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Habitat Assembly
of the United Nations
Human Settlements Programme

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United Nations Habitat Assembly of the
United Nations Human Settlements Programme
First session
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**Draft proceedings of the United Nations Habitat Assembly of
the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its first
session**

I. Organization of the session (agenda items 1–8)

A. Opening of the session (agenda item 1)

1. The first session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat Assembly) was held at the headquarters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in Nairobi from 27 to 31 May 2019.
2. The session was opened at 10.10 a.m. on Monday, 27 May 2019, by Ms. Maimunah Mohamed Sharif, Executive Director of UN-Habitat and acting Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi.

**B. Election of the President of the United Nations Habitat Assembly
(agenda item 2)**

3. At its 1st plenary meeting, the UN-Habitat Assembly elected by acclamation Ms. Martha Delgado Peralta (Mexico) to serve as President of the UN-Habitat Assembly at its first session.

C. Opening ceremony

4. Following the election of the President, an opening ceremony took place, moderated by Mr. James Ohayo, Communications Officer, UN-Habitat. The ceremony consisted of a short video presentation on the history of UN-Habitat; a statement on the endangered language and culture of the Mi'kmaq people, delivered by a representative of Mi'kmaq youth, Ms. Emma Stephens (Canada), who also gave a musical performance; the first steps of a week-long interactive exercise on the redesigning of public spaces at the United Nations Office at Nairobi complex, led by Ms. Shipra Narang Suri, Coordinator, Urban Planning and Design Branch, UN-Habitat; a short video on the overarching theme of the current session, "Innovation for better quality of life in cities and communities", prepared by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination; and a musical performance by the Kenya Anklung Girls' Chorale.

D. Opening statements

5. Opening statements were delivered by Ms. Delgado Peralta (Mexico), President of the UN-Habitat Assembly; Ms. Maimunah Mohamed Sharif, acting Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi and Executive Director of UN-Habitat, in her capacity as Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi; Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, via video message; Ms. Joyce Msuya, acting Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Mr. Ridwan Kamil, Governor of West Java, Indonesia; Ms. Sona Jobarteh, UN-Habitat Goodwill Ambassador; Ms. Sharif, in her capacity as Executive Director of UN-Habitat; and Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya.

6. In her opening remarks, Ms. Delgado Peralta said that she was honoured to have been elected President of the historic first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. She would do her utmost to work with participants for the advancement of the noble objectives outlined in the UN-Habitat strategic plan, the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda as the means of ensuring that all human settlements upheld the dignity of human existence in an increasingly urbanizing world. The theme of the Assembly, “Innovation for a better quality of life in cities and communities”, resonated well with recent urbanization trends that called for collective efforts and an innovative and bold approach to urban growth management. The aim was to create a better life for all in the cities of the future and provide a pathway out of poverty, inequality and exclusion. It was therefore important to build on the opportunities offered by the UN-Habitat Assembly to adopt policies that would further promote sustainable urban development as a driver of social inclusion, economic growth and environmental protection. Her own Government was firmly committed to the implementation of urban development projects in the coming years and considered UN-Habitat a key partner in its endeavour to leave no one behind.

7. Speaking in her capacity as the acting Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, Ms. Sharif said that the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly was taking place at a critical time for the United Nations, as the Organization implemented global management reforms aimed at improving the system-wide delivery of efficient, accountable and cost-effective services. The United Nations Office at Nairobi – the only United Nations headquarters duty station in the developing world – was fully engaged in those reform efforts, and would continue to support UN-Habitat as it played a leading role in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The decision of the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 73/239 of 20 December 2018, to dissolve the UN-Habitat Governing Council as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and to replace it with the UN-Habitat Assembly was a further indication of the growing relevance of Nairobi as a global United Nations hub, accommodating an increasing number of United Nations entities that were working collectively to attain the targets of the 2030 Agenda.

8. The text of the Secretary-General’s message is reproduced in annex [] to the present proceedings.

9. Ms. Msuya, noting that more than 70 per cent of the world’s population would live in cities by 2050, stressed the importance of fuelling sustainable growth, protecting the environment, ensuring equality for all and keeping the social fabric of communities intact. The establishment of the UN-Habitat Assembly provided a welcome sign of the importance that Member States, civil society, partners and the United Nations system placed on resilient, low-carbon and just cities that improved residents’ quality of life. Outlining her vision for cities, she began by saying that, if urban systems became circular and more resource-efficient, greenhouse gas emissions could be reduced by 99 per cent, the costs of achieving the targets of the Paris Agreement could be lowered significantly and the quality of life of billions of people, especially in low-income countries, could be improved. Noting that the ongoing sprawl of cities could put agricultural land and food supplies at risk, she said that local sources of renewable energy and local and alternative building materials could make sustainable housing affordable by reducing operating costs, improving comfort and reducing the strain on resources. Meanwhile, smart, accessible technologies could meet the growing demand for cooling without harming the planet. Since cities could not continue to grow at the expense of forests, oceans and other natural capital, environmental considerations should guide infrastructure-related decisions and, over the coming 15 years, countries would need to spend \$93 trillion on low-emission, climate-resilient infrastructure to meet the goals set out in the Paris Agreement. Lastly, capacity-building was necessary to equip local governments to implement that vision of a sustainable urban future.

10. Any discussion about cities had to address the role that innovation played in changing consumption and production patterns. She looked forward to seeing how the combined strengths of multiple United Nations entities and the outcomes of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the UN-Habitat Assembly would support a sustainable urban future for the planet. She also welcomed the draft strategic plan for the period 2020–2025, which placed greater emphasis on climate action and an improved urban environment.

11. In his keynote address, Mr. Kamil said that the New Urban Agenda was aimed at improving the quality of life, which meant ensuring a happy life. In working to create happiness in the urban context of Bandung during his tenure as its mayor, he had centred his policymaking on how to build happiness in tandem with infrastructure, in particular through the inclusive approach of involving the city’s inhabitants in designing their own happiness. Public surveys and questionnaires had been conducted to measure the quality of life, revealing that those inhabitants placed most emphasis on family harmony and social interaction. The City Government had furthermore taken steps to enhance its

communication with the public, including through technology, and respond swiftly to the population's needs. As a trained architect, he saw the community as the element that injected soul into the urban infrastructure and therefore believed that building infrastructure must go beyond the physical to include the social in order to have the greatest impact on happiness.

12. With happiness as its focus and using the PentaHelix approach, the Bandung City Government had worked with all stakeholders to design projects for improving family harmony and increasing social interaction. Examples of the outcome of those efforts included the transformation of city streets into community spaces for the celebration of cultural events; the installation of street benches and provision of free public WiFi access; the pedestrianization of shopping areas; and the revitalization of run-down areas. In addition, medical and other services, including for older persons, were deliverable in the home, mental health care was freely available through mobile clinics, and easy access to microcredit facilities had been expanded. Overall, happiness was treated as a shared responsibility and the community as the agent of change.

13. As a result of those and other measures, and notwithstanding the quality of the physical infrastructure, the happiness of Bandung residents had increased exponentially. He now aspired to repeat that success in the cities of West Java by again making happiness a priority. He advocated a happiness-centred approach towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda through the identification of the social needs of populations and cooperation with stakeholders from the outset in order to satisfy those needs. Local governments should moreover be involved in the development of a global campaign to promote engagement at the local, national and regional levels in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, while a multi-stakeholder and multilateral governance platform on national urban development should be established to follow up on implementation and foster dialogue between ministers in charge of such development and representatives of local and regional government. Indonesia stood ready to share its knowledge and the creativity of its local communities in the interest of together shaping a future in which no one was left behind.

14. Ms. Jobarteh said that for urban development to be successful, it had to reflect and connect with local communities' cultures and social values. Many African countries were importing models that had worked in other parts of the world, rather than incorporating in their development the cultural values of their own communities. For instance, urban development in Africa failed to reflect the fact that women did not occupy the same public spaces as men. African countries needed to reach out to women and to consult communities in order to find out how urban development could serve their needs. New schools and hospitals were being built, but efforts were not being made to find out what was going on in those buildings and whether they were being used to change mentalities.

15. Although culture was innate to many African communities, countries were failing to harness it and bring it into the political sphere. Artists should be embraced as cultural ambassadors and, through education, they should be empowered to change mentalities from the inside out, not the outside in. Without community support, policy changes were mere box-ticking exercises with only short-term effects. Solid, sustainable development required a commitment to change mentalities through education, youth and empowerment and by harnessing culture for social change.

16. Speaking in her capacity as Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Ms. Sharif congratulated Member States on the establishment of a new governance structure for UN-Habitat, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/239, following some 14 years of discussion on the reform of the Programme's governance. She said that the aim of the first session of the Assembly was to frame the current and emerging challenges of urbanization in the context of an increasingly urbanizing world, and to propose innovative solutions to make optimal use of opportunities for sustainable urban development so as to leave no one and no place behind.

17. She identified three specific opportunities that the Assembly should take full advantage of. First, the world needed well-managed and well-planned cities. Sustainable urbanization was a prerequisite to sustainable and long-term development, which depended increasingly on the successful management of urban growth, especially in low-income and middle-income countries, where the pace of urbanization was projected to be the fastest. Sustainable urbanization should therefore be placed at the centre of development priorities through deliberate efforts to implement the New Urban Agenda, strengthen urban governance structure and institutions, adopt integrated sustainable urban development policies and plans, and implement impact-based projects and programmes. Second, it was crucial to leverage innovation in transformational and groundbreaking ways in order to improve living conditions in cities, which were incubators of innovation, industry, technology, entrepreneurship and creativity, driving national economies by creating prosperity, enhancing social development and providing employment. In that regard, she appealed for the adoption of policy solutions that carefully promoted science, technology and innovation in fulfilling the promises of the 2030 Agenda, and gave

rise not only to smart cities, but also liveable ones. Third, the world needed a resourceful and impact-driven UN-Habitat. While urbanization was moving the global economy forward, rising inequality and exclusion in cities had the potential to derail the pace of development. In order to ensure that the cities of the future provided opportunities and better living conditions for all, it was essential to understand that the concept of inclusive cities involved a complex web of spatial, social and economic factors that required multi-dimensional and integrated solutions. UN-Habitat worked with Member States in planning, implementing and monitoring those solutions.

18. In closing, she drew attention to the strategic plan for the period 2020–2025, which was before the Assembly for consideration and possible adoption, noting that it focused on a set of impact-oriented goals. She called on the Assembly to work hand in hand with UN-Habitat, thanking the Committee of Permanent Representatives for its support and counsel in the months leading up to the first session, and urged representatives to bear in mind the impact that the resolutions adopted by the Assembly would have on present and future generations.

19. Mr. Kenyatta, in his statement, welcomed the participants to Kenya and, recalling the process of reforming the UN-Habitat governance structure, pursuant to resolution 73/239 of the General Assembly of the United Nations, urged the newly established governing bodies to fulfil their respective roles in reengineering the institution to enable UN-Habitat to more efficiently and effectively deliver on its core mandate as the lead agency in the field of urbanization and human settlements. He congratulated the President of the UN-Habitat Assembly on her election and assured the Executive Director of his Government's continued support in the revitalization process.

20. Noting that many countries were ill-prepared to cope with rapid urbanization and, among other things, the proliferation of slums and informal settlements, poverty and environmental degradation, and stressing the need for collective international action, informed by scientific research and technological innovation, he said that the theme and sub-theme of the current session were fitting and timely, and he encouraged the participants, in their discussion of the key issues on the agenda, to explore strategic ways to transform cities and human settlements into engines of sustainable economic growth and development.

21. Progress in implementing the New Urban Agenda to date had, however, been slow, and he called on the Executive Director and the newly established subsidiary bodies to ensure the strengthening of the organizational capacity and resource base of UN-Habitat. To that end, all stakeholders had to support the work of the institution; the Secretary-General of the United Nations should consider increasing its regular budget allocation; Member States must honour and increase their voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation; and those in a position to do so should consider increasing non-earmarked contributions to the core budget. His Government, for its part, remained committed to supporting UN-Habitat and its activities, and had pledged to increase its contribution to the Foundation.

22. Concluding his remarks, he urged Member States and partners to seize the opportunity at the current session to exchange ideas and best practices, and to formulate strategies that would revolutionize the institutions that were key to meeting the challenge of dealing with unsustainable urban development and human settlements. He wished the participants fruitful deliberations over the coming week.

E. Attendance

23. The following States members of the UN-Habitat Assembly were represented:
[to be completed]

24. The following States not members of the UN-Habitat Assembly were represented:
[to be completed]

25. Observers to UN-Habitat for [to be completed] also participated.

26. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented:
[to be completed]

27. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations also attended:
[to be completed]

28. A full list of those attending the session may be found in the list of participants (HSP/HA/1/XX).

F. Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (agenda item 3)

29. Mr. Fernando Coimbra, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, reported on the work of the Committee during the intersessional period between the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council and the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. He drew attention to the information contained in documents HSP/HA/1/3 and the addendums thereto on the work of the Committee during the intersessional period, and reported on the Committee's work in preparing draft rules of procedure for the UN-Habitat Assembly and for its executive board, set out in documents HSP/HA/1/8 and HSP/HA/1/9, respectively. He recommended that the three draft resolutions discussed by the Committee be forwarded to a drafting committee, if the Assembly decided to establish such a sessional organ for their finalization, and he drew attention to a draft ministerial declaration considered by the Committee, for subsequent consideration and possible adoption by the Assembly, which, it was to be hoped, would send a strong political signal on the main theme of the session.

30. He recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 72/226, had requested the Chair of the Committee to establish an open-ended Working Group to examine different options for strengthening Member States' oversight of UN-Habitat and to make available its findings and recommendations to Member States by 30 June 2018. The report on the work of the open-ended Working Group (A/73/726) had been fully endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 73/239. In that resolution, the General Assembly had decided that the Committee would prepare draft rules of procedure for the UN-Habitat Assembly with a view to their adoption at the first session of the Assembly. Accordingly, the Committee had prepared draft rules of procedure and recommended that the UN-Habitat Assembly adopt those rules of procedure by consensus without delay to enable the smooth conduct of business at the current session, and also that it consider the draft rules of procedure of the executive board for possible endorsement.

31. The Committee recommended that the Assembly at its first session proceed to elect, on an exceptional basis, the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for the period 2019–2021, as well as its own Bureau. In that regard, the Committee had agreed that the principle of regional rotation be maintained in the leadership of all the governing bodies of UN-Habitat, such that the bureaux of the governing bodies of UN-Habitat would be chaired by Member States from different regional groups, and that at no time would any one Member State chair more than one governing body.

32. He highlighted additional recommendations, including that the Assembly consider dissolving the working group on programme and budget, in the light of the new governance structure of UN-Habitat, and transferring the oversight responsibility to an executive board; that it request the executive board to consider the final progress report on the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019 and any evaluations of that plan; that it consider aligning the cycle of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat to the cycle of the Assembly, reducing it to a four-year strategic plan rather than a six-year plan, beginning by shortening the current strategic plan for the period 2020–2025 to a duration of four years, from 2020 to 2023, and that, at its first session, the Assembly examine ways and means of providing policy guidance on the accelerated implementation of the New Urban Agenda and on the urban dimensions of the 2030 Agenda.

33. In closing, he recommended that consideration be given by the Assembly to the extension of the discussions on the draft stakeholder engagement policy, including accreditation, inviting Ms. Laurie Dando (United States of America) to provide an overview of the Committee's discussions under her leadership on the policy.

34. Ms. Dando said that, pursuant to Governing Council resolution 26/7, the subcommittee's working group of friends of the Chair dealing with the draft stakeholder engagement policy had met several times with the goal of creating a policy that was fair and understandable and supported the work of UN-Habitat. Although significant progress had been made, the work remained unfinished, and the working group therefore recommended that its work be delegated to the executive board and continue in order to achieve consensus on a policy, which, it was to be hoped, would become a model for other United Nations entities.

G. Adoption of the rules of procedure of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (agenda item 4)

35. At its 2nd plenary meeting, the UN-Habitat Assembly adopted its rules of procedure, as set out in document HSP/HA/1/8.

H. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 5)

36. At its 2nd plenary meeting, in accordance with rule 13 of its rules of procedure, the UN-Habitat Assembly adopted the following agenda, on the basis of the provisional agenda (HSP/HA/1/1), as orally amended:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of the President of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
3. Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
4. Adoption of the rules of procedure of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
5. Adoption of the agenda.
6. Election of officers.
7. Credentials of representatives and appointment of members of the credentials committee.
8. Organization of work, including the establishment of an executive board and the adoption of its rules of procedure.
9. Election of the members of the Executive Board.
10. Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters.
11. Review of progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
12. Report of the World Urban Forum.
13. Dialogue on the special theme for the first session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
14. Strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2020–2025.
15. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
16. Adoption of the report of the session and the report of the first meeting of the Executive Board.
17. Other matters.
18. Closure of the session.

I. Election of officers (agenda item 6)

37. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on the afternoon of Monday, 27 May 2019, the UN-Habitat Assembly elected the following officers to serve at its first session:

Vice-Presidents: Mr./Ms. XX (Germany)
 Mr./Ms. XX (Ghana)
 Mr./Ms. XX (Eastern European States – tbd)

Rapporteur: Mr./Ms. XX (China)

38. Pursuant to rule 18, according to which the five members of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives would jointly serve as Vice-Presidents of the Bureau of the Assembly, and reflecting the need to make the transition to the new governance structure of UN-Habitat, the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives was elected, on an exceptional basis, to serve until the end of the mid-term high-level review meeting of the Committee, to be held in 2021, as follows:

Chair: Mr./Ms. XX (Eritrea)

Vice-Chairs:	Mr./Ms. XX (Asia-Pacific States)
	Mr./Ms. XX (Serbia)
	Mr./Ms. XX (Costa Rica)
	Mr./Ms. XX (Western European and other States)

39. Also at the 2nd plenary meeting, the representative of Eritrea announced that the African States had agreed that Eritrea would chair the Bureau of the Committee for the first two years, following which the position would be taken over by the United Republic of Tanzania for the remaining two years of the four-year term.

J. Credentials of representatives and appointment of members of the credentials committee (agenda item 7)

40. [to be completed]

K. Organization of work, including the establishment of an executive board and the adoption of its rules of procedure (agenda item 8)

41. At its 2nd meeting, in accordance with Governing Council resolution 19/8, the Assembly decided to approve the accreditation of the non-governmental organizations that, while not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, wished to participate in the work of UN-Habitat, as listed in the letter of the Executive Director dated 26 April 2019.

42. At its 3rd meeting, on 28 May 2019, the Assembly decided to establish a drafting committee to consider the draft resolutions that had been submitted to the Assembly.

43. [to be completed]

L. Election of members of the Executive Board (agenda item 9)

44. At its 2nd and 7th plenary meetings, the UN-Habitat Assembly elected by acclamation the 36 members of the Executive Board, taking into account the distribution of seats described in the report on the work of the Open-ended Working Group established by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/226 (A/73/239), as follows: 10 seats for the African States; 8 seats for the Asia-Pacific States; 4 seats for the Eastern European States; 6 seats for the Latin American and Caribbean States; and 8 seats for the Western European and other States.

45. Accordingly, the Assembly elected the representatives of the following Member States as members of the Board:

(a) From the African States: Angola, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal;

(b) From the Asia-Pacific States: China, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka. The Chair of the Asia-Pacific States informed the meeting that the group had agreed that Bahrain and Indonesia would share a seat, with Indonesia serving for the first two years of the four-year term and Bahrain for the following two years;

(c) From the Eastern European States: Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation and Serbia;

(d) From the Latin American and Caribbean States: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico and Uruguay;

(e) From the Western European and other States: Canada, France, Germany, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the United States of America.

46. At its 2nd plenary meeting, the UN-Habitat Assembly further decided to forward the draft rules of procedure of the Executive Board (HSP/HA/1/9) to the Board for consideration and possible adoption, and for subsequent consideration and possible endorsement by the Assembly.

47. At its 7th plenary meeting, on the morning of Thursday, 30 May 2019, following the election to the Executive Board of members from the Eastern European States, one representative, objecting to aspects of the election, proposed that a vote be taken on the matter. The President of the Assembly, citing rule 42 on points of order of the Assembly's rules of procedure, said that the vote by acclamation would stand. Noting only one objection thereto, she declared that her ruling regarding the vote would stand.

M. Work of the drafting committee and adoption of resolutions

48. [to be completed]

II. Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters (agenda item 10)

49. At the 2nd plenary meeting, introducing the item, the Executive Director drew attention to the report on the activities of UN-Habitat (HSP/HA/1/2), which provided an update on the implementation by UN-Habitat of nine resolutions adopted by the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session, and its three addenda containing, respectively, a joint progress report of the executive directors of UN-Habitat and UNEP, a report on cooperation with agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and other UN-Habitat partners in the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019, and a report on draft United Nations system-wide guidelines on safer cities and human settlements. She also drew attention to the country activities report 2019 (HSP/HA/1/INF/3) and the draft stakeholder engagement policy.

50. She highlighted a number of activities described in document HSP/HA/1/2, including the preparation of the first progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, known as the “quadrennial report”, entitled “Progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda” (A/73/83–E/2018/62), which had been presented to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2018, the preparation of a report on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 11, and the development of a new strategic plan for the period 2020–2025 that would reposition UN-Habitat as a centre of excellence and innovation, provided that its implementation was backed by the requisite financial resources.

III. Review of progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (agenda item 11)

51. At the 2nd plenary meeting, the Executive Director drew attention to the report on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HSP/HA/1/4) since May 2018, noting that both agendas had been adopted in times of profound change in cities around the world, including growing inequality, social exclusion and spatial segregation, and recognized that planned and well-managed urbanization could serve as an engine of sustainable development and sustained and inclusive economic growth.

52. In its capacity as United Nations focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements, including with regard to the implementation, follow-up and review of the New Urban Agenda, and as custodian of most of the indicators of Sustainable Development Goal 11, UN-Habitat had taken several actions to fulfil its responsibilities, in collaboration with national and subnational governments and other development partners and actors. Despite the progress achieved to date in the implementation of both agendas, further collaboration among all relevant stakeholders was urgently needed to tackle the challenges faced in cities and human settlements, including in the areas of strengthening urban governance structure and institutions, planning, capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and innovation. Such challenges included growing poverty and inequality, unplanned urbanization, informal settlement and slum expansion, climate change, social conflicts, and urban insecurity and mass migration. The agendas both made it clear that getting urbanization right, including by linking cities to other human settlements through integrated approaches, was critical to achieving sustainable development.

53. In order to support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, which was key to achieving sustainable urbanization, UN-Habitat had developed a new strategic plan for the period 2020–2025 whose implementation, through collaboration and partnerships with national and subnational authorities and other key partners, would bring about the transformational changes that were needed to ensure that no one and no place was left behind. The plan contained four interrelated goals or “domains of change”, namely, reducing spatial inequality and poverty across the rural-urban continuum; enhancing prosperity in cities and regions; strengthening climate action and improving the urban environment; and ensuring effective urban crisis prevention and response. The plan identified 12 strategic outcomes and 5 flagship programmes that would combine robust normative and operational approaches and sustainable solutions in the order of \$100 million. As a United Nations focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements, UN-Habitat would call upon all relevant actors to work in concert to implement the plan, and to mobilize resources and leverage

investments in sustainable urbanization, and reenergize its partnership with local authorities and their associations to support their efforts to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

54. In order to ensure the effective implementation of the new strategic plan, UN-Habitat was engaged in an organizational restructuring exercise that would be completed by January 2020, which was part of an internal reform process fully aligned with the wider reform of the United Nations system. Furthermore, following 14 years of discussions around governance reform, UN-Habitat had achieved a major milestone in December 2018 with the adoption by the General Assembly of a new governance structure for the Programme.

55. In closing, the Executive Director called for collective action to get cities on the right track and to bridge the gap between urban and rural areas, urging all representatives to contribute to that effort.

IV. Report of the World Urban Forum (agenda item 12)

56. In taking up the item at its 3rd plenary meeting, on Tuesday, 28 May 2019, the Assembly had before it the report of the Executive Director summarizing the proceedings of the ninth session of the World Urban Forum (HSP/HA/1/5); a full report on the ninth session, as well as the text of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Cities 2030 adopted at that session (HSP/HA/INF/6); and an independent report on the session (HSP/HA/INF/6).

57. The Executive Director, providing an account of the ninth session, held in Kuala Lumpur from 7 to 13 February 2018, outlined the information set out in the introduction to her report concerning the establishment of the World Urban Forum as the world's premier conference on urban issues and the foremost global arena for interaction among policymakers, local government leaders, non-governmental organizations and expert practitioners in the field of sustainable urban development and human settlements. Indeed, the outcome and impacts of the session reflected the Forum's unique role and relevance as an inclusive platform supporting the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the achievement of the urban-related Sustainable Development Goals. The Forum had moreover attracted a record number of participants and featured an impressive range of events, as detailed in the overview of the session contained in her report.

58. Concerning the Forum's outcomes, she said that the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Cities 2030 reflected the discussions held and the views expressed by stakeholders during the session. The Declaration contained actionable recommendations aimed at accelerating the implementation of the New Urban Agenda through integrated policy frameworks, strengthened governance and partnerships, and innovative solutions. For its part, UN-Habitat was preparing an advocacy agenda for accelerated implementation of the New Urban Agenda towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It would also be celebrating the now-customary Urban October throughout that month in 2019.

59. She announced that the Government of Cameroon was to host World Habitat Day, on 7 October 2019, on the theme "Frontier technologies as an innovative tool to transform waste to wealth", on which occasion the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour would be awarded for best practices in connection with waste reduction and the circular economy. She also announced that Yekaterinburg, in the Russian Federation, would be the host city for the global observance of World Cities Day on 31 October 2019. She expressed appreciation for the long-standing partnership of UN-Habitat with China and the Shanghai Municipality in the context of the World Cities Day platform, and further announced that the tenth session of the World Urban Forum would take place in Abu Dhabi in February 2020, while the eleventh session would take place in Katowice, Poland, in 2022. She thanked all the countries that had expressed an interest in hosting the Forum and said that UN-Habitat looked forward to future opportunities to partner with them.

V. High-level segment and dialogue on the special theme for the first session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (agenda item 13)

A. High-level segment

60. The UN-Habitat Assembly began its high-level debate at its 2nd plenary meeting, on the afternoon of Monday, 27 May 2019. Ministers and high-level representatives delivered statements addressing the overarching theme of the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, "Innovation for better quality of life in cities and communities", and the sub-theme, "Accelerated implementation of the New Urban Agenda towards achievement of the New Urban Agenda. The general debate continued at its 3rd, 4th and 5th meetings, on the morning and afternoon of Wednesday, 29 May 2019,

and the morning of Thursday, 30 May 2019, respectively. A summary of the general debate by the President of the UN-Habitat Assembly is set forth in annex [] to the present proceedings.

B. High-level interactive dialogues

61. The third day of the session took the form of a high-level segment, comprising a dialogue on the special theme of the first session, “Innovation for better quality of life in cities and communities”, followed by three high-level interactive strategic dialogues, the first of which was a policy segment on the theme of “Creating an enabling environment for innovation”, the second of which was a cities and communities segment on the theme of “Implementation, partnerships and good practices”, and the third of which was a business segment on the theme of “Investing in urban innovation”. Summaries of the high-level dialogues by the President of the UN-Habitat Assembly are set forth in annex [] to the present proceedings.

VI. Strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2020–2025 (agenda item 14)

62. At the 3rd plenary meeting, introducing the item, the Executive Director drew attention to the draft strategic plan for the period 2020–2025 (HSP/HA/1/7), which was before the Assembly for its consideration and possible approval. The Executive Director noted that the draft plan had been endorsed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its seventy-first regular meeting, held on 6 December 2018. She explained that the formulation of the draft plan had been guided by a theory-of-change approach, which had resulted in seven notable features. First, the draft plan had moved from a means-based and process-based approach to an ends-based and results-based approach; second, it connected to various global agendas, including the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Paris Agreement, the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, and the New Urban Agenda; third, it included a set of drivers of change and organizational performance enablers; fourth, it enhanced the role of advocacy and communication to influence policy; fifth, it strengthened the role of partnerships for scaled-up impact; sixth, it introduced a coherent approach to innovation to support the work of UN-Habitat and its partners; and seventh, it reaffirmed the custodial role of UN-Habitat in defining and monitoring the urban indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals, and as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements, supporting the follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda.

63. Ms. Sharif said the draft strategic plan would position UN-Habitat as a major global entity by refocusing its role as a thought leader and the go-to Programme for issues pertaining to its mandate. UN-Habitat would strive to build innovative approaches in developing and implementing a United Nations system-wide strategy and collaborative framework for sustainable urbanization; coordinating the follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda; developing and disseminating evidence-based guidance and capacity support to Member States for the achievement of the urban dimensions of global agendas; supporting the mainstreaming of sustainable urban development in global development frameworks; and localizing the Sustainable Development Goals by mobilizing all relevant actors. Highlighting the four mutually reinforcing goals, referred to in the plan as “domains of change”, she remarked that the draft plan was particularly ambitious because it was designed to meet the many challenges faced by UN-Habitat and its partners.

64. She concluded by outlining the participatory consultative process used in the development of the draft plan, thanking various parties for their input and contributions in that regard and for their support for the resulting draft.

65. [to be completed]

VII. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (agenda item 15)

66. [to be completed]

VIII. Adoption of the report of the session and the report of the first meeting of the Executive Board (agenda item 16)

67. [to be completed].

IX. Other matters (agenda item 17)

68. [to be completed]

X. Closure of the session (agenda item 18)

69. [to be completed]
