

Western Europe and Others Regional Group (WEOG)

Consultative meeting with
UN-Habitat Executive Director

1 April 2021

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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Agenda

1. Opening remarks by H.E. Ms. Josephine Gaud, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Chair of the regional group of Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG).
2. Status update on UN-Habitat by the Executive Director.
3. Update by the UN-Habitat on Regional Performance by UN-Habitat
4. Update of New York Office on Systemwide Coordination and General Assembly
5. Update on acquisitions
6. Update on the Field Architecture Policy under the ongoing restructuring process.
7. Questions and Answers (Q&A).
8. Any Other Matters.

Reiteration on WEOG membership

Architecture of UN Regional Groups for Western and Eastern Europe is complex

- Formally, half of the EU Member States belong to the UN Eastern Europe Regional Group (EEG), whilst the other half belong to the Western and Others Group (WEOG).
- WEOG includes Australia, Canada, Israel, New Zealand and Turkey, as well as the United States of America as an observer.
- Within the context of today's meeting, we'll include EU issues.



■ EU
■ EU Candidate countries
■ UN Regional Group Eastern Europe
■ EFTA + UK
■ other WEOG countries

UN-Habitat presence in WEOG countries

Liaison Offices

- **New York:** Liaison with UNHQ & USA
- **Geneva:** Liaison with Geneva-based institutions, Humanitarian Affairs & Eastern Europe
- **Brussels:** Liaison with EU Institutions & support to EU-based operations

Others

- Spain Country Office in Madrid
- City Resilience Global Programme Office in Barcelona
- Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance Secretariat in Bonn

Alignment to regional priorities

Special emphasis has been made by UN-Habitat to provide answers to:

The digital agenda. It is a fact that rapid urbanization is now followed or accompanied by rapid digitalization. The world of today is urban as well as digital, presenting both challenges and opportunities for policy makers.

The environmental agenda. Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment is one of the four domains of change identified in UN-Habitat strategic plan.

The demographic agenda. “Improved living standards and inclusion of migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees through effective crisis response and recovery” - targeted interventions on urban legislation, urban planning & design, urban governance and urban finance.

The growth and **regeneration of human settlements**, notably through interventions on current and future **cultural heritage**.

Operations with & within Europe (1/3)

Area 1 :

New Urban Agenda & the Agenda 2030 for Europe

The focus is on monitoring, advocacy and research.

Example: Organization of expert group meetings, Collaboration with European Joint Research Centre, Research on the governance of urban design, Technical support to Spanish Urban Agenda, etc.



Operations with & within Europe (2/3)

Area 2 : Policy Dialogue

Be a meaningful interlocutor of WEOG and EU Member States on:

- domestic implementation of Agenda2030 and NUA;
- urban dimension of Member States' external action

Example: Contribution to Urban Agenda for the EU, revision of Leipzig Charter, EU policies for development cooperation, Paris Agreement and humanitarian assistance, Spain Urban Forum etc.

Operations with & within Europe (3/3)

Area 3 :

Support to development cooperation and humanitarian assistance

WEOG and EU Institutions and Member States are long-standing supporter of UN-Habitat activities in developing countries, emerging economies and crisis contexts. Together, they provide more than 60% of UN-Habitat total acquisition.

New Leipzig Charter - The transformative power of cities for the common good

Key policy framework document for sustainable urban development in Europe

cities need to establish integrated and sustainable urban development strategies and ensure their implementation for the city as a whole, from its functional areas to its neighbourhoods;

Implementation: Engaging stakeholders from third countries and within frameworks established by inter-governmental organisations with regard to international cooperation in urban development can additionally be beneficial to dissemination and capitalisation.

EU: new efforts to support multilateralism

Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on strengthening the EU's contribution to rules-based multilateralism

The EU will continue working towards a more strategic approach to quality voluntary funding for key UN funds, programmes and specialised agencies as well as other international organisations. It will **regularly and strategically assess its funding to key multilateral organisations, International Financial Institutions and UN agencies, funds and programmes to identify and update clearer priorities per entity, track implementation, and increase its visibility;**

Plan for a regular EU-UN Summit;

Annual Strategic Dialogues with major UN agencies, funds and programmes, and Bretton Woods Institutions.

Engage the relevant multilateral organisations on the basis of EU defined priorities through Team Europe Initiatives at country, regional and multilateral level.

Spain

Member of UN-Habitat Executive Board; Since 2012, Spain contributed **\$20,126,202** (national and subnational level)

UN-Habitat Country Office in Spain:

In-country activities:

- *National Level:* Spanish Urban Agenda (2019) / National Urban Forum (2021) / national urban policies as lever strategies of Spain's 2030 plan, etc...
- *Subnational Level:* Regional and local urban agendas, Localizing development plans, VLRs

Support to UNH normative work:

- New generation of **VLR**: EGM “Connecting VLR and VNRs” (Feb. 2021)+ support to Guidelines
- **Global Urban Safety** Indicators and Monitoring Tool: EGM (Oct. 2020) + support tool + SCP publication.
- **UN-System wide urban monitoring framework for measuring SDG 11 and NUA**: global EGM (July 2020) + direct support for elaboration of the Framework
- **Subnational Urban Agendas**: EGM (07/2020) + Guidelines

UN-Habitat presence in Geneva

- Office was revitalized in 2019 with support of Government of Switzerland;
- Interagency partnerships and coordination with Geneva-based agencies such as WHO, ITU, OHCHR, UNHCR, IOM, IASC on urban policy and emergency crisis response;
- Liaison with ECE and the development of joint programming, specifically UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management, ECE Mayors Forum etc;
- Engagement with the host country and city of Geneva, including the Geneva Cities Hub; and
- Advocacy, outreach, resource mobilization and partnership development.

New York Office: UN Systemwide Coordination

Initiatives on Cities and Urbanization led by Secretary-General

- UN Systemwide Strategy for Sustainable Urban Development
- SG's Policy Brief on COVID in and Urban World
- UN Task Force on Future of Cities
- Secretary-General's Keynote Address on Future of Cities

Initiatives on Cities led by DSG and Executive Humanitarian Coordinator

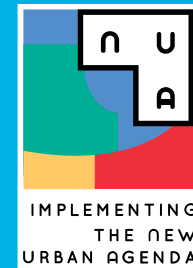
- Local2030
- UN Sustainable Development Group, Task Team on City Engagement
- Inter-Agency Standing Committee framework for engagement of local governments in humanitarian operations.

New York Office: Engagement with UN General Assembly

- President of the General Assembly
- Second Committee of General Assembly
- Fifth Committee of General Assembly
- SG's Reports to the General Assembly related to Urbanization
- High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda 2022
- Regional Forums for Sustainable Development
- Economic and Social Council and High-Level Political Forums

Thank you

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