technology and information*: Increase the use of technology to produce open data to monitor and better manage urban development.

30. To address member States' concerns, UN-Habitat is working with partners, both in its focal point and custodian roles, to support the implementation of several initiatives at the global, regional, national and local levels.

A. Global-level interventions

31. The New Urban Agenda forms the basis of a United Nations system-wide approach to the implementation of the urban dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the global development agendas. The High-level Committee on Programmes, at its thirty-sixth session, assigned UN-Habitat the task of coordinating and promoting collaborative action by the United Nations system on sustainable urbanization. In this role, UN-Habitat is consulting with other United Nations entities to design a United Nations system-wide strategy on sustainable urban development for review by the committee in April 2019. The strategy identifies coordinated priority actions for accelerated implementation of the urban aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda at the global, regional, country and city levels. Four such priority actions are captured in the United Nations collaborative implementation framework regarding knowledge generation, joint operations, partnerships and financing of development.

32. UN-Habitat, in close consultation with member States, local authorities and stakeholders, has developed an action framework for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda at the national, subnational and local levels.³⁴ The framework addresses national urban policies, governance

³⁴ See <http://nua.unhabitat.org/AFINUA19thApr.pdf>.

structures, planning and management of urban spatial development and means of implementation, including financing, innovation and capacity development. It works as a connecting structure that aligns different elements of the New Urban Agenda with the Sustainable Development Goals.

33. The World Food Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Programme had completed their respective multi-sector urban policy or strategy documents by the beginning of 2019, while other United Nations entities, including the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction,

UN-Habitat, the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, have prepared comprehensive strategies and tools focused on addressing city resilience and climate action, urban crises action and urban safety. These strategy documents and tools provide valuable resources for both implementation and monitoring of the New Urban Agenda.

34. Greater inclusiveness and integration of all development efforts is central to the New Urban Agenda ambitions. In 2018, the Global Compact on Inclusive and Accessible Cities was launched, highlighting the importance of accessibility for all, including people with disabilities, young people and the elderly. United Nations entities have also collaborated to produce the United Nations Youth Strategy and assess the gender priorities for the measurement of Sustainable Development Goal 11. The joint programme by Plan International, Women in Cities International and UN-Habitat puts adolescent girls at the centre of efforts to transform cities into places of inclusion and opportunity for everyone. A pilot project in five cities³⁵ is demonstrating a positive impact on girls' safety and access to public spaces, their meaningful participation in urban governance and their mobility in the city.

35. A further example of collaborative programmes of United Nations entities on the New Urban Agenda, includes the development of the guidance note on land and conflict by the Department of Political Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme, Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UN-Habitat.³⁶ The aim of the note is to guide the United Nations approach to addressing the root causes of conflict in both rural and urban settings. In addition, at its seventh partners meeting, in 2018, the Global Land Tool Network adopted a new strategy to address land tenure and governance within the frameworks of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda. UN-Habitat is also implementing the City Prosperity Initiative in more than 500 cities, helping national and local governments to monitor urban trends and adopt evidence-based policies.

36. The Sustainable Cities Dialogue in May 2018, co-organized by the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities and partners, brought together representatives from 25 Governments to debate for the first time with ministers and mayors the joint implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Similarly, the "Venice City Solutions – Financing the SDGs at the local level" event brought together representatives from 25 Member States to discuss and propose creative solutions for funding this agenda locally.

37. UN-Habitat is supporting and strengthening ways of monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global, regional/country and local levels via the creation of the New Urban Agenda platform. The platform will serve to capture quantitative and qualitative inputs from national, subnational and local government, UN-Habitat and other relevant entities of the United Nations system and relevant stakeholders in support of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda. A prototype will be presented to the UN-Habitat Assembly and officially launched in 2020.

38. UN-Habitat has continued to work on awards schemes with Dubai Municipality, among other partners, to collect, manage and share over 5,000 urban best practices through the Dubai International Award. In 2018, the awards mechanism documented over 500 global best practices from 63 countries worldwide in seven award categories that align with different elements of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The best practices highlighted projects, initiatives and evidence-based solutions that can be adapted and taken to scale by countries and partners to advance the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

39. UN-Habitat is developing guidelines to assist member States in monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and other internationally agreed goals. Aligned with the

³⁵ Lima (Peru), Cairo (Egypt), Kampala (Uganda), Delhi (India) and Hanoi (Viet Nam).

³⁶ UN-Habitat, *Land and Conflict* (2012). Available at www.un.org/en/events/environmentconflictday/pdf/GN_Land_Consultation.pdf.

thematic areas of the New Urban Agenda, these guidelines will provide valuable inputs for the Secretary-General's quadrennial reports on agenda implementation.

40. In order to address monitoring and reporting challenges, UN-Habitat has been working with the European Union, the United Nations Statistics Division and several national statistical offices to advance the harmonization of urban concepts and the adoption of an operational definition of cities and urban areas for the monitoring of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and reporting thereon. The creation of tools and appropriate training in several countries has supported this process. Updating of the Global Urban Indicators Database to reflect new urban data realities is now under way. This is being complemented by a large data set composed of more than 3,000 cities to monitor global urban conditions and trends.

41. UN-Habitat and other custodian agencies, in collaboration with various partners, have conducted 12 expert group meetings to refine urban concepts and definitions and created a specialized tool to advance the disaggregation and analysis of spatial data. UN-Habitat has also proposed to the United Nations Statistical Commission the adoption of a national sample of cities that will help member States to report in a more systematic, consistent manner on a representative sample of cities to produce national averages. Progress in this area was presented in the SDG 11 Synthesis Report³⁷ prepared for the 2018 High-level Political Forum.

42. Significant progress has been made in the development of national capacities to collect, analyse and use urban data for monitoring progress in the implementation of these agendas. Together with regional commissions, UN-Habitat provided training to over 50 countries on monitoring various Sustainable Development Goal 11 indicators and key thematic areas of the New Urban Agenda, to enable those countries to report on sustainable urban development, as evidenced in the Secretary-General's annual report on the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2016–2018 voluntary national reviews. As of December 2018, 52 national statistics offices had reported on at least one of the eight Sustainable Development Goals related to cities and human settlement indicators.

43. UN-Habitat has initiated the preparation of the 2020 edition of the World Cities Report, which will explore the value of sustainable urbanization. The four main goals of the report are: to identify the investment potential of urban areas; to analyse the role of policy and local government and other stakeholders in catalysing the intrinsic value of urbanization; to discuss the ways in which the New Urban Agenda can contribute to urban value from a social, economic and environmental perspective; and to examine the emerging trends that will influence the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda in urban contexts. The report will contribute to the global dialogue on sustainable urbanization and serve as a normative resource for member States, local governments and civil society.

44. Within the framework of the High-level Political Forum, UN-Habitat prepared the SDG 11 Synthesis Report, in close collaboration with United Nations regional commissions, United Nations entities custodian of various indicators and major stakeholders. The report tracks progress towards inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements, highlighting progress on monitoring methods and providing baselines for targets and indicators. It is evident from the report that while significant progress has been made in developing the monitoring tools and methods for Sustainable Development Goal 11, further work is needed to align data collection processes and methods, adopt agreed definitions and approaches, articulate efforts and localize actions.

45. As part of the implementation, follow-up and review of the New Urban Agenda, UN-Habitat prepared the first in a series of five quadrennial reports by the Secretary-General, which was presented to the General Assembly in 2018. Prepared in close consultation with United Nations regional commissions and over 20 United Nations entities and development and research partners, the quadrennial report reviewed collaborative implementation efforts and indicated what training, data and knowledge platforms were needed to effectively implement and monitor the agendas.

46. The United Nations system's progress in harmonizing humanitarian response among agencies, in cooperation with Member States and donors, is beginning to bring positive change to countries affected by urban crises. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee and thematic clusters in charge of humanitarian response have strengthened the coordination mechanism for a more effective, coherent response in support of Member States. This mechanism is reinforced by the Global Alliance for Urban Crises, which has expanded its membership to over 70 organizations.

³⁷ UN-Habitat, "SDG 11 synthesis report: tracking progress towards inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements" (2018). Available at <https://unhabitat.org/sdg-11-synthesis-report/>.

47. In 2018, through the “Housing at the Centre” approach, and by moving away from focusing purely on the number of housing units built to a more integrated urban development approach, UN-Habitat has contributed to both quantitative and qualitative improvements in the global housing situation. UN-Habitat has worked with 35 countries to strengthen their policies and institutions and to design solutions to improve housing supply and affordability.

48. UN-Habitat and partners launched the Urban Pathways project, which supports low-carbon basic services through the Urban Basic Services Trust Fund, to build capacity to develop bankable projects that improve basic services in cities while supporting the respective countries in meeting their commitments under the Paris Agreement. The project focuses on the poorest people and aims to improve the lives of more than 500 million people.

49. Interest in the development and implementation of national urban policies has increased, from the global down to the local level. Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda, 10 additional member States asked UN-Habitat to support their urban policy process as a tool for sustainable development.³⁸ In 2017, UN-Habitat, the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development and Cities Alliance launched the global National Urban Policy Programme and in 2018, the first Global State of National Urban Policy report was released, along with five regional national urban policy reports.

B. Regional-level interventions

50. UN-Habitat is working in about 70 countries worldwide, helping to implement the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by proposing norms and guidelines, sharing best practices and supporting the formulation of evidence-based policies. In the last three years, UN-Habitat has provided technical support to several countries in the preparation of a national urban policy. A combination of normative and operational actions in selected countries and cities have contributed to strengthening climate action responses and city resilience. A concerted effort by regional offices, headquarters and partners has been critical for cities in enhancing urban crisis prevention.

51. The United Nations regional economic commissions and UN-Habitat have agreed on a need to boost their collaboration within regions for stronger support to stakeholders in implementing and monitoring the New Urban Agenda, as well as for better financing opportunities for the United Nations system. UN-Habitat and the regional commissions are defining targets for cooperation that also allow effective space for the work of each United Nations entity in urban settings.

52. The African region is establishing linkages between the New Urban Agenda, Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goal 11. Since 2017, UN-Habitat, through the Regional Office for Africa, has been working with the Economic Commission for Africa and the Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization and in collaboration with the African ministers for housing and urban development to develop a harmonized regional framework for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The Africa Urban Agenda Programme, supported by financial contributions from the Governments of Nigeria and Ghana, builds the capacity of local, national, subregional and regional bodies in Africa to support participatory strategies for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 11.

53. Other subregional efforts towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Africa are: the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development; support for Africities, including the 2018 Africities Summit in Marrakesh; and the development of Habitat country programme documents as implementation tools for national development programmes aimed at improving people’s living conditions and urban development. Since 2018, new-generation Habitat country programme documents have been developed in Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Sudan, Uganda and Zambia.

54. In the Latin American region, UN-Habitat and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean have supported member States in the implementation and monitoring of the New Urban Agenda through the development of a regional platform and regional and subregional action plans.³⁹ Initiatives aimed at consolidating the implementation process include: Ecosystem of Funds for Sustainable Urban Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (led by Mercociudades); World

³⁸ As at January 2019, a total of 41 countries had been provided with national urban policy technical support.

³⁹ Such as the Regional Action Plan for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2016–2036.

Enabled; Global Alliance on Accessible Technologies and Environments; to facilitate universal access to the platform.

55. Other subregional efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean include: the revision of national urban legal frameworks (Mexico and Ecuador), the strengthening of urban and territorial planning frameworks (Costa Rica and Cuba) and the adaptation of investment frameworks (Costa Rica, El Salvador and the Dominican Republic), supported by the Central American Bank for Economic Integration. Some cities, such as Bucaramanga (Colombia), San José (Costa Rica), Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic), Cuenca (Ecuador), San Salvador (El Salvador) and Mérida, Querétaro, Reynosa and Zapopan (Mexico), have made progress in expanding explicit plans to apply the New Urban Agenda.

56. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and UN-Habitat are providing capacity-building support on innovative accountability for the monitoring of and reporting on the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal 11. This has resulted in a mobile-based application that measures public perception of the progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 11. Nearly 9,000 citizens in 804 cities in Brazil have adopted the mobile application for city-wide public consultations.

57. In the Asia-Pacific region, UN-Habitat chairs a regional task team on sustainable urbanization, together with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, bringing together urban focal points from over 20 United Nations entities. In 2018, the task team coordinated inter-agency inputs on the review of Sustainable Development Goal 11 and launched a pilot initiative to develop strategic value propositions of sustainable urban development for the United Nations system/United Nations country teams in Cambodia and Nepal. A joint programme with ESCAP on “Localizing SDGs for Sustainable Urban Resource Management” is being piloted in five cities across the Asia-Pacific region.

58. A series of regional multi-stakeholder partners forums have been held thanks to support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. At the 2017 partners forum, the deliberation on strategies and priorities to ensure the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in the Asia-Pacific region identified priority actions and led to the preparation of a policy paper on municipal finance innovations by UN-Habitat in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, World Bank and United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific. In partnership with ESCAP, UN-Habitat organized a regional workshop on human settlement indicators in 2018, with the participation of 19 Asia-Pacific countries, national statistical offices and other stakeholders, focusing on statistical tools development, data collection and monitoring.

59. UN-Habitat and ESCAP, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, the Centre for Liveable Cities, the European Commission, the Rockefeller Foundation and the United Nations Development Programme, are in the process of preparing the third edition of the Future of Asia and Pacific Cities Report. The purpose of the report, which will be launched in 2019, is to support inclusive and sustainable long-term thinking and decision-making by national and local governments by providing a conceptual framework for solutions to the problem of localizing the global agendas in Asia-Pacific cities.

60. Other subregional efforts in Asia-Pacific include technical assistance to countries in multi-governance structures in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank; establishment of the Spatial Planning Platform in partnership with Japan’s Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism to support national territorial, regional and urban planning institutions; creation of an environmentally sound waste management initiative supported by Japan; and implementation of the people-oriented Urban Public Space Programme in China.

61. Efforts to address resilience-building and climate change in small island States have been a priority in the region; these include ongoing projects in Fiji and Solomon Islands and the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme in Kiribati, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu. Preparations are under way for the Asia-Pacific Urban Forum, which is aimed at the institutional anchoring of the New Urban Agenda in the region and is to be held in mid-2019.

62. In Afghanistan, the City for All Programme, supported by the European Union and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), seeks to provide over a million households with tenure rights to support state-building and peace-building efforts. The programme is creating conditions for improved State–society relations, stimulating the economy, promoting investment, supporting the legitimacy of the State and strengthening municipal institutions. It is the largest social tenure programme for informal settlements in the world, with more than 500,000 properties surveyed in 12 cities.

63. In partnership with ESCAP, efforts are under way to localize global agendas, including the development of several national urban policies; this includes support to 10 countries in their development or review process and to an additional 6 countries in national urban policy and climate change (Bangladesh, Myanmar, the Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam). A review by UN-Habitat of national urban policies in the Asia-Pacific region shows that fewer than half of such policies highlight climate change as a cross-cutting theme.

64. Other examples of regional plans include the Arab Strategy for Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, and the preparation of the State of Arab Cities Report 2020.

C. Local-level interventions

65. UN-Habitat provides technical support to create capacity at the local level, through dedicated training, planning practices, best practices sharing and the preparation of tools and guidelines, to make cities more financially sustainable, socially integrated and safer, for a better quality of life.

66. At the local level, UN-Habitat has been supporting city authorities and local development partners to put in place strategies to localize the monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda, including aligning plans, setting up inclusive monitoring partnerships and deploying tools to better articulate data and policies. For example, UN-Habitat and the Economic Commission for Africa have reinforced national- and city-level capacity for urban monitoring in Botswana and Tunisia, enabling the two countries to serve as centres of learning for many other countries across Africa and beyond, in addition to enhancing their own internal systems of reporting on progress on spatially-dependent urban Sustainable Development Goal indicators and the New Urban Agenda.

67. In 2018, the City of New York published the first ever voluntary local review reporting on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the city level.⁴⁰ New York has aligned its local planning framework⁴¹ – OneNYC – with the SDGs, capitalizing on synergies among the four principles of growth, equity, sustainability and resiliency. The city’s voluntary local review reports on progress in affordable housing, access to safe multi-modal transport, participatory planning, heritage preservation, resilience and social inclusion.

68. In terms of affordable housing, New York City’s Department of Housing Preservation and Development and the New York City Housing Development Corporation financed 24,293 affordable apartments and homes in 2017, the highest overall production since 1989. The two entities have financed over 87,500 new or preserved affordable units since 2014. The city exceeded the affordable housing targets set for the first three years of the Housing New York plan, financing and preserving 15,000 more units than had been projected. Nearly half of the affordable homes financed in 2017, or 12,000 units, were created or preserved for the lowest income households – New Yorkers making less than \$33,400 for a single person or \$42,950 for a family of three.

69. To address congestion and the ageing nature of the city’s transport system, OneNYC established initiatives to improve traffic safety and expand travel choices. The city invested \$2.5 billion in the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Capital Programme and committed an additional \$418 million to the city’s subways and buses. The city launched NYC Ferry in 2017, which provides a new, easily accessible transit option for traditionally underserved communities and in areas where jobs and housing are growing rapidly. In its first year of operation, the service carried nearly 3 million riders, and it continues to increase access to opportunity for half a million residents living within a half-mile radius of the ferry landings. New York City residents account for 87 per cent of riders, over two thirds of whom use the ferry to travel to work or school during peak travel times.

70. At the national level, capacity development programmes, such as in-situ courses for civil servants, city-to-city exchanges, distance learning and on-the-job training, have been adopted in Brazil, Ethiopia and Indonesia as a means of supporting the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The International Urban Training Institute, of the Republic of Korea, organizes tailor-made training for local and national government officials and decision-makers on the use of indicators of the global agendas. The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, of the United States of America, organizes the Programme on Latin America and the Caribbean, the largest regional in-person and online capacity-building programme on land issues. The Cities Development Initiative for Asia, implemented

⁴⁰ Mayor’s Office for International Affairs, “Voluntary local review: New York City’s implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (2018). Available at www1.nyc.gov/assets/international/downloads/pdf/NYC_VLR_2018_FINAL.pdf.

⁴¹ City of New York, “One New York: the plan for a strong and just city”. Available at www.nyc.gov/html/onenyc/downloads/pdf/publications/OneNYC.pdf.

by the Asian Development Bank and the German Agency for International Cooperation with funding from the Governments of Austria, Sweden and Switzerland and the Shanghai municipal government, seeks to support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in more than 90 cities.

71. Knowledge-based institutions are further supporting capacity-building and awareness-raising on local-level implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Examples of local initiatives are practical training programmes by the University of Twente in the Netherlands, a role-playing simulation challenge on climate negotiations by Bond University in Australia, focused conferences organized by Universidad Piloto de Colombia, exhibitions by the Delft University of Technology of the Netherlands and a competition on innovative projects localizing the Sustainable Development Goals by the University of Pennsylvania in the United States.

72. The State of Sri Lankan Cities Report, published in 2018, and the ongoing voluntary national review report with the support of Sri Lankan municipalities prompted the launch of several initiatives to implement the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the local level. The initiatives seek to address transport challenges and to improve mobility and connectivity across the country by extending transport services to the underserved segments of society. For example, travel time between Galle and the capital city, Colombo, has fallen from four hours to two.⁴²

73. The United Arab Emirates has been active in introducing and experimenting with cutting-edge technologies for implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other global agendas. Dubai Electricity and Water Authority introduced over 100 electric vehicle-charging stations across the city, while the Roads and Transport Authority is working on deploying autonomous vehicles, hyperloop and bullet trains and aerial taxis. Since the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the share of public transport use in Dubai has surpassed 15 per cent, up from less than 6 per cent in 2006.

74. Green spaces are under severe threat in the African region; notably, in their voluntary national reviews, many African countries reported a reduction in and deterioration of green spaces, reserves and public squares. For example, in several towns in South Africa, less than 10 per cent of the total land area is occupied by green spaces.⁴³ Guinea, Senegal and Togo have invested efforts at the local level to support the development of green spaces, including integrated regional and urban planning for major and secondary cities.

75. In Australia, Plan International Australia has partnered with CrowdSpot and Monash University to reshape public spaces using information and communications technology. Starting in 2018, girls and women were invited to pin a public interactive map on the “Free to Be” website and describe their experiences in various locations. The feedback was shared with authorities such as the City of Melbourne, Metro Trains Melbourne and Victoria Police to help inform local urban planning. The project has since been expanded to other Australian cities and internationally, including to Kampala, Lima, Madrid and New Delhi.

76. With support from its partners, including the World Bank, UN-Habitat is supporting member States in addressing disaster risk reduction and mitigation commitments in the New Urban Agenda and other agendas at the local level. For example, the Municipality of Beirut has established a project that seeks to improve Beirut’s infrastructure and make communities more resilient to earthquakes and other natural disasters. Lebanon’s Council of Ministers has adopted a similar approach, strengthening disaster risk management and supporting local governments to reduce vulnerability through local capacity-building efforts.

IV. Way forward and recommendations

77. In the past nine months, over the course of the review of implementation of the New Urban Agenda and other global agendas, opportunities emerged to fully harness the potential of sustainable urban development. Consequently, the recommendations arising from this report are as follows:

⁴² Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, *The State of Sri Lankan Cities 2018* (Colombo, UN-Habitat). Available at http://unhabitat.lk/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/SoSLC_Report_Final_Low-r.pdf.

⁴³ M. Matthew McConnachie, C.M. Shackleton and G.K. McGregor, “The extent of public green space and alien plant species in 10 small towns of the sub-tropical thicket biome, South Africa”, *Urban Forestry and Urban Greening*, vol. 7, no. 1, pp. 1–13; Collins Adjei Mensah and Ayanda Roji, “Urban green spaces in Africa”, *Landscape Ecology*, vol. 61, no. 10, pp. 30–33; Oduwaye, L., 2013, “Globalization and urban land use planning: the case of Lagos, Nigeria”, a paper presented at the 18th International Conference on Urban Planning, Regional Development and Information Society, Rome, Italy, 20–23 May.

- (a) To address the challenges associated with implementing the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, governments at all levels are encouraged to: further reinvigorate the mechanisms for effective implementation by strengthening the urban governance structure and institutions; develop strategies for planning and managing urban spatial development; develop appropriate financing frameworks supported by an enabling environment at all levels; and establish user-friendly technological and innovative data indicator platforms that will facilitate the transfer and sharing of knowledge among relevant stakeholders;
- (b) To effectively monitor and report progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there is a need to reinforce global mechanisms for urban data production by allocating additional resources for the collection, processing and dissemination of urban indicators. Such funding can be targeted directly to some of the challenges highlighted in the report, such as expanding the global sample of cities, refining methodologies, developing the capacity of national statistical systems and supporting the setting up national and subnational coordinating teams and institutions to support localized data collection;
- (c) Cities are encouraged to build the capacity that will allow them to undertake periodic voluntary reviews of their implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This will help in localizing and contextualizing both those agendas, as well as others relevant to sustainable urbanization;
- (d) The United Nations system is encouraged to strengthen capacity-building activities by working closely with national and international knowledge-based institutions to develop and implement large-scale capacity-building programmes that enable national and subnational governments to effectively plan and design the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to implement, monitor and report on the agendas;
- (e) There is a need for broad stakeholder engagement and action-oriented, multi-hazard and multi-sectoral approaches that consider the complexities of urban systems to increase urban resilience. Reducing risks and vulnerabilities requires upscaling of mitigation capacities, sustainable management of resources and risks and strengthening of resilience-building among communities, non-governmental organizations, Governments and external support organizations;
- (f) The United Nations system is encouraged to implement a collaborative approach to designing regional sustainable urbanization frameworks, integrated country operations and United Nations development assistance framework guidance for financing urban development, knowledge sharing and improved data collection and reporting;
- (g) Member States, local authorities and key stakeholders should endorse the New Urban Agenda platform as the leading United Nations platform for harmonizing and streamlining other platforms, databases and networks, mainstreaming innovative evidence-based decision-making and facilitating monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by United Nations Member States and key partners.
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