

Pre-meeting on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda

A pre-event to the 9th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development
and
to the High-Level Meeting on the acceleration of the New Urban Agenda (HLM)

Monday, 21 March 2022, 15.00 – 18.15 GMT+7 (Bangkok time)

STATEMENT (FINAL)

1. The Government of Indonesia delivers this regional statement on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. This statement was inclusively endorsed at a 21 March regional Pre-meeting to APFSD.
2. The 2nd Quadrennial Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the NUA highlights progress in the region on delivering on commitments of the NUA, but the challenges towards 2030 are immense.
3. Implementing the NUA at all levels and localizing the SDGs will support pandemic recovery and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This requires an inclusive, gender-responsive and multi-stakeholder informed territorial development process taking into account urban-rural linkages.
4. The Quadrennial Report finds that priorities such as financing sustainable urban development and housing for all requires stronger integrated governance. There is also an urgent need to address the digital divide. More capacity building and collaboration in the region is needed to accelerate actions, including through South-South and triangular cooperation.
5. Asia and the Pacific also needs to scale up action on resilience. Rapid and unplanned urbanization combined with climate change and the pandemic impact seriously on people's everyday lives and economies now and in the future.
6. To increase SDG gains and address climate and disaster threats, it is pivotal to increase the resilience of settlements and communities, leaving no one and no place behind. Coordinated and stepped-up actions by cities and national governments are to achieve a net-zero carbon footprint. Priorities include urgently reducing air pollution and waste, including plastics; increasing green infrastructure and smart energy and mobility solutions; and investing in safe and healthy housing by applying green building standards.
7. The Participants in the Pre-meeting also called on Member States, local governments and partners to share more knowledge and good practices, utilizing the Urban Agenda Platform, the Asia-Pacific Urban Forum and similar channels and venues. They called for the continued support of ESCAP, UN-Habitat, local government associations, and relevant regional partnerships.

8. The Participants encouraged more Voluntary Local Reviews, using the regional guidelines to capture more local and subnational reporting on the localization of the SDGs, taking into account national context, and to increase multi-stakeholder participation and coordination with the Voluntary National Review processes.
9. The Participants of the Pre-meeting also appreciated the reporting done to date on the implementation of the NUA and the urban dimensions of the SDGs. They specifically looked forward to more voluntary national NUA reporting by 2026, for the 3rd Quadrennial Report. A stronger alignment of NUA reporting with Voluntary National Reviews on the 2030 Agenda as well as with Nationally Determined Contributions reporting is recommended to increase effective NUA monitoring.