



**United Nations Habitat Assembly of the
United Nations Human Settlements Programme
Second session**

Nairobi, 5–9 June 2023

Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

**Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements
Programme, including coordination matters**

Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Addendum

Highlights of the Annual Report 2022 on the implementation of the strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2020–2023**

Note by the secretariat

1. In paragraph 3 of its resolution 1/1 (HSP/HA.1/Res.1), the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to report annually to Member States on progress achieved in the implementation of the strategic plan and the activities set out in the work programme of UN-Habitat.
2. Accordingly, the secretariat presents the highlights of the outcomes of the implementation of the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan for the year 2022 which was undertaken through UN-Habitat's work programme and budget. These highlights mark the third year of the Strategic Plan period. Results were gathered from UN-Habitat Headquarters, country and regional offices in a data-collection exercise between December 2022 and February 2023.
3. The highlights demonstrate that UN-Habitat is implementing initiatives that contribute to the fulfilment of the organization's mandate by alleviating poverty and inequality, enhancing shared prosperity, strengthening climate action, and preventing urban crises, by promoting the acceleration of the New Urban agenda through effective and inclusive multilateral processes. It also indicates that the Programme has been advancing its catalytic functions, creating more integrated and innovative urban solutions and ideas, working increasingly with strategic partners, and delivering more tightly focused interventions.
4. The world is off-track in the implementation of the global agendas on sustainable urbanization, including several targets of Sustainable Development Goal 11 on 'Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable'. As such, it is urgent to accelerate implementation and to translate goals into concrete pathways for bold transformative action. The COVID-19 Pandemic and the current global crises have clearly shown that adequate housing for all and prosperous, just, and

* HSP/HA.2/1.

** The present document has not been formally edited.

green urban futures cannot be realized without inclusive and effective multilateralism, that acknowledges human rights and gender equality, and complements and reinforces national and local efforts towards sustainable development.

5. In 2022, UN-Habitat supported key multilateral processes on sustainable urban development. The Quadrennial Report 2022 report was prepared in consultation with more than 40 partners, including non-governmental organizations. April 2022 marked an important milestone to address the multiple urban global crises through multilateral action as the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) President convened a special meeting on Sustainable Urbanization to review the 2022 Quadrennial Report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Drawing upon the special meeting of ECOSOC, the President of the General Assembly on 28 April 2022 convened the high-level meeting on progress toward the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. 83 Member States affirmed their commitment of the New Urban Agenda as a road map to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and other global agendas. They committed to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda by advancing actions on adequate housing with basic services and inclusive planning; climate mitigation and adaptation and environmental sustainability; urban crisis reduction and recovery; multilevel governance and Sustainable Development Goals localization; and sustainable financing for infrastructure and urban basic services. The lessons learned have been incorporated into the planning for 2023 and the draft work programme for 2024.

6. In its third year, and notwithstanding the challenging context described above, the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023 continues to be a robust instrument for responding to conflict, the social effects of the pandemic and climate emergencies by preparing human settlements for managing risks, preventing crises, sustainably recovering from the global pandemic, and mitigating and adapting to climate change.

7. In 2022, UN-Habitat has produced publications, tools, guidelines, and technical materials through its earmarked funding and from funds available at country and regional level, such as the World Cities Report 2022, Our City Plans: an incremental and participatory toolbox for urban planning and Blockchain for Urban Development: a guidance for urban managers.

8. These outputs have formed a good basis to strengthen the global normative work, connecting better to operational activities and field operations.

9. Under Domain of Change 1: Reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum, UN-Habitat and partners presented a ‘Global Action Plan on Accelerating for Transforming Informal Settlements and Slums by 2030’ as a platform for strategic engagement and aligned actions on slum transformation. UN-Habitat has also supported the adoption of urban and territorial renewal and urban regeneration policies in eight partner cities. Community-led COVID-19 responses in informal settlements and slums were implemented increasing awareness on the right to access basic services as well as generating income and access to water and sanitation for about 3.4 million people (cumulative) in 45 countries. With UN-Habitat support, 30 local sanitation operators have provided more inclusive sanitation services.

10. Under Domain of Change 2: Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions, UN-Habitat has supported countries to better harness these aspects for sustainable urban development by advancing the localization of the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) through technical assistance for the preparation of nine Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs), and their integration in Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). UN-Habitat promoted a people-centred approach to urban innovation, digital technologies, smart cities, and urbanization processes, supporting the development of people-centered smart city strategies and addressing the digital divide in 30 cities.

11. Under Domain of Change 3: Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment, UN-Habitat contributed to the acceleration of multilevel climate action by supporting the organization of the first Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change at the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. The meeting launched the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe) Initiative, which seeks to build on effective multi-level governance to transform cities to be healthy, sustainable, just, inclusive, low-emission and resilient urban systems for a better urban future for all. After COP27 over 160 partners endorsed the Initiative and 48 national governments committed to multilevel and cross-sectoral climate actions. UN-Habitat has supported the development of 19 district resilience action frameworks in sub-Saharan Africa and 19 cities and towns have benefitted from nature-based solutions supported by UN-Habitat.

12. Under Domain of Change 4: Effective urban crisis prevention and response, UN-Habitat has supported cities in applying participatory planning methodologies in their effort to become more

inclusive and enhanced the positive impact of urban migration for host communities across Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East. UN Habitat supported the establishment of 71 community centres which provided a space for all in the population including refugees and migrants, to engage intercultural dialogue and contribute to urban planning processes. UN Habitat has supported 11 cities in implementing the City Resilience Global Programme. At the 11th session of the World Urban Forum, 10 events explored how urban recovery frameworks contribute to assess needs, capacities, and vulnerabilities of urban areas in Ukraine. The development of the Urban recovery framework contributes to enhance response to urban crises based on urban profiling, an analysis tool that supports a better understanding of displacement patterns, integrating various sectoral assessments of damages and pre-existing vulnerabilities into a spatial analysis of the city.

13. In 2022, a total of \$156.7 million was mobilized to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

14. The full Annual Progress Report for the year 2022 on the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020–2023 is currently under preparation and will be published with an accompanying online version by 28 May 2023 for distribution at the United Nations Habitat Assembly. It will also be shared with the Executive Board of UN-Habitat at its second session of the year 2023.
