High-Level Meeting to assess progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda

28 April 2022, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Summary by the President of the General Assembly

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I.   Introduction

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 75/224 of 21 December 2020, the President of the seventy-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly, His Excellency Mr. Abdulla Shahid, convened a High-Level meeting to assess progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA), on 28 April 2022.[1]

The NUA was adopted at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016. Its implementation contributes to the localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated manner, and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets, including Goal 11 of making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

Objectives

The President of the General Assembly issued a Concept Note on key framing issues and objectives of the high-level meeting,[2] drawing upon the Report of the Secretary-General on the Progress in the implementation of the NUA (A/76/639-E/2022/10),[3] the deliberations of the five regional forums for sustainable developments on the New Urban Agenda, inputs from Member States during an informal General Assembly briefing[4], and the strategic guidance and key messaging provided by the President of the General Assembly's Advisory Committee on Sustainable Urbanization, comprised of Member States, UN system representatives and diverse constituencies of the New Urban Agenda.[5]

The meeting's objectives were to reposition the New Urban Agenda strategically as a road map for accelerating sustainable development, climate action, and building peace, and to recognize the importance of cities and transformative actions for ensuring a more just, sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional objectives were to foster dialogue on the urban dimension of nationally determined contributions, climate action and nature-based solutions; to explore opportunities to amplify implementation of the New Urban Agenda in countries in post-conflict and disaster situations; to encourage the launch of multistakeholder partnerships to promote affordable housing and end homelessness as part of investments in jobs and social protection; to identify institutional mechanisms to engage local governments in intergovernmental and national planning processes; and to build momentum for partnerships on financing for sustainable infrastructure and urban basic services.

To support achieving these objectives, the President of the General Assembly requested UN-Habitat to prepare a Supplementary Information Note[6] to make the New Urban Agenda widely accessible to Member States and to stakeholders, by simplifying its contents, and identifying the

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[1] HLM webpage - https://www.un.org/pga/76/high-level-meeting-on-the-implementation-of-the-new-urban-agenda/
[2] https://www.un.org/pga/76/wp-content/uploads/sites/101/2022/03/Concept-Note-for-HLM-on-NUA.pdf
[3] https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3964578?ln=en
[4] https://www.un.org/pga/76/2021/11/29/letter-from-the-president-of-the-general-assembly-programme-for-briefing-on-the-high-level-meeting-on-new-urban-agenda/
[5] More details on the Advisory Committee's scope of work, membership, and meeting summaries are available on https://www.un.org/pga/76/high-level-meeting-on-the-implementation-of-the-new-urban-agenda/
[6] https://www.un.org/pga/76/wp-content/uploads/sites/101/2022/04/HLTD-on-NUA-Information-Note-1.pdf

avenues of support, knowledge, and resources available to enable accelerating implementation. The President also circulated a report prepared by the Regional Economic Commissions on the implementation of the NUA, including a summary of Member States deliberations on sustainable urbanization in their respective Regional Forums for Sustainable Development (RFSD).[7]

Members of the Advisory Committee supported momentum-building for the high-level meeting by organizing twenty side events from 25 to 29 April 2022, including the World Assembly on Local and Regional Governments.[8] Inclusive and complementary approaches across the UN system were pursued, including the convening a special meeting on Sustainable Urbanization and the New Urban Agenda by the President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on 21 April 2022[9] to raise awareness for, and provided strategic inputs to, the General Assembly meeting.

Structure

The high-level meeting's programme[10] consisted of an Opening Segment, featuring high-level speakers from Member States and the UN System and a video by scientists representing the Global Sustainable Development Report on the NUA's centrality to the SDGs. It also included presentations by the Regional Economic Commissions and partners on localizing the NUA; a Fireside Chat on 'Equitable Cities and Resilient Communities;" a Plenary Segment; Multistakeholder Spotlights on "Leading Locally", "Mobilizing Millions for Our Urban Future," and "Inclusive and Sustainable Action for COVID recoveries;" and a Closing Segment.

The high-level meeting was action oriented. Member States, local and regional governments, professional associations, grassroots organizations, and business leaders highlighted policy directions and programmatic actions implemented over the past six years and put forward concrete commitments for the next two years. The Annex of Declared Actions and Commitments summarizes Member States' submitted remarks. The key messages are informed by the statements of all speakers, grouped under thematic areas.[11]

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[7] https://www.un.org/pga/76/2022/04/23/letter-from-the-president-of-the-general-assembly-hlm-on-new-urban-agenda-speakers-list-info-note-reg-com-report/
[8] The list of side events is available on https://unhabitat.org/hlm-new-urban-agenda#section7968-5 and https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2022/04/hlm_programme_of_side_events.pdf
[9] https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/events/2022/revitalizing-new-urban-agenda-fight-rising-inequalities-nua2030
[10] https://www.un.org/pga/76/2022/04/27/letter-from-the-president-of-the-general-assembly-hlm-on-nua-final-programme/
[11] Recordings of the high-level meeting and all member state remarks submitted to e-statements are available on (https://media.un.org/en/asset/k14/k14r53dsl4), (https://media.un.org/en/asset/k14/k14r53dsl4), and (https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/4934198b-f18e-ec11-8316-0abf1fa886b5/2022-04-28/statements), (https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/4134198b-f18e-ec11-8316-0abf1fa886b5/2022-04-28/statements).

II.   Key Messages

Importance of the New Urban Agenda in achieving the SDGs

- The New Urban Agenda remains a robust framework for implementing the SDGs. Up to 65% of SDG targets depend on action in cities, and most SDG indicators are strongly linked to Goal 11. COVID-19 dealt major setbacks to the 2030 agenda, adding greater urgency to implement the NUA.

- Urbanization is a defining feature of our planet. By 2030, 6 out of 10 people in the world will live in urban areas, rising to 7 out of 10 by 2050. Regions such as Europe, Latin America, and the Arab States are already highly urbanized, whereas Africa and Asia are rapidly urbanizing.

- Urbanization impacts both rural and urban areas. Rural places are affected by, and can benefit from, the accelerated growth of nearby cities. The focus on cities to achieve just transitions in energy, food systems, and digital connectivity should not come at the expense of rural areas and livelihoods. The NUA calls for policies that anticipate demographic shifts to ensure balanced development across all a country's subregions.

- The world is far off track to meet Sustainable Development Goal 11 on cities and human settlements by 2030. Many Member States recommitted to implementing the NUA, but their commitments must be met by actions. There is an urgent need to secure funding mechanisms to ensure rapid urbanization is sustainable and inclusive.

- With only 30 countries having submitted progress reports on the implementation of the NUA, Member States pledged to work with the United Nations to report on progress for the 2026 Quadrennial Report, and where possible, prepare national reports in 2022 and 2023 to establish baselines, noting that national reports provide the basis for assessing aspects of the NUA that are lagging and what extra support Member States and local governments require to get back on track.

- Greater cooperation, knowledge-sharing, and capacity support among mayors and cities is needed, including mobilizing millions of urban professionals, such as architects, engineers, and urban planners through Resident Coordinators and the Regional Economic Commissions.

- A key outcome of the high-level meeting and its preparatory process was the launch of the "Group of Friends of UN-Habitat, Sustainable Urbanization, and the New Urban Agenda" by The Slovak Republic, Botswana, Kenya, and Grenada. The Group will provide political support to UN-Habitat, its mandate, and the NUA.

- UN-Habitat was commended for its role in coordinating and supporting efforts by countries to implement the NUA. Several Member States called for further support to UN-Habitat to enable the organization carry out this crucial role.

Provision of adequate and affordable housing are among key social security measures during and after COVID-19

- Cities continue to be marked by extreme inequalities. The provision of adequate housing for all emerged as a key challenge, with the global housing deficit estimated to be 440 million homes by 2025. In cities world-wide, slums are still growing, and evictions are common.

- The provision of adequate and affordable housing is restrained by the lack of adequate financing, yet the effects of housing commodification and land and housing speculation demonstrate that it is not simply about a lack of resources, but rather that cities and local governments are not sufficiently tapping the value of urbanization for all its residents.

- There is a very significant role for urban planning in providing enough serviced land for housing, in guiding where urbanization happens, and in ensuring urbanization happens in an equitable and sustainable manner. National Urban Policies together with inclusive urban planning practices and other forms of local legislation enable countries to guide urbanization, producing compact urban forms, and reducing spatial inequality.

Urban prosperity and sustainable finance

- The lack of a financial system that works for all urban residents protracts the implementation of the NUA. National and local governments are unable to mobilize sufficient funds. Extraneous development aid cannot possibly fill the current financing gap.

- It is therefore urgent to prioritize the means of implementation outlined in the NUA, including enhancing endogenous resources and revenues, decentralization, and land value capture to enable urban economies' growth and ensure no one and no place is left behind.

- This should include national governments and multilateral institutions facilitating direct financing to support community level and grassroot-led action, including community organizing, data collection, grassroots-led planning, and peer learning exchanges.

- New technologies may increase transparency, enhance basic service provision, data collection, citizen participation in decision-making, local economic development, and urban management and resilience. At the same time, digitization can contribute to the decline of local economic development and employment, resulting in a lack of local revenue creation. COVID-19 has perpetuated this trend.

Urban displacement and crises

- An upsurge in conflict, violence and more frequent natural disasters has increased global numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). More than 84 million people were displaced in the first half of 2021.

- Lack of safety and security has undermined the ability of countries and cities to implement the NUA. The international community needs to support the NUA in post-conflict and post-disaster scenarios and provide guidance on post-conflict reconstruction, including urban recovery frameworks.

III.   Summary by segments of the Programme

Opening Segment

The session opened with context setting perspectives from the Global Sustainable Development Report (the GSDR). *Ms. Eeva Furman,* Director of the Environmental Policy Centre, the Finnish Environment Institute SYKE, 2019 GSDR Independent Group of Scientists, noted the 2019 GSDR[12] key message was that efforts should be targeted on transforming our societies through six entry points instead of focusing on individual SDGs. Urban and peri-urban development, one of these entry points, intersects decisively with all the other entry points: food, energy, economy, wellbeing and capabilities and global environmental commons. Without an urgent change in urban structures and policies, negative cascading effects will be seen in food systems, energy services, material use, natural systems, and human wellbeing – in urban surroundings and everywhere on the planet. Cities should be laboratories for transformation with the help of science, researchers, and local actors to co-create livable, innovative, and just urban areas with new structures and everyday routines. More reviews of NUA implementation and Voluntary Local Reviews of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are desperately needed to share innovative models and best practices. Sustainability transformation is vital to achieve resilience against pandemics and related crises, conflicts, and climate change.

In continuation of the perspectives from the GSDR, *Ms. Imme Scholz,* President, the Heinrich Böll Foundation, 2023 GSDR Independent Group of Scientists Co-chair, noted that up to 65% of the SDG targets depend on action in cities, and that most SDG indicators are strongly linked to Goal 11. City councils and mayors that want to improve human prosperity sustainably need to reformulate their housing and infrastructure policies and spending to improve social, economic, and environmental indicators over time. The 2030 Agenda and the NUA can do better if they build on the linkages between them, including action for implementing the Paris Agreement. The IPCC Sixth Report showed that the share of cities in global greenhouse gas emissions is increasing. This turns them into important allies of any strategy towards the 1.5° objective. The 2023 GSDR[13] will present tools and approaches that leverage and accelerate urban change, including fostering peer learning among cities to identify best practices and successful examples to accelerate action; on climate change, make the roles and tasks of cities in Nationally Determined Contributions explicit; and strengthen support for cities to elaborate urban development strategies and bankable projects for sustainable housing, energy provision, economic and social infrastructures. Increased funding for the World Bank Gap Fund[14] can support capacities to implement these plans, for action by regional and national development banks. Managing urban sprawl requires linking planning for infrastructure with spatial planning and explicitly include cities in this process, to protect freshwater sources, green areas, and buffer zones in peri-urban areas.

H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, President of the United Nations General Assembly[15] lamented that despite its cross-cutting significance for the SDGs, the NUA has been an under-appreciated framework with only a few countries having in place the governance and necessary policies to

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[12] https://sdgs.un.org/gsdr
[13] https://sdgs.un.org/gsdr/gsdr2023
[14] https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/urbandevelopment/brief/city-climate-finance-gap-fund
[15] https://www.un.org/pga/76/2022/04/28/high-level-meeting-on-new-urban-agenda-opening-remarks/

achieve sustainable urbanization. The President stressed that more robust cooperation at all levels and layers of the UN Membership and UN System, and across regions with all relevant stakeholders, is vital for accelerating the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, particularly for planning, financing, and implementing resilient and sustainable infrastructure projects and services. Greater cooperation, knowledge-sharing, and capacity support among mayors and cities is also needed, including mobilizing millions of urban professionals, such as architects, engineers, and urban planners through Resident Coordinators and the Regional Economic Commissions. He noted that the inputs to the high-level meeting from the Regional Forums on Sustainable Development indicate clearly that ever rising human and financial costs associated with more frequent and severe disasters trap countries in cycles of emergency response, inhibiting local and national leaders from prioritizing long-term sustainable development. He concluded by urging the membership to consistently consider practical and result-oriented approaches when creating mandates for high level meetings of the General Assembly, so that they serve their intended purpose of galvanizing political momentum, accelerating existing multi-stakeholder partnerships, and building foundations for new coalitions.

H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile, President of the Economic and Social Council[16] presented the key messages and recommendations of the ECOSOC special meeting on Sustainable Urbanization and the NUA held on 21 April 2022. First, despite the NUA's urgent call to leave no one, and no place behind, cities continue to be marked by extreme inequalities. Housing is unaffordable to many, slums continue to grow globally, and homelessness is on the rise. The President urged Member States to address these inequalities through more inclusive and gender-responsive urban planning, enhanced participatory processes, recognition of non-governmental organizations, professional associations, and grassroots organizations, integrated rural-urban planning, and polices underpinned by treating housing as a human right. Second, the financing of the NUA remains a major obstacle to address urban inequalities. The challenge to unlock financing for affordable housing and other essential services should be seized as an opportunity to create much needed jobs through the local production of housing and as a catalyst to enhance endogenous revenue that cities raise. Third, multilateral cooperation is essential to accelerate the implementation of the NUA. The President cited the ongoing inter-agency processes around the UN Task Force on Future of Cities and the Local 2030 Coalition, and the commitment by the Regional Economic Commissions to strengthen support to cities and to prioritize urban programming, as examples of better multilateral cooperation and innovative programming. He concluded by urging delegates to consider what guidance is needed to resolve the gap between UN-Habitat's growing mandate and its available resources.[17]

Ms. Amina J. Mohamed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations[18] stressed that implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the SDGs will be impossible without addressing urbanization's challenges and opportunities. She noted that cities are engines of growth, innovation, culture, and knowledge, and are at the forefront of global challenges including

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[16] https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/president/2022/PoECOSOC%20-%20Statement%20High-Level%20Meeting%20on%20the%20New%20Urban%20Agenda%20Final.pdf

[17] The full summary is available on https://www.un.org/pga/76/wp-content/uploads/sites/101/2022/05/220429_ECOSOC-President-Summary_FINAL-1.pdf

[18] https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/dsg/statement/2022-04-28/deputy-secretary-generals-remarks-the%C2%A0high-level-meeting-of-the-general-assembly-the-implementation-of-the-new-urban-agenda%C2%A0-delivered

COVID-19. The Deputy Secretary-General warned that focusing on cities to achieve just transitions in energy, food systems, and digital connectivity should not come at the expense of rural areas and livelihoods, stressing that the NUA contains clear calls for national urban policies that anticipate demographic shifts and ensure balanced development across all sub-regions within a country. When planned well, built in a compact urban form, and supported with high quality public transport, cities offer the most sustainable form of human settlement. She referenced two commitments by the United Nations to assist Member States in the implementation of the NUA. First, UN resident coordinators and country teams will lead a dedicated effort to integrate urbanization more systematically into common country analyses and development cooperation frameworks and embark on joint urban programming to provide tailored support aligned with national priorities. Second, the Local2030 Coalition[19] will mobilize the actions of local and national governments, businesses, social entrepreneurs, and networks of neighbourhood organizations. The Deputy Secretary-General referenced the Report of the Secretary-General on Our Common Agenda and proposals to strengthen the role of cities and local and regional governments in developing solutions to urban challenges, through a more networked and inclusive multilateral system.

Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director UN-Habitat[20] reflected on the recommendations of the Report of the Secretary-General on the Progress in the implementation of the NUA, calling upon Member States to position the NUA as a catalyst for the achievement of the global goals and to integrate the provision of adequate and affordable housing as a driver of equitable development. She highlighted two important strategic documents, the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2023[21], which enables the organization to assist Member States in realizing the potential of sustainable urbanization; and the UN system-wide strategy for sustainable urban development that helps the UN system support Member States in the implementation of the NUA to achieve SDG targets. She urged Member States to strengthen multi-level governance, a crucial prerequisite to reduce and recover from global crises and conflicts. To this end, she noted the Secretary-General's proposal for an Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments to engage local governments in intergovernmental and national planning processes.

H.E. Ms. Veronika Remišová, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Investments, Regional Development and Informatization, the Slovak Republic[22] called attention to the situation in Ukraine, where millions of people have become homeless or displaced internally and externally. She highlighted the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic including increasing income inequality. The Deputy Prime Minister announced that, together with Botswana, Kenya and Grenada, the Slovak Republic launched the "Group of Friends of UN-Habitat, Sustainable Urbanization, and the New Urban Agenda", to serve as an intermediary between Member States and the UN Secretariat to promote the organization, the mandate, and the NUA. She further noted four priority areas for NUA implementation; ensuring the rule of law and security, including through clear and enforceable rules and regulations and fighting corruption; establishing fair and foreseeable strategic planning, noting the European Union's multi-annual financial framework and long-term planning, whereby every member clearly defines strong and ambitious development priorities

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[19] https://www.local2030.org/
[20] https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2022/04/00_ed_statement_hlm_nk_220427_rw_final.pdf
[21] https://unhabitat.org/the-strategic-plan-2020-2023
[22] https://estatements.unmeetings.org/estatements/10.0010/20220428/7RpU9MApOT86/rKKufX4fVeb5_en.pdf

through broad and inclusive public debates, including on green, sustainable and smart transition; making adequate financing available, noting the European Union is set to streamline funding for inclusive development for regions and cities to bridge the gap between the least and the most developed regions in Europe, with 20% of Slovakia's share to be managed directly by cities and regions, via multi-stakeholder, multi-level governing structures, where national, regional and local governments will meet to allow for the creation of localized, integrated territorial investments, noting also Slovakia's recent decision to empower cities and regions with extended decision making powers; and to ensure strong national urban policies, noting the EU Leipzig Charter[23] which contextualizes the NUA into the European Context.

H.E. Mr. Dario Herrera, Minister of Urban Development and Housing, Ecuador[24] stressed that Latin America is one of the most urbanized regions in the world. Despite this, one out of four persons are still living in irregular settlements without access to basic services. Every day, about 18,000 persons are arriving in urban centers, looking for improving their living conditions. Sustainable urban development is the only alternative to the growth of cities in Latin America. Intersectoral, multilevel and multistakeholder action is needed. In the aftermath of the Habitat III conference in Quito, the Government of Ecuador created a National Plan for Habitat and Housing, which is aligned with 12 of the 17 SDGs, focused on reducing the housing deficit and making construction more energy and resource efficient. He also highlighted the 'Habitat Award', launched in 2021, for transformative projects on mitigation and climate change. He urged delegates to submit national progress reports on NUA implementation, underscoring that reporting was a critical tool that enabled Ecuador to compare its progress against a baseline.

H.E. Mr. James W. Macharia, Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing, Urban Development and Public Works, the Republic of Kenya[25] referenced actions his country undertook to advance the NUA, including the introduction of a commuter service in Nairobi and the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia-Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor Project, involving large scale infrastructure investments in historically under-served regions of East Africa to promote geographically balanced development. He highlighted the need for improved tenure security, infrastructure, and related physical and spatial planning for informal settlement dwellers. Regarding adaptation to climate change, he noted that Kenya has targeted coastal and inland waterfronts to enhance resilience to flooding. The Cabinet Secretary emphasized that the COVID-19 pandemic exposed the need to re-think urban landscapes and access to services for the most vulnerable. He listed obstacles to NUA's implementation including low prioritization, lack of awareness of the NUA, limited financial resources, and inadequate capacity within national statistical systems. He noted that UN-Habitat has been underfunded and understaffed, limiting its ability to coordinate, implement, monitor, and report, and called upon countries to integrate the NUA into national and global agendas and agreements, and to enhance their support to UN-Habitat through predictable and non-earmarked annual contributions. He also urged development partners to mobilize adequate, predictable, and sufficient concessional financing for the NUA.

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[23] https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/12/12-08-2020-new-leipzig-charter-the-transformative-power-of-cities-for-the-common-good
[24] https://estatements.unmeetings.org/estatements/10.0010/20220428/7RpU9MApOT86/Wh6zzqzF0jCD_es.pdf
[25] https://estatements.unmeetings.org/estatements/10.0010/20220428/7RpU9MApOT86/BW4VjWTcRxvJ_en.pdf

Regional Economic Commissions Presentations: Bolstering the roles of urban professionals, local and national authorities in localizing and implementing the New Urban Agenda

<u>*Ms. Olga Algayerova*</u>, Executive Secretary, the UN Economic Commission for Europe[26] highlighted the contributions of the Regional Economic Commissions to assist Member States to contextualise the NUA within regionally specific agreements, priorities and realities, and to improve local-national-regional coordination, as captured in the report entitled 'Regional Commissions report on the progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (2019-2022)', including inputs of the Regional Forums for Sustainable Development.[27] She stressed that the Regional Forums for Sustainable Development constitute a key component of the UN's regional architecture for follow up and review of the SDGs.

<u>*Mr. Norman Robert Foster*</u>, Baron Foster of Thames Bank[28] argued that the city is civilization's greatest invention, and that the Gross Domestic Product of many large cities exceeds that of many nation states. Masterplans have played an enabling role in guiding urban development, but such plans must be made with an appreciation of history and heritage while transcending conventional zoning practices, and addressing social, economic, environmental challenges such as housing and biodiversity, all issues that form the focus of the NUA. Architects, urbanists, and engineers should leverage forums like the UNECE Forum of Mayors[29] with results-based discussions.

<u>*Ms. Paola Deda*</u>, Director, ECE, Forests, Housing and Land Management Division, listed UNECE's NUA-related activities to create synergies between local, national, regional and global efforts, including the intergovernmental process "Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management" (CUDHLM)[30]; the UNECE Forum of Mayors; the Working Party on Land Administration[31]; Real Estate Market Advisory Group[32]; UNECE Action plans (COVID-19 recovery, Sustainable Housing); Targeted technical assistance projects and Centers of Excellence (CoEs). <u>*Mr. Sami Kanaan, Deputy Mayor of Geneva, Switzerland, President of the Geneva Cities Hub*</u>, highlighted the Second ECE Forum of Mayors[33] as a unique platform allowing the voices of local authorities to be heard within a multilateral UN framework, and noted that Geneva opened the Forum to other regions, offering joint avenues of reflection for its future.

<u>*Ms. Edlam Yemeru*</u>, Officer in Charge, Gender Poverty and Social Policy Division, ECA Urbanization Section, noted that ECA supports the estimation of city GDP, the formulation of Economic Resilience and Recovery plans in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and Voluntary Local Reviews of the SDGs and the African Union's Agenda 2063. Regionally, ECA supported the adoption of Africa's own NUA implementation framework, backstopped the regional NUA

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[26] https://unece.org/media/news/367042
[27] https://www.un.org/pga/76/2022/04/23/letter-from-the-president-of-the-general-assembly-hlm-on-new-urban-agenda-speakers-list-info-note-reg-com-report/
[28] https://normanfosterfoundation.org/lord-foster-at-the-united-nations-international-forum-of-mayors/
[29] https://unece.org/forumofmayors
[30] https://unece.org/housing/committee
[31] https://unece.org/housing/working-party
[32] https://unece.org/housing/advisory-group#:~:text=The%20UNECE%20Real%20Estate%20Market,stronger%20housing%20real%20estate%20markets.
[33] https://unece.org/housing/events/forum-of-mayors-2022#:~:text=The%20second%20Forum%20of%20Mayors,city%20level%20policies%20and%20practices.

review and preparations for the General Assembly high-level meeting, and elevated the NUA in the UN's regional architecture, including at the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. *Mr. Lefu Manyakole,* Principal Secretary of Local Government and Chieftainship, Kingdom of Lesotho, highlighted his country's experience in developing multi-sectoral coordination for urban job creation, and emphasized expanding multipliers and supply chains to broaden the benefits of the sector, noting that quality data and statistics are needed to inform decision making.

Mr. Diego Aulestia, Head, ECLAC Human Settlement, noted ECLAC provides capacity building and policy advice for integrated urban and land policy making, including gap analysis, at national and local levels, including the development of local level action plans for recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in 3 cities of the region, and technical assistance for the formulation and implementation of local level climate action plans in 8 cities of the LAC region. He informed that policy guidelines on inclusive, sustainable, and smart cities and the Big Push in urban mobility are currently being prepared, while a regulatory framework to retrofit electric mobility was already developed. He referenced the continued development and update of the Urban and Cities Platform of Latin America and the Caribbean.[34] *Mr. Fernando Gray,* Mayor of Esteban Echevarria, Argentina, and Head of the Mercociudades Forum, representing 364 member cities from 10 countries in Latin America, spoke to the need to foster citizen involvement related to the human rights agenda; to increase the bonds between local governments, funding and international cooperation agencies, and to embrace the NUA to fight inequality.

Mr. Curt Garrigan, Chief, ESCAP Sustainable Urban Development highlighted the role that ESCAP plays in supporting cities to develop their Voluntary Local Reviews, and referenced the Asia Pacific Mayors Academy[35], a capacity building platform to support new mayors develop sustainable urban solutions with their communities, based on guidance from the 2019 *The Future of Asian & Pacific Cities* report on policy pathways on urban planning, resilience, smart & inclusive cities, and urban finance. He also noted that the *Asia Pacific Regional Guidelines on Voluntary Local Reviews,[36]* developed in 2020 by ESCAP and the Penang Platform for Sustainable Urbanization following the 7th Asia-Pacific Urban Forum, have enabled a growing number of Asian cities to monitor and report progress on urban sustainability. *Mr. Mahadi bin Che Ngah,* Mayor of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, highlighted Kuala Lumpur's efforts to implement the NUA, including installing solar systems on all City Hall owned facilities; requiring developers to utilize at least 30% of renewable energy in their projects; incorporating bicycle and pedestrian networks; developing neighbourhood parks, solid waste recycling centres, and rainwater harvesting systems for new development projects; providing training to upskill the urban poor and collaborate with contractors for job opportunities; providing a Free Trade Territory for small local businesses; Installing cameras for better supervision of traffic congestion, road safety and infrastructure maintenance; offering online and on-the-spot business license renewals; and running SDG awareness programs with students and residents' associations to encourage sustainable consumption.

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[34] https://plataformaurbana.cepal.org/en
[35] https://www.asiapacificmayorsacademy.org/
[36] https://www.unescap.org/resources/asia-pacific-regional-guidelines-voluntary-local-reviews

Ms. Sukaina Al-Nasrawi, Lead, ESCWA Sustainable Urban Development noted ESCWA's support to select Arab cities in developing local COVID-19 recovery plans and providing guidance on mainstreaming digital solutions for smart sustainable cities. ESCWA also supported the development of the first two Voluntary Local Reviews in the Arab region for Amman, Jordan, and Agadir, Morocco, to galvanize momentum for localizing the SDGs and more VLRs, as was highlighted during the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development (AFSD22). _HE. Eng. Yahya Musa Kisbi_, Minister of Public Works and Housing, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan spoke on localizing the SDGs in Amman, referencing that city's preparations for its first Voluntary Local Review, to inform prevention, greening and digitalization strategies and enable the municipality to bolster synergies with national authorities to improve service provision.

Fireside Chat: Equitable Cities and Resilient Communities

The fireside chat was moderated by Raj Kumar, President and Editor of DevEx, a leading media platform on international development.[37]

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization, emphasized that since 70% of the global population is projected to live in cities by 2050, health and health emergency preparedness must be a priority in planning for sustainable urban development. Noting that the COVID-19 pandemic shows how vulnerable cities are to health emergencies, he highlighted the recently launched, "WHO Framework on Strengthening Health Emergency Preparedness in Cities and Urban Settings".[38]

Ms. Sheela Patel, Board Chair, Shack Dwellers International stressed that the NUA must be harnessed to drive the changes necessary to ameliorate poverty, questioning how it is possible that many cities still have urban policies that designate the homes of up to 70% of people living in cities, illegal. She urged policy makers to make all settlements legal and provide all those living in cities with secure homes, basic amenities, and services. She emphasized that evictions and demolitions of people's homes do not make them disappear, but that they constitute a huge loss of livelihoods and damage to people's lives, investments, and survival. The Board Chair noted that Shack Dwellers International is a social movement working with the poor and is ready to work with mayors and city government to produce solutions. She called on policy makers to recognize people living in informal settlements not as passive recipients of development assistance but as full partners in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

Ms. Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of UNDRR, highlighted the Making Cities Resilient 2030 Initiative, a platform for peer learning across more than 1,000 participating cities covering a combined population of 360 million people. The platform is a broad alliance of the UN system, cities of all size and states of preparedness to disasters, service providers and civil society. It facilitates opportunities for its members to work together to assess risks, establish governance structures and strategies to reduce risk and mobilize human and financial resources to implement risk reduction strategies.[39]

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[37] https://www.devex.com/
[38] https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240037830
[39] https://mcr2030.undrr.org/

Mr. Vinicio Stort, Head of Investments, Inter-America Development Bank focused on the role of technology in supporting cities to access finance. He highlighted the digital platform launched by IDB to connect cities to sources of financing, noting that during the COVID-19 pandemic more than 500 cities were able to secure financing.

Ms. Ligia Noronha, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) emphasized that we must build resilience in an equitable manner, through four aspects of UNEP's work, namely decarbonizing, dematerializing, and detoxifying (the 3Ds) and nature-based solutions. She noted that multi-level governance is essential in building resilience and concluded noting the importance of having both operative and normative frameworks. Normative frameworks set the standards and guidelines that provide a goal for cities to work towards, while operational frameworks facilitate the implementation of the normative frameworks in close collaboration with the UN system and other partners.

Mr. Emmanuel Normant, Vice President for Sustainable Development, the Saint-Gobain Group highlighted the Group's work designing, manufacturing and distributing materials and solutions for light and sustainable construction and renovation, and stressed their capacity and responsibility to accelerate the deployment of decarbonization solutions and more circular practices in their markets by involving all players in the fragmented value-chain and all stakeholders, including industries, universities, governments, artisans, distributors, builders, investors, citizens, etc. He reiterated that we already have technologies that can succeed.

Multi-stakeholder Spotlight: Best Practices on Leading Locally
This segment spotlighted elected officials of local governments from Europe, Asia, Latin America, and Africa, speaking on behalf of the 28 mayors attending the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments held on 27 April 2022.

Ms. Atishi Marlena, Councillor, Member of Legislative Assembly, National Capital Territory of Delhi, India; ICLEI Vice President, Vice-Chair of UNACLA, sketched a broad historical narrative of how public services have been delivered. In the 1990's a belief emerged that the provision of education, healthcare, water, electricity by the government was too expensive, and led governments into debt. Subsequently, governments, especially in the developing world, have started withdrawing from these services, turning them over to private companies. She said that while this may have improved fiscal management, it has led to increased inequality. Since 2015, she has worked to change the tide in Delhi, by bringing services back under municipal control, delivering these services in a fiscally responsible way and in the process enhancing government revenues. She concluded by arguing that governments can provide high-quality public services to all citizens and yet be fiscally responsible, which can lead to greater economic success.

Mr. Carlos Martinez, Mayor of Soria, Spain, UCLG Special Envoy for the New Urban Agenda, stressed that six years since the NUA was adopted in Quito, housing remains unaffordable in most parts of the world, and millions of people still reside in slum areas and lack access to adequate housing: not all people have the right to the city. To address this challenge, effective public management is essential. Health emergencies and the climate crisis have underscored the need for investment in basic services. The role of municipalities and territories are not sufficiently recognized as spheres of government closest to communities; we must address structural changes

in the relationship between sub-national governments and the multilateral system. He concluded by urging delegates to restore the trust between governments and their citizens.

Ms. Claudia López, Mayor of Bogota, Colombia, C40 Vice chair for Latin America, reflected that the current international system was created in response to existential threats arising in the 1930s. She noted that as in the 1930s, today we face grave threats to democracy, social welfare, and peace and security. We need to use science and knowledge to promote institutions to prevent and mitigate crises and promote peace and security. She emphasized that as the first responders to nearly all social challenges, local governments are more and more relevant today, well placed to reduce and recover from violent expansionism. The mayor concluded by urging delegates to continue to include local governments in the General Assembly.

Ms. Fatimetou Abdelmalick, President of Regional Council of Nouakchott, Mauritania, highlighted how the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated power and income asymmetries in cities, and how local and regional governments mitigated the pandemic through the provision of public goods. She urged policy makers to foster inclusive gender equality and the participation of women and local feminist leaders in decision-making processes.

Multi-stakeholder Spotlight: Mobilizing Millions for our Urban Future

Mr. Robert Piper, Assistant Secretary-General for Development Coordination, spoke on behalf of 130 UN resident coordinators, leading UN Country Teams serving 162 countries and territories, to commit to supporting Member States implement the NUA. Noting urbanization's profound significance to sustainable development and the need for multistakeholder partnerships, he referenced two key entry points for UN action, namely the annual/biennial "Common Country Analyses" all UN Country Teams in the field undertake to assess a country's developmental trajectory, and the new generation of Sustainable Development Coordination Frameworks, to inform UN analysis and strategizing on providing support to Member States. Resident Coordinators are committed to accelerating efforts relating to the NUA in the lead up to the World Urban Forum. The Assistant Secretary-General emphasized that priority needs to be placed on capacity building of local governments, data collection and analysis, and decentralization. He urged delegates to harness the opportunities of rapid urbanization for both rural and urban areas.

Mr. Jean Todt, Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety explained how motorized traffic impacts the well-being of citizens through adverse health effects of pollution and climate change, congestion, and road casualties. Every minute, one road user, usually a child and in a developing country, is killed. Eight out of 10 people killed on the streets are pedestrians, cyclists, or other vulnerable road users. Congestion in large cities can lead to losses as high as 4% of the GDP of some countries, and the global transport sector currently produces roughly one quarter of all greenhouse gas emissions. The Special Envoy committed to mobilize cities for 'Vision Zero': zero lives lost due to traffic injuries and zero carbon emission from transportation. He pointed to cost-effective and easy to implement changes to enhance road safety, including no-car zones, and lowering speed limits in urban areas to 30km/h (20m/h) to dramatically lower lethal injuries, as called for by the "Streets for Life' initiative.[40] Studies indicate that many countries spend less than

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[40] https://www.fiafoundation.org/connect/publications/streets-for-life#:~:text=Streets%20for%20Life%3A%20Safe%20and,those%20from%20low%20income%20areas.

1% of national GDP on road safety investments, while the costs of poor road safety can be up to 6% of their GDP. Despite General Assembly resolutions on Road Safety, political will remains low, therefore the High-level meeting on Road Safety on 28 June 2022[41] will be critical to generate new commitments that will also build on implementation efforts for the NUA.

Ms. Emmanuelle C. Slossberg, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, on behalf of the Habitat Professionals Forum (HPF) highlighted HPF's role as a partnership mechanism gathering the experience and expertise of 28 built environment professional associations, representing several million architects, planners, surveyors and valuers, engineers and other professions, engaging in advocacy and knowledge exchange, raising awareness, solidarity and support among professionals. She unveiled the Habitat Professionals Forum Roadmap,[42] outlining actions professionals of the built environment will take to accelerate NUA implementation and respond to the pandemic's shocks and crises, including re-tooling planning systems, reinforcing the health dimension of urban interventions, pathways to enhancement of the impact of sectoral work, and identifying the required institutional capacity and support for change.

Ms. Shorai Chitongo, Zimbabwean Grassroots Constituency Leader, Huairou Commission, on behalf of the Grassroots Constituency of the New Urban Agenda[43] highlighted the Commission's work as a global network of grassroots women's organizations leading sustainable development initiatives in 41 countries, including as key partners to shaping the priorities and outcome document of Habitat III, and anchoring members of the UN-Habitat World Urban Campaign, leading over forty Urban Thinkers Campuses[44] to raise awareness, and foster locally-led initiatives. She emphasized that sustainable urbanization requires forging partnerships of self-organized groups of the urban poor, professionals, and local government to promote inclusive policy and planning processes, particularly in rapidly urbanizing and gentrifying communities. She called for all levels of government to put an end to forced evictions and invest in policy alternatives developed through partnerships among grassroots communities and other key stakeholders. National governments and multilateral institutions should facilitate direct financing to support community level and grassroot-led action, including community organizing, data collection, grassroots-led planning, and peer learning exchanges. They should also invest in grassroots women's empowerment and public leadership in sustainable urbanization solutions and promote gender responsive and equitable urban development policies that will tangibly improve the quality of life of urban poor grassroots women.

Ms. Maria Fernanda Garza, First Vice Chair of the International Chamber of Commerce noted that her institution represents more than 45 million companies in over 100 countries, and that the international business community fully recognizes that rapid urbanization has far reaching ramifications for our economy, our society and the environment. She pleaded for governments and international organizations to see the private sector as a vital and trusted partner on accelerating sustainable urbanization, particularly given that much of the investment needed to bridge the 38 trillion U.S. dollar investment gap for sustainable infrastructure will need to come from the private

[41] https://www.un.org/pga/76/event/high-level-meeting-on-global-road-safety/
[42] https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2022/04/final_hpf_roadmap_220426.pdf
[43] https://huairou.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Grassroots-Constituency-Statement.at-HLM-on-Implementation-of-the-NUA_Violet-Shivutse.-4_28_22.pdf
[44] https://unhabitat.org/urbanthinkers

sector. She stressed however that seeing through a monetary lens alone will diminish the sector's potential contributions. With the right structures in place, business can serve as a trusted interlocutor to governments and local authorities to embed private sector expertise and data in urban planning; co-create policy incentives for investment at real scale; and co-design frameworks that enable the competition and innovation needed to build the sustainable, inclusive and prosperous cities of the future, particularly regarding technology and digital innovation.

Multi-stakeholder Spotlight: Inclusive & Sustainable Urban Action for COVID recoveries

Mr. Hannes Lagrelius, Program Officer, Global Program for Inclusive & Accessible Urban Development, on behalf of the World Blind Union, founding member of the International Disability Alliance[45], and the General Assembly of Partners-Partner Constituent Group, Persons with Disabilities[46] highlighted that persons with disabilities represent more than 15% of the global population and have been amongst the hardest hit during the pandemic due to deep existing structural inequalities. He warned that dangerous narratives have emerged that persons with disabilities cannot contribute to the response and recovery to the COVID-19 pandemic, or that their lives are not considered as worth saving compared with others. Delivering on the NUA and building back better requires fully aligning with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; recognizing accessibility is a right and precondition for inclusion to be mainstreamed across governance levels and programmes; and that a Universal Design approach benefits society as a whole; including organisations of persons with disabilities in urban development processes at all levels.

Dr. Irina Feygina, UN Representative, American Psychological Association (APA), the Global Psychology Alliance (GPA) referenced the APA's more than 130,000 members and affiliates, and the GPA's regular convening of over 70 psychology associations from every continent, and offered to build on previous UN partnerships, including bringing together national psychological associations with UN Member States to make available local expertise; contributing scientific insights to WHO literature reviews; and working with the UN Office on Disaster Risk Reduction to support effective communication strategies for communal resilience. She noted WHO findings that, globally, anxiety and depression rose by 25% during the pandemic, while climate impacts are causing increasing disruption and eco-anxiety about the future in communities. Urban life's specific challenges exacerbate these impacts, including through the silent epidemic of isolation and loneliness, especially if cities are not mindfully designed to increase interaction and community, and to prevent intergroup conflict brought about by population density, poverty, and competition for resources. She highlighted solutions centred in psychology science, including providing culturally competent mental health services; creating green spaces which reduce stress and anxiety, and public spaces that support positive intergroup interactions; designing buildings and urban layouts that encourage environmentally friendly behaviour while improving health; creating programs for climate refugees, internally displaced persons, and other vulnerable groups; and developing compelling communication strategies to engage audiences and increase uptake of programs. She referenced the Secretary General's Note on Behavioural Science,[47] and stressed the importance of including psychology in the development of urban development efforts.

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[45] https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/
[46] https://generalassemblyofpartners.com/persons-with-disabilities
[47] https://www.un.org/en/content/behaviouralscience/

Ms. Gesa Ziemer, UN Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities (UNITAC) Hamburg, Academic Lead, CityScienceLab Director stressed that urban resilience must be measured at the neighbourhood level, and that recovery plans for the COVID-19 pandemic require digital tools that combine spatial data with social data, citing (COSI), a web-based platform, as an example, allowing urban planners to combine different data sets on COVID cases, test centres, hospital capacity, as well as compare districts for social and digital connectivity inequalities and employment. She noted that UNITAC provides technical expertise for data strategies and to develop agile digital tools.[48] She stressed that digital tools' simplicity is important, and that rather than inventing more technologies it would be beneficial to create partnerships to embed effective existing tools.

Mr. Khalid Alhogail, President, International Association of Public Transport (UITP), Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of SAPTCO lamented that, despite the NUA recognising that access to adequate, reliable, and safe public transport is a basic urban need for everyone, only half of the world's population has convenient access to public transport. He reiterated the commitment by UITP's 1,900 members[49] (public transport authorities, public transport operators and industries) in more than 100 countries to keep cities moving during the pandemic. He noted that ridership and revenues fell dramatically during the COVID-19 crisis, causing critical funding short falls across cities worldwide threatening jobs and services. Sustainable urbanization requires continuously investing in public transport infrastructures and services as well as in active mobility, to safeguard existing jobs, create millions of new decent, sustainable jobs, and cut emissions from the transport sector in cities by over 50% in the next decade, which should be factored into Nationally Determined Contributions for the Paris Agreement.

H.E Mr. Manuel de Araújo, Mayor of Quelimane, Mozambique, noted that 70% of the global food supply is consumed by inhabitants in areas classified as urban. Unsustainable food systems contribute to food insecurity, malnutrition and obesity, climate change, land degradation, loss of biodiversity, and the over-exploitation and pollution of water, itself a vital component for food systems, health, sanitation and much more. Renewed modalities of urbanisation and integrating food systems into city planning are central to sustainable food systems and will require empowering city and local governments to take action on urban food systems in their own jurisdictions, integrate them in local policies and plans and contribute to national efforts to reform food systems. He mentioned that the coalition on sustainable and inclusive urban food systems, established pursuant to the UN Food Systems Summit,[50] can be instrumental to raise awareness, connect partners, bridge the national-local food governance gap and promote the integration of food systems in urban and territorial planning and to share experiences, building on existing networks such as the FAO city-to-city exchange initiative and cities networks such as ICLEI[51] and

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[48] https://unitac.un.org/
[49] https://www.uitp.org/
[50] https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit
[51] https://iclei.org/about_iclei_2/

the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact.[52] He invited member states and stakeholders to join the coalition.

Plenary Segments

A total of 87 Member States inscribed to participate in the plenary segment, including 45 ministerial, vice-ministerial and high-level representatives.[53] The Group of 77 and China, The African Group, ASEAN, MIKTA, and the European Union delivered group statements. The summary below is based upon an analysis of all submitted statements, including those not delivered in person due to time limitations. During the plenary segments, Member States highlighted the following issues:

New Urban Agenda
- Concurrence that urbanization is a defining feature of our planet and that cities have an essential role to play in achieving the SDG's, including, but not limited to, SDG11 on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.
- Challenges and opportunities posed by urbanization are diverse, as regions such as Latin America and the Arab States are already highly urbanized, while regions such as Africa and Asia are rapidly urbanizing.
- Concern that the COVID-19 pandemic has reversed hard-won global development gains and progress made in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and SDG 11.
- Recognition that the New Urban Agenda is also a robust framework that can assist countries recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, and increase resilience to health emergencies, climate crises, disasters, and conflicts.
- Consensus on the necessity to prioritize implementing the New Urban Agenda and sustainable urbanization in national strategic plans and development strategies.
- Appreciation for UN-Habitat and the UN system for their assistance in implementing the New Urban Agenda, and explicit requests to the United Nations for continued technical support.
- Commitment to strengthen cooperation with UN-Habitat, including the "Group of Friends of UN-Habitat, Sustainable Urbanization and the New Urban Agenda" launched at the high-level meeting to strengthen UN-Habitat, highlight the power of urbanization for sustainable development, and accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
- Recognition of the regional agendas, such as the New Leipzig Charter, to translate the New Urban Agenda to specific contexts and thereby increase acceptance of, and accelerate of progress towards, sustainable urban development.
- Need for multi-party innovative development partnerships to support countries in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, through the provision of technical expertise, policy advisory services, capacity development, north-south, south-south, and triangular cooperation, and regional platforms for knowledge exchange.

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[52] https://www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org/
[53] Recordings of the high-level meeting and all member state remarks submitted to e-statements are available on (https://media.un.org/en/asset/k14/k14r53dsl4), (https://media.un.org/en/asset/k14/k14r53dsl4), and (https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/4934198b-f18e-ec11-8316-0abf1fa886b5/2022-04-28/statements), (https://journal.un.org/en/new-york/meeting/officials/4134198b-f18e-ec11-8316-0abf1fa886b5/2022-04-28/statements).

Housing

- Challenges to provide adequate housing for all, both in the developed and developing world, and COVID-19 resulted in further setbacks. The centrality of the right to adequate housing, including access to land, public spaces, and public services, became more evident during the pandemic. While the global real estate market has shown enormous annual growth, urban inequality and urban poverty have increased.
- Strategic importance of adequate housing and efforts by countries to improve and expand the housing stock through housing construction programs, mortgage-based housing finance systems, housing laws, housing and/or urbanization ministries, national urban policies that tie the provision of adequate housing to a broader plan for urbanization and include secondary and intermediary cities, basic services, and schools and health centres, as well as public transport infrastructure.
- Recognition of programs that are being implemented in several countries to upgrade slums to enhance the quality of housing, reduce the vulnerability of inhabitants to climatic changes, and create economic opportunities.
- Creative arts, heritage, and culture offer the "soft objects" that are of equal importance to the "hard objects" of built environment and should not be ignored.

Climate and Environment

- Recognition that countries and cities need to implement the New Urban Agenda to address and respond to the interlinked issues of urbanization, climate change, and disaster risk; noting experiences to mitigate climate change and adapt to its effects; recognizing that nature-based solutions including sustainable urban forestry, the restoration of coastal marine ecosystems, and the restoration of biodiversity can increase urban livelihoods and promote local economic growth; and highlighting that key to lowering emissions are strategies that reduce urban sprawl, that enhance urban mobility through mass transit and non-motorized modes of transportation, and that promote the energy-efficient construction of buildings.
- Acknowledgement that climate change is intimately linked to land, air and marine pollution; that governments can incentivize the reduction of fuel combustion from transport and industries and effective urban waste management by pricing carbon and promoting mass transit, non-motorized modes of transportation, urban circular economies, including a life-cycle approach for materials, goods, and services; that cities can lead the fight against plastics by establishing strong policies and developing innovative solutions that engage stakeholders at all levels.
- Importance of implementing the New Urban Agenda to protect the environment and residing communities through the redevelopment of vacant commercial and industrial urban areas, ensuring these efforts remove dangerous health hazards, are integrated with the surrounding neighbourhoods, advance mixed land-use, promote public transit, and incorporate social housing.
- Recognition that urban sprawl has detrimental effects on the environment through encroachment into natural and rural areas, as well as dependence on motorized traffic that increases pollution and leads to high numbers of road casualties.

Urban Crisis
- Acknowledgement that countries experience difficulties in the implementation of the NUA due to ongoing conflicts within national borders, straining capacity to provide housing and basic services to the large influx of refugees or internally displaced populations.
- References to the need for more attention and guidance to post-conflict reconstruction, including mapping and clearing of areas of landmines, so that displaced persons can return.
- Recognition of urban displacement as a social and political reality that severely impacts the equilibrium of cities across the world but that has not received sufficient attention from the international community; and noting also that external displacement requires exceptional measures in developing housing, health, education, transport, water and sanitation infrastructure; and recognizing that inequality, discrimination, and depravation can be countered through inclusive urban planning, employment opportunities, and recognition of identities and cultural pluralities.
- Agreement that the NUA provides cities with the tools to address and respond to the interlinked issues of urbanization, climate change, disaster risk, and displacement, with solutions such as integrating displaced persons and host communities to enhance inclusive sustainable urban development.

Urban Prosperity and Finance
- Acknowledgement of the relatively slow implementation of fiscal decentralization by central governments, especially in developing countries; noting the urgent need to empower cities and regions by providing them with the authority to mobilize endogenous resources.
- Importance of access to digital transformation while addressing its risks and challenges, noting that the Fourth Industrial Revolution provides opportunities to enhance productivity, green our economies, and inform new planning tools, yet poses also risks creating job loss if education and training are not matched.
- Commitment to increase the capacity of cities to fund urban infrastructure and basic services through the collection of local revenues and land transference among other mechanisms of resource mobilization
- Recognition of strategies to empower women and youth and promoting culture, environmental protection, and new technologies.

Localisation
- Acknowledgement that people-centred multi-level, multi-actor, cross-sectoral governance is key to advance and strengthen sustainable urban development, noting that holistic and place-based approaches through integrated, coherent, and inclusive policies, governance structures and planning processes can help meet the demands of complex urban systems and societies.
- Importance of strengthening urban governance by decentralizing public administration and the devolution of fiscal authority, and administrative capacity, noting that local and regional governments are at the forefront of the provision of basic services and are best placed to respond to health emergencies and other crises.
- Recognition that national urban policies are important tools to increase coherence between national and sub-national policies on urban matters, noting that empowering non-state actors can accelerate sustainable and equitable urban transformations.
- Commitment to further advance integrated and inclusive legislation and processes, capacity building and knowledge transfer, and sub-national data collection & monitoring systems.

The attached Annex of Declared Actions and Commitments summarizes Member States' submitted remarks

Closing Segment

<u>*Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif*</u>, <u>Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat</u>, stressed that the NUA is the best tool we have for mitigating threats to our cities and harnessing opportunities for our urban future. The NUA's contents must be simplified into areas of action, and capacities of Member States must be strengthened to implement them. She announced that UN-Habitat will do so by providing technical cooperation and policy advisory support in four areas of action: housing aligned with basic services and urban planning; climate action with a focus on adaptation; localization of SDGs including engaging local governments to mobilize endogenous resources; and urban recovery in countries and cities experiencing post-conflict and disaster situations and urban displacement. The Executive Director emphasised that to ensure effective support to Member States in the implementation of the NUA, Member States will need to provide UN-Habitat with necessary resources and political support to carry out its mandate. She noted in this regard that the establishment of a Group of Friends of UN-Habitat, Sustainable Urbanization, and the New Urban Agenda as an important and welcome development.

<u>*Ms. Martha Delgado*</u>, <u>President of the United Nations Habitat Assembly</u>, reaffirmed the commitment of Habitat Assembly members to work with UN-Habitat to encourage developing strategic partnerships between Member States and the organization. To accelerate the implementation of NUA, the Habitat Assembly will serve as a permanent follow up mechanism for Member States to develop global urban policies on key aspects of urbanization for sustainable development, taking forward the outcomes of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly. The President pledged to work with donor governments to mobilize financial support for UN-Habitat and welcomed the USD 3 million contribution by the Government of Mexico to support UN-Habitat's core mandate and thematic action areas. She emphasized that UN-Habitat is one of the most fundamental UN agencies: most of the problems of our world are in cities, and we need the support and technical experience of UN-Habitat to help cities achieve sustainable development. The President concluded by welcoming the formation of the Group of Friends and invited Member States to join the group.

<u>*H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid*</u>, <u>President of the General Assembly,</u> closed the high-level meeting by reaffirming that the NUA is the best tool we must manage all the risks and opportunities for our smart, vibrant, and growing cities; and that upscaling engagement and implementation will require simplifying the NUA's contents and increasing delegations' knowledge of its processes. He reiterated that the meeting meant to focus entirely on solutions and highlighting some of the most impactful global and regional partnerships so that more Member States and stakeholders would support them. He committed to continue advocating for the NUA and taking forward the meeting's outcomes for the remainder of his tenure.

1.   IV. Annex of Declared Actions and Commitments

87 Member States reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda by submitting statements on progress achieved. All submitted statements were analysed to highlight actions taken by Member States over the past six years to implement the New Urban Agenda and commitments made on future actions. These are grouped under six thematic areas.

1.   Importance of the NUA in achieving the SDGs

Commitments	Actions
• Scale up engagement on integrated sustainable urban development in partner countries for greater coordination, scale, and impacts (EU) • Strengthen UN-Habitat to execute its renewed mandate and to ensure it is fit for purpose (G77) • Strengthen cooperation among national governments, international financial institutions, private sector, and the United Nations to support developing countries in pursuing sustainable and inclusive urbanization through a pipeline of bankable infrastructure projects and investments from all stakeholders (G77) • Achieve a global urban transformation to a sustainable and inclusive model to implement the New Urban Agenda to achieve SDG 11, the 2030 Agenda and the objectives of the Paris Agreement (Cambodia, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Costa Rica, Egypt, France, Guinea Bissau, G77, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Madagascar, Maldives, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Tunisia) • Convene, for the first time, a G7 ministerial meeting on sustainable urban development to pursue the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in direct partnership with cities, their networks, and associations (Germany) • Work with the international community, including the UN and the UN-Habitat, and actors at the global, regional, national, and sub-national level in a coordinated manner for effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda (China, Czech Republic, Nepal, Nigeria, Singapore) • Share knowledge and solutions to achieve the New Urban Agenda (China) • Strengthen the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of progress made in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda at	• Initiated the "Group of Friends of UN-Habitat, Sustainable Urbanization and the New Urban Agenda" (Botswana, Kenya, Grenada, Slovak Republic) • Prioritized objectives of sustainable urban development in national visions, strategic plans, and policies (Bahrain, Ecuador, Ivory Coast, Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia) • Implemented or adopted policies that promote sustainable cities and adapt the New Urban Agenda to the local context (EU, France, Tajikistan) • Aligned development plans, national urban policies, housing policies and relevant plans and strategies to the New Urban Agenda (Sierra Leone) • Implemented the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanization Strategy, including the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (Vietnam) • The Arab Housing and Reconstruction council initiated the Arab Ministerial Forum for Housing and Urban Development to act as a regional consulting mechanism to ensure the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (The League of Arab States) • Prepared an Implementation plan for the New Urban Agenda at national level to monitor the achievements of individual targets (Czech Republic)

national and sub-national levels (Ecuador, EU, Ivory Coast, Sudan)	
• Collaborate with other Member States and UN organizations to exchange knowledge on how to improve M&E process (Ecuador, Africa Group)	
• Implement the Degree of Urbanization as a new global method for aggregating sub-national urban data (EU)	

Requirements
• Technical support and financial aid of Member States / UN-Habitat to implement the New Urban Agenda to achieve Sustainable Development (Angola, Colombia, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Iraq, Kuwait, League of Arab States, Nepal, South Sudan, Uganda)

2. Provision of adequate and affordable housing are among key social security measures during and after the COVID-19 pandemic

2.1 Housing and Land Rights

Commitments	Actions

• Prioritize or increase provision of adequate and affordable housing (Algeria, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Ghana, Kenya, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, South Africa, South Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan, Venezuela)
  - Reduce a significant housing deficit (Honduras)
  - Target more resources to historically underserved people (United States)
  - Create a stimulating environment for investments in the housing sector and upgrading of informal settlements (Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan)
  - Create a Sustainability Bond for Affordable Housing promoting the construction of green housing (Thailand)
• Update, adopt or implement land or housing policies and strategies (Iraq, Romania, Slovenia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, South Sudan)
• Enhance tenure security to protect land, property rights and reduce land grabbing (Sierra Leone, South Sudan)
	• Adopted national housing policies, plans, or legislation (Angola, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Jamaica, Malta, Nepal, Tajikistan, Guyana, Syria, Tunisia),
	• Created a Ministry of Housing and Buildings (Dominican Republic, El Salvador)
	• Constructed or improved residential and social housing units (Angola, Algeria, Bahrain, Cameroon, China, Egypt, Guinea, India, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Nepal, Qatar, Senegal, Slovenia, Syria, Uzbekistan, Venezuela);
	  - well-serviced / connected housing (Algeria, El Salvador, Malta);
	  - through Public-Private Partnerships or private sector engagement (Brunei Darussalam, Kenya, Lesotho)
	  - Provided housing subsidies or low interest rate credits (Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ghana, Guyana, Salvador, Senegal)
	  - Land-tenure (Lao PDR)
	• Upgraded or resolved informal settlements (Kenya, Burkina Faso, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia), relocation (El Salvador)
	• Zoned and demarcated land for housing development (Cameroon, Guyana)

	- Constructed housing using traditional building materials and in a climate resilient manner (Madagascar) - Introduced low carbon/ energy efficient housing (Costa Rica, Malta) - Regenerated urban areas to meet housing demands, made buildings resilient and protected open spaces in densely populated urban areas (Israel)

Requirements
The international community to support countries in addressing issues around informal housing (Kuwait)

2.2 Social Security and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic

Commitments	*Actions*
- Tackle inequalities in informal settlements through provision of affordable housing (African Group, South Sudan) - Reduce poverty by improving service provision in sectors such as health, education, social housing, infrastructure investment and social development to empower communities (Honduras, Holy See, Tunisia) - Initiate the expansion of social protection policies that will allow the country to continue guaranteeing adequate homes for all citizens, while continuing to construct eco-socialist cities (Venezuela) - Empower Women and Youth (Bahrain, Maldives, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia) - Address normative questions on urban poverty and unemployment by fostering an economy able to provide decent work for all and the increasing phenomenon of informal work which sees large numbers of people living in cities without sufficient social protections and access to healthcare (Holy See)	- Alleviated poverty (Lao PDR, South Africa, Bahrain) - Improved living conditions in cities, particularly in informal settlements (Cameroon) and communities (Costa Rica) - Adopted a strategy for the recovery from COVID-19 to provide social assistance to the poor (Jordan) - Improved welfare (China) - Worked with COVAX and WHO to reach a level of sustainable recovery from COVID-19 (League of Arab States)

2.3 Access to basic services, mobility, and public space

Commitments	*Actions*
- Improve waste management (Algeria, India, Nepal, Turkey) - Improve access to basic services (Algeria, Uzbekistan, - Public transportation (Algeria, Brunei Darussalam)	- Improved basic services (Qatar) - Improved waste management systems (Bahrain, Algeria, Lao PDR, Senegal, Guyana) - Improved road and rail infrastructure (Algeria, Kenya, Mauritius)

- Infrastructure for non-motorized transportation (Saudi Arabia)
- BRT systems (Kenya)
- Sustainable transportation (Brazil, India)
- Drinking water (India, Uzbekistan)
- Sanitation (Uzbekistan)
- Energy provision (Uzbekistan)
	• Improved public transit (Guyana)
	• Improved access to drinking water and/or sanitation (Bahrain, Ecuador, Lao PDR, Madagascar)
	• Improved service delivery to the poor (Honduras, Jordan)
	• Improved public spaces (Qatar)
	   - Enhanced accessibility for elderly and people with disabilities (Singapore)
	   - Promoted the right to the city (Venezuela)
	   - Increased green space in urban areas (China, Qatar, Saudi Arabia)
	• Explored innovative and technological solutions, urban mobility and access to green spaces and safe and resilient public transport (Cameroon, Costa Rica)

3. Contributions by cities to mitigate climate change, adapt equitably to effects of climate change, and halt environmental degradation

Commitments	*Actions*

• Reach carbon neutrality
   - and positive biodiversity (Colombia)
   - by pursuing environment friendly urban development plan (Nepal)
• Reduce greenhouse gas emissions (Brunei Darussalam)
• Increase renewable energy use and provision (Kuwait)
• Reduce the negative impact of cities on the environment (Algeria, ASEAN)
• Mainstream and address environment and climate change aspects in urbanization agenda (Rwanda)
• Strengthen urban resilience against natural disasters (Algeria, ASEAN, Cameroon)
   - upscaling climate resistant traditional housing (Madagascar)
• Enhance the energy performance of buildings (Singapore, Nepal)
• Increase planting of trees (Italy, Saudi Arabia)
• Inspire a global green transformation and improve all aspects of life through the New European Bauhaus (EU)
• Organize a high-level roundtable on the role of national urban policies in the context of the EU Green Deal and the reduced availability of fossil fuels (Poland)
• Ensure environmental sustainability in the implementation of programmes and projects (Sierra Leone)
	• Prioritized low carbon / climate resilient development (Colombia, EU, Malaysia)
	• Strengthened multi-level and cross-sectoral climate governance (Costa Rica, Malaysia)
	• Mainstreamed climate action into development planning (Lao PDR)
	• Adopted National Climate Change Policies (Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia)
	• Decarbonization and low-emission strategies, plans and codes to improve air quality, circular economy, sustainable transportation, energy-efficient and resilient buildings, and construction (Bahrain, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Greece, Malaysia, Senegal, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan)
	• Subnational climate mitigation projects (Ecuador)
	• Comprehensive Land Management Plan and National Environmental Plan (Republic of Korea)
	• Environmental status reports (Sudan)
	• Renewable energy (Kuwait)
	• Increased resilience and reduced vulnerability to natural disasters by climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction and relief plans and programs (Burundi, Greece, Malaysia, Niger, Poland, Senegal)
	• Reduced vulnerability of people living in informal settlements by using traditional building styles (Madagascar)

• Increase climate action through the reduction of disaster risks, the reduction of pollution, fostering climate protection and the conservation of biodiversity (Switzerland) • Balance environmental conservation and economic activities (Thailand) • Protect the environment and rational use of natural resources in the construction sector (Tajikistan)	• Implemented nature-based solutions and programs and plans to reduce deforestation, environmental degradation, or biodiversity loss (Bahrain, Burundi, Colombia, Italy, Greece) • Supported cities in India and Latin America in adapting to climate change, reducing air pollution, developing standards for energy-efficient residential buildings and the integration of renewable energy (Switzerland)

Requirements
• Support developing and middle-income countries to scale up the integrated focus on urbanization and biodiversity and invites the General Assembly to support UN-Habitat in advancing sustainable urban development on our planet (Colombia)   • Urgent need for definitions and applications of disaster mitigation plans for settlements in flood-prone areas in line with urban policy and planning (Sudan)

4. Urban Displacement and Cities

Commitments	Actions

• Construct cities where internally displaced people and inhabitants of conflict zones enjoy the same rights as the residents of big cities through adequate housing, access to water, energy, sanitation, health services, employment opportunities, and natural resources (Burkina Faso)
 • Implement urban development vision that permits full inclusion of displaced population with a focus on human rights and legality (Peru)
	• Responded to urban displacement driven by conflict through measures such as sustainable urban planning, effective land-use management in the context of crises, basic service provision to host communities and internally displaced people (IDPs), and the creation of employment and economic opportunities for the entire population (Burkina Faso)
	 • Improved quality of life in urban centres by
	    - resolving informal settlements, creating welcome centres for IDPs, and implementing inclusive development projects, including the allocation of agricultural plots to IDPs (Burkina Faso)
	    - Improving infrastructure to meet needs from recurring waves of refugees and population growth (Jordan)
	 • Responded to urban displacement caused by insecurity, conflict, and climate change (Czech Republic, Niger)
	 • Developed civil protection plans and disaster relief programs (Greece)
	 • Partnered with UN Habitat in creating housing plans and the national program for informal areas and internally displaced persons (Iraq)
	 • Rehabilitated infrastructure (Syria)

Requirements
- A Global Action Plan on inclusive urban planning in countries in post-conflict and disaster situations (Switzerland)   - Appeal to the international community for technical and financial support to relieve impact of urban displacement (Burkina Faso)   - Call to all societal actors to support inclusion of displaced population, as well as the international community to provide aid and technical support (Peru)

5. Urban Prosperity and Sustainable Finance
5.1 Urban Prosperity and Finance

Commitments	Actions
- Make cities the motor in the fight against poverty and exclusion, in accelerating development and economic attractiveness (Algeria) - Improve degraded urban areas for the socio-economic revitalization of large metropolitan areas (Italy) - Create an enabling environment to attract funding for sustainable urbanization through innovative mechanisms (Ivory Coast, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan) - land value capture mechanism (Africa Group) - Fiscal decentralization to local governments (Slovak Republic, Cameroon) - Enhance digital financial inclusion and maintain a strong and resilient post-COVID-19 economy (ASEAN) - Accelerate economic development by building a railway connection to Tanzania (Burundi) - Increase employment opportunities (Uzbekistan) - work and opportunities for women, youth, and persons with disabilities (Cameroon, South Africa) - Support partner countries in mobilizing finance for sustainable urban development, targeting investments in cities (EU) - Launch a Local Development Programme, which strengthens social and economic cohesion by improving the quality of life for all residents of medium and small towns (Poland) - Improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness of delivery systems in cadastre, registration, valuation, and real estate services to boost productivity and domestic tax revenue (Sierra Leone)	- Provided income generation opportunities to vulnerable youth and women in informal settlements (Kenya) - Adopted of a Framework for Circular Economy which sets out a structured pathway towards the long-term goals of resource efficiency, economic resilience, and sustainable growth (ASEAN) - Adopted national development strategies and plans (Cameroon), - to achieve inclusive, pro-poor, equitable and sustainable economic growth at local, national, and regional level (Costa Rica) - Instituted fiscal decentralization to local governments (Cameroon, Honduras) - Invested in urban development projects in external countries (EU) - Introduced land-use planning to enhance economic development and the creation of employment opportunities (Madagascar) - Adopted urban legislation and normative town planning to protect local economies and provide municipal financing (Tajikistan) - Established partnerships with the private sector and significantly enhanced the investment opportunities (Iraq) - Diversified the sources of income, facilitating investment environment for the people, enhancing the quality of life and healthcare for individuals, and prioritizing human capital (Kuwait)

• Promote culture, tourism, environmental protection, and new technologies to boost urban prosperity (Saudi Arabia) • Host the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (Qatar)	

Requirements
• Support to mobilize resources for infrastructure improvement in a sustainable, participatory, and result-oriented manner (Lao PDR)

5.2 Digital Transformation

Commitments	*Actions*
• Address the digital divide, by harnessing the benefits of digital transformation while addressing its risks and challenges (ASEAN, African Group, Maldives) • Accelerate digitalization of public services (Burundi)	• Promoted and invested in the development of Smart cities (India, Czech Republic, Maldives)

6. Multi-Level governance and localisation

6.1 Urban Governance

Commitments	*Actions*

• Adopt national urban policies (Algeria, Niger, Sudan)
• Implement well-managed and planned urbanization (Algeria)
• Mobilize professional planners, architects, and engineers, invest public resources, create South-South cooperation partnerships, and secure agreements with international development cooperation agencies to strengthen the capacity of governments to develop and implement national urban policies, and increase skills in data collection (G77)
• Establish Municipal and City Development forums to enhance participation (Uganda)
• Prioritize urban development in national development plans and strategies (Uganda)
• Enhance policy coherence on sustainable urbanization and stakeholder participation (Ivory Coast, Thailand)
• Foster local governance and inclusive urbanization through development cooperation programs (Switzerland)
• Support partner countries in their national urban policy and planning in partnership with UN Habitat (Republic or Korea)
	• Strengthened multi-level, multi-actor, and cross-sectoral urban governance (EU, Niger, Slovak Republic, South Africa)
	  - Metropolitan governance (France)
	  - Cooperation between cities and regions at national, regional, and global level (EU, France, Italy)
	  - Urban-rural linkages (Cameroon)
	• Adopted or implemented national urban policies and legislation (Algeria, Burundi, Cameroon, Romania, Qatar, Tajikistan)
	  - Policy review to align with New Urban Agenda (Nigeria)
	  - Strengthened urban dimension of policies and adopting urban strategies, sectoral policies, and laws (EU)
	  - Improved citizen participation and transparency in urban policy implementation (France, Honduras, South Africa)
	  - Established National Habitat Committee for the formulation of the National Urban Policy (Sierra Leone)
	• Strengthened decentralization and administrative de-concentration (Algeria, Ivory Coast, France, Honduras)

• Share knowledge between African countries through a collaborative inter-ministerial platform (Ivory Coast) • Institutionalize capacity building (South Sudan) • Support German cities and towns in partner countries in developing Voluntary Local Reviews with a focus on urban development practices (Germany) • Organize the UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments) World Congress in 2022 (Republic or Korea)	- and the role of local communities (France, Honduras) - Supporting cities and city networks on local government and decentralization in over 30 countries (Switzerland) • Reformed public administration (France, Guinea) • Implemented partnerships to strengthen role and capacities of municipalities and civil society, and to enhance enabling frameworks, such as national urban development policies (Germany)

Requirements
• Support in the implementation, monitoring, and review of decentralization policies by the UN system (Africa Group) • Hold Biannual meetings of Housing and Urban Development Ministers to exchange progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (Africa Group) • Support for strengthening the governance systems (Lao PDR)

6.2 Urban Planning and Management

Commitments	*Actions*
• Promote integrated spatial planning, strengthening development control strengthening the legislative and institutional frameworks for effective land governance and urban planning (Holy See, Sierra Leone, Venezuela, Saudi Arabia) • Improve project management capacity and decentralized statistical services (Cameroon, Venezuela) • Establish partnerships needed to create urban planning documents for urban centres (Niger) • Formulate National Land Development Strategy (NLDS), preparing urban master plans, promoting urban regeneration for historic centres, and establish 'town planner's council' to guide land use and propose innovative solutions (Mauritius) • Protecting cultural and historical heritage (Tajikistan)	• Prioritized urban planning and development (Kenya, Uzbekistan) • Strengthened the role of local governments in urban management and planning processes (Ivory Coast, Sudan, Venezuela) • Created new cities, decentralized urban development, and integrated urban areas (Algeria, Egypt, Guyana, Maldives) • Adopted or implemented urban development, spatial and land-use planning, design laws, strategies, and instruments (Burundi, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Iraq, Niger, Senegal, Uzbekistan) - Participatory urban management (Niger) • Implemented urban renewal and regeneration initiatives (France, Greece) • Supported the Global Land Tool Network (Switzerland) • Developed new urban development modes and reformed the administrative system and practice regarding urban planning and the built environment (China)