



IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA

Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean

A review in preparation for the second Quadrennial report (2022)

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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



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This report documents the progress made in the implementation New Urban Agenda in the Latin America and the Caribbean between 2018 and 2021. The Report is based on desk review and analysis of a wide range of data sources including the Voluntary Local Reviews for cities in the region and national reports on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AACID	Andalusian Agency for International Development Cooperation
ABM	Brazilian Association of Municipalities
ACCESAR	Plan for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – Argentina
AMG	Metropolitam area of Guadalajara - Mexico
ANUA	National Urban Environmental Agenda – Costa Rica
APDH	Argentine Memoria Abierta
APLAU	Latin American Association of Urban Planners - Costa Rica
ARISE	Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies
ASOMUC	Women Builders' Association - Bolivia
CAF	Development Bank of Latin America
CARICOM	Caribbean Community of Nations
CC	Climate Change
CC35	Capital Cities of the Americas in the Face of Climate Change
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
CEPRENAC	Coordination Centre for Disaster Prevention in Central America and the Dominican Republic
CIT	Territorial Welfare Indicator - Chile
CNM	National Confederation of Municipalities - Brazil
CNH	National Habitat Commettee - Cuba
COPRESAM	Presidential Commission for Municipal Affairs – Costa Rica
C40	Global Network of Mayors for Climate Change
CAF	Development Bank of Latin America
CGT	Workers General Trade - Argentina
CTA A	Central de Trabajadores de la Argentina Autónoma (Autonomous Argentinean Workers' Central)
DRA	Disaster Reconstruction Authority - Bahamas
DRR	Risk and Disaster Reduction
EAGRD	Andean Strategy for Disaster Risk Management
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ENASU	National Strategy for Access to Urban Land – Uruguay
ESC	Emerging and Sustainable Cities Program
ETS2030	Forum of the Territorial Strategy Sinaloa 2030
EU	European Union
FOCUS	Fund for Change
GIZ	German Society for International Cooperation ICLEI Local Governments for Climate Change
HHRR	Human Rights International Human Rights Law
HDI	Human Development Index
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
ICLEI	Local Governments for Sustainability
INSUS	National Institute for Sustainable Land
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPF	Institute of Physical Planning - Cuba
ILO	International Labour Organization

INSUS	National Sustainable Land Institute – Mexico
INOT	National Institute of Urban Planning
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
KFW	State Development Bank of the Federal Republic of Germany
LGAHOTyDU	Urban Development, Urban Planning, Human Settlement General Law - Mexico
LOOTUGS	Organic Law on Land Use and Management – Ecuador
MCS	Municipal care system - Bogota
MIST	Methodology for Socio-Territorial Intervention in precarious settlements - Paraguay
MMA	Ministry of the Environment – El Salvador
MDPMR	Ministry of Disaster, Preparedness, Management and Reconstruction - Bahamas
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCDS	Cooperation Framework for Sustainable Development – Cuba
MERCOSUR	Strategy for Disaster Risk Management of MERCOSUR Countries
MSMES	Small and Medium Size Enterprise
MSW	Urban Solid Waste
MUVH	Ministry of Urban Planning, Housing and Habitat - Paraguay
NEMA	National Emergency Management Agency
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NUA	New Urban Agenda
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
OPAMSS	San Salvador Metropolitan Area Planning Office
PAC	Climate Action Plan
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PAMPA 2030	Argentine Monitoring Platform for the 2030 Agenda - Argentina
PAN-NAUC	National Implementation Plan – NUA Cuba
PCGIR	Central American Integrated Risk Management Policy
PCGIR	Central American Policy for Integrated Disaster Risk Management
PDHI	Argentinian Plan for Human Development
PENASU	National Urban Land Plan - Argentina
PIMUS	Comprehensive Plan for Sustainable Urban Mobility
PIOD	National Plan for Equal Opportunities and Human Rights – Argentina
PMI	Integral Improvement Programme - Mexico
PNCC	National Climate Change Policy
PNDU	National Urban Policy - Chile
PNGRD	National Risk and Disaster Management Plan PNGRD National Risk and Disaster Management Plan
PNGRD	National Risk and Disaster Management Plan PNUD United Nations Development Programme
PNVH	Paraguay's National Housing and Habitat Policy
PUE	Polarization of Urban Standards
RAMCC	Argentinean Network of Municipalities Facing Climate Change
RMAGIR/	
RGOSCRRD	Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Risk Reduction
RENASEH	National Network of Human Settlements – Bolivia
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SICA	Central American Integration System

SISCA	Secretariat for the Central America Social Integration
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SICCEP	System of Cities and Town Centres
SIEDU	Urban Development Standards and Indicators System
SIREDA	System for the Evaluation of Damages Causes by natural Phenomena
TELCA	Train and the Rehabilitation of the Electric Freight Train
TNC	Third National Communication
UTRASD	Union of Afro-Colombian domestic service workers - Colombia
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme UNEP United Nations Environment Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund USAID United States Agency for International Development
USAID	The United States Agency for International Development
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNTREF	Universidad Nacional Tres de Febrero – Argentina

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Key findings and messages

a) Findings

1. On the status of implementation of the recommendations of the First Quadrennial Report 2018

Following the recommendations of the 2018 Quadrennial Report, UN-HABITAT has defined a sample of cities where the NUA has outlined governance and urban planning instruments (Havana is one of them).

UN-HABITAT, through its sub-regional offices, has provided training on the implementation of the NUA, mainly in Mexico, Cuba, Bolivia, Ecuador and in various cities in Brazil. Two particular initiatives deserve special mention: the Tecnológico de Monterrey in Mexico (NUA master's degree course) and the Universidad Central de las Villas in Cuba, with a similar course aimed mainly at municipal officials. On dissemination, the Urban Circuits of Brazil and the presentations of the NUA applied in the urban events of October and in regional housing forums have been particularly successful.

In data production, it is worth highlighting the construction and recent launch of the Urban Platform developed by ECLAC and UN-HABITAT (<https://plataformaurbana.cepal.org/es>), a repository of legislative initiatives, governance, planning, and concrete plans and projects related to the NUA, which is complemented by the global platform <https://www.urbanagendaplatform.org>. Additionally, the GeoExplora¹ portal in Costa Rica, the Urban Development Indicators System (SIEDU²) in Chile (providing evidence for urban policies), the Open Government Initiative in Uruguay, and the interactive Guide for the Elaboration and Revision of Master Plans developed by the Polis Institute in Brazil, should be noted.

2. On the NUA reporting system

Seven countries in the region have elaborated Voluntary National Reports on Implementation of the NUA: Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, Peru and Ecuador. These are available at: <https://www.urbanagendaplatform.org/member-states>. All include a description of progress in the main components of the NUA.

3. On transformational commitments

The two areas of greatest consolidation and development are i) social inclusion and ending poverty, and ii) environment and climate change. Improvements made regarding urban prosperity are lagging behind in comparison.

Social housing programmes continue to operate in the region, with innovations such as social housing quotas and greater emphasis on adaptation to climate change and other risks (Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia).

¹ <https://geoexplora-mivah.opendata.arcgis.com>

² <https://www.ide.cl/index.php/noticias/item/1920-sistema-de-indicadores-de-desarrollo-urbano-siedu-la-nueva-herramienta-para-avanzar-en-la-equidad-urbana>.

The change in priorities imposed by social distancing and mobility restrictions did not manage to trigger innovative policies in economic-productive development at the neighbourhood level, nor urban policies or programmes to unblock global production and consumption chains, which were strongly affected by the pandemic. If they exist, there is no evidence of entities documenting and analysing such initiatives as public policy. In Argentina, the [Integral Human Development Policy \(2020\)](#), which was created as a collective option to address the impact of the pandemic, includes a line of work on the dynamization of the urban economy. In Brazil, the Belo Horizonte Municipality is running a programme ([Programa Jornadas Productiva](#)) that encourages economic activities at the neighbourhood level by recognising and supporting informal production. These are the few examples of public policy in this area in the region.

In urban prosperity, the greatest innovation came about rather spontaneously within individual neighbourhoods: childcare centres and community food centres proliferated, urban services that allowed hundreds of impoverished women who are the primary breadwinners in their households to continue working³.

In terms of the environment and climate change, existing instruments (policies, norms, plans, programmes, methodologies) have internalised the principles and commitments of the NUA, with a more territorial approach to risk management. Networks and coalitions of cities and municipal governments (ICLEI, C40, RAMCC, CC35), and international cooperation (mainly GIZ) have played a key role in this. Montevideo is the first capital city in the world to obtain ISO 14001 certification for the environmental management of its beaches on the La Plata river. And several cities are developing or have developed climate change action plans: Recife, Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte, Lima, Guayaquil, San Salvador (under development), Port-au-Prince, etc.

4. On effective implementation

The region shows substantive progress in the development or revision of more integrated urban policies⁴. The joint project entitled: '2023P Inter-regional cooperation for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda'⁵ has been key to enabling progress in this area. There is also a great deal of progress in redistributive land management instruments, especially in the Andean Arc sub-region (Colombia, Ecuador, Perú and Bolivia).

In decentralisation, Chile's Law on Decentralisation of Regional Governments, which democratises the election of regional governors and creates land-use bindings plans, deserves recognition.

Also noteworthy is the participatory process entitled the Regional Youth Plan, prepared on the basis of more than 800 citizen roundtables in Latin America, to learn the perspective of the younger population on current and future urban life. This document was submitted to MINURVI, ECLAC and UN- Habitat⁶.

Highlights:

³ <https://www.laolladechile.com>, <https://www.ciperchile.cl/2019/03/04/las-guarderias-de-ninos-inmigrantes-que-albergan-los-guetos-verticales/>, www.parquecapibaribe.org, www.inciti.org, www.cufa.org.br.

⁴ <https://plataformaurbana.cepal.org/es/countries-cities>

⁵ Umoja functional area: ECLAC: 21AC0008, UN-Habitat Programme Division: 45AC0007, ESCAP : 19AC00004, ECE : 20AC0008, ECA: 18AC0009 ESCWA: 22AC0002.

⁶ Interview with Juan Pablo Duhalde, Director of Regional Institutional Relations of the Civil Organisation TECHO, 12/11/2021.

The elaboration of the Regional Plan for the Implementation of the NUA in Central America (PRINAU), with the support of the Secretariat for Central American Social Integration (SISCA).

The technical metropolitan management of San Salvador led by the San Salvador Metropolitan Area Planning Office (OPAMSS); the proposals for commonwealths in various Central American countries, the proposals for metropolitan management in Guadalajara, Mexico City and Monterrey, and the Brazilian municipal consortiums.

The development and/or revision of redistributive land management instruments (land policies) in Cuba, Mexico, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Uruguay, Chile, and the Dominican Republic, among others.

In contrast to the planning of city expansions, slum upgrading, urban regeneration and mobility based on renewable energy have been installed in the discourse and are already quite widespread and permanent measures in the region.

The Smart Cities Charter (Brazil), as one of the first urban policy instruments on this topic in the region.

The mobilization of several feminist movements that are pushing forward the global and regional gender agenda and strategy.

Concerns:

The emergence of municipal affairs bodies at the national level, in various ministries, especially public works, can be seen as a step towards decentralisation, as it would allow direct communication at the local level, or as a step backwards to increased centralisation. It will depend on the type of political-technical relationship that is established (El Salvador, Guatemala).

The abolition by law of the National Council of Cities in Brazil; a multisectoral and participatory platform for urban policy-making.

The lack of and/or outdated municipal land-use plans in Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Brazil, Chile, and Peru, among others.

While cities have made great efforts to reduce the high levels of urban violence and its multiple expressions, they are not responding as expected.

5. On means of implementation

On financing, it is extremely difficult to estimate how much has been mobilised and allocated in the region for the implementation of the NAU and the sources of funding. Information to date fragmented and sometimes not open at national and sub-national levels.

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), the Fund for Change (FOCUS), the Climate Change Fund, the Andalusian Agency for International Development Cooperation (AACID) and financial support from

development banks (IDB, CAF and World Bank) are relevant resources for the implementation of the NUA in the region.

Significant progress has been made in the development of new methodologies, information systems and data platforms that facilitate the implementation of the NUA. These are in addition to existing documents and mechanisms.

A significant number of cities (more than 450) have chosen to use the CPI as a basic diagnostic tool for the implementation of the NAU. Mostly Mexico, Argentina, Ecuador, Colombia.

The regional office and the UN-HABITAT sub-regional offices developed a series of actions to support the implementation of the NUA, which have not been effectively systematised as direct implementation inputs of the Agenda; these actions - at first sight very positive and potentially scalable.

In terms of specific training on the NUA, it is particularly worth mentioning the course offered by the Tecnológico de Monterrey, the training developed by UN-HABITAT in Brazil and in some Andean countries, and the courses offered by the Universidad de las Villas in Cuba.

Since the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, MINURVI⁷ has demonstrated its relevance through its annual declarations and has underlined its support towards the fulfilment of the postulates of the Agenda, defining priority approaches and themes⁸. This position was reinforced during the 2021 forum, in which an amendment to the internal regulations was contemplated to incorporate the functions of a Technical Secretariat jointly integrated by UN-HABITAT and ECLAC, as part of institutional strengthening.

Concerns:

The weakening of democracies, expressed in populist governments, discontinuity of political-urban projects, lack of transparency, and high turnover of national and sub-national authorities, among others, put the implementation of the NUA at risk.

6. On the interrelationship of the NUA with global agendas

While it is anecdotally clear that the NUA acts as an accelerator of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs, no scientific evidence has been found, specifically impact evaluations with a control group that quantitatively and qualitatively demonstrate its efficacy.

Despite supranational efforts on the systemic character of cities and thus of urban policies, the potential for interlinkages and synergies between global agendas is still poorly understood at the sub-national level. It is in the networks and coalitions of local authorities, political movements and the third sector that the NUA has really had an impact.

The NUA is beginning to strongly influence the international gender agenda (see Table 9), as well as the climate change and disaster risk management agenda.

⁷ Forum of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Housing and Urban Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI), an intergovernmental coordination and cooperation entity of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the area of sustainable development of human settlements. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). (n.d.). MINURVI | ECLAC Communities. ECLAC. Retrieved December 8, 2021, from <https://comunidades.cepal.org/ciudades/es/grupos/minurvi>

⁸ Principle 21, NUA.



The gap in management and financing capacity between municipalities in capital cities and metropolitan governments and the more than 18,000 small municipalities in the region remains wide.

The elaboration of the Voluntary Reports is also valued by national and sub-national authorities as a political platform for dialogue.

There has been notable progress in the implementation of the gender agenda with a territorial approach, although the urban care systems continue to be a pending issue, as well as Human Rights with a territorial approach.

7. On the NUA from various sectors

The following emerges from the one hundred and nineteen (119) testimonies of key interviewees:

At the supra-national level and among those who were directly involved in the drafting of the Agenda, there is recognition of the effort that went into its development, and the importance of having a global political agreement on sustainable and fair urban development.

There is a significant gap between the language of the UN and that of civil society and politics, forcing sustainable urban development processes to be described in a format that sometimes excludes the informal or customary practices that are capable of realising the principles of the NUA with great power for change.

There is a lack of knowledge of the NUA within local governments; with mayors focusing more on day-to-day urgencies than on tangible actions, with the exception of those involved in UN-HABITAT actions, Agenda 2030, Paris Agreement and other global agendas.

There is little awareness of whether what is being done is in line with the NUA.

There is little understanding of the interaction between global agendas at sub-national level.

There is a lack of clarity and indicators within the NUA.

There is a lack of clarity on the mechanisms for implementing the NUA.

There is a widespread perception that the NUA is too general, that it does not prioritise according to existing urban typologies in the region, and that it has become obsolete in the post-COVID reality.

The period of monitoring for the implementation of the NUA (4 years) does not match the timescale for urban processes, which is generally longer.

The word care (referred to care systems), is not yet present in the NUA.

b) Recommendations for the Third Quadrennial Report 2026 and for the NUA implementation

1. On the status of implementation of the recommendations of the First Quadrennial Report 2018

- Recognise and give continuity to long-standing policies, programmes and urban plans aligned with the NUA that have been in place in the region since before the NUA was approved.

2. On the NAU and M&E reporting system

- Make the UN-HABITAT guidelines developed for reporting more widely known, especially the recently approved: 'Global Urban Monitoring Framework'.
- Recognize existing M&E tools such as the CPI (widely implemented in the region), and the Habitat Commitment Index (The New School), which allows a 2022 baseline to be established, the implementation of the Agenda to be evaluated every four years, and guidelines for action based on this evaluation to be established, with a strong emphasis on the new post-COVID reality.
- Systematise UN-HABITAT's work in the region in relation to the NUA.

3. On transformative commitments

- Promote urban policies and programmes aimed at the production and reinvestment of added value in the local territory, as well as the capture of capital gains and reinvestment in public goods.

4. On effective implementation

- Use the RAPs (Regional, Caribbean and Central America) for its implementation.
- Implement the NAU through the Associations of Urban Planners (Caribbean), with a political base in CARICOM.
- Further promoting the design and/or updating of integrated urban policies.
- Support the elaboration and/or updating of urban plans (POTs) at sub-national level with a participatory approach.
- Monitor regressive centralisation processes.
- Encourage multisectoral participatory processes of implementation, giving a particular voice to trade unions, social movements and the private sector.
- Work on the implementation of the Agenda with mayors by sub-region according to city typology, size and municipal legal attributions.
- Support the elaboration and/or updating of land-use plans.
- Work with an emphasis on planning city expansions.
- Strengthen the definition of policies and programmes that address the multiple expressions of violence and its causes (inequalities).
- Converting urban measures that have worked well in the face of the pandemic into public goods.

5. Means of implementation

- Financially discuss urban policies with national representatives of finance and congress in the annual MINURVI forums, especially now that UN-HABITAT and ECLAC make up the Technical Secretariat.
- Define the annual MINURVI thematic discussion in relation to the weakest areas of the Agenda's implementation, in order to reinforce it; and in relation to the strongest areas, in order to promote intra- and inter-regional knowledge exchange.
- Support the formation of a network of initiatives committed to the implementation of the NAU with a view to sharing experiences, financing instruments and advocacy strategies, as well as giving visibility to the NAU.
- Recognise sustainable urban development processes outside the sphere of government.
- Recognise regional good practices through incentives.
- Intensify dissemination and capacity building on the NAU at sub-national level.
- Use RAPs (Regional, Caribbean and Central America) for implementation.
- Articulate efforts with international cooperation, development and multilateral funds (International Urban Cooperation Programme (IUC)⁹, AECID¹⁰ Heritage Programme, Regional Project: Inclusive and Sustainable Smart Cities in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (2020-2022)¹¹, AFD, Climate and Clean Air in Latin American Cities CALAC+¹² SDC, others).

6. On the interrelation of the NAU with global agendas

- Assess the contribution of the NAU as an accelerator of the SDGs.
- Show the potential for interrelationships and synergies between global agendas at sub-national level.
- Include urban care systems as key element in urban policies.
- Operationalise *city diplomacy* through UN-HABITAT/ECLAC political-technical work with ministries of foreign affairs, chancelleries, national government coalitions, associations of municipalities, city networks and development Banks, among others to reduce the gap in management and financing capacity between large and small municipalities.
- Create incentives for the elaboration of LVRs.

7. On the NUA from various sectors

- Incentivize the monitoring and legitimisation of informal and traditional sustainable urban processes with great potential.
- Strengthen the diffusion of the NUA and global agendas at the sub-national level.
- Highlight specific urban processes at the sub-national level in line with the NUA.
- Provide training on the interaction between global agendas at sub-national level.

⁹ European Union programme that aims to lead and develop a form of decentralised international urban and regional cooperation in the fields of sustainable urban development and innovation. Based on the results and lessons learned from IUC, this new initiative aims to optimise the added value of international cooperation, transforming IURC into a Global Reference Network for urban and regional innovation that includes more than 140 cities and regions from six geographical areas.

IUC Project, 2016. Available at: <https://iuc.eu/na-es/inicio>

¹⁰ Available at: <https://www.aecid.es/Centro-Documentacion/Documentos/Publicaciones%20AECID/25%20a%20C3%B1os%20cooperando%20con%20Am%C3%A9rica%20Latina%20y%20el%20Caribe%20-%20Exposiciones.pdf>

¹¹ Inclusive and sustainable smart cities in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2021. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/es/proyectos/ciudades-inclusivas-sostenibles-inteligentes-marco-la-agenda-2030-desarrollo-america-0>

¹² CALAC+ Programme. Available at: <https://programacalac.com/quienes-somos/>

- Provide an M&E mechanism for implementing the NUA.
- Synthesise the NUA in fewer but more specific and aligned goals directly related to the SDG, highlighting the post-COVID reality.

I. Introduction

The New Urban Agenda (NUA) represents a shared vision for a better and more sustainable urban future. If well planned and managed, urbanisation can be a powerful tool for sustainable and fair development.

The NUA is based on three transformative commitments: i) sustainable urban development for social inclusion and the end of poverty; ii) sustainable and inclusive urban prosperity and opportunity for all; and iii) environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development. Additionally, it focusses on processes that account for its effective implementation: governance and urban and territorial planning aspects; and means of implementation: financing, capacity building, data and technologies for sustainable urban development, engagement and participation of development partners in the NUA, and interlinkages with other global agendas. Regarding the latter, the NUA was conceived as an accelerator of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, emphasising the role of local governments in their implementation, creating a new city diplomacy.

The NUA was adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) held in Quito (Ecuador) on 20th October 2016. It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-eighth plenary meeting of the seventy-first session on 23rd December 2016. Reporting on its implementation every four years is one of its stipulations (Item 166). The first global implementation report covered the period 2016-2018¹³, the second report covers the period 2018-2022.

This report describes in general terms the progress, setbacks, omissions and challenges of the NUA based on a literature review and interviews with sectors and actors directly related to the urban development of our cities (119); it also includes acknowledgements and criticisms of its implementation shared by various sectors. The contribution of the 119 interviewees, summarised in this report, merits publication and internal reflection by UN-HABITAT in the coming months due to the wealth of visions and proposals for implementation.

The report is structured in 12 sections: 1. Introduction, 2. LAC: baseline, 3. LAC from the NUA perspective, 4. Status of implementation of the recommendations of the First Quadrennial Report 2018, 5. NUA Reporting System, 6. Transformative Commitments, 7. Effective implementation, 8. Means of implementation, 9. Interrelation of the NUA with Global Agendas, 10. On the NUA from Various Sectors, 11. Concluding Remarks and Lessons for Policy, 12. Recommendations for the Third Quadrennial Report 2026.

¹³ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1628008>

The follow-up and review of the NUA is based on an analysis and reflection of the Transformation Commitments (NUA sections 24 to 80), Effective Implementation (NUA sections 85 to 125), Means of Implementation (NUA sections 126 to 160), and Follow-up and Review (161-175).

1) Transformation Commitments:

a. The follow-up and review on social inclusion and ending poverty covers: poverty eradication and inequality reduction, social inclusion of vulnerable groups (women, youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and migrants), ensuring access to adequate and affordable housing, including slum upgrading and access to safe drinking water, sanitation and solid waste disposal; and access to public spaces, including streets, pavements and bicycle lanes.

b. Follow-up and review on inclusive urban prosperity and opportunities includes: productive employment for all, including youth employment; strengthening the informal economy; supporting small and medium-sized enterprises; and promoting an enabling environment for business and innovation.

c. Follow-up and review on environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development includes: climate change mitigation and adaptation actions; systems to reduce the impact of natural and man-made disasters; minimising urban sprawl and biodiversity loss; and environmentally sound management of water resources and urban coastal zones.

2) Analysis of Effective Implementation includes integrated urban policies, governance systems, legal and regulatory frameworks, spatial planning principles and strategies, balanced territorial development, transport, and culture.

3) The reflection on Means of Implementation considers: mobilisation of financial resources; opportunities for city-to-city cooperation, exchange of urban solutions and mutual learning; capacity building; data, information technology and innovation.

4) The analysis on follow-up and review includes the generation of M&E devices aligned with the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

Objectives

To prepare a multi-sectoral follow-up and review report on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean in the period of 2018-2022, including progress, setbacks, challenges, acknowledgements, criticisms and recommendations that the various sectors must address to make the Agenda a better tool for sustainable and fair development in cities and for people.

Methodology

The underlying questions of this research were to what extent and in what way has the NUA been implemented in the region in the period 2018-2022, and what are the major acknowledgements and criticisms of the NUA from various sectors with a view to its improvement.



The research is based on i) a literature review (UN-HABITAT documents, sub-regional urban technical-political literature from various sectors, MINURVI Declarations, Local and National Voluntary Reports)¹⁴, ii) regional and sub-regional multi-sectoral interviews¹⁵, iii) production of quantitative data from statistical databases of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, CEPALSTAT, World Bank and UN-HABITAT¹⁶, and iv) conversations held with global and regional actors and entities committed to sustainable and fair development from an urban perspective.

Taking into consideration the territorial diversity of LAC, seven (7) sub-regions were identified (the same sub-regions used for the elaboration of the HAB III - Quito 2016 regional report), since this facilitates continuity of documentation and comparability of facts and figures for the period 2018-2022, within each sub-region and at the regional level.

In order to collect cross-sectoral information from different levels, seven (7) urban experts acting as sub-regional focal points were invited to collaborate on this report, who were in charge of conducting interviews, coordinating the reflection, and documenting sub-regional cases on the implementation of the NUA, based on the aforementioned methodologies of information collection and analysis.

¹⁴ <https://unhabitat.org/topics/voluntary-local-reviews>, <https://www.urbanagendaplatform.org/memberstates>

¹⁵ In Annex, Interview Guidelines and Excel Spreadsheet for interviewees and good practices.

¹⁶ <https://population.un.org/wpp/Graphs/DemographicProfiles/Line/931>
<https://population.un.org/wup/>

The interviewees belong to the following institutions: UN-HABITAT, Regional Coordinator's offices (SSNNUU), UNDRR, ECLAC, ministries of housing and urbanism, regional, metropolitan and local governments, sub-regional government entities such as SISCA and CARICOM, international cooperation, ministries of foreign affairs (MMRREE), development banks, NGOs, academia, trade unions and the private sector.

Table 1: Outline of regional and sub-regional work/interviews and focus groups

Sub-region/ Sectors	UN-HABITAT	Resident Coordinator's Offices (SSNNUU)	ECLAC	Ministries of Housing and Urban Development	Local government s/ Local government associations	Sub-regional government al entities (SISCA, CARICOM)	International cooperatio n	MMRREE	Developme nt Banks	NGOs	Academi a/ Applied research centres	Private sector/trade unions	Third sector
LAC	x	x (Panama)	x	x (Colombia)	x (UCLG)		x	x	x (IDB)	x (TECHO)	x (ICLEI, Cities Alliance)	x	x
Cuba	x	x	x	x		x	x	x					
Caribbean	x		x	x		CARICOM		x	x				
Mexico	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x			
Central America	x	x	x			SISCA		x		x			
Andean Arc (Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia)	x		x	x	x	x		x		x			
Southern Cone (Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile)	x				x	x		x	x	x			
Brazil	x				x	x		x		x			

Note: Interviews proposed for reference only.
Source: Author's elaboration.



The information was analysed by applying triangulation, both in the data collection phase and in the analysis phase. In this way, the information collected from different perspectives, techniques and reviewed documents was contrasted to make the evidence and facts more reliable.

The results, findings, conclusions, lessons learnt and recommendations were synthesised at regional and sub-regional levels into the four broad categories of the NUA: Transformative Commitments, Effective Implementation, Means of Implementation, and Interrelation of the NUA with global agendas. This was done through weekly discussion meetings between the sub-regional focal points and the principal author of this report.

The research took place between September 2021 and January 2022, in response to the provisions of the NUA.

Additional methodological considerations

Some additional methodological considerations are detailed below, bearing in mind the structural characteristics of the NUA (overall global policy commitment), the urban situation over time and criteria for the selection of cases and good practices.

Selection criteria for progress attributable to the NUA: In order not to impute to the NUA developments that do not emerge directly from it, an effort was made to identify developments (new visions, policies, laws, regulations, governance systems, resource mobilisation initiatives, programmes, and projects) which were directly related to the NUA in the documents themselves and/or by the sectors and actors directly involved in such processes.

On temporal milestones: The narrative of this report was structured on the results achieved by 2022, taking as reference the 2016 regional urban baseline (Regional HABIII Report¹⁷), as well as the paradigm shift, setbacks and urban opportunities brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

On contextual conditions: On the effectiveness of the implementation of the NUA, special consideration was given to the risks that threaten transversally the whole region: unstable national and sub-national governments, high levels of inequality, and the sub-regional multidimensional diversity expressed in the territories that impose very different baselines, as well as the need to relativise sustainable urban progress.

On the selection criteria of cases and good practices: Those conceived and/or implemented in the period of 2018-2022, which respond to the principles of the NUA (Item 14), and which are perceived as a contribution (positive, negative, contradictory, controversial, or unexpected) to sustainable and fair development in cities and for people, are considered.

¹⁷ <https://uploads.habitat3.org/hb3/HabitatIII-Regional-Report-LAC.pdf>

Table 2: Outline for the documentation of cases and best practices by themes

Transformative commitments	Effective Implementation		Means of Implementation	Interrelation of the NUA with global agendas	Cross-cutting themes
	Governance	Planning			
1. Poverty and social inclusion Housing - basic services (adequate, affordable, financing, land tenure security, slum upgrading) 2. Urban prosperity Inclusive urban economy Sustainable prosperity U-R 3. Environment and climate change (including COVID-19 pandemic). Mitigation, adaptation, resilience, sustainability	1. Urban data 2. Urban policies Decentralisation/ participation/democracy building 4. Integration (vertical and horizontal) 5. Resource mobilisation 6. Metropolitan governance 7. Urban violence/conflict resolution 8. Emergency governance (pandemic) 9. NUA in LAC	1. Equal territorial development 2. Planned city expansions 3. Regeneration 4. Mobility/connectivity 5. Climate change and disaster planning 6. Pandemic and post-pandemic planning 7. Culture and heritage	1. Financing 2. Capacity building 3. Exchange of experiences between cities 4. Support to institutions to facilitate NUA implementation 5. M&E	1. NUA accelerating SDGs 2. NUA strengthening urban policies 3. City diplomacy 4. Voluntary Local Reports	1. Gender 2. Human Rights

Source: Author's elaboration based on the NUA, NUA Illustrated, Handbook for the Preparation of NVR, Guidelines for Voluntary Local Reviews.

Limitations of this report

The elaboration of this report faces a series of limitations that are contextual, inherent to the NUA itself, and methodological:

- a) *Contextual limitations*: Cities exposed to multiple and recurrent risks: i) *political issues*: expressed in a weakening of democracies that leads to insufficient dialogue, negotiation and consensus for the implementation of the NUA. In the case of CONOSUR countries, for example, changes of government (central, regional and local) are a fundamental variable in addressing the construction of agendas and the progress and/or omissions regarding the guidelines of the NUA; ii) *issues relating to the environment and climate change*: subjecting cities to semi-permanent states of catastrophe, with an impact on governance systems, resource allocation, and the resilience of communities and individuals; iii) *social issues*: expressed in an increase in conflict, violence and a resurgence of para-governments, which threaten political, economic, social and territorial rights¹⁸. To these risks are synergistically added those related to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is also necessary to consider the existence of mixed, urban-rural and/or markedly rural realities; the diversity of local governments in LAC, an issue that merits relativizing the progress of the NUA in terms of basic capacities and resources; the lack of articulation between different jurisdictions and antagonism between those with opposing political administrations; sectoral guidelines versus territorial interventions; and changes in vision, which require long assimilation times (from housing as an object to a city, for example).

¹⁸ Information shared by Dr. Franz Vanderschueren.

b) *Limitations inherent to the NUA and other agendas:* Differences in language and monitoring formats from the guideline governing sub-national civil society and politics. Lack of indicative targets, relativized according to the capacity and resources of cities and countries, which prevents the quantification and qualification of progress in relation to a baseline. Lack of reference inputs and general implementation mechanisms, which makes it difficult to isolate the independent variable that indicates progress in transformation commitments. Competition between global agendas. Disproportionate attention to some global agendas versus others.

c) *Methodological limitations:* Short assessment arc comprising 2018-2022, which does not necessarily respond to the timescales of urban processes, which are generally longer¹⁹. Multiple definitions of cities in the region; urban-rural symbiosis scarcely included in the Agenda, but very present in the Caribbean and the interior of the region; administratively undefined metropolitan areas, with no formal authority. Territorial diversity where any sub-regional definition criteria for analysis is insufficient. Delays in the production of urban information (e.g. censuses and household surveys), due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Target audience

This report is addressed to supra-national, national and sub-national government authorities, UN officials, urban policy makers, public watchdogs, private sector, collegiate bodies, trade unions, third sector representatives, academia, research centres, UN agencies, international cooperation, development banks, and others.

II. LAC: baseline

This section describes LAC in 2016 (HABIII) compared to 20 years earlier (HABII) and the impact of COVID-19 in 2020 from the perspective of building inclusive, prosperous, resilient, sustainable and fair cities.

Since the Second United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and Housing (Istanbul 1996), the region has witnessed rapid urbanization processes and changes, some of which have improved and some of which have worsened the quality of life. Compared to 1996 and before the COVID-19 pandemic, LAC cities tended to be less poor but more unequal and violent, ranking among the most unequal and violent cities globally²⁰ (Montero and Garcia, 2017; UN-HABITAT and CAF, 2014);

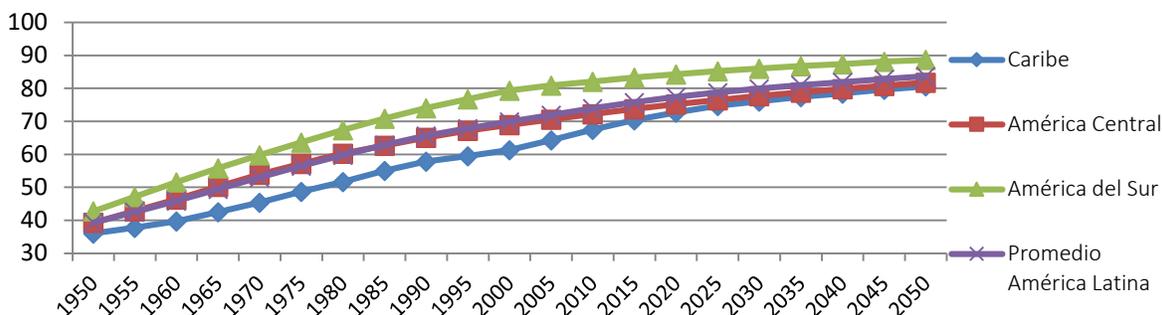
¹⁹ In general, urban discussions that are closely aligned to the NUA started much earlier, at least in the larger LAC countries. For example, Brazil started notifying those who do not comply with the social function of land in 2002 and in 2012 Brazilian municipalities were mandated to develop Master Plans.

²⁰ <https://www.who.int/data/gho>; <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/global-study-on-homicide.html>).

Latin America and the Caribbean are highly urbanized regions, with 82% of the population living in cities²¹, growing from 306 million urban dwellers in 1990 to 464 million in 2016²² and 539.4 million in 2020²³ (with a total population of 651.6 billion in 2020²⁴).

These figures hide different realities between countries and within sub-regions. South America is the most consolidated (83% urban), followed by Central America (73%) and then the Caribbean (70%), although the latter has a great diversity of urbanisation rates among the different islands of the sub-region (UN DESA, 2015).

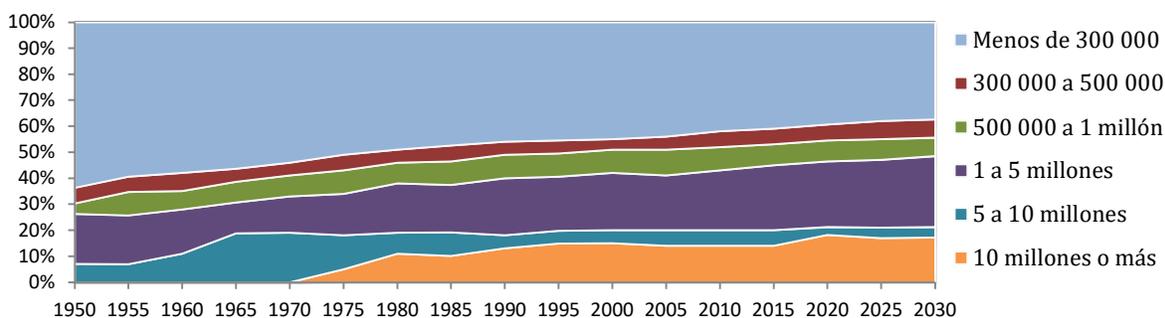
Graph 1. LAC. Share of urban population between 1950 and 2050



Source: Own elaboration based on United Nations, World Urbanization Prospects 2014.

Since 1990, the number of cities with between 300,000 and 500,000 inhabitants and between 1 and 5 million inhabitants has doubled²⁵, giving rise to new urban forms. There are also a number of emerging cities with between 100,000 and 2 million inhabitants, i.e. with population and economic growth rates higher than the national average, where some international organizations have been concentrating investment (e.g. UN-HABITAT and CAF, 2014; Siclari, 2017).

Graph 2. LAC: Breakdown of population by city type



Source: Own elaboration based on United Nations, World Urbanization Prospects, the 2015 revision.

Compared to 1996, and prior to COVID-19, the region showed the following trends and figures:

²¹ Statistical basis Cepalstat, 2021.

²² Statistical basis Cepalstat, 2015.

²³ Statistical basis Cepalstat, 2021.

²⁴ <https://population.un.org/wup/>

²⁵ Lattes Alfredo E., 2001 and Statistical basis Cepalstat, 2021.

Population

Stable incidence of Ninis (young people aged 15-29 disconnected from the education-work axis) amounting to 32 million in the region (2016)²⁶. Of these, 70% are women engaged in care and domestic work (2016)²⁷;

Increase in the number of female heads of household (23% of households in 1990 and 33% in 2010²⁸, 35.9% in 2019²⁹);

Increase in the number of older adults (4.8% of the urban population in 1990, 7% in 2010, 9.2% in 2020, 58 million inhabitants³⁰). It is estimated that in 2030 urban older adults will reach a figure of more than 80 million; of these, only 37 million (47.2% in 2019) are covered by a pension system, thus putting pressure on the economically active population, which tends to decrease in an ageing region (ECLAC, 2020).

Increase in extended families in the lowest quintiles and single-person households in the highest quintiles³¹. Despite regional regulatory measures that slowly favour residence and movement, there is an increase in intra-regional migrants, with poor access to housing, employment and social protection systems in most host countries. The number of intra-regional migrants was estimated at 7.6 million people in 2016³², the main destination countries being Chile, Colombia, Argentina and Costa Rica³³; and 7.8 million in 2020 (1.1% of the total population). Compared to previous years, migration shows relevant variations in its direction, intensity, and composition³⁴.

Indigenous and Afro-descendant population in cities: approximately 25 million in the case of indigenous people and 60 million for Afro-descendants (134 million in 2021³⁵). The indigenous population is 20-30% poorer than the urban population, with four years less schooling on average. They face worse situations of overcrowding and forced eviction³⁶.

From a gender perspective, 50% of women (56.7% in 2019³⁷) in the region work in the informal sector; earn on average 30% less than their male counterparts who have equal levels of education and training; their rate of affiliation to social protection systems is also lower³⁸. Women in the region spend between 22 and 42 hours a week in unpaid domestic work³⁹. Women's participation in politics is lower⁴⁰. Of all mayors in the area, only 15.5% are women. Cuba, with 47.0%, and Nicaragua, with 42.5%, exceed the 30% threshold, a proportion usually considered equivalent to a

²⁶ Statistical basis Cepalstat, 2019.

²⁷ CEPAL, 2014.

²⁸ Cepalstat, 2016.

²⁹ Statistical basis Cepalstat, 2015 and 2019

³⁰ Statistical basis Cepalstat, 2021.

³¹ Cepal-Unicef, 2014.

³² Cepal a and b, 2015 and Cepal 2014.

³³ Segnana, Juan. 2020

³⁴ Increased migratory flows are visible from Haiti to the Dominican Republic, Chile and USA; from Venezuela to Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Brazil and Chile; also new migration expressions not recognized in public policies, such as sporadic but permanent presence in places of destination, are more prominent: Venezuelans in Colombia; returnees from developed countries due to the global economic downturn accentuated by the pandemic.

<https://robuenosaires.iom.int/sites/robuenosaires/files/Documentos%20PDFs/DESTINOS-NORTE-AGOSTO-.pdf>

³⁵ Cepal, 2021

³⁶ UN-HABITAT, 2012 and statistical base Cepalstat, 2015.

³⁷ Cepalstat, 2019

³⁸ Statistical base, OIG Cepal

³⁹ <https://oig.cepal.org/es>

⁴⁰ <https://oig.cepal.org/es/indicadores/mujeres-alcaldesas-electas>

critical mass capable of generating change. In the case of the Caribbean, only Suriname comes close to this figure with 26.7% (Ibid.).

Welfare state - health and pension system

76.2% of the population is not affiliated with a pension system; 48% of the population is not affiliated with a health system (68% in the first decile of the population)⁴¹. On average, more than 40% of active workers in LAC do not know if they will be able to retire. Expectations are even lower among women (48.5%) and older workers close to retirement (48.1%)⁴².

Prior to the pandemic, an average of about 75% of the population over 65 years of age received a pension, although the amount of contributory pension transfers was lower than a person's level of income during his or her productive life. Moreover, while almost one third of pensions came from a non-contributory scheme, 42% of people over 65 were covered by the non-contributory public health system, limiting adequate coverage and access to quality care and adding financial pressure to social systems. Disparities in access and quality of care are associated with income, gender and urban/rural location⁴³.

Today, at an advanced stage of the pandemic, more than 30 million people are unsuccessfully seeking employment, coupled with the more than 13 million women in domestic service who have lost their jobs, which dramatically increases the percentage of the population not affiliated with any social security system, showing clear expressions of inequalities in the region.

With regard to health, the mortality rate in the region is 6.3 persons per 1,000 inhabitants (2015-2020), and it is estimated that by 2030, it will be 6.9⁴⁴. The birth rate, meanwhile, is 16.5 persons per 1,000 inhabitants. In contrast, the birth rate is estimated to decrease to 14.1 by 2030⁴⁵. The pandemic revealed a weakness in medical equipment in the region. The average number of hospital beds in LAC is 2.1 per 1,000 inhabitants, which is less than half the OECD average (4.7). In terms of human resources, LAC has an average of two doctors per 1,000 inhabitants⁴⁶.

Urban economy – work

ECLAC's latest Economic Survey on Labour Dynamics and Employment Policies⁴⁷ notes that the structural problems that have limited economic growth in the region for decades were exacerbated by the pandemic and will limit the recovery of economic activity.

⁴¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VcOY6xLTV-Q>

⁴² OECD et al. (2021), Latin American Economic Outlook 2021: Working Together for a Better Recovery, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/5fedabe5-en>

⁴³ OECD et al. (2021), Latin American Economic Outlook 2021: Working Together for a Better Recovery, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/5fedabe5-en>

⁴⁴ United Nations. (n.d.-b). World Population Prospects - Population Division - United Nations. World Population Prospects 2019. Retrieved December 8, 2021, from <https://population.un.org/wpp/DataQuery/>

⁴⁵ United Nations. (n.d.-b). World Population Prospects - Population Division - United Nations. World Population Prospects 2019. Retrieved December 8, 2021, from <https://population.un.org/wpp/DataQuery/>

⁴⁶ OECD. (2020, June 16). Los países de Latinoamérica y el Caribe necesitan gastar más y mejor en salud para poder enfrentar una emergencia de salud pública como el COVID-19 de manera efectiva - OECD. Retrieved December 8, 2021, from <https://www.oecd.org/centrodemexico/los-paises-de-latinoamerica-y-el-caribe-necesitan-gastar-mas-y-mejor-en-salud-para-poder-enfrentar-una-emergencia-de-salud-publica-como-el-covid-19-de-manera-efectiva.htm>

⁴⁷ Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean 2021: Labour Dynamics and Employment Policies for a Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery Beyond the COVID-19 Crisis.

Although the average GDP in LAC over the last 20 years increased by 76% due to higher levels of employment and 24% by labour productivity growth⁴⁸, the region's economy remains extractivist, with low productivity, little innovation, large differences in economic wealth between countries, a high degree of informality, and weaknesses in intra-regional integration. The agroforestry, mining, tourism, culture and heritage sectors are key to the regional economy.

The average GDP per capita in LAC for 2020 is estimated at US\$7,202, with considerable intra-regional variations, with countries such as Haiti with little more than US\$1,000 per capita/year, compared to the Bahamas with more than US\$28,000 per capita/year⁴⁹.

Labour informality affects more than 50% of workers. On average, 45% of the LAC population lives in households that rely exclusively on informal employment, 22% live in mixed households with at least one member in an informal job, and 33% live in fully formal households. However, according to OECD indicators, levels of informality at the household level in the countries of the region are highly heterogeneous, ranging from less than 20% in Chile and Uruguay to more than 60% in Bolivia, Honduras and Nicaragua⁵⁰.

Only 21% of the labour force is affiliated to a pension system; the remaining 80% will enter retirement without pension income (ECLAC, 2021).

Employment losses from the COVID-19 outbreak were considerable across the region, however, women and members of the population in the first quintile of wealth were most affected. Consequently, governments, as recommended by research, expanded social assistance measures by: i) broadening the beneficiaries reached, both by including more individuals and households in traditional programmes and by creating new schemes targeting unprotected sectors of the population; and ii) increasing the amount and frequency of benefits to replace a larger share of income.

For example, in Argentina, the Emergency Family Income (Ingreso Familiar de Emergencia) is a new programme aimed at unemployed individuals and households that are totally dependent on informal jobs or self-employment. The country has also increased the transfer amounts of the Asignación Universal and non-contributory pensions, the most traditional social assistance programmes. The emergence of these new schemes, such as Auxílio Emergencial in Brazil, Ingreso Familiar de Emergencia in Chile, and Ingreso Solidario in Colombia, among others, provide new safety nets for vulnerable households and informal workers who were previously not covered⁵¹.

The region's international integration is mainly limited to a small number of large firms in natural resource-intensive sectors, which offer few opportunities for participation in higher value-added activities. At the same time, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) abound, most of which are disconnected from international markets. Only 14% of LAC exports are intra-regional (2019), and the proportion has been steadily declining since 2014. Therefore, fostering intra-regional trade, building regional value chains and improving the region's participation in global

⁴⁸ OECD et al. (2021), Latin American Economic Outlook 2021: Working Together for a Better Recovery, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/5fedabe5-en>

⁴⁹ World Bank. (n.d.). PIB per cápita (US\$ a precios actuales) - Latin America & Caribbean | Data. World Bank - Data. Retrieved December 8, 2021, from <https://datos.bancomundial.org/indicador/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD?locations=ZJ>

⁵⁰ OECD et al. (2021), Latin American Economic Outlook 2021: Working Together for a Better Recovery, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/5fedabe5-en>

⁵¹ OECD et al. (2021), Latin American Economic Outlook 2021: Working Together for a Better Recovery, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/5fedabe5-en>

value chains by better connecting firms, especially small firms, to markets remain key objectives in the post-COVID-19 context⁵².

Before COVID-19, the region was on a trajectory towards stagnation: in the six-year period between 2014 and 2019 it grew at an average rate of 0.3%, lower than the average for the six-year period including the First World War (0.9%) and that of the Great Depression (1.3%). It also shows a progressive fall in investment, reaching in 2020 one of its lowest levels in the last three decades (17.9% of GDP). Similarly, labour productivity is falling significantly. Even so, the study estimates that the region would grow by 5.9% in 2021, reflecting a statistical drag that moderates to 2.9% in 2022. Such growth responds to the increase in the price of natural resources due to unmet demand resulting from the global semi-paralysis caused by the pandemic.

To facilitate an economic recovery, ECLAC recommends maintaining expansionary national fiscal and monetary policies, if necessary complementing domestic resources with greater access to international liquidity and multilateral mechanisms to facilitate debt management. Also, strengthening tax revenues and reducing tax evasion, which accounts for about US\$325 billion (or 6.1% of regional GDP).

The increase in liquidity can be helped by the recently implemented issuance of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) equivalent to US\$650 billion⁵³, together with the creation of multilateral funds such as the Fund to Alleviate COVID-19 Economics (FACE) promoted by Costa Rica, to facilitate access to financing.

ECLAC has also proposed channelling investment towards sectors that promote a new style of development that can boost competitiveness and employment, and lower the environmental footprint. These are: the transition to renewable energies; sustainable mobility in cities; the digital revolution, to universalise access to technologies; the health manufacturing industry; the bioeconomy and ecosystem services; the care economy; the circular economy; and sustainable tourism.

Territory: governance, inequalities, housing and land

On urban governance, the region is characterized mostly by centralized city government systems, despite the large metropolitan areas existing in the region (Mexico City, Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Santiago, Buenos Aires). Urban financing is weak due to the limited capacity to capture land revenue and reinvest in the territory, the lack of multi-finality cadastres, rigidity in public financing systems, and the proliferation of a culture of non-collection of land taxes for fear of losing votes, in circumstances where the loss of votes is greater if the city does not function and does not respond adequately to citizens' demands (HFHI and UN-HABITAT, 2017).

From 2016 onwards, some progress has been made in land governance at urban and peri-urban scale (legislative, fiscal, economic and mixed), but there are also neglected issues. Progress has

⁵² OECD et al. (2021), Latin American Economic Outlook 2021: Working Together for a Better Recovery, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/5fedabe5-en>

⁵³ The SDR is an international reserve asset created in 1969 by the IMF to supplement the official reserves of member countries. A total of SDR 660.7 billion (equivalent to about USD 943 billion) has been allocated so far, including the largest allocation in the history of the institution of about SDR 456 billion approved on 2 August 2021 (effective 23 August 2021).

The SDR is neither a currency nor a claim on the IMF. Rather, it represents a potential claim on the freely usable currencies of IMF member countries. The SDR can be exchanged for freely usable currencies. (<https://www.imf.org/es/About/Factsheets/Sheets/2016/08/01/14/51/Special-Drawing-Right-SDR>).

been made regarding the continuous improvement of multi-finality cadastres (Bogota, Medellín, São Paulo), but neglected issues include the lack of coherence between cadastres and registries (El Alto and many other cities), or the absence of them (Sicliari, 2020).

In terms of land occupation, LAC faces a trend of urban and peri-urban occupation based on "city-less" sprawl. Several cities in the region are growing on average three times faster than their population⁵⁴. Added to this is a quantitative and qualitative housing deficit that affects 39% of urban households (close to 50 million⁵⁵), giving rise to precarious settlements that agglomerate more than 110 million people, 25% of the region's urban households⁵⁶ (137 million in 2018⁵⁷).

Low public investment in housing, infrastructure, equipment and services is recurrent and substantially impacts the existing social housing stock, particularly social housing condominiums, which in most cases gradually lose market value.

Another distinctive feature of cities is the inequal distribution of urban services and the *polarization of urban standards* (PUE)⁵⁸, with exceptionally well-equipped and poorly-served areas. Despite being a generalized urban characteristic in the region, this PUE is scarcely documented for public policy decision-making. 11% of the urban population still lacks access to basic services (~52 million people), and 6% lacks access to improved drinking water⁵⁹ (~28 million people) (WHO-UNICEF, 2016). There are large intra-urban gaps in access to basic services by income (Fay, 2017).

In urban mobility, the trend is towards an explosive increase in the number of private cars, a deficient public transport system, a lack of coordination of mobility policies between the different jurisdictional levels, and (sometimes) an isolation of transport policies from general urban planning. A worrying situation is happening in Brazil. The 2009 Climate Change Law established that by 2018 all diesel buses should be replaced by clean fuel, but this never happened and, in 2018, the law was modified, giving dealers another 20 years to make this transition. There are 60,000 electric cars in the country out of a total fleet of 108 billion vehicles (Bonduki, 2021).

Furthermore, land and housing tenure in the region has been strongly affected by informality, illegality and/or outdatedness. Nearly 70% of urban households have outdated, informal or illegal tenure, generating a vast challenge in forced evictions and the maintenance/reproduction of family housing patrimony for future generations⁶⁰. National censuses (when the question is included) tend to consider only two categories of tenure: "owned" and "other", hindering responsible urban and peri-urban land governance policies and programs.

One pending issue in the region is a greater recognition of intermediate tenures and addressing new forms of insecure tenure due to administrative causes, such as non-registration of social

⁵⁴ Angel, 2013.

⁵⁵ Boullion, 2012.

⁵⁶ UN-HABITAT, 2012.

⁵⁷ Statistical base, The World Bank 2018

⁵⁸ See: Sicliari P. (2019): Infrastructure, Inequality and Humand Development, PhD paper, The New School.

⁵⁹ Improved drinking water refers to water that, by the nature of its construction, adequately protects the source from external contamination, particularly fecal matter. Improved sources include: piped domestic water connections located within the user's dwelling, plot or yard, public taps or pipes, tube wells or boreholes, protected dug wells, protected springs, rainwater harvesting. Bottled water is considered "improved" when the household uses an improved cooking and personal hygiene source. The definition of improved drinking water does not capture accessibility, availability and quality of service; the Sustainable Development Goal indicator "safely managed drinking water" does (WHO-UNICEF, 2015).

⁶⁰ UN-HABITAT, GLTN, Urban Dialogue on Land, July 2015; www.gltm.net, internal document.

housing by housing services, or social causes, such as rights transfer pressures by criminal groups. The latter is very common in neighbourhoods co-opted by criminal groups with an impact on intra-urban forced displacement (Siclari, 2021)⁶¹.

Environmentally, climate change has heavily affected cities over the past 20 years. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) estimates that, on average, 192,000 households in the region are affected annually by climate change, with hotspots in the Caribbean and Central America⁶². In addition, unsustainable use of natural resources has prevailed, leading to the destruction of ecosystems and the weakening of environmental services (ECLAC, 2017). Climate change-related extreme events have increased in the Caribbean from 48 in the period 2011-2015 to 69 in the period 2016-2021, in South America from 128 to 138, and in Central America from 71 to 99 in the same period (UNDRR, 2021).

Climate change

According to the latest regional assessment report on disaster risk in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDRR, 2021), risk in the region continues to rise, and the number of people affected is growing rapidly. On the other hand, there has been a partial achievement in reducing mortality, which is now in decline.

Between 1997 and 2017, one out of every four disasters recorded in the world occurred in Latin America and the Caribbean. In the same period, nine out of ten people affected by disasters in the region were affected by weather-related events (mainly floods, which are potentially predictable). However, seven out of ten were killed by geological events (mainly earthquakes).

Between 1998 and 2017, the region accounted for 53% of global economic losses from climate-related disasters and 46% of global disaster losses in the last decade. 80% of events are concentrated in medium and small urban areas. Frequent hazards in the coming decades are related to increased drought in some areas, extreme precipitation regime exacerbated by El Niño and La Niña (floods), heat and cold waves, sea level rise and earthquakes.

Fortunately, progress is being made: By December 2020, about half of the countries in the region had national disaster risk reduction strategies, plans and policies in place (target E of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)).

Significant efforts have been made to have regional and sub-regional strategies for disaster risk reduction. Today, there is the Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Strategy for CDEMA/CARICOM member countries, the Central American Policy for Integrated Disaster Risk Management (PCGIR) of CEPREDENAC/SICA, the Andean Strategy for Disaster Risk Management (EAGRD) of CAPRADE/CAN and the Strategy for Disaster Risk Management of MERCOSUR Countries (RMAGIR/MERCOSUR).

⁶¹ See Casas Locas in Honduras (Siclari, 2021), and similar undocumented situations in Colombia and Bolivia.

⁶² UN-HABITAT, 2012, UN-HABITAT and CAF, 2014.

The elaboration of local strategies is weaker, although associations such as ICLEI, RAMCC, CC35, C40, and CAF have contributed significantly to the elaboration of climate action plans in various cities in the region. Progress is also evident in the understanding and categorisation of risk; in governance, with the development of early warning systems and the introduction of a risk approach in land-use planning instruments; and in emergency preparedness and reconstruction (UNDRR 2021 and interviewee 2/2/2022).

The creation of regional and sub-regional alliances to tackle risks has been key, such as the National Risk Management Roundtables, created in the wake of Hurricane Mitch in the most affected Central American countries, and brought together sub-regionally in the Regional Concertation for Risk Management; the Indigenous Knowledge and Disaster Risk Reduction Network; Regional Academic and Science and Technology Networks; the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR); and the Network for Inclusive Disaster Risk and Disability Management in Latin America and the Caribbean, among others (UNDRR, 2021).

Another important strategic partnership initiative is the formation of the Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE). This is a global initiative that represents the first systematic and far-reaching private sector effort for risk reduction, with members voluntarily committing to align themselves with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030). At the time of writing, it has twenty national private sector networks in the region and two sub-regional networks (Central America and The Caribbean) (Ibid).

In the coming years, there is an urgent need to better understand the risks and potential impact of disasters; incorporate risk reduction into planning and land use instruments; invest in prevention and risk reduction works.

Table 3. Effects of the main disasters that have occurred in LAC

	Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2014)	Sendai Framework for Action (2015-2020)
Deaths (thousands)	25	107
Economic losses (billions of USD, 2018 values)	55.7	86.1

Source: Based on UNDRR 2021 with EM-DAT data, NatCatSERVICE, WHO. (*) Data as of October 31, 2020. Includes deaths from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pre-pandemic progress

On spite of the current regional urban situation, complex and fascinated at the same time, there were some notable advances in sustainable urban development, including:

- Massive provision of social housing based on the ABC model (savings, bond and credit): Mexico, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador;
- Improving access to housing for vulnerable groups: Colombia, Chile, Argentina and Uruguay (special prerogatives for female heads of households and immigrants);
- Slum upgrading and social housing (Central America, Caribbean, Colombia, Paraguay);
- stable urban regeneration practices (Panama, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Mexico, Colombia);

- Urban land production strategies, through redistributive mechanisms, and the capture and fair redistribution of urban development returns (Colombia)⁶³; and recently, an increase in urban policies' development and/or revision (Uruguay - ENASU, Estrategia Nacional de Suelo Urbano), Argentina - Plan Nacional de Suelo Urbano, and Chile - Ley de mercado de Suelo). The latter is a trend that started in 2016 post-Habitat III and has continued steadily over time despite the pandemic.

COVID-19

In early 2020, as in the rest of the world, the COVID-19 virus spread throughout the region. The pandemic came at an economically adverse time globally and regionally⁶⁴. The region shows poverty rates of around 30% since 2016 and extreme poverty of 10% in 2016 and 13% in 2019, negative investment of -0.9% in the period 2011-2018, and falling labour productivity of 155% in 1996 versus 90% in 2016. Except for Cuba and Barbados, public spending on health is low: 2.2% of regional GDP (PAHO recommends 6.6%); with an average of 2.2 hospital beds/1000 inhabitants versus 6.2 hospital beds on average in OECD countries⁶⁵.

As noted by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), as of 16th November 2021, cases amount to 141,922,745; deaths from COVID-19 total 2,959,572⁶⁶.

Food insecurity affects more than 4 million people (UNDRR, 2020), yet - paradoxically - 30% of food is lost or wasted in urban areas, due to inefficiencies in supply chains or use^{67 68}.

The sectors that have suffered the most significant reductions have been trade, transport, business and social services. Together, these sectors provide 64% of formal employment. In the case of enterprises in Latin America, almost 99% are micro, small or medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), accounting for 61.1% of total employment in 2016. ECLAC estimates that 2.7 million companies in the region will close due to the health crisis, which would lead to the definitive loss of thousands of jobs.

Unemployment rose to 11% on average in 2021 (versus 8.9% before the pandemic⁶⁹), strongly affecting the construction sector (-13.6%) and industry (-8.9%).

Poverty increased from 30.3% in 2019 to 34.7% in 2021 (from 184 million to 214 million people), and extreme poverty from 10.7% in 2019 to 13.3% in 2021 (from 67 million to 83 million people). 23.8 million low-income people fell into poverty⁷⁰.

Regional indebtedness and increased regional fiscal expenditure averaged 3.9% of GDP, in a context of uncertainty and chronic underfunding, as 70-80% of central government transfers are non-discretionary grants, earmarked for specific sectoral activities.

⁶³ Bonomo et.al, 2015; Siclari, 2012; Siclari, 2013.

⁶⁴ With an average world GDP growth rate of 2.7% (2011-2020) versus 3.4% (1997-2006), and a world trade volume growth rate of 2.6% (2011-2019) versus 6.4% average (1997-2006), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VCOY6xLTV-Q>.

⁶⁵ Honduras is in a critical situation with 0.1 doctor/1000 inhabitants.

⁶⁶ <https://www.paho.org/en/documents/paho-daily-covid-19-update-19-november-2021>

⁶⁷ <http://www.fao.org/3/i5504s/i5504s.pdf>

⁶⁸ 127 million tons of food per year, which could cover the calorie needs of 36 million people.

⁶⁹ In addition, the number of people unsuccessfully looking for work increased by 5.4 million to 30.1 million. In addition, there has been an unprecedented transition to inactivity for people who have given up looking for work due to the lack of opportunities. The participation rate plummeted by 5.4 percentage points to 57.2%, according to data available at the end of the third quarter of 2020. ECLAC estimates that 13 million women in domestic service have lost their jobs; 80% have no pension system (Bárcena, 10/02/2021).

⁷⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KT6mEpWQRYg&t=13s>

With the crisis, ECLAC estimates that GDP will fall by 9.1%. Such is the impact that this could mean a ten-year setback in the level of per capita income in the region. Consequently, if the economic and social crisis is not contained, it could become a food and humanitarian crisis.

Social distancing, sanitary restrictions, mobility, work and study limitations are the most common urban measures to cope with the crisis. More than 160 million schoolchildren are out of school⁷¹; 50 million schoolchildren have no access to the internet, excluding them from distance education systems. The most affected are the poorest and most vulnerable, forced into overcrowded confinement, affecting the possibilities of work and study. For the elderly, possibilities for care, recreation, and even access to their pensions (for those few who have one) are restricted.

In territories co-opted by paramilitary groups, sanitation and medical care has become almost impossible, except where the community manages to negotiate with the local powers⁷².

At the city level, spatial inequalities were manifested not only in physical segregation but also in the unequal distribution and access to urban (health) services and deficiencies in infrastructure systems.

Although LAC is considered the most urbanized region in the developing world, the COVID-19 pandemic has shown that the aggravating factor is not urban density but overcrowding and urban areas with poor infrastructure, which do not allow cities and the global economy to continue to function. The pandemic has exacerbated the awareness that place matters in everything we do, that morphology can be changed.

The pandemic has changed urban priorities: health first, universal basic income, employment protection, basic services, logistics infrastructure, strengthening productive activities at the neighbourhood level, and a fiscal compact that combats tax evasion, taxes the richest and highly profitable economic activities (digital economy), and drives measures to improve and increase public spending. In some cases, emergency responses are being consolidated as public goods.

Table 4. Health, Unemployment and Poverty before and with pandemic COVID-19 LAC

Description	Prior to COVID-19 (2019).	With COVID-19 (2020)
Death rate	--	2,333,652 ⁷³
Total contagion	--	95,809,422 ⁷⁴
Unemployment	8.9%	11% ⁷⁵
Poverty %	30.8%	37.3% ⁷⁶

Sources: Author's elaboration based on:
<https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/46308-coyuntura-laboral-america-latina-caribe-la-dinamica-laboral-crisis>
<https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/44969-panorama-social-america-latina-2019>
<https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/45782-enfrentar-efectos-cada-vez-mayores-covid-19-reactivacion-igualdad-nuevas>
<https://es.statista.com/estadisticas/1105121/numero-casos-covid-19-america-latina-caribe-pais/>
 Information updated as of 11/03/2021.

⁷¹ <https://es.unesco.org/fieldoffice/santiago/covid-19-education-alc/monitoreo>

⁷² Janice Perlman, 'The power of favela', working session, October 2021.

⁷³ <https://www.paho.org/en/documents/paho-daily-covid-19-update-19-november-2021>

⁷⁴ <https://es.statista.com/estadisticas/1105121/numero-casos-covid-19-america-latina-caribe-pais/>, november 2021

⁷⁵ Secons trimester of 2020 – no specific dates available

⁷⁶ Estimation by CEPAL

Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wages on average 13% lower than for men • More unpaid domestic work with no access to social protection • Higher incidence of job loss during the pandemic • Increased hours of household care • Increased domestic violence
Children and youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 46.2% of the population aged 0-14 years in poverty and 18.4% in extreme poverty (2018) • 46% of the child population without access to the Internet (no online education) • 165 million students out of school systems • Lack of access to food security and care provided by schools • Increase in child labour and domestic violence
Elderly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor access to social protection and pensions • Need for care • Increased vulnerability to the virus
Migrants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of social and health protection • Precarious housing conditions and overcrowding • Frontline work • Discrimination and xenophobia
Indigenous and Afro-descendants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher rate of informality (31.5% higher than non-indigenous population) • Less accessibility to basic health services • Lack of access to other basic services • Precarious housing conditions and overcrowding
LGBT community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discrimination⁷⁷ in access to housing and basic services

⁷⁷ Discrimination is defined in human rights law as any formal or substantive distinction, exclusion, restriction, preference or other differential treatment on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, national or social origin, political or other opinions, property, birth or another status, including disability, age, nationality, marital and family status, sexual orientation and gender identity, health status, place of residence, economic and social status, which has the intention or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal basis, of human rights (OHCHR, 2021).

⁷⁷ 'Consultation on housing discrimination and spatial segregation with States, UN entities, other IO' (UNOG-OHCHR).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender-based mobility restrictions⁷⁸
Source: Author's elaboration based on ECLAC Observatory COVID-19	

Human Rights

This urban panorama was strongly determined by a generalised discontent with inequalities and injustices and a weakening of democracies (Levitsky, 2020; Applebaum, 2021), expressed in various forms of human rights violations. But as a counter-response we also observe the emergence of social movements.

Table nº 6. Forms of human rights violations at the beginning of the pandemic by COVID -19	
Issue	Description
Violence against women	Increase in intra-family gender-based violence and homicide.
Threat to freedom of expression	The right to freedom of association and peaceful assembly was denied or unduly restricted in several countries. The right to freedom of expression was threatened in Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, Uruguay and Venezuela, sometimes due to restrictions imposed by COVID-19. -Mexico: At least 19 journalists were killed in 2020. -Brazil: Different members of the federal government attacked journalists and their work on 449 occasions between January 2019 and September 2020. -Venezuela: More than 400 attacks against journalists and other media professionals were recorded between January and April 2020. -Nicaragua: Between March and July 2020, the Observatory of Aggressions against the Independent Press reported 351 attacks on media professionals and their families.
Arbitrary arrests	In some countries, people were subjected to forced quarantine in state-run centres that did not meet sanitary and physical distancing standards. Cases of arbitrary detention were reported in Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela.
Refugees and migrants	Some governments detained refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants in conditions that put them at high risk of contracting COVID-19. Others returned people without properly examining their asylum claims.
Indigenous groups	Indigenous peoples were severely affected by the pandemic because they lacked sufficient access to clean water, sanitation, health services and social benefits, as well as culturally appropriate mechanisms to protect their right to health and livelihoods. The situation was particularly severe in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela.
Health workers	Health workers in almost all countries complained about the failure of governments to provide sufficient PPE and safe working conditions. -El Salvador: The president vetoed Decree 620, which was intended to guarantee health insurance and biosafety equipment for health workers. -Brazil: The Brazilian Society of Collective Health and the Brazilian Society of Family and Community Medicine criticised the absence of social protection for the families of health workers and the precariousness of employment contracts. -Mexico: Health workers faced irregular hiring and lack of sick pay and other benefits. -Honduras: In several hospitals, staff had to sign confidentiality agreements prohibiting them from speaking publicly about their concerns. -Nicaragua: At least 31 professionals were dismissed after they raised concerns about working conditions, lack of PPE and the government's response to the pandemic. -Venezuela: Professionals who publicly criticised the government's response to the pandemic were briefly detained and subsequently restricted.

⁷⁸ 'Consultation on housing discrimination and spatial segregation with States, UN entities, other IO' (UNOG-OHCHR).

Unlawful use of force - police	<p>-Brazil: Police killed at least 3,181 people in the first half of 2020. 79.1% of the people were black.</p> <p>-Venezuela: The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reported that at least 1,324 people were killed in the country between 1 January and 31 May 2020 in the context of the illegitimate use of force by the police, army and armed groups against demonstrators.</p>
<p>Author: Beatriz González based on: Amnesty International. (n.d.). Examples of human rights violations in Latin America [Table]. Amnesty International. https://www.es.amnesty.org/en-que-estamos/paises/america/</p>	

III. LAC from the NUA perspective

In order to understand the implementation of the NUA in LAC, it is necessary to gain familiarity with some aspects of the sub-regions that make up the region.

The Caribbean sub-region

Despite not having a large population (43.7 million inhabitants in 2021⁷⁹), the Caribbean is a complex region due to the multiplicity of colonial statuses and languages. Similarly, the scale and nature of the 'local urban' versus the national is something that needs to be reinterpreted and contextualised in the region.

Caribbean countries can be sorted into three categories: 1. contiguous states, 2. large island states, 3. micro-states. In micro-states, the population in relative terms is large, but tends to be dispersed rather than concentrated in a single area, while in the large island states, cities are beginning to resemble large continental urban areas.

⁷⁹ <https://statistics.cepal.org/portal/cepalstat/dashboard.html?theme=1&lang=es>



Another complexity of the region is the twin-islands, which have a problem of territorial fragmentation that requires local action or power to influence decision-making, but lack the scale to make certain types of decisions.

The contiguous states of The Caribbean, on the other hand, are very specific to the region. Many of the countries are in the process of autonomy, which has implications for public policy issues. Trinidad and Tobago, for example, has a long process of independence, yet most of its housing legislation still dates from the 1960s. A similar situation exists in the British Virgin Islands. It is necessary to reinterpret the public policy situation and how it coexists with the situation of independence. In general terms, the Spanish-speaking Caribbean has been able to achieve higher levels of decentralisation and local autonomy than the English-speaking Caribbean. In addition, the diversity of languages often limits the involvement of Caribbean countries in regional affairs.

Sometimes, when talking about Caribbean countries, reference is only made to countries such as Cuba and the Dominican Republic, due to their capacity for dialogue with organisations such as MINURVI (due to language similarities) and because they have the specificity of having cities and decentralisation of powers. In the case of most Caribbean countries, there is no multi-scale decision-making. The national plan is the local plan.

Cuba sub-region

Cuba is a signatory to the NUA and committed to Habitat III. The Cuban government is in the process of updating its Economic and Social Model of Socialist Development and maintains its vision of a country committed to sustainable urban development.

With more than 60 years of experience, the Institute of Physical Planning (IPF) - today the National Institute of Territorial and Urban Planning (INOT) - exists as an institution of the State Administration and has been strengthened in the process of implementing the NUA. The country also has a National Habitat Committee (CNH) created in February 1994, made up of all the organs, state bodies, organisations and entities linked to the development of human settlements. The CNH was created with the objective of coordinating and promoting the country's efforts towards Habitat II. The CNH has been functioning ever since - only two countries have guaranteed its continuity: Spain and Cuba. The CNH coordinates actions for the implementation of the Country Programme for Human Settlements with UN-HABITAT; it supports national actions for the representation of Cuba in its Governing Council and the World Urban Forums, and coordinates actions to support the preparation of official information presented by Cuba to international organisations and relevant events on land use planning, urban planning, habitat and housing, among other important functions.

Sustainable urban development is strongly determined by Cuba's internal and external constraints. The implementation of the NUA has acquired the character of a State Plan in a national version, and has triggered the enactment of a series of laws and policies (land, housing); the creation of regional guidance centres on how to implement the NUA (Prodel), as described in Chapter VII of this document.

Mexico sub-region

In 2018, Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) became President of Mexico under the slogan "for the good of all, the poor first", with a great expectation from the population to implement

policies to reduce inequality and end corruption. In the first three years of AMLO's government there are many pending issues on the agenda, but it is interesting to note the change in the direction of public policies. On the one hand, policies are being proposed that will have an immediate impact in the short term: pensions, scholarships and an increase in the minimum wage. Secondly, spending on infrastructure (energy, passenger rail transport and public spaces) is being expanded. Finally, a strengthening of the state in strategic sectors (energy, health, water, education and the environment) has been proposed and activated.

With this context in mind, there are sufficient elements to speculate that this administration will be particularly sensitive to the values and elements of the NUA. However, there are some challenges on the horizon: a) the main urban policies are implemented at the local level, which is certainly a technically and financially weakened level of government, b) the existence of de facto powers such as drug trafficking, and illegal economic activities such as logging (also related to drug trafficking), mining, hotels, housing, etc., and c) poverty and income inequality have been prioritised over socio-spatial inequalities.

Nevertheless, Mexico is one of the countries that has elaborated the NUA Voluntary National Report (2021), and has substantial experience in the application of the Urban Prosperity Index (CPI) in more than 467 cities (315 before HABITAT III), which provided updated information on the urban situation for public decisions and which, according to some testimonies, should be an exercise to be repeated and expanded in the region in order to have a baseline to support the NUA.

The first major legislative milestone after HABITAT III in 2018 was the approval of the "Ley General de Asentamientos Humanos, Ordenamiento Territorial y Desarrollo Urbano" (LGAHOTyDU) and the repercussions that this had on the implementation of the NUA, as it includes some important issues and became a tool to pressure governments to adopt the Agenda. The Law establishes the basic norms and management instruments for organising land use and human settlements in the country. It also establishes the concurrence of the Federation, the federal entities, the municipalities and the Territorial Districts for the planning, management and regulation of Human Settlements in the national territory⁸⁰.

Central America sub-region⁸¹

Central America faces problems of migration, urban violence, the impact of climate change; it is characterised by very uneven urban development. Costa Rica and Panama are a reference point in the sub-region. The former, for the emphasis given to environmental issues and climate change in urban governance and land use planning, and the latter for the investment in urban public works as a result of the level of wealth and political vision of development.

The vast majority of medium and small cities in the sub-region suffer from the problems that characterise all of Latin America: poorly planned sprawl, low local tax collection, and a lack of metropolitan or joint governments. The Central American Integration System (SICA) and the Secretariat for Central American Social Integration (SISCA) play a key role in addressing cross-cutting urban problems. As noted below, the recent elaboration of the Regional Implementation

⁸⁰ <https://observatorioplanificacion.cepal.org/es/marcos-regulatorios/ley-general-de-asentamientos-humanos-ordenamiento-territorial-y-desarrollo>

⁸¹ It includes Nicaragua, Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama (Belize has been included in the Caribbean countries).

Plan of the NUA (PRINAU 2021) represents a vital roadmap for urban development in the sub-region.

Andean Arc sub-region⁸²

Since the 1980s, following the return to democracy in Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia and the 1981 Constitution in Colombia, decentralisation and citizen participation processes were undertaken that gave greater responsibilities to local governments. This included a hybridisation of logistics and actors contributing to urban transformation and urban development management. Local planning has acquired a greater degree of formalisation, institutionalisation and deliberation, accompanied by normative instruments and urban land management mechanisms. A logic of project intervention is emerging, seeking to redynamise the urban fabric, improve popular settlements and capture capital gains for reinvestment in public goods. Innovations in urban policies and projects have been disseminated by communities of practice and international institutions that focus on the adaptations and replicability of such interventions (Metzger and Rebotier 2016). In public transport, examples include the Transmilenio in Bogota, the metropolitan train in Lima, and the cable cars in Medellin and La Paz. The legal frameworks for urban land management and planning based on city systems created in Colombia are replicated in the Andean Arc countries (Carrión, 2021).

Brazil sub-region

Between Habitat II in Istanbul (1996), when the Habitat Agenda was launched, and Habitat III in Quito (2016), when the New Urban Agenda was agreed and adopted, Brazil implemented a very advanced urban agenda based on the following elements:

- Legislative advances: incorporation of the right to housing in the Constitution (2000), Statute of the City (2001), Law creating the National System of Housing of Social Interest (2005), Sanitation Law (2007), National Solid Waste Policy Law (2010), and Urban Mobility Law (2012), among other legal provisions.
- The principles underpinning these new legal frameworks were: strengthening State action, participatory governance, federative articulation (Union, States and municipalities), rights to the city, universalisation of urban rights, social function of property respecting the right to property, recognition of the real city (precarious settlements), regulation of the private sector with maintenance of market laws, structuring of an urban planning system (master plans) and sectoral (housing, sanitation and mobility), centrality of social inclusion in urban public policies.
- System of participation and social control: articulated city conferences at the three levels of government, Council of Cities (national), with representation from all segments of society; state and municipal urban development councils and sectoral councils (housing, sanitation, mobility), participatory budgets, public hearings and consultations on plans, projects and laws.
- Organisation of the state structure in the urban area: creation of the Ministry of Cities and city secretariats in several states, municipal structuring for planning.
- Strengthening of social organisations: empowerment of social movements, participation of universities in public policies, incorporation of the 3rd sector as a relevant actor in the formulation and implementation of public policies.

⁸²Includes Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.

- Inclusive urban policies: urbanisation and regularisation of precarious settlements, housing subsidies, social tariffs for public services, increased investment in social housing, sanitation and mobility.
- Affirmative, specific and cross-cutting gender, race and sexual orientation policies: creation of the Ministry of Human Rights, Ministry of Racial Equality and Ministry of Women's Policy, cross-cutting urban policies, quotas.

As Brazil was implementing this agenda and acting with an emphasis on international forums, it played a relevant role in the debate, formulation, agreement and approval of the New Urban Agenda at the Habitat III World Forum in Quito. Both the Brazilian government and countless civil society organisations brought the Brazilian experience to international debates and worked to include in the NUA the principles that had been guiding urban policies in Brazil. The report that the Brazilian government took to Habitat III was constructed in a participatory manner, with natural diplomatic limitations, but it was very much in line with the more progressive proposals that were incorporated into the New Urban Agenda.

In general, it can be said that the New Urban Agenda approved in 2016 was already being implemented in Brazil at the national level and in several (but not the majority of) sub-national governments (states and municipalities) since the 1990s.

In 2016, the year in which the New Urban Agenda was approved in Quito, Brazil suffered a parliamentary coup against the democratically elected government committed to this progressive national urban agenda. With the change of government, a neoliberal vision of fiscal austerity and the dismantling of the governmental structure was installed in the country, which began the process of retrocession to this urban agenda, which was strongly aligned with the New Urban Agenda.

Under the current federal government, this retrogression has deepened. The Council of Cities was dissolved and the process of City Conferences and any participatory management initiatives were discontinued. The Ministry of Cities ceased to exist and was merged with the Ministry of Regional Development, with a reduced structure. Budgetary resources for urban programmes were substantially reduced. Housing programmes targeting the low-income population were reduced. The federal government's role as articulator of the federative system and disseminator of the urban agenda to sub-national entities was interrupted. Under these conditions, any possibility of disseminating any urban agenda from the federal government, including the New Urban Agenda, was lost. A distancing from international organisations and their agendas occurred (Bonduki, 2021).

This situation, together with the difficulties imposed by the pandemic, have slowed down the dissemination and implementation of the NUA.

Southern Cone sub-region

With the exception of Paraguay, one of the common socio-demographic characteristics of the sub-region is the low presence of indigenous and Afro-descendant populations, and a more advanced demographic transition than in the rest of LAC. In urban terms, Uruguay is distinguished by a long tradition of housing cooperativism, and Chile by the Ahorro, Bono, Crédito (ABC) model, exported throughout the region. This model, which was very strong in the 1990s as a housing response for all sectors, does not currently adequately respond either in quantity or diversity to low-income sectors. The latter is due to the high costs of urbanised land as a result of a lack of

implementation of redistributive urban land management instruments, and a lack of awareness of the new housing demands of sectors of the population that make up a greater proportion of the overall population than before (regional immigrants, poor older adults, LGBT population, ethnic minorities, etc.).

As will be seen in the following sections, Paraguay has taken an important institutional leap forward in the area of housing, with the creation of the Ministry of Urban Planning, Housing and Habitat. The rest of the countries in the sub-region are making progress in redistributive urban land management instruments. Chile is moving forward with a decentralisation process (Regionalisation Strengthening Law No. 21.074/2018), which allows for the democratic election of regional governors and autonomy in regional and urban planning.

In terms of housing and urban development, Argentina is less innovative than the countries mentioned above, both in terms of social housing models and housing for the middle class. Some Argentinian cities have made progress in addressing climate risk.

IV. Status of implementation of the recommendations of the First Quadrennial Report 2018 (QR 2018)

Following the recommendations of the QR 2018, UN-HABITAT has defined a sample of cities where the NUA has outlined governance and planning instruments (Havana being one of them). Likewise, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador and Brazil have voluntarily elaborated NUA national reports⁸³.

National urban policies have been developed in several countries in the region: Costa Rica (2018), Argentina (2018), and Brazil (under implementation). Of 33 countries recently analysed by ECLAC, 10 have explicit urban policies, i.e. with explicit documentation, and 21 countries have partial urban policies (national land-use planning or development laws with a strong territorial emphasis)⁸⁴.

UN-HABITAT, through its sub-regional offices, has provided training to support the implementation of the NUA, mainly in Mexico, Bolivia, Ecuador and various cities in Brazil. In terms of training, the initiative of the Tecnológico de Monterrey (NUA master's course) and the Universidad Central de las Villas in Cuba, with a similar course aimed mainly at municipal officials, deserve particular attention.

In the production of open, accessible and simple data, it is worth highlighting the construction and recent launch of the [Urban Platform \(https://plataformaurbana.cepal.org/es\)](https://plataformaurbana.cepal.org/es), a repository of legislative initiatives, governance, planning, and concrete plans and projects related to the NUA, created jointly by ECLAC and UN-HABITAT, which is complemented by the global platform <https://www.urbanagendaplatform.org>. Also, in Costa Rica, MIVHA created the [Geo Explora](#) project tool, a platform which contains information that can be viewed online or downloaded in seven themes: Land Use and Urban Planning, Transport Oriented Development (TE-GAM), Bridge to Community - Integrated Urban Projects, Housing and Informal Settlements, Municipal

⁸³ <https://www.urbanagendaplatform.org/member-states>

⁸⁴ <https://www.plataformaurbana.cl>

Management, Geostatistics, Documents and Research. <https://geoexplorativah.opendata.arcgis.com/>

OPAMSS in El Salvador developed a very well-produced Atlas on the AMSS (GIS system) that tracks key SDG issues in the 14 municipalities of the AMSS⁸⁵.

Chile has developed a System of Urban Development Indicators and Standards (SIEDU, Chile⁸⁶) that makes it possible to monitor the urban experience based on the provision of facilities and services in the vast majority of cities, and to use this information to make recommendations for planning and investment.

V. NUA reporting system

This section details the countries that have produced voluntary NUA implementation reports to date with their main progress.

Cuba (2020). Cuba was one of the first countries to voluntarily prepare the National Progress Report on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda, which it reported on the region's Urban Platform⁸⁷. In addition, with the support of SDC, it created the [Regional Centre for the Implementation of the NUA](#) (central region of Cuba). The centre provides training, monitoring and accountability to the population on progress and difficulties, and identifies good practices throughout the country. Work is underway to create a second regional centre for the western region of the country (interviewee, 17/11/2021; López, 2021).

Dominican Republic (2021). The report, elaborated in 2021, consists of a [document from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) that contains a list of actions taken and future projects. Some of the actions mentioned are the following:

- Creation of the Vice-Ministry of Land Management and Regional Development, Law 10-21, within the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development (MEPYD).
- Formulation of the Action Plan for the implementation of the NUA in the Dominican Republic.
- Project with the Agencia Andaluza para la Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo to support actions to develop the strategies of the NAU implementation plan in 3 municipalities: Moca, Boca Chica and Veron (alignment of local government policies with the implementation plan, strengthening of municipal finances).
- MEPYD advice to local governments (letter of commitment) to create or strengthen their urban planning offices and produce land-use plans and coordinate public investment projects in the territory.
- System for the compilation and evaluation of damage caused by natural phenomena (SIREN-RD).
- National Strategy for High Vulnerability Zones (Román, 2021).

⁸⁵ https://opamss.org.sv/ova_doc/atlas-metropolitano/

⁸⁶ <https://www.ine.cl/herramientas/porta-de-mapas/siedu/sistema-de-indicadores-y-estandares-de-desarrollo-urbano>

⁸⁷ <https://www.urbanagendaplatform.org/member-states/republic-cuba/republic-cuba-national-report-oct-2016-sep-2020>

Along with the report, the country updated an Implementation Plan structured in 6 lines of action: National Urban Policy, Urban Legislation and Regulations, Local Implementation, Urban Planning and Design, Local Economy and Municipal Finance, and Monitoring, Evaluation and Follow-up (Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development, & General Directorate of Territorial Planning and Development, 2018).

El Salvador (2017). The Report, developed in 2017, is entitled: "Implementing the New Urban Agenda, El Salvador 2016-2036". It was presented in the framework of World Habitat Day 2017 by the Vice-Minister of Housing and Urban Development and the Vice-Minister of Development Cooperation. It was built with advice from UN-HABITAT, in the framework of an expanded public-private-citizen partnership. With the change of government in 2020 it lost some continuity (Román, 2021).

Mexico (2021). The country collectively prepares the Implementation Report of the NUA, based on a series of awareness-raising and involvement workshops with civil society, academia and the private sector, structured in thematic roundtables that respond to the broad categories of the Agenda. The workshops aim to: i) Disseminate the contents and principles of the New Urban Agenda and strengthen knowledge and awareness of the importance of this commitment made by the Mexican State; ii) Involve participants in the process of integrating the report; and iii) Obtain strategic inputs from these actors for the report. During the process, an Input Compilation Form for the national report is elaborated and disseminated and shared with multiple sectors (interviewee, 11/11/2021).

Colombia (2020). The process of preparing the Report began with a methodology developed by the National Planning Department (DPN), which later had to be complemented with methodological contributions from UN-HABITAT. The greatest challenges were the timeframe and the limited capacity to read the National Urban Policy through the NUA, which is why the contributions were uneven. Among the lessons learned was the importance of having leadership and a team trained specifically for this task, with access to up-to-date information and prior knowledge of the normative and substantive documents on the application of the NUA. It has been suggested that the reporting process should be formalised, so that it is not a loose piece of the national urban policy (interviewee, 25/10/2021)⁸⁸.

Ecuador (2021). The Report highlights Ecuador's Sustainable Habitat Agenda 2036 (AHSE 2036) as a reference that guides urban policies on cities and habitat based on a rights-based approach, framed in the Constitution of Ecuador. The AHSE establishes guidelines to advance in the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda, the NUA, the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement and the Regional Action Plan developed by ECLAC⁸⁹ (Carrión, 2021).

Peru (2021). The report is structured in three parts: commitments to transformation, effective implementation, and M&E. It recognises that the problems of inadequate habitat are due to: (1) the low impact of urban spatial planning and limited enforcement; (2) inefficient and unsustainable land production and occupation; and (3) limited and inequitable access to adequate housing solutions. It recognises the National Housing and Urban Planning Policy (PNVU), approved by Supreme Decree 012-2021-VIVIENDA on 14 July, and Law 31313, Law on

⁸⁸ <https://www.urbanagendaplatform.org/member-states/republic-colombia/republic-colombia-national-report-oct-2020-sep-2024>

⁸⁹ https://www.urbanagendaplatform.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/Ecuador%20NUA%20Report_0.pdf

Sustainable Urban Development (LDUS), which entered into force on 26th July 2021, as the two key instruments to advance sustainable urban development⁹⁰.

Brazil (2021). The report emphasises the principles and structure of the **National Urban Policy (PUN)** under preparation. They are mainly:

- Pursuit of urban development, based on sustainability and reduction of social and spatial inequalities;
- Territorial diversity of Brazilian cities, with diverse urban and environmental, economic and financial, socio-cultural and political and institutional singularities;
- Addressing historical and emerging issues of Brazilian cities, such as digital transformation, climate and demographic changes, among others;
- Need for an integrated approach: cross-sectoral, from a multi-level perspective on urban development challenges and actions.

In addition, the process of elaborating the Policy is committed to incorporating covenants assumed in the global agendas to which Brazil is a signatory: (1) Agenda 2030/Sustainable Development Goals; (2) New Urban Agenda; (3) Paris Climate Agreement; (4) Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; (5) Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development. The report notes that the PUN will be implemented through a ProDUS Programme, initially composed of 5 action lines: (1) Information, (2) Planning, (3) Management, (4) Governance, and (5) Projects and works. It also highlights the Brazilian Charter for Smart Cities, a policy document that expresses a public agenda for smart cities in Brazil⁹¹.

Furthermore, several LAC countries and cities have submitted Local Voluntary Reports on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda referring to Goal 11, including: Bahamas, Belize, Dominica, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago⁹², Montevideo⁹³ (Uruguay), Lincoln, Buenos Aires⁹⁴ (Argentina), the province of Santa Fe (Argentina)⁹⁵, Paraguay, Peru, Mexico, Argentina, Chile, and El Salvador⁹⁶.

VI. Transformative Commitments

The two areas of greatest consolidation and development are i) social inclusion and ending poverty, and ii) environment and climate change. In comparison, improvements made in urban prosperity are lagging behind. The change in priorities imposed by social distancing and mobility restrictions did not trigger innovative policies in economic-productive development at the neighbourhood level, or urban policies or programmes to unblock global production and consumption chains, which were strongly affected by the pandemic. If they exist, there is no evidence of entities documenting and analysing such initiatives as public policy.

⁹⁰ <https://www.urbanagendaplatform.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/Peru%20National%20Report.pdf>

⁹¹ https://www.urbanagendaplatform.org/sites/default/files/2021-08/Relatorio%20Brasil_ONU-Habitat_EN%20%281%29.pdf

⁹² <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>

⁹³ Intendencia de Montevideo (2020). Montevideo y los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible: Primera revisión voluntaria. https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/06/montevideo_2020_es.pdf

⁹⁴ Buenos Aires Ciudad. Reporte Local Voluntario (2021). Localización de la Agenda 2030 en Ciudad de Buenos Aires. https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/07/buenos_aires_2021_es.pdf

⁹⁵ Contribución de Santa Fe a la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible (2019). [https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Santa%20Fe%20\(2019\)_0.pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Santa%20Fe%20(2019)_0.pdf)

⁹⁶ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>

In urban prosperity, the greatest innovation arose spontaneously within individual neighbourhoods: informal childcare centres and community food centres proliferated, urban services that allowed hundreds of poor female heads of household to continue working. Progress was also made in the design and implementation of redistributive land management instruments in Cuba, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Chile.

The Caribbean sub-region

Currently in the Caribbean region there is a strategy for informality, and the Caribbean Development Bank has a policy for the urban sector, which is considered the closest thing that exists to a framework for governments to follow in the development of urban projects⁹⁷.

The following are examples of some national and sub-national initiatives in the areas of poverty alleviation and social inclusion, urban prosperity, and environment and climate change:

- **Barbados**: the leading country in the region on urban planning issues (submitted national report in 2015 for HABITAT III); continues to work on regulatory, normative issues, informal settlements upgrading and urban adaptation to climate change.
- **Dominican Republic**: Has developed systematic analysis of some cities; continues to upgrade informal settlements. With IDB support in Santo Domingo, several projects have been developed to revitalise the centre of the capital. It is also designing the Law on Land Use, Land Use and Single Planning Regions, and the creation of a National Geographic Institute. Municipal and regional land-use plans are initiated on a national scale.
- **Jamaica**: Has projects funded by USAID, Habitat for Humanity and an ongoing IDB-funded programme for urban rehabilitation.
- **St Kitts and Nevis**: National policy contains some specific recommendations and proposals from the NUA.
- **Bahamas**: In the Bahamas' 2019 Hurricane Doria recovery plan, there are some guidelines on recovery and informal settlements that are related to the NUA. Additionally, the creation of the Ministry of Disaster, Preparedness, Management and Reconstruction (MDPMR), together with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Disaster Reconstruction Authority (DRA), which together facilitate prevention, adaptation, recovery, public information and inter-agency coordination to address disaster risk.
- **Dominica**: Dominica has a National Resilience Plan that incorporates resilience issues at the urban scale. In addition, the country is reviewing the building code that has come before parliament for approval.
- **Port of Spain** (Trinidad and Tobago): Has a revitalisation strategy and zoning regulations based on at-risk areas.
- **Port-au-Prince** (Haiti) and **Belmopan** (Belize): With technical support from ECLAC, MRC2030 and CC35 are currently developing city-scale Climate Action Plans (CAP) related to the NUA.

Based on UN SDG data and BADEHOG-ECLAC Household Surveys, from 2016 to present, no notable changes are observed in the proportion of the population living in slums (SDG 11.1.1), nor in the proportion of the population using safe drinking water and sanitation (SDG 6.1.1 and SDG 6.1.2).

⁹⁷ <https://www.caribank.org/newsroom/news-and-events/cdbs-urban-sector-policy-assist-coordinated-approach-planning>

Cuba sub-region

The [Housing Policy](#), from 2016 to date, has enabled the construction of more than 40,000 homes, with 10% going to households affected by disasters and/or in precarious conditions. The [National Land Use Planning Scheme \(ENOT\)](#) gives the Housing Policy a territorial approach as it allows local and open decisions on the location and typologies of housing. The recent approval of the Law on [Land Use, Urban Planning and Land Management and the General Housing Law \(2021\)](#) will allow for a redistributive management of urban land.

In environment and climate change: [The State Plan for Climate Change \(Tarea Vida\)](#)⁹⁸ is closely linked to the [National Action Plan for the Implementation of the NUA \(PAN-NAUC\) 2017-2036](#), approved as a State Plan, as it territorialises measures to address disaster risk⁹⁹.

Mexico sub-region

In Mexico, the Gini Coefficient in urban areas decreased from 0.47 in 2016 to 0.383 in 2020.¹⁰⁰

Government actions that account for part of this improvement relate to universal pension coverage for the elderly (65 and over), people with disabilities (up to 18 years), and a national scholarship programme for education (up to 18 years)¹⁰¹.

The [National Institute for Sustainable Land \(INSUS\)](#) is carrying out actions aimed at increasing land tenure. By 2024, it is expected that 12.3% of the national population will have access to land tenure (approximately 361,208 people)¹⁰².

In the context of the pandemic, countless solidarity initiatives were deployed with the involvement of civil society and the government. Some of them were the Mercado, comunidad, alimentación y abasto ([Mercomuna](#)) programme, which consisted of issuing banknotes that served as vouchers to buy fruit, vegetables, and other basic necessities in local shops, by the Mexico City government in coordination with 14 municipalities.¹⁰³ [Airbnb](#) activated the global Emergency Personnel Accommodation programme in Mexico in partnership with the Mexican Red Cross.¹⁰⁴ UN-HABITAT, in partnership with the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), promoted the mobilisation of international resources for the installation of rainwater harvesting systems in the municipality of Iztapalapa (Mexico City).

Central America sub-region

In Central America, the Sixth State of the Region Report (2021), which presents an assessment of the human development performance of Central America and the Dominican Republic between

⁹⁸ <http://www.citmavcl.gob.cu/?p=1691>

⁹⁹ <https://onuhabitat.org.mx/index.php/cuba-aprueba-plan-de-estado-para-la-nueva-agenda-urbana-2036>.

¹⁰⁰ Cepalstat.

¹⁰¹ <https://www.gob.mx/becasbenitojuarez/articulos/beca-bienestar-para-las-familias-de-educacion-basica>

¹⁰² <https://www.gob.mx/insus>

¹⁰³ They look nice! Due to contingency, CDMX puts "new banknotes" into circulation (Internet), 15 April 2020. Available at:

<https://heraldodemexico.com.mx/cdmx/contingencia-covid-19-coronavirus-nuevos-billetes-cdmxmercomuna-canasta-basica-ayuda-economica-mercados-locales/> (consultado el 30 de mayo de 2020)

¹⁰⁴ <https://www.airbnb.mx/covid19relief-guests>

2016 and 2020, documents reductions in infant mortality and poverty levels, along with recent drops in homicidal violence rates in most Central American countries (PEN, 2021).

Poverty reduction is partly the result of [regular slum upgrading programmes](#). Above all, this is due to the work developed by relevant NGOs in the region, especially in Honduras, with more than 200 municipalities acting with a budget for this line of intervention (interviewee, November 2021).

Rental housing is emerging as an important permanent option, along with the reuse of underutilised plots of land. [El Salvador has developed a credit-based housing policy](#) (interviewee, November 2021). In addition, there has been a generalised improvement in drinking water and sanitation infrastructure coverage (PEN, 2021).

There is no evidence of significant progress in urban prosperity from a territorial perspective due to a significant disconnection between the capacity to generate economic growth and the capacity to create employment.

Regarding the environment and climate change, it is worth mentioning the IDB project on the promotion of the flexible plastics recovery chain in El Salvador, as it is an incipient practice in the country's cities¹⁰⁵.

Costa Rica incorporates sustainable urban mobility in various policy instruments: NDCs, National Transport Plan 2011-2035, [Comprehensive Plan for Sustainable Urban Mobility \(PIMUS\)](#), and the [Law on Incentives and Promotion for Electric Transport](#). In addition, the [National Decarbonisation Plan 2018-2050](#) has two critical projects: the Fast Passenger [Train](#) and the [Rehabilitation of the Electric Freight Train \(TELCA\)](#). Finally, there is the National Risk Management Policy 2016-2020 and its Action Plan with a system of indicators and M&E tools (Mideplan, 2020).

Panama City was selected in 2016 to be part of the [100 Resilient Cities \(100RC\)](#) initiative and with the support of the Rockefeller Foundation developed its resilience strategy presented in 2019. The strategy has five pillars: Access to opportunities, Neighbourhood infrastructure, Rediscovering our wetland city, Knowledge, understanding and sharing information to be safer, and Shared management: making a city (<https://ciudadesiberoamericanas.org/2019/06/07/ciudad-de-panama-presenta-su-estrategia-de-resiliencia/>)

Indirectly, through the work of UNDRR, together with the Ministries of Environment and national Civil Protection offices, and with the permanent support of development banks, it has been possible to deploy urban adaptation to climate change and disaster risk prevention programmes at the urban scale in all the countries of the sub-region.

[Andean Arc sub-region](#)

Colombia. [The National Development Plan 2018-2022](#)¹⁰⁶ maintains the perspective of differentiated attention to lagging areas of the country to overcome poverty, also incorporating vulnerable groups and women in health (Cancillería de Colombia, 2014).

¹⁰⁵ <https://www.iadb.org/es/project/ES-T1334>

¹⁰⁶ Plan Nacional de Desarrollo "Pacto por Colombia, pacto por la equidad" 2018 – 2022: <https://colaboracion.dnp.gov.co/CDT/Prensa/PND-Pacto-por-Colombia-pacto-por-la-equidad-2018-2022.pdf>

Taking the PRIMED¹⁰⁷ ¹⁰⁸ experience as a reference point, the [Casa Digna Vida Digna Programme](#) began in 2018. Between 2018 and 2021, the Programme benefited 51,895 households with title deeds, 376,272 households with improvements to their environments and 103,465 households with home improvements (Minvivienda, 2021).

The new Habitat and Housing Law 2079 of 2021 aims at economic reactivation after the pandemic and includes improvements to the rental housing programme and rural subsidies (Minvivienda, 2021).

Ecuador. [The Ecuador 2036 Sustainable Habitat Agenda, approved in 2020](#), which aims to address gaps and inequalities by guaranteeing access to public services, equipment, infrastructure and housing; and in the fulfilment of human rights and inclusion, has permeated and defined legal instruments and urban development planning. An expression of this is, for example, [the Social Housing Law, approved in January 2022](#), which grants the decentralised autonomous governments the legal tools for the management of housing for low-income sectors and creates a land bank for social housing and the modality of social leasing with an option to buy.

In Ecuador, the [2019 Regulation to the Organic Environmental Code](#) stipulates that development and land-use plans at all levels of government must integrate territorial environmental criteria, including mitigation and adaptation to climate change and integrated risk management, including those derived from the effects of climate change (MIDUVI, 2020).

Peru. A similar situation (redistributive and inclusive) is confirmed in Peru, in the recently approved [Law No. 31313 on Sustainable Urban Development](#), which embraces a broad concept of the right to the city. The law incorporates inclusive zoning with a 10% quota for social housing in medium density areas.

The Law No. 31313, also makes it mandatory to incorporate risk analysis and adaptation to climate change in land-use and urban development plans and to collect information on settlements located in areas of unmitigable risk (Congress of the Republic of Peru, 2021).

Colombia. Prior to Habitat III, Colombia reported nine environmental policies with an impact on urban environmental quality, the most relevant being the [2008 Urban Environmental Management Policy](#)¹⁰⁹. In 2011 it developed the Urban Environmental Quality Index (ICAU) to measure the environmental performance of its cities. It highlighted the high rate of disasters due to natural phenomena and the high economic risk due to hazards caused by disasters, which motivated the design of a risk management policy in 2012 (Cancillería de Colombia, 2014).

The country continues to work on incorporating disaster risk management into territorial planning and is pursuing a strategy of technical or financial assistance to support municipalities prioritised for their vulnerability and relevance in the consolidation of the system of cities. It also designed the national inventory of settlements in high-risk areas¹¹⁰. Progress was made in the definition of guidelines for the territorial planning of coastal marine cities, considering the vulnerability of cities on the Pacific coast. [Law No. 1931/2018 establishes that Comprehensive Climate Change Management Plans \(PIGCCT\)](#) must be formulated for each department and also on a more

¹⁰⁷ Programa integral de mejoramiento de barrios subnormales en Medellín

¹⁰⁸ Selected in 2001 as one of the 16 best slum upgrading practices in the world.

¹⁰⁹ https://www.minambiente.gov.co/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/politica_de_gestion_ambiental_urbana.pdf

¹¹⁰ <https://www.minvivienda.gov.co/sites/default/files/documentos/guia-aplicacion-asentamientos.pdf>

detailed scale at the level of cities and metropolitan areas, so the country has 25 departments and 31 municipalities with PIGCCT (Minvivienda, 2021).

In the three countries, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia, there is evidence of a more comprehensive change of vision with respect to cities and the intra-urban systemic character, with a strong influence from the Colombian sustainable urban development.

Brazil sub-region

After a long history of urban policy and planning based on the reduction of inequalities and social inclusion contained in the Cities Statute, Master Plans, and the [PMCMV](#), these issues have been less of a priority since the current government came into power. From 2019 onwards, practically no projects were contracted for the lower income bracket. In 2020, the PMCMV was replaced by the [Yellow Green House Programme](#), without significant changes and maintaining the restriction to the most excluded sectors. The "Entities" modality, a self-managed housing production, in partnership with associations, cooperatives and other 3rd sector entities, had a low participation, around 1.6% of the total contracts of the Programme, but it was still the largest public programme to support self-management, with the production of around 80,000 units. It also came to a standstill as of 2019.

As a result, in the last five years, living and housing conditions have worsened enormously in Brazil. The country has returned to the hunger map. In terms of housing, the percentage of families falling into the "excessive rent burden" category, i.e. spending more than 30% of their income to pay rent, has increased.

Still, it is possible to mention some relevant programmes at the sub-national level that are strongly influenced by the NUA, such as the [Programa Vidas Novas nas Grotas](#), implemented by the [Alagoas State Government](#), with the support of UN-Habitat Brazil, through its office in Maceió. This programme, with state resources, is implementing urban improvements, such as paving roads, stairs, slope containment, etc. in about 100 caves in Maceió, which are precarious settlements, benefiting about 120,000 low-income people. UN-Habitat's involvement led to the incorporation of the NUA as one of the guiding elements of the proposal.

In the area of sanitation, in 2020 the government approved a controversial legal framework that facilitated the concession of sanitation services to the private sector, currently mostly run by state-owned companies managed by states or municipalities.

An important initiative related to the Right to Housing came from the housing and civil society movements: the [Zero Eviction campaign](#), which, after a major political battle, achieved the suspension of evictions and foreclosures across the country during the pandemic.

Urban prosperity. As in the rest of the region, urban prosperity shows no concrete expression in the territory. Until 2016, the solidarity economy, which generated hundreds of cooperatives throughout the country, lost strength with a change in policy. However, it left traces and, in a very different way, continues to be a protagonist. One national programme related to the solidarity economy that is holding its own enables the incorporation of [cooperatives of recycled material collectors as agents in selective collection programmes](#). Despite setbacks in recent years, this programme continues in many municipalities, albeit without the incentives that existed in the past.

Belo Horizonte created the [Jornada Productiva Programme](#), which aims to generate employment and income opportunities through the regularisation of informal workers, the extension of the authorisation of popular trade activities in regional fairs, the implementation of popular commercial centres, the authorisation to sell food in motor vehicles, conditions for trade in public places for people with disabilities, and regularisation of human-powered vehicles. Such initiatives take place in several municipalities, while in others street work is repressed. Problems such as these minimise the poverty and suffering of the informal worker, but they cannot be categorised as urban prosperity.

As far as societal initiatives are concerned, it is necessary to mention the enormous stimulus being given by business foundations to promote so-called "entrepreneurship" in precarious settlements, such as favelas, in order to strengthen a liberal conception in the face of a stronger state. Numerous organisations have emerged in the poorest areas of cities to support "social micro-entrepreneurs", with training programmes, micro-credit, marketing, prizes, etc. These initiatives have treated favelas and popular neighbourhoods as "places of opportunity".

Environment. In Brazil, any initiatives undertaken in the country around the issue of climate change in cities will have a relatively insignificant impact if the devastation of the Amazon is not contained. That said, the Ministry of Environment launched the [National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change \(2016\)](#), which aims to promote the reduction of national vulnerability to climate change and to carry out risk management associated with this phenomenon. The plan sets out strategies, guidelines and targets. Among the 11 planned sectors of activity, one is dedicated to cities.

However, as of 2019, the climate change agenda related to cities was taken over, in a non-explicit manner, by the technical area of the Ministry of Regional and Urban Development, stimulated by the cooperation agreement with the German government, implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), noting that it was financed by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Security.

Within the scope of this cooperation, several projects related to the topic of climate change and sustainable urban development were developed, mainly related to energy efficiency, such as:

- [ProteGeer](#) - aims to promote sustainable and integrated solid waste management, articulated with climate protection policies, mainly focused on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, managed by the National Sanitation Department of the MDRU.
- [EEDUS](#) - aims to increase energy efficiency in housing production promoted by the federal government, with a focus on Level 1 (most vulnerable population) managed by the National Housing Secretariat of the MDRU.
- [ProEESa](#) - aims to improve energy efficiency in the water supply system, managed by the National Sanitation Department of the MDRU.
- [Felicity](#) - aims to promote actions and finance low carbon urban infrastructure projects in urban areas, managed in partnership with the Ministry of Mines and Energy.
- [Euroclima](#) - aimed at urban mobility.

These projects are aimed at disseminating sustainable alternatives, promoting debates and training workshops, helping to put the issue of climate change, and therefore the SDGs and the NUA, on the urban agenda of public authorities. However, they do not generate impacts, at least in the short term, that can be measured by urban/environmental indicators.

Several entities, networks and institutions have promoted initiatives aimed at raising awareness in the federal entities to promote actions focused on the environment and climate change that, without mentioning the NUA, in some way contribute to its implementation. Among the institutions, in addition to UN-Habitat and GIZ, there is ICLEI, the Sustainable Cities Programme and municipal organisations such as the Brazilian Association of Municipalities (ABM), the National Confederation of Municipalities (CNM) and the National Front of Mayors.

In 2020-21, the four main Brazilian cities that are part of C40, [Rio de Janeiro](#), [São Paulo](#), [Salvador and Curitiba](#), presented their climate action plans, committing to taking the necessary measures to achieve carbon neutrality and greater resilience to climate change by 2050.

At the urban scale, the environmental and climate challenge is great. Some numbers help to understand the situation. In terms of mobility, which accounts for 65% of greenhouse gas emissions in Brazilian cities, the situation is tragic and has not changed due to a supposed awareness of the climate crisis. [There is a lot of talk about electric cars, but in 2021 there were only 60,000 electric cars in the country in a fleet of 108 million vehicles, of which 58 million are cars. The country's bus fleet is still almost entirely diesel. In the city of São Paulo, the country's largest city with 12 million inhabitants, the 2009 Climate Change Law established that by 2018 all diesel buses should be replaced by clean fuel, but nothing was done and, in 2018, the law was amended, giving concessionaires another 20 years \(!\) to carry out this transition.](#)

As for solid waste, which accounts for about 20% of emissions in cities, in [2010 the National Solid Waste Policy](#) was approved, which established as a five-year goal the elimination of improper waste disposal, i.e. the extinction of landfills, and the implementation of selective collection and recycling of dry waste. In 2011, 42% of waste was improperly disposed of. [Ten years later, in 2020, this indicator remained practically in the same range \(40%\) and recycling reached only 400,000 out of 76 million tonnes/year, or 0.5%. The numbers show that concrete actions are still insignificant.](#)

South Cone sub-region

In none of the four countries has there been significant progress on transformation commitments. The area where the greatest momentum is visible is in environment and climate change, not because of an intention directly related to the NUA, but as a product of the alignment with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement¹¹¹.

In the area of [poverty and social inclusion](#), the [Plan for Integral Human Development \(PDHI\) \(2020\)](#) stands out in Argentina. It arose from the initiative of trade unions and social movements, as a proposal for the post-pandemic period¹¹². Likewise, the [Comprehensive Plan for the](#)

¹¹¹ An example of this is the work of ICLEI and RAMCC on Climate Action Plans. However, indirectly, many of the plans and laws can be linked to the agenda guidelines.

¹¹² Among its general guidelines, it envisages: "creating 4 million jobs in the popular economy and 170,000 registered jobs regulated by collective agreements; promoting the urban integration of popular neighbourhoods, access to land and social housing; repopulating Argentina, through new cities, young towns, organised rural communities and protected horticultural belts; developing new industrial sites through territorial planning that contemplates new multimodal transport schemes; addressing the energy transition and developing non-polluting forms of production to move towards an integral ecology programme". Integral Human Development Plan. Proposals for a post-pandemic Argentina (2022). <https://plandesarrollohumanointegral.com.ar/plan-desarrollo.pdf>

Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the local level - ACCESAR 2020¹¹³, with the general objective of guaranteeing the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities.

In Paraguay, in 2019, the AMA-BID Programme¹¹⁴ was implemented, with the general objective of contributing to the reduction of the qualitative housing deficit in the Metropolitan Area of Asunción (AMA), through the delivery of approximately 3,000 direct housing subsidies. The project aims to help the low-income population to access a financing scheme that will allow them to improve and expand their homes.

Urban prosperity. At the CABA (Buenos Aires) level, in 2020, the Buenos Aires legislature passed the Law to Promote the Social and Popular Economy, which allows the productive value of workers in working-class neighbourhoods to be strengthened and encouraged. The law is a step towards the expansion of the network of formal businesses and the creation of formal production spaces, with the necessary authorisations for the safety of workers, and towards the economic development of all residents, regardless of their neighbourhood of residence. The law includes a system of access to credit, participation in public procurement and certain tax benefits, with an impact on 500,000 people who used to work informally.

Environment and climate change. According to Montevideo's Local Voluntary Report (2020), the following actions have been taken with regard to clean water and sanitation: the planned structure of the master plan (1972) was achieved in terms of the final effluent disposal system; Montevideo is the first capital city in the world to obtain ISO 14001 Certification on the environmental management of its beaches on the Rio de la Plata and the coastal spaces between them.

According to the Buenos Aires Local Voluntary Report (2021) in 2017, the Government of the City of Buenos Aires (GCBA) made a commitment to be a carbon neutral, resilient and inclusive city by 2050, in line with the goals set by the Paris Agreement¹¹⁵.

In 2017 in Chile, in line with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, the National Climate Change Action Plan 2017-2022 was approved¹¹⁶. According to the second monitoring report of the plan¹¹⁷, by December 2019 the degree of implementation is 50%, with significant progress in most of the objectives set.

These commitments have had continuity, such as the case in Paraguay, where some cities have taken measures regarding the management of climate hazards, especially floods.

¹¹³ Resolución 1200 de 2021. Agencia Nacional de Discapacidad. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/normativa/nacional/resoluci%C3%B3n-1200-2021-352891/texto>

¹¹⁴ IDB. (s/f). Información AMA. <https://www.muvh.gov.py/mejoramientodeviviendayhabitatinformacion-ama/>

¹¹⁵ To this end, the GCBA launched, in collaboration with C40, its third Climate Action Plan (CAP). In 2019, Buenos Aires became the first city in Latin America with 100% LED street lighting. In addition, it incorporated more than 700 solar panels, and delivered more than 1 million LED lamps, mainly in poor neighbourhoods. 28% of emissions in the energy sector are produced in residential buildings. Therefore, by 2050, the PAC proposes to retrofit 80% of such buildings to improve their performance through rational and efficient energy use. Also, new buildings should meet standards that increase energy efficiency and achieve self-sustainability. The remaining 20% comes from commercial and public buildings. In 2019, the GCBA optimised the lighting of more than 400 public buildings and will improve and expand the monitoring system to measure in real time the consumption of all its buildings. In addition, a public sustainable mobility system "EcoBici" has been in place since 2010.

¹¹⁶ Ministry of the Environment. (2017). National Climate Change Action Plan 2017-2022. https://mma.gob.cl/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/plan_nacional_climatico_2017_2.pdf

¹¹⁷ Climate Change Office. (2020) Second Monitoring Report 2019 of the National Climate Change Plan 2017-2022. <https://www.paiscircular.cl/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Segundo-Reporte-Plan-de-Accion-Nacional-CC-2019-vf.pdf>

VII. Effective implementation

The region shows substantive progress in the elaboration or revision of more integrated urban policies.

The Caribbean sub-region

It is worth highlighting the institutional advances in the Bahamas with the creation of a Ministry, Agency and Reconstruction Authority to face disasters as a coordinated institutional system¹¹⁸. In the Dominican Republic, notable achievements include the design of the Law on Land Management, Land Use and Single Planning Regions, the creation of a National Geographic Institute and the development of municipal and regional land-use plans on a national scale¹¹⁹.

Cuba sub-region

Governance. Between 2016 and the end of 2018, with the support of UN-HABITAT and funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Cuba developed the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the NUA (PAN-NAUC) 2017-2036, whose purpose is to contribute to the management of national and local governments, in the understanding of the need for sustainable development of human settlements. In December 2019, the Council of Ministers approved the plan as a State Plan.

The development of the PAN-NAUC led to the creation of the National Group made up of State and Government agencies and entities, academia, local governments, representatives of organisations and Cuban civil society, coordinated by the current INOT (ex-IPF) on behalf of the State, which worked together with the CNH in its development.

The development of this Plan, as well as the preparation of the National Progress Report on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Cuba 2020¹²⁰ ¹²¹, and the National Voluntary Report of Cuba on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda¹²², has allowed for a sustained articulation of work between the government, UN-HABITAT and international cooperation. It has also enabled the development of relevant legislative and operational instruments for the country, such as the Housing Policy (2018)¹²³, its operational instrument the Territorial Planning Scheme for Habitat in Cuba (EOTH) 2019-2030, and the recently approved Law on Territorial and Urban Planning and Land Management (2021)¹²⁴.

The State Plan to Address Climate Change, Tarea Vida (2017)¹²⁵ also acquires a greater territorial focus based on ongoing discussions and reflections on the construction of sustainable and just cities.

Legislative and planning developments related to the NUA also stand out:

¹¹⁸ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=30022&nr=2639&menu=3170>

¹¹⁹ <https://www.urbanagendaplatform.org/member-states/dominican-republic/dominican-republic-national-report-oct-2020-sep-2024>

¹²⁰ <https://www.urbanagendaplatform.org/member-states/republic-cuba/republic-cuba-national-report-oct-2016-sep-2020>

¹²¹ <https://www.urbanagendaplatform.org/member-states/republic-cuba/republic-cuba-national-report-oct-2016-sep-2020>

¹²² <http://www.onei.gob.cu/node/16266>

¹²³ www.presidencia.gob.cu/noticias/la-politica-de-la-vivienda-proyecta-sol

¹²⁴ <https://www.granma.cu/cuba/2021-12-21/aprobo-el-parlamento-la-ley-de-ordenamiento-territorial-y-urbano-y-la-gestion-del-suelo-21-12-2021-19-12-29>

¹²⁵ <http://www.citma.vcl.gob.cu/?p=1691>

- Constitution of the Republic approved on 24th February 2019: all persons have the right to adequate housing and a safe and healthy habitat (Article 71); to a healthy and balanced environment (Article 75); to water (Article 76); to the protection of cultural and historical heritage¹²⁶ (Article 90).
- National Economic and Social Development Plan 2030¹²⁷.
- National Land Use Planning Scheme providing for territorial and urban planning policies and determinations for the whole country (2018)¹²⁸.
- State Plan for the implementation of the NAUC (2019)¹²⁹.
- State Plan to address Climate Change, Task Life (2017)¹³⁰.
- Housing Policy (2018)¹³¹.
- Law no. 124 on Land Waters (2017)¹³².
- Agreement 8415 of the Council of Ministers: Regulation on the arrangement and legalisation of dwellings, rooms, accessories and premises (Official Gazette no. 33 Ordinary of 26th April 2019)¹³³.
- Procedure for the action of the municipal housing directorates in the granting of subsidies to people in need of housing¹³⁴.

The country is making important decentralisation efforts expressed in the Constitution of the Republic of Cuba (Article 167), which recognises the legal personality of the province as an intermediate political-territorial unit, and creates the basis for greater local autonomy.

Planning. The following planning bodies exist: [The National Territorial Planning Scheme \(ENOT\)](#) and the [Municipal Master Plans \(EDM\)](#), the [Articulated Platform for Integral Territorial Development \(Padit\)](#), a programme developed by the UNDP in conjunction with the Cuban government that aims to promote decentralisation processes, strengthening local and territorial capacities for planning, development management and multilevel coordination, as well as the [Capacity Building Programme for Local Development \(Prodel\)](#) and the implementation of strategies for habitat development at the municipal level.

Additionally, the Programme for Strengthening Capacities for Local Development (Prodel) and the Implementation of Strategies for Habitat Development at the Municipal Level¹³⁵.

UN-HABITAT Cuba has played a fundamental role in accompanying the General Urban Development Plan of Baracoa. Likewise, in the municipalities of Quemado de Güines, Sagua la Grande, Remedios, Placetas and Manicaragua, the actions for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in the Province of Villa Clara were consolidated. Similar programmes include Urban October and other activities¹³⁶.

Since October 2019, [Havana and Trinidad became the first Cuban cities to join the UNESCO Creative Cities Network](#), the former in the Music section, and the latter in the Crafts and popular

¹²⁶ <http://juriscuba.com/constitucion-de-la-republica-de-cuba-2019/>

¹²⁷ <https://www.presidencia.gob.cu/es/gobierno/plan-nacional-de-desarrollo-economico-y-social-hasta-el-2030/>

¹²⁸ <http://www.ipf.gob.cu/es/content/esquema-nacional-ordenamiento-territorial>

¹²⁹ <https://onuhabitat.org.mx/index.php/cuba-aprueba-plan-de-estado-para-la-nueva-agenda-urbana-2036>

¹³⁰ <http://www.citmavcl.gob.cu/?p=1691>

¹³¹ <https://www.presidencia.gob.cu/es/noticias/la-politica-de-la-vivienda-proyecta-solucion-integral-a-problema-sensible-y-priorizado-por-el-gobierno/>

¹³² <http://juriscuba.com/legislacion-2/leyes/ley-no-124-de-las-aguas-terrestres/>

¹³³ <http://juriscuba.com/legislacion-2/leyes/ley-no-124-de-las-aguas-terrestres/>

¹³⁴ <https://www.gacetaoficial.gob.cu/es/vivienda>

¹³⁵ <https://observatorioplanificacion.cepal.org/es/modalidades/plataforma-articulada-para-el-desarrollo-integral-territorial-padit-de-cuba>

¹³⁶ https://www.eda.admin.ch/dam/countries/countries-content/cuba/es/ficha-prodel_SP.pdf

arts section, which is a recognition of the country's work in the field of the aforementioned SDG (Cuba's National Voluntary Report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, 2021). The IPF received the UN-HABITAT Scroll of Honour 2018.

Mexico sub-region

It is worth highlighting the experience of the [Institute of Planning and Management of the Metropolitan Area of Guadalajara \(AMG\)](#) with the creation of the [Integral System of Metropolitan Management \(SIGmetro\)](#) that allows visualisation of the [Metropolitan Land Use Plan \(POTmet\)](#) and its strategies, with 404 free downloadable layers, and which will form part of the National Information System SEDATU¹³⁷; and its agencies. The SIGmetro allows AMG municipalities to comply with the obligations set out in the General Law on Human Settlements, Urban Development and Territorial Planning.

It is similarly worth mentioning the metropolitan agreements in [Monterrey](#)¹³⁸ and [Mexico](#)¹³⁹. SEDATU has implemented a support programme for the elaboration of [Municipal Urban Development Programmes](#). With quite strict technical and administrative guidelines, they have turned out to be basic instruments for urban planning and governance¹⁴⁰.

Some results include:

Metropolitan Urban Planning and Territorial Ordering: elaboration or updating of 13 Municipal Urban Development Plans, 1 Metropolitan Programme and 1 State Programme for Territorial Ordering and Urban Development.

In Mexico, the [Urban Improvement Programme \(PMU\)](#), implemented by SEDATU, aims to help people living in blocks with medium, high and very high levels of urban and social poverty, in municipalities and districts of 15,000 inhabitants or more that are part of the National Urban System (SUN) 2018, to reduce their conditions of urban and social poverty by improving access to goods and services.

The main achievements of the programme in 2019 were as follows:

Comprehensive Neighbourhood Improvement: 348 projects carried out for the benefit of the population -144 relating to urban infrastructure; 4 to mobility and connectivity; and 200 to public space and urban equipment. 83 community participation projects and 196 projects of services related to the work (executive projects and work supervision) were carried out.

Regularisation and legal certainty: 6,797 regularisation actions were carried out, which were distributed as follows: 6,778 Subsidy Release Agreements for the regularisation of lots for housing use, benefiting 6,778 people, and 19 Subsidy Release Agreements for the regularisation of lots for public services in 5 states.

¹³⁷ <https://www.imeplan.mx/en/gobernanza>

¹³⁸ <https://www.jalisco.gob.mx/en/prensa/noticias/128626>

¹³⁹ https://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5498436&fecha=25/09/2017

¹⁴⁰ <https://www.gob.mx/sedatu/documentos/lineamientos-simplificados-para-la-elaboracion-de-planes-o-programas-municipales-de-desarrollo-urbano>

Urban housing: 18,332 subsidies for the improvement, expansion or construction of housing were delivered, benefiting 73,328 people (Taboada, 2021).

Central America sub-region

An important recent milestone has been the approval of the [Regional Plan for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda \(PRINAU\)](#), at the Central American Council for Housing and Human Settlements (CCVAH, April 2021), by the countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA). The Plan incorporates sub-regional particularities of Central America and the Dominican Republic¹⁴¹, with a focus on the differential development conditions of the sub-region, the high risk of climate change, opportunities for prevention and resilient construction, mainstreaming and implementation of the gender vision.

The Plan has been designed around six lines of action that include: (i) National urban policies, (ii) Urban legal frameworks, (iii) Urban and territorial planning and integrated urban design, (iv) Urban economics and municipal finance, (v) Local implementation, and (vi) Monitoring, reporting and review mechanisms¹⁴² <https://www.sisca.int/agenda-estrategica/prinau-sica>.

Pillar 1 NATIONAL URBAN POLICIES	Based on input and incentive generation	Sustainable urban development as a paradigm	Focused in the context of climate change	Gender Equality	Based on local needs and Planning	Coordinated between sectors and levels	Focused on the reduction of socio-spatial gaps
Pillar 2 URBAN LEGAL FRAMEWORKS	Right to the city or "the city for all" and housing	Participatory, transparent and accountable governance (Technical roundtables)	Decentralization and autonomy of municipalities	Strong legal frameworks. Legal framework focused on housing	Guarantee of adequate and affordable housing	Provision of public facilities, services and spaces (urban furniture) and inclusive	Land management and public investment
Pillar 3 URBAN AND TERRITORIAL PLANNING AND URBAN DESIGN	Binding urban planning, instruments and mechanisms	Environmental and heritage protection. Urban and climate resilience	Compact, connected, integrated, safe and inclusive urban form. Territorial planning - POT	Provision of urban public services and political spaces	Adequate and affordable housing	Slum upgrading	Integrated spaces. Urban mobility
Pillar 4 URBAN ECONOMY AND MUNICIPAL FINANCE	Distributive equity of public spending and investment	Sustainable resource mobilization	Inclusive and sustainable municipal finances	Local, fiscal and financial framework	Sources of financing for urban investment	Investments related to the context of climate change	Facilitating access to adequate housing: rural, urban and in various modes of tenure and access.
Pillar 5 LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION	Community involvement	Institutional and multilevel cooperation	Municipal urban planning. Urban regeneration project, through housing sector guidelines.	Integrated management approach	Neighborhood improvement and service provision	Inclusive and sustainable economic development	Social benefits of public investment with private

¹⁴¹ It includes Nicaragua, Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama (Belize has been included in the Caribbean countries). The Dominican Republic is always included because it is an invited member of SICA.

¹⁴² <https://www.sisca.int/centro-de-documentacion/6-ccvah/2-documentos-estrategicos/1297-plan-regional-de-implementacion-de-la-nueva-agenda-urbana-prinau-version-borrador>

Pillar 6 MONITORING, REPORTING AND REVIEW MECHANISMS	Statistical and geographic information systems. Geographic consultation platform	Social generation of inputs. Strategic planning for inputs	Needs monitoring framework. Indicators for monitoring and consultation	Roles and responsibilities. Housing and Urban Development Unit with specific roles and follow-up.	Coordination mechanisms	Monitoring and evaluation indicators	sector participation Public Information Systems Development and Housing Unit -UDV-
Source: Own elaboration based on PRINAU 2021.							

In metropolitan governance, the most noteworthy cases are prior to 2018: San Salvador with the Planning Office of the Metropolitan Area of San Salvador (**OPAMSS**), created in 1988 by COAMSS, as an eminently technical, decentralised and autonomous entity. The Office is the technical secretariat of COAMSS (14 municipalities), in charge of research and analysis of urban development problems, territorial planning and control, and the promotion of economic development, with a strategic and unified vision of the metropolis <https://opamss.org.sv/opamss/>.

Guatemala created a commonwealth of 6 metropolitan municipalities with support from the World Bank, but the mechanism, Mancomunidad del Sur Villanueva, formed by six municipalities in the metropolitan area, failed to get off the ground.

In Costa Rica there are two partial experiences, one of long standing, the coordinated management of solid waste management in metropolitan municipalities (**FEMETROM**), and more recently, two Intermunicipal Agencies for the Management of the Torres and María Aguilar River Basins.

Tegucigalpa is a special case as the metropolitan area (consisting of two cities) coinciding with the municipal area of the Central District, facilitating integrated metropolitan coordination (World Bank, 2016).

Small commonwealths or federations of municipalities exist in all countries, but their role is limited.

In urban policies, the most recent cases are the approval of **Costa Rica's National Urban Development Policy 2018**¹⁴³, making it the only one that contains explicit references to the strategic objectives of the NUA, especially an important redistributive line in Axis 3 Universal Access to Public and Recreational Services. Guatemala, Honduras and Panama do not have an urban policy.

Costa Rica approves **Law n° 9821**, which authorises the granting of a second family housing voucher for persons with disabilities, and **Law n° 9828**, for the use of recycled materials in road infrastructure works (Ley de Pavimentos Reciclados).

Decentralisation. Decentralisation policies are moving in opposite directions. In Guatemala, after the successful process of decentralisation of the administration of the property tax (IUSI) started in 2007, the process stopped and the current government has instead initiated a process of centralisation of some territorial planning issues. With the creation of the **Presidential Commission on Municipal Affairs (COPRESAM)**, through Governmental Agreement 42-2020, which aims to strengthen the mechanisms for communication and coordination of actions between the executive branch and the municipal government (<https://www.copresam.gob.gt/>),

¹⁴³ https://www.mivah.go.cr/Documentos/politicas_directrices_planes/PNDU-2018_Politica_Plan_Pags_001-028.pdf

some areas of intersection between competencies with the municipalities and other central government bodies such as SEGEPLAN have been generated. The Commission has a strong focus on the preparation of Strategic Development Plans and the creation of Municipal Water and Sanitation Offices (OMAS) as a strategy to guarantee availability and access to food, eradicate malnutrition and reduce diseases, and carry out plans and projects oriented to the socio-economic development of the country (<https://www.copresam.gob.gt/>).

A certain process of centralisation can also be observed in El Salvador. FONDE (transfers to local governments from the national budget) decreased from 10% to 1.6%, with great effect on local governments. All infrastructure decisions were centralised. The recent creation of the [National Directorate of Municipal Works](#) in the second half of 2021 can be interpreted as an opportunity for a more direct dialogue between the national and local levels or as a deliberate centralising action; this will depend on how the techno-political relationship between the two levels is constructed.

There is evidence of a resurgence or revitalisation of social movements for the city, especially of young people. Examples include the Urban Citizen Network in Panama (demanding urban improvements) and the Rutas Naturbanas collectives (parks and green corridors for the recovery of urban rivers), and the Centre for Urban Sustainability (sustainable mobility) in Costa Rica.

An interesting initiative is being developed in Costa Rica by the Latin American Association of Urban Planners, Costa Rica chapter (APLAU). In view of the electoral process (6 February 2022), the government programmes of 5 parties were analysed, evaluated, and the evaluation presented publicly.

A concrete example of progress in horizontal integration is the recent publication of the [First National Urban-Environmental Agenda of Costa Rica \(ANUA\)](#), published in 2021. The Agenda was conceived as a coordination mechanism that seeks to consider biodiversity conservation in urban development and city building with a broad participatory process involving all sectors. Urban municipalities have a new tool to propose actions to connect forest areas to the river bank, or even expand existing green spaces. The ANUA will also allow institutions and local governments to coordinate more closely to create Urban Natural Parks, which will be part of new Interurban Biological Corridors, and to carry out interventions in strategic neighbourhoods of the Greater Metropolitan Area (GAM)¹⁴⁴.

Also, in Costa Rica, progress in vertical coordination can be mentioned in the DOT technical roundtable that has been operating since 2018, coordinated by the MIVAH, in which the 15 metropolitan municipalities directly affected by the Train project participate. In Guatemala, the Presidential Commission for Municipal Affairs (COPRESAM) can be considered a mechanism for vertical articulation, but as mentioned in a previous section, it also implies a risk of centralisation.

The gap in the elaboration of land-use planning instruments between the metropolitan scale and smaller municipalities persists. In Costa Rica, by 2020 only 40 of the 82 cantons in the country had a regulatory plan, which represents 48.7% of the total number of municipalities. Among the 40, only 21 cantons have a regulatory plan that covers the entire territory of the municipality and 19 others only a part of it. The situation is similar in Honduras, Panama and Guatemala.

¹⁴⁴<https://www.presidencia.go.cr/comunicados/2021/06/agenda-nacional-urbano-ambiente-marca-ruta-para-construir-ciudades-verdes-y-sostenibles/>

In transport, IDB-led projects on safe, inclusive and productive mobility, such as in San Salvador¹⁴⁵ and El Salvador¹⁴⁶, are relevant.

The IDB has financed the development of Integrated Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (PIMUS) in several cities, Panama (2017), San José Metropolitan Area (2017).

Guatemala's BRT system (Transmetro) continues to expand its lines and is about to start operating with more cliclovías. Panama City and Santo Domingo metros continue to expand <https://www.elmetrodepanama.com/red-maestra/> <https://www.metrosantodomingo.com/>. The modernisation of the intra-urban train in San José and the AEROMETRO project in Guatemala City are discussed.

In culture and heritage, IDB support for the Living Heritage Programme in Panama City stands out¹⁴⁷.

Andean Arc sub-region

Colombia. In Colombia, the [National Policy System of Cities \(CONPES 3819/15-2014\)](#), the [Strategy for the implementation of the SDGs \(CONPES 3918-2018\)](#) and the [National Development Plan Pact for Colombia, Pact for Equity \(2018\)](#) are references for the adoption of sustainable urban development policies. In particular, the National Development Plan incorporated the NUA as a central axis for a chapter called the Pact for Decentralisation, where the issue of cities takes on a central role in the proposal.

More recently, specific laws have also been adopted, such as [Law No. 2079 on Habitat and Housing \(2021\)](#), one of the particularities of which is that it regulates the economic use of public space by third parties and private individuals; and [Law No. 2082 on the Statute of Capital Cities \(2021\)](#).

In addition to these instruments, there is the Policy for the definition and implementation of multipurpose cadastres Conpes 3859/2016

Conpes Document No. 3991 of 14 April 2020: national policy for regional and urban mobility.

It should be noted that nearly 900 municipalities have expired Territorial Management Plans and have not started their revision and adjustment, which represents an opportunity to incorporate aspects of the NUA and the SDGs. To this end, Decree 1232 of 2020 was enacted, which amends Decree 1077 of 2015, in relation to the contents and procedures of the POTs.

Ecuador. In Ecuador, the [Organic Law on Land Use and Management \(LOOTUGS/2016\)](#), contemplates many of the elements of the NUA. [The Agenda for Sustainable Habitat Ecuador 2036 was adopted in 2020](#), as a mechanism to organise public management in four strategic axes and 10 areas of intervention. The AHSE guided the formulation of the Applied Urban Research Agenda, as well as the integration of the human settlements component in the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). In this period, local governments submitted Land Use and Management Plans, which demonstrate greater articulation and alignment with the SDGs than with the NUA.

¹⁴⁵ <https://www.iadb.org/es/project/ES-T1314>

¹⁴⁶ <https://www.iadb.org/es/project/ES-T1315>

¹⁴⁷ <https://www.iadb.org/es/project/PN-T1281>



Peru. In Peru, the adoption of [Law No. 31313, the Sustainable Urban Development Law](#), stands out. Among the innovations is the determination of the [System of Cities and Town Centres \(SICCEP\)](#). The Law also incorporates inclusive zoning as an instrument of urban regulation, in order to require that in all residential urban development in medium or high-density areas, 10% must be reserved for housing of social interest. (Congress of the Republic of Peru, 2021).

Bolivia. In Bolivia, the [Cities Policy 2020](#) was issued, with the support of the UN-Habitat office. This initiative included a broad participatory debate process and draws on the experience of instruments from other countries in the region, such as Colombia's Cities Policy and Ecuador's National Territorial Strategy.

Brazil sub-region

In 2001, the Statute of the City regulated urban planning instruments that allowed municipalities to combat real estate speculation on idle land, regularise land tenure in informal settlements, recover the value of real estate generated by public investments and the collection of land created, and obtain a counterpart for more intense and profitable use of urban land.

These advances, however, could only be applied at the municipal level, through the master plans, which had a significant advance in design at the national level but not in implementation, due to interests that could be affected and technical-legal incapacity.

Of the master plans elaborated after the [City Statute, São Paulo's Strategic Master Plan, approved in 2002 and revised in 2014](#), is the most successful in incorporating and implementing, albeit partially, practically all the instruments of the City Statute and an urban-environmental strategy that anticipated most of the NUA's recommendations. It is no coincidence that São Paulo's 2014 Strategic Master Plan was awarded by UN-Habitat, in 2016, as one of the practices most aligned with the New Urban Agenda (Bonduki 2018).

In more recent years, after 2016, the [Master Plan of Belo Horizonte](#), approved in 2019, was the one that most incorporated the NUA.

The city of Rio de Janeiro, in partnership with UN-HABITAT, elaborated the Sustainable Development Plan (SDP), finalised in 2020, which aims to introduce, within the scope of the municipality's specificities, a design for the implementation of the SDG, which is related to the implementation of the NUA. After presenting the urban context of the city, its institutional framework and challenges, the SDP presents the goals and targets, with projects and actions related to SDG 11.

[At the federal government level, some initiatives are worth mentioning, such as the National Urban Development Policy, which is being formulated at the MDRU, with the support of GIZ.](#)

An initiative linked to the formulation of the PNDU is the elaboration of the [Brazilian Smart Cities Charter](#). Its objective is to guide the use of technology to achieve sustainable urban development and improve people's quality of life, as recommended by the NUA.

Another initiative related to the implementation of the NUA, through the training of municipal managers, is the [Guide for the elaboration and revision of Master Plans](#). This was elaborated by

the Polis Institute, within the scope of the Andus Project (GIZ), in partnership with the MDRU. It aims to provide technical support to municipalities in their territorial planning and management processes. The novelty of the Guide is its interactive character, relating each specific problem of the municipality with possible ways to address them in the context of their specific realities, pointing out possible strategies with instruments and tools.

Also, within the scope of the Andus Project, in partnership with MDRU, cooperation is being promoted with six pilot cities (Anápolis, Tomé-Açu, Campina Grande, Eusébio, Fortaleza and Hortolândia). These municipalities serve as instances of testing and improvement of urban planning instruments and practices, in a local context, seeking their possible replication, with the SDGs and the NUA as a reference. Between 2019 and 2020, the municipalities formulated strategies and guidelines for sustainable urban development. In 2021, the Andus Project selected 9 more municipalities and a consortium of municipalities to adjust the initial experiences and replicate them to their realities.

Since 2003, Brazil has had a complex governance process, with the creation of the Council of Cities, which guaranteed social control and participation of all segments of society and the holding of Conferences of Cities. The six National Cities Conferences held from 2003 to 2015 were built from scratch, starting with municipal conferences and, through the election of delegates, successively holding state and federal conferences. More than three thousand municipalities participated in this process, which involved, in addition to government representatives, public managers, social movements, business, academic, professional and parliamentary entities.

National urban sectoral policies (housing, sanitation, mobility) provided for the creation of urban management councils and bodies in the states and municipalities, which was effectively implemented in most states. However, much of this participatory framework, created by law, remained inactive. The participatory system at the federal level was dismantled from 2016 onwards. This process deepened in 2019, with the extinction by law of the National Council of Cities, and the participatory councils of the federal government.

The approval of the Metropolis Statute in 2015 raised expectations that a new metropolitan governance could be constituted. The new institutional framework established guidelines for metropolitan regions and the obligation for them to elaborate a Comprehensive Urban Development Plan (PDUI). Several PDUIs were implemented, but little progress was made in their implementation, as little has been done to implement integrated actions, in cooperative management processes between metropolitan municipalities, despite the growing number of inter-municipal consortia.

In terms of cooperative governance, the most advanced in Brazil are the inter-municipal public consortia (which can also involve the States and the Union), regulated by law in 2003. In 2021, there were 601 public consortia in the country, with 4,723 municipalities in consortia (out of the 5,568 existing in the country) and with a growing trend. 87% of the municipalities participating in the consortium have less than 50,000 inhabitants, demonstrating their capacity to aggregate small towns.

Southern Cone sub-region

Paraguay's National Housing and Habitat Policy (PNVH), approved in 2018¹⁴⁸, is based on the National Constitution and international treaties and on the guidelines proposed by the SDGs (SDG 11) and the NUA. It is structured in three thematic axes: governance and institutionality, planning and design, and economic-financial. Each axis has a series of strategic objectives and their respective specific strategic objectives¹⁴⁹.

In this context, the Legislative Branch created the Ministry of Urban Planning, Housing and Habitat (MUVH, Law n° 6152)¹⁵⁰ to replace the National Secretariat of Housing and Habitat (SENAVITAT).

According to the Annual Public Management Balance 2018¹⁵¹ (MUVH, 2018), the main achievements of the Ministry of Urbanism, Housing and Habitat were: Construction of social housing in the 17 departments of the country (5434 completed and more than 6000 in progress), aimed at families living in poverty; and promotion of organisational development, operational efficiency under results-based management, optimisation of allocated resources and coordination with other public institutions.

In Argentina in 2018, the National Urban Policy¹⁵² was approved, which constitutes a national framework that promotes urban planning with solid theoretical and conceptual foundations, consistent with the objectives of the New Urban Agenda. In 2020, the National Urban Land Plan (PNASU, Resolution 19/2020)¹⁵³ was approved within the framework of the Ministry of Territorial Development and Habitat with the objective of advancing in four main areas: 1) National Land Production Programme, which provides for the generation of serviced lots to expand access to urbanised land and promote the creation of land banks at municipal and provincial level; 2) National Training and Technical Assistance Programme, aimed at providing training in Land Policies to improve the capacities of local and provincial governments; 3) Mesa Intersectorial de Políticas de Suelo (Intersectoral Land Policy Roundtable), designed as a participatory forum for debate made up of the public and private sectors, trade unions, universities and civil organisations; and 4) Observatorio Nacional de Acceso al Suelo (National Land Access Observatory), aimed at creating a Territorial Register of Land Suitable for Housing Programmes and Urban Projects and a National Land Price Observatory.

The Comprehensive Plan for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the local level, "Accesar", was also created with the general objective of guaranteeing the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities¹⁵⁴.

Uruguay. In 2018 the National Strategy for Access to Urban Land (ENASU) was created (Decree 421/2018), which is an initiative promoted by the then Ministry of Housing, Land Management

¹⁴⁸ Secretaría Nacional de la Vivienda y el Hábitat (SENAVITAT) (2018) Política Nacional de la Vivienda y el Hábitat del Paraguay. <https://www.muvh.gov.py/sitio/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/PNVH-Digital.pdf>

¹⁴⁹ In: <https://www.muvh.gov.py/sitio/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/PNVH-Digital.pdf>

¹⁵⁰ In:

<https://www.bacn.gov.py/leyes-paraguayas/8672/ley-n-6152-crea-el-ministerio-de-urbanismo-vivienda-y-habitat-muvh-y-establece-su-carta-organica#:~:text=SU%20CARTA%20ORG%20C3%81NICA-,Ley%20N%C2%BA%206152%20%2F%20CREA%20EL%20MINISTERIO%20DE%20URBANISMO%2C%20VIVIENDA%20Y,Y%20ESTABLECE%20SU%20CARTA%20ORG%20C3%81NICA>

¹⁵¹ Ministerio de Urbanismo, Vivienda y Hábitat. (2018) Balance anual de gestión pública. <https://historico.muvh.gov.py/recursos/bg2018.pdf>

¹⁵² Ministerio del Interior, Obras Públicas y Vivienda. (2018) Política Nacional Urbana Argentina. https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/03/pnu_final_-_pagina_simple_dec-2019.pdf

¹⁵³ https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/descripcion_del_pnasu.pdf

¹⁵⁴ <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/normativa/nacional/resoluci%C3%B3n-1200-2021-352891/texto>

and Environment (Mvotma)¹⁵⁵ conceived as a participatory approach to conceptual development of public policies and, at the same time, an instrumental tool for urban development, land management, housing and habitat. ENASU advances directly and effectively in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, in line with the commitments assumed by Uruguay in Habitat III¹⁵⁶.

In the same vein, continuity is given to the [Five-Year Housing Plan \(2015-2019, 2020-2024\)](#), which in its latest edition explicitly incorporates the guidelines of the NUA, although there is evidence of a generalised setback in the resources allocated to the sector.

Chile. [Law on Decentralisation of Regional Governments](#), [Law on Land Markets](#) and the [Law on Contribution to Public Space](#). All three laws address key issues that reform the statute and introduce new tools over existing ones in Chile. As background to these regulations, it is worth noting the creation of the National Urban Development Council in 2014, and with it, a National Urban Development Policy that converges with some issues of the NUA, and from which public policy guidelines and objectives are defined. The aforementioned laws are part of this framework.

The new Statute of Regional Governments democratizes the election of regional governors and, together with this, creates a series of new instruments such as binding land-use plans. Consequently, it creates a series of decentralised and devolved powers from the central government to the regional governments.

Chile is markedly centralised, where 80% of public spending on land issues is managed by the national government. The transfer of competencies and power to regional governments makes it possible to integrate planning policies, housing management, land, access to public transport, etc., which had been managed in silos or sectoral agendas. Consequently, it opens the door to a more integrated and consistent planning convergence, as proposed by the NUA, enabling the incorporation of articulation tools - especially between regional governments and municipalities - oriented towards the comprehensiveness of policies.

[From the 3rd sector, from the Real Estate Management Entity TECHO, from 2018 more than 800 citizen roundtables were held in Latin America, to generate the Regional Plan from the Youth and to hear the perspective of this population on current and future urban life. This document was delivered to MINURVI, ECLAC and UN-HABITAT¹⁵⁷.](#)

VIII. Means of implementation

Significant progress has been made in the development of methodologies, information systems and data platforms that facilitate the implementation and monitoring of the NUA. These are in addition to existing documents and tools.

¹⁵⁵ As of 2020, the areas are separated and there are two ministries: Housing and Territorial Planning; and Environment. Although it is considered that the environmental issue has been prioritised, it does not have the necessary resources to make progress in sectoral policies.

¹⁵⁶ "At the end of 2019, progress was made in defining areas of opportunity, optimising land use in public housing development, in urban housing projects, on empty and degraded urban properties and in management instruments to promote greater use of urban land. With regard to empty and degraded urban properties, Law 19.676 was approved in 2018 and regulated in 2019" (Source: Plan Quinquenal de Vivienda 2020-2024, Ministerio de Vivienda y Ordenamiento Territorial; pp: 40).

¹⁵⁷ Forum of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Housing and Urban Development of Latin America and the Caribbean is the intergovernmental coordination and cooperation entity of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the area of sustainable development of human settlements.

The regional office and UN-HABITAT sub-regional offices have directly developed a series of actions to support the implementation of the NUA, which are scarcely systematised as implementation inputs; these actions - at first sight very positive and potentially scalable - should be systematised and comparatively analysed in relation to the objectives and principles of the NUA.

Since the adoption of the NUA, MINURVI has demonstrated its relevance through its annual declarations¹⁵⁸ and highlighted its support towards the fulfilment of the postulates of the Agenda, defining priority approaches and themes¹⁵⁹.

Since 2017, in the statutes published at the end of the annual forums, the members have committed to work for the realisation of the Right to the City¹⁶⁰ and to promote the development of urban policies aimed at social inclusion, the development of opportunities and the integral development of the inhabitants, with a gender focus¹⁶¹. Likewise, housing and the reduction of inequalities through housing policies and the construction of affordable housing has been present in each year's discussions.

From 2019 onwards, more emphasis has been placed on housing production with an emphasis on circular economy principles and green infrastructure. In relation to the environment, the focus on Risk and Disaster Management and the incorporation of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures into territorial planning has prevailed in the annual commitments¹⁶².

Similarly, MINURVI has committed to promote and support the generation of national urban policies in line with the postulates of the NUA and the Regional Action Plan for its implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean. In this regard, the members have emphasized every year the relevance of international cooperation and support from UN-HABITAT, ECLAC and other international partners. In 2019, MINURVI committed to promoting the development and future operation of the Cities Platform, for the follow-up of the New Urban Agenda, which was launched in May 2021.

Finally, in the 2020 and 2021 forums, the discussion focused on counteracting the effects of COVID-19, as well as the opportunities that this could bring to the region, integrating the vision of housing in a more holistic manner and as a policy of social impact and economic reactivation. In the forum held in 2021, MINURVI contemplated an amendment to the internal regulations to incorporate the functions of a Technical Secretariat jointly integrated by UN-HABITAT and ECLAC, as part of institutional strengthening. Important progress in the development of methodologies, information systems, and data platforms which facilitate the implementation and monitoring of the NUA have been observed. These are in addition to existing documents and tools.

Table 8. MINURVI: key commitments by year 2017-2021

Issues NUA/year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021

¹⁵⁸ Forum of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Housing and Urban Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI), an intergovernmental coordination and cooperation entity of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the area of sustainable development of human settlements. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). (n.d.). MINURVI | ECLAC Communities. ECLAC. Retrieved December 8, 2021, from <https://comunidades.cepal.org/ciudades/es/grupos/minurvi>

¹⁵⁹ NUA principle 21

¹⁶⁰ NUA principle 12-12

¹⁶¹ NUA principle 15C

¹⁶² Principle 14C

Social inclusion and the end of poverty	Promoting social inclusion policies	Materialising the Right to the City	Promoting human rights compliance for vulnerable people		Housing as a social impact policy
Urban prosperity			Circular economy	Housing as an economic driver	
Sustainable and resilient urban development	Development that respects the natural environment	Incorporate adaptation and mitigation measures	Green infrastructure	Green infrastructure	Green infrastructure
Governance	Housing policy development	Housing policy development	Roadmap on possible Declaration of Principles of the LAC Urban Accord		Technical Secretariat (UN-Habitat and ECLAC)
Territorial and urban planning	Rights to the city	Upgrading of intermediate cities	Cities for All - Right to the City	Healthy cities	
Means of implementation for NUA (resources, training, data, partnerships, M&E)	Promote the construction of a Regional Urban Observatory.	Support the development of the Urban Housing Practitioners Hub (UHPH) Platform.	Strengthen LAV cooperation, forums, etc. Promote the development of the Cities Platform.	Housing Laboratories (LAVs)	Eurosocial Programme and UHPH platform Cities Platform
Interrelation with global agendas (NUA as SDG accelerator, strengthening urban policies, new city diplomacy, national and local voluntary reporting)	Promote policy articulation with NUA and PARs	To consider NUA and PAR as a reference in the region.			
Gender and Human Rights	Gender-sensitive development	Gender-sensitive development	Gender equality		
Source. Prepared by the authors on the basis of MINURVI Annual Declarations.					

The Caribbean sub-region

Recently, some urban planners in the sub-region have engaged in discussions with development banks to update the Caribbean territory on urban progress, but institutional constraints have prevented them from accessing existing funds. In the Caribbean, many of the urban initiatives are conceived thanks to the interest and support given by professionals in the sector motivated by the desire to improve the cities they inhabit (interviewee 11/11/2021).

The [Caribbean Urban Forum](#) has become the main platform for urban professionals, academics and government to discuss the main urban challenges in the sub-region.

Many of the initiatives taking place in the Caribbean that are related to the NUA are being developed with the support of climate funds ([GEF](#) and others). This allows for the territorialisation of climate and natural disaster risk, but at the same time raises the alarm regarding funding: 'the

fact that international funds are unevenly distributed across issues, mitigates the relevance and urgency of many of the sub-region's urban challenges and subordinates urban initiatives to available funds' (interviewee, November 2021).

Cuba sub-region

Funding. [The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation \(SDC\)](#) has been instrumental in the implementation of the NUA in Cuba through the transfer of MCHF 7,500 distributed as follows:

1. Dissemination of the Housing Profile - UN HABITAT (Base Diagnosis NUA implementation) — 500,000 Swiss francs.
2. Accompanying implementation of NUA - UN HABITAT (Tool Alignment of Housing with NUA) — 600,000 Swiss francs.
3. Habitat II Project: Municipal Habitat Strategic Line; Slum Transformation Guide; municipal capacity building; Local Demonstrative Actions with a gender approach (benefits to women workers), eradication of precarious conditions with popular participation; participatory planning, etc. 3.73 million Swiss francs.
4. Support to the Havana Master Plan: participatory urban planning, cultural accelerator based on participatory urban exercises (Old Havana Model) — 800,000 Swiss francs.
5. Contribution to UNDP for housing recovery after Hurricane Irma with a focus on urban resilience — 1.875 million Swiss francs.

Dissemination and training. The National Action Plan for the Implementation of the NUA has been presented at the 5th to 8th National Urban Forums and every year at World Habitat and City Day between 2016 and 2021. Likewise, the elaboration of the NAUC has been disseminated in the media and has given rise to multiple training workshops. [The Government of Cuba participated with its NUA experience in four high-level roundtables on the occasion of the 9th and 10th World Urban Forum and in the Spanish - Latin American National Urban Policy Forums and the Caribbean Forum.](#)

In the last two years, local workshops were held in 14 municipalities of the project, focusing on the alignment of the Municipal Development Strategy and the instruments of territorial and urban planning with the National Action Plan for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. 941 local officials received training on the contents of the NAP, the principles of the NUA and its application in urban planning instruments and local projects. 87 individuals were instructed in organising training activities for IPF municipal technicians¹⁶³.

[UN-HABITAT and the Universidad Central de las Villas](#) agree to collaborate in the implementation of the NUA in Cuba.

Cuba was one of the first countries to voluntarily elaborate the National Report on the progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, which reported on the Urban Platform of the region. In addition, the [Regional Centre for the Implementation of the NUA \(central region of Cuba\)](#) was created to provide feedback on the implementation of the NUA. The centre provides training, monitoring and accountability to the population on progress and difficulties and helps to identify good practices throughout the country. Work is underway to create a second regional centre for the western region of the country.

¹⁶³ <https://onuhabitat.org.mx/index.php/plan-de-accion-regional-para-la-implementacion-de-la-nau-en-lac/18-onu-habitat-cuba>

Mexico sub-region

The presence of a robust UN-HABITAT office in Mexico has certainly had an important influence at the national and sub-national level in some states and cities, in terms of support for the development of urban policies based on quantitative and qualitative diagnoses, and partnerships for the accompaniment of projects (Mayan Train Project).

The following are some of the dissemination and data production actions carried out by the UN-HABITAT Mexico office that contribute to the implementation of the NUA in the country.

(a) dissemination

Since 2016, UN-HABITAT has been promoting advocacy, dissemination and awareness-raising actions on the New Urban Agenda in the framework of all its projects with local stakeholders and public officials and through spaces for dialogue and promotion of the NUA with different stakeholders. The main activities include: the elaboration of the Territorial Vision Sinaloa 2030, [Forum of the Territorial Strategy Sinaloa 2030 \(ETS2030\)](#), [Mayors \(2018\)](#), [Infonavit and UN-HABITAT joint initiative, with presentation of the results of the calculation of the Prosperous Cities Index \(CPI\) in 305 cities in the country](#)¹⁶⁴, World Habitat Day, cycles of talks on the challenges of territorial development before the COVID-19 (SEDATU, the Ministry of Health, the German Cooperation GIZ in Mexico and Cities Alliance and presentation of the illustrated version of the NUA 2021.

(b) production of data, M&E devices

- [Urban Diagnosis, Government of the State of Sinaloa \(2017\)](#) and [Territorial Strategy Sinaloa 2030 \(ETS2030\)](#), an urban policy document of the state for the next 12 years localising in the entity the principles and objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda.
- [305 municipal reports of the Prosperous Cities Index \(CPI\) \(2017-2019\)](#), a global initiative that seeks to generate information at the urban scale for policy decision-making to improve conditions of productivity, urban infrastructure development, quality of life, equity and social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and governance and legislation in Mexico's cities. Urban information is available for 467 municipalities in the country.
- [3 CPI Extended reports for the urban agglomerations of Mexico City, Monterrey and Guadalajara \(2018\)](#). These reports contain specialised indicators at the urban scale to promote metropolitan management of cities, in line with the objectives of the New Urban Agenda.
- [Report on Urban Prosperity in Mexico 2020, which contains a set of recommendations to implement a national urban policy with a prosperity and sustainability perspective.](#)
- Report on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Mexico (2021).
- [Technical inputs in the framework of the Tren Maya project.](#)
- Querétaro Q500.
- San Nicolás de los Garza City Vision 2030.
- Zapopan Territorial Strategy 2030.
- Methodological Guide for Municipal Socio-economic Recovery in the context of COVID-19.

¹⁶⁴ This forum was preceded by three regional forums: Guadalajara: 30 May 2018, Monterrey: 9 August 2018, Mexico City: 7 September 2018.

- C+Lab of the Tecnológico de Monterrey, platform and training for NUA implementation, attended by 500 public officials from the country's planning areas.

(c) UN system-wide coordination mechanisms that strengthen and broaden partnerships around the NUA

The United Nations Cooperation Framework for the Sustainable Development of Mexico 2020-2025 emphasises a territorial approach in all actions promoted by the United Nations System in the country, in order to mainstream this element as a vector of development for prosperity. In particular, Work Area 1 (Equality and inclusion), Outcome 2 (Full exercise of rights and access to universal services) emphasises the relevance of generating specific actions to achieve full compliance with the human right to adequate housing, a central element in the framework of reference of the UNAU.

Likewise, as part of the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of the UN-HABITAT Cooperation Framework actions, it promoted the definition of indicators disaggregated by territorial scale (national, state, municipal, sub-municipal), in order to measure results and impacts of UNS actions in Mexico.

(d) capacity development for urban policy reporting

- Since 2016, UN-HABITAT and the Tecnológico de Monterrey have been implementing the 'Diploma Course on the New Urban Agenda' to disseminate and generate capacities for its adoption among academia, the private, public and social sectors, the scope of this global agreement and the opportunities it represents for the implementation of urban actions from the local scale. So far, this diploma course has been held five times in the cities of Querétaro, Monterrey, Mexico City and Guadalajara (2).
- Participatory planning to develop the substantive content of the Sectoral Programme for Agrarian, Territorial and Urban Development 2020-2024 (PSEDATU), the guiding instrument for territorial, agrarian, urban and housing planning in the country.
- Course on Territorial and Urban Planning in Southeast Mexico (2021), where UN-HABITAT together with SEDATU, INAFED and FONATUR (in the framework of the Mayan Train project), strengthens local technical capacities on urban and territorial policies to be taken as a basis for urban planning, existing methodologies, management and participation schemes in 39 municipalities in Mexico (de Grazia, 2021).

Central America sub-region

In all countries, it can be seen that significant investments are being made in [road network improvements](#), and in some countries [drinking water supply systems and sanitary sewerage services are being improved](#) (Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador). Other significant investments in sustainable forms of [mobility](#) for people and goods have only advanced in Panama (Metro), Dominican Republic (Metro) and Guatemala (BRT). In El Salvador (BRT) and in Costa Rica (Interurban Train), pre-investment efforts for urban mobility projects have been developed. Minor investments in bicycle lanes are also registered in Costa Rica, for example.

Few advances have been made in mechanisms to mobilise capital gains for financing urban development. The basic land-based instrument¹⁶⁵, the property tax, exists in all countries except El Salvador. Special contributions to finance public works have legal support and are effectively levied in Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama. In Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and El Salvador the legal framework also exists, but they are not levied (Borrero, 2020).

In Guatemala City, the participatory mechanism works, the contribution is requested by the community for specific projects of interest to them, and is a case of more effective collection. Guatemala collected just over US\$1.8 million in 2012 (Borrero, 2020).

Guatemala also levies a road impact fee, and in El Salvador OPAMSS introduced a buildability fee that creates a fund to finance parks.

In five of the seven countries (excluding Nicaragua and Panama), progress is being made in digital government and information transparency with open data policies in all areas of state management, including urban issues.

For example, Honduras has developed a platform for the follow-up, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, by means of Executive Decree PCM 064-2018, creating the National Commission for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (CN-ODS), attached to the General Secretariat for Government Coordination (SCGG). The platform includes visualisations of progress between 2015 and 2021 for each indicator, including SDG 11 (<https://ods.sgpr.gob.hn/Home/Seguimiento?IdODS=11>).

In Costa Rica, the MIVHA created the [Geo Explora](https://geoexplora-mivah.opendata.arcgis.com/) tool project, which aims to promote the exchange of geospatial information in the Land Use and Human Settlements sector, to facilitate evidence-based decision-making, encourage citizen participation by facilitating access to geospatial information, and improve public services provided by the sector's institutions. It contains information that can be viewed online or downloaded in seven themes: Land Use and Urban Planning, Transport Oriented Development (TE-GAM), Bridge to the Community - Integrated Urban Projects, Housing and Informal Settlements, Municipal Management, Geostatistics, Documents and Research. <https://geoexplora-mivah.opendata.arcgis.com/>

In Guatemala, the previous government created a special commission on e-government, the [GAE Commission \(www.transparencia.gob.gt\)](http://www.transparencia.gob.gt). There is an SDI, but it does not include urban issues. The SNIT Geoportal (ideg.segeplan.gob.gt/geoportal/) is not very active (last updated 2019). They are also creating a special portal for climate change. <https://ideg.segeplan.gob.gt/planimucc/>

OPAMSS in El Salvador developed a very well-produced Atlas on the AMSS (GIS system) that tracks key SDG/UNAO issues in the 14 municipalities of the AMSS¹⁶⁶.

In El Salvador the IDB supports the development of a data platform for landslide and debris flow risk reduction¹⁶⁷.

¹⁶⁵ It has several denominations: Contribución de Mejoras (El Salvador and Guatemala), Contribución de Valorización (Panama and Costa Rica), Contribución Especial or Contribución Especial por Obra Pública (Dominican Republic and Nicaragua). (Borrero, 2020).

¹⁶⁶ https://opamss.org.sv/ova_doc/atlas-metropolitano/

¹⁶⁷ <https://www.iadb.org/es/project/ES-T1343>

SICA has a cooperation project with the [Agencia Andaluza de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo](#) to establish a common information sheet that should be produced to characterise informal settlements in Central America. For instance, a common glossary will be defined: what is a metropolitan area, intermediate city, informality, etc. It is developed in coordination with the national statistics and census institutes.

Training and exchange of experiences. Exchanges and training continue in the sub-region on specific topics such as those developed by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy on instruments for the management and financing of urban land policies. In addition to this, there are initiatives to implement the NUA in the Dominican Republic and El Salvador. The IDB has carried out important work on metropolitan management in capital cities.

With the support of the [Mesoamerica Project](#), SISCA is working on specific issues related to the implementation of the NUA. A series of experience exchange initiatives are defined to compile good practices that can be used in Central America and the Dominican Republic: with Mexico it will focus on experiences in the rescue of vacant spaces, transformation of urban spaces, and housing policies, and with Colombia on neighbourhood interventions.

The [Regional Housing Forum \(2021\)](#) was an opportunity to refresh the housing and urban situation in the sub-region; concrete medium and long-term guidelines for response to COVID were reaffirmed.

Associated with the Forum and the UHPF platform is the Best Practices Competition that showcases concrete experiences around the NUA. The competition focused on policy innovations, physical projects (water and sanitation) and technologies. Alongside this there is the UHPH Housing Labs with an emphasis on local governance.

[Andean Arc sub-region](#)

The UN-HABITAT Office for the Andean Countries has carried out a [pedagogy of the NUA](#), considering that some contents are condensed and require further explanation both from the conceptual point of view and from the applied vision in order to be understood in accordance with the national reality. This included the dissemination of an illustrated agenda¹⁶⁸.

In Ecuador and Colombia, national or regional Urban Forums have been organised on a regular basis, usually during the month of October, on the occasion of the commemoration of Habitat III.

In addition to these processes, there are instances of technical assistance and cooperation, which promote direct intervention projects, knowledge management systems and mechanisms for the exchange of experiences. As an example, [local government associations such as ICLEI](#)¹⁶⁹, [programmes such as the IDB's Emerging and Sustainable Cities Network](#)¹⁷⁰, or [projects such as Urban-LEDS](#)¹⁷¹, have promoted spaces for political dialogue for multi-level articulation in the implementation of the NUA.

¹⁶⁸ <https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/10/nueva-agenda-urbana-ilustrada.pdf>

¹⁶⁹ <https://americadosul.iclei.org/es/la-nueva-agenda-urbana-trayendo-el-desarrollo-urbano-de-vuelta-hacia-el-camino-de-la-sustentabilidad/>

¹⁷⁰ <https://www.iadb.org/es/desarrollo-urbano-y-vivienda/programa-ciudades-emergentes-y-sostenibles>

¹⁷¹ <https://urban-leds.org/>

There are also local initiatives through urban laboratories, such as those implemented by the [Intermediate Sustainable Cities Programme, developed by the German Technical Cooperation \(GIZ\) in Ecuador](#)¹⁷².

The [City Prosperity Index \(CPI\)](#), promoted by UN-HABITAT, is one of the benchmarks for monitoring cities from six dimensions: productivity, infrastructure, quality of life, equity and social inclusion, environmental sustainability and governance. Although the CPI proposes the urban scale as the level of analysis, there are experiences of application at the supra-municipal, metropolitan or micro-urban level, including applications by urban sectors or neighbourhoods. On the other hand, through a pilot exercise linked to the Inclusive Cities, Inclusive Communities in Solidarity, an adaptation of the CPI was carried out and a survey of this information was conducted to make a territorial reading of the migratory dynamics in nine countries that are part of the project. Despite these efforts, the measurement of the CPI is voluntary and highly dependent on official records that are not always systematised in national statistics, and therefore requires specific processes for its construction and calculation.

[In Colombia, the CPI has identified 23 cities](#) (Armenia, Barranquilla, Bogotá, Bucaramanga, Cali, Cartagena, Cúcuta, Florencia, Ibagué, Manizales, Medellín, Montería, Neiva, Pasto, Pereira, Popayán, Quibdó, Rihacha, Santa Marta, Sincelejo, Tunja, Valledupar, Villavicencio). In addition, a pilot exercise was carried out for a thematic application targeted at specific groups of young people in the city of Bogotá.

[In the case of Ecuador, the CPI includes 27 cities](#) (Ambato Babahoyo, Chone, Cuenca, Daule, Durán, Esmeraldas, Guayaquil, Ibarra, Lago Agrio, Latacunga, Loja, Machala, Manta, Milagro, Morona, Orellana, Otavalo, Portoviejo, Quevedo, Quinde, Quito, Riobamba, Santa Elena, Santo Domingo, Tena, Zamora). However, these CPI calculation exercises were not institutionally adapted by a national system of urban indicators and have been discontinued. More recently, the AHSE Multi-Stakeholder Committee is developing a "Parallel Report" to the voluntary national NUA report.

[In Peru, the National Urban Indicators Report was formulated in 2018 with a baseline of the status of 25 departmental capital cities and 5 emerging cities in the country on issues related to urban development with a focus on sustainability and resilience. This report arises from civil society and proposes to start building this National System of Indicators and Standards of urban quality of life for consideration of the relevant authorities](#)¹⁷³, and was updated in 2019 for Amazonian cities. In addition, as part of the "Inclusive Cities" project and with the support of UN-Habitat, the CPI for Metropolitan Lima has been calculated¹⁷⁴.

[In Bolivia, CPI information is available for 26 cities](#) (Achocalla, Cacharagua, Cobija, Cochabamba, Colcapirhua, Cotoca, El Alto, El Torno, La Guardia, La Paz, Montero, Oruro, Potosí, Quillacollo, Riberalta, Sacaba, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Sipe Sipe, Sucre, Tarija, Tiquipaya, Trinidad, Viacha, Vinto, Warnes, Yacuiba)¹⁷⁵. In addition, the National Network of Human Settlements (RENASEH) developed the methodology for the calculation of the Neighbourhood Wellbeing Index (IBB) in order to approximate the measurement of quality of life on an intra-urban scale.

¹⁷² <https://www.giz.de/en/downloads/giz2018-es-cis-ecuador.pdf>

¹⁷³ <https://unhabitat.org/la-prosperidad-en-las-ciudades-de-ecuador-primer-reporte-del-indice-de-prosperidad-urbana-cpi-para-27-ciudades-ecuatorianas> https://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/?341474/Primer-Reporte-Nacional-de-Indicadores-Urbanos-2018

¹⁷⁴ <https://ciudadesincluyentes.org/peru/lima/>

¹⁷⁵ http://onuhabitat.org.mx/images/Bolivia/UNH%20_CPI_BOLIVIA.pdf

Brazil sub-region

Some organisations, such as UN-HABITAT, GIZ and the Cities Alliance, as well as municipal organisations, such as the [National Confederation of Municipalities \(CNM\)](#) and the [Brazilian Association of Municipalities \(ABM\)](#), have sought to disseminate the NUA to society and authorities whose results have not yet been evaluated. However, the dissemination capacity of these organisations is still limited considering the size of the country, which has 27 states and 5570 municipalities.

UN-HABITAT Brazil has also done important work in the dissemination of the New Urban Agenda, either through the dissemination to sectors involved with the urban issue, with the annual [Urban Circuit](#), which in 2021 institutionally supported around 500 events throughout the country, and promoted projects through technical cooperation with state and local governments, in the implementation of actions aimed at meeting the SDGs and the guidelines, instruments and governance processes provided for in the NUA.

Southern Cone sub-region

Two relevant cases in the production of data and open urban platforms are worth mentioning: [Sistema de Indicadores y Estándares de Desarrollo Urbano \(SIEDU, Chile\)](#)¹⁷⁶. Although the initiative predates the NUA, it is interesting to recover it insofar as the System is organised on the basis of eight commitments that are embodied both in the National Urban Development Policy (PNDU) - since 2014 - and in the guidelines set out by the OECD and the New Urban Agenda itself. Within this framework, and in order to comply with the objectives of the PNDU, a system of urban development indicators and standards has been established to monitor urban development in the different Chilean cities. It was created by the National Institute of Statistics.

[Territorial Welfare Indicator \(CIT, Chile\)](#). For the purpose of monitoring certain variables in the territory, in 2013 the Territorial Intelligence Centre (CIT) of the Adolfo Ibáñez University created the Territorial Well-being Indicator, which, although it establishes minimum indicators, does not standardise. Public data was used to a similar effect at the request of MINVU to evaluate accessibility to urban services. Four dimensions are defined: Accessibility, Infrastructure, Socio-economic and Environmental; and from there, a total of 18 base indicators. The particularity of the Indicator is its plasticity, i.e. it can be compared at national level by giving equal weight to the 4 dimensions, but it is also possible to weight them differently according to the regions. On this basis, work is currently underway on the transition towards a Human Well-being Matrix in the Territory.

[Paraguay](#). Within the framework of International Cooperation, the [Methodology for Socio-Territorial Intervention \(MIST\) in precarious settlements](#) in riverside sectors and a computerised system for the Management of Housing Projects with Management Reports that would be directly connected to the Planning for Results System for real time reporting were developed.

¹⁷⁶ <https://www.ine.cl/herramientas/porta1-de-mapas/siedu/sistema-de-indicadores-y-estanda-res-de-desarrollo-urbano>

PAMPA 2030 is the Argentine Monitoring Platform for the 2030 Agenda, a space for the articulation of various actors aimed at disseminating knowledge about the 2030 Agenda and influencing the design of public policies and regulatory frameworks in line with the SDGs. It arises from the articulation between different organisations and movements: trade unions - Confederación General del Trabajo (CGT), the Central de Trabajadores de la Argentina Autónoma (CTA A), the Central de Trabajadores de la Argentina (CTA T) -, human rights - APDH, Memoria Abierta, etc. -, academic - UNTREF, FLACSO, UNIPE, UMET, etc. - NGOs, foundations, feminist, religious and youth organisations, and social and indigenous movements, among others¹⁷⁷.

At the regional level, there are citizen monitoring bodies within the framework of the **Emerging and Sustainable Cities Programme (IDB)**. The ESC proposes as a fundamental part the creation of an independent citizen monitoring scheme to follow up the issues prioritised by the city and its citizens, whose foundations should be laid from the beginning (phases 0 and 1), with the participation of various groups from the private sector and the citizenry in the discussions of priority issues. A monitoring scheme is suggested based on principles similar to those of the "**Red de Ciudades Cómo Vamos**", which brings together a group of independent citizens (academia, press, chambers of commerce, and others) that create an institutional scheme, with economic and technical capacity. These schemes seek to provide annual monitoring, in an impartial and technical manner, of priority issues and those that citizens consider important for the sustainability of the city. This monitoring is carried out through the periodic collection of core indicators and the application of public opinion surveys¹⁷⁸.

In Uruguay, the **Open Government** initiative exists, which aims to "carry out government and public management based on transparency, citizen participation, accountability, collaboration and public and citizen innovation"¹⁷⁹. Currently in force is Uruguay's 5th National Action Plan for Open Government (2021-2024), created with the participation of various actors (civil society organisations, academia, the private sector, international organisations and public institutions from different areas, branches of government and levels of government), whose thematic axes are: more efficient public management and open to citizen monitoring; citizen participation and policies for equality; environmental management, surveillance and protection and land use planning; and towards an open state. It is promoted by the national executive, led by a working group formalised through a presidential decree and fundamentally aimed at the citizenry.

Table nº 9. Gender Equality in LAC under the New Urban Agenda approach

'In recent years, women have become a new political agent. Through citizen organisations, social mobilisations and direct work with communities, they have managed to make the gender inequalities present in LAC visible' (Ana Falú). 'Gender...the most important field of change. This visibility and collective work has led to progress in overcoming inequalities and guaranteeing rights' (Franz Vanderschueren).

The following are the main advances from the perspective of the NUA. A surprising finding along this revision, is that the word care is not yet included in the NUA:

1. Global agendas

¹⁷⁷ Retrieved from the official website of the space: <https://pampa2030.org.ar/>. Accessed on 14 December 2021.

¹⁷⁸ Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo. (2016) Guía Metodológica CES, 3ra edición. <https://publications.iadb.org/publications/spanish/document/Gu%C3%ADa-Metodol%C3%B3gica-Programa-de-Ciudades-Emergentes-y-Sostenibles-Tercera-edici%C3%B3n.pdf>

¹⁷⁹ Retrieved from the official website: <https://www.gub.uy/agencia-gobierno-electronico-sociedad-informacion-conocimiento/politicas-y-gestion/es-gobierno-abierto>. Accessed on 15 December 2021.

Montevideo Strategy for the Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda in the Framework of Sustainable Development towards 2030 (2016). It aims to guide the implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda and ensure that it is used as a roadmap to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the regional level from the perspective of gender equality, empowerment and women's human rights.

Equality Generation Forum: Mexico City/Paris. The Forum launched a 5-year action plan to achieve irreversible progress towards gender equality, based on a series of concrete, ambitious and transformative actions, including \$40 billion in financial commitments.

2. Political leadership

Women mayors are emerging in capital cities who have included a gender approach in their administration, such as Ana Carolina Cosse (Montevideo), Claudia Lopez (Bogotá) and Irací Hassler (Santiago de Chile). The case of Chile is noteworthy, as it is the first country to have a parity Constitutional Convention, and where the recently elected national government formed a cabinet in which more than 50% of the ministries are headed by women.

On the social movement front, Las Tesis (Valparaíso) and Estamos Listas (Medellín) stand out, the latter with a list for the Senate of the Republic that will be presented in the next elections.

3. Legislative work

- o Law n° 21369/2021, regulates sexual harassment, violence and gender discrimination in higher education (Chile).
- o Law n° 21.153/2018, modifies the Penal Code to criminalise sexual harassment in public spaces (Chile).
- o Law n° 21.155/2019, establishes measures for the protection of breastfeeding and its exercise (Chile)
- o Law n° 27.610/2020, allows access to voluntary interruption of pregnancy (Argentina).
- o Law n° 9.877/2020, against street harassment (Costa Rica)
- o Law n° 27.501/2019, incorporates street harassment as a form of violence against women (Argentina).
- o Law n° 27.452/2018. Ley Brisa. Establishes the Regime of Economic Reparation for daughters and sons of victims of femicide (Argentina).
- o Law n° 27.499/2018. Micaela Law on mandatory gender training for all persons in the three branches of government. Its monitoring is foreseen in the National Plan for Equal Opportunities and Rights (PIOD) (Argentina).
- o Law n°. 27.412, on gender parity in areas of political representation. It establishes as a requirement that the lists for the elections of national senators, national deputies and members of the Mercosur Parliament be made up in an interspersed manner for women and men.
- o Law n°. 19.580/2018, on Gender-Based Violence against Women (Uruguay).
- o Law n° 19.643/2018, on the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons. Promoted by the Inter-institutional Roundtable for the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons (Uruguay)
- o Law No. 1.823/2017, through which the strategy Salas Amigas de la Familia Lactante del Entorno Laboral is adopted in territorial public entities and private companies and other provisions are enacted (Colombia).
- o Law n° 27.452/2018 which establishes the Economic Reparation Regime for daughters and sons of victims of femicides (Argentina).

4. Urban policies

- o In 2021, the Inter-ministerial Programme "Habitar En Igualdad" ("Living in Equality") was created with the aim of was created in 2021 to promote public housing and urban development policies with a gender perspective, aimed at women and LGBTI+ people (Argentina).
- o Municipal Care System (Bogota).

5. Forms of association (Networks/Groups/Cooperatives)

- o Global Care Partnership: Global initiative launched by the Mexican National Institute for Women (INMUJERES) in partnership with UN Women to address the burden of care that hinders women's economic

opportunities by urgently calling on governments, international agencies, civil society, private initiative, philanthropic organisations and other strategic partners.

- o Gender Hub - Un-Habitat University, to document research, and to promote effective governance models that embrace social and stakeholder diversity.

- o Red Comunitaria Trans (2012): Centre for reflection and collective artistic, political, cultural and community actions, which emerged as an initiative of trans women sex workers from the Santa Fe neighbourhood in Bogota.

- o Networks and Alliances Free of Violence (REDAL)

- o Women and Habitat Network Latin America

- o Asociación de Mujeres Constructoras - ASOMUC Bolivia (2015). Emerging organisation that works in favour of women's political and labour rights. It arose in November 2015 as a result of the need for women builders trained by Red Habitat to have an organisation that represents them in the struggle to achieve decent working conditions in a highly competitive and sexist market. We have our Organic Statute, legal status and Internal Regulations.

- o Domestic workers' union Unión de Trabajadoras Afrocolombianas del Servicio Doméstico (UTRASD), Colombia.

6. Social Mobilisation

- o Feminist student strike in 2018 in Chile, where universities and secondary schools were taken over to demand non-sexist education.

- o Massive takeovers of the streets in Argentina at the end of 2020 to defend the free abortion law.

- o Movimiento 'Ni Una Menos' (Peru), which was organised to protest against femicides and violence against women in 2016 and was characterised as the largest demonstration in Peruvian history.

- o Women leaders against the dictatorship of Daniel Ortega have been key.

- o 'El Nueve Nadie se Mueve' (Mexico). Day of paralysis, 9 March 2020, to denounce gender inequality and violence against women, where women were invited to stop for a day, stopping going to work or to their place of study and stopping attending to daily care tasks.

- o Performance 'Un Violador en tu Camino': song and choreography performed by Colectivo Las Tesis from Valparaíso in 2019 in public space to denounce gender violence and the role of the State in this. It became a feminist anthem that turned the world upside down.

- o Song 'Sin Miedo': Song written by the Mexican Vivir Quintana in 2020, which was sung for the first time in the Capital's Zócalo in a concert of the artist Mon Laferte by the group EL Palomar, a group of Mexican artists. The song denounces violence against women. This song was replicated in many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

7. Data (information platforms)

- o 23 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have time use measurement segregated by gender, which helps to measure time spent on paid and unpaid work.

- o ECLAC's Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean monitors indicators, laws and policies related to economic autonomy, autonomy in decision-making, physical autonomy and the interrelationship of autonomies in the region.

- o Pulso Social Survey en Colombia (Social Pulse Survey in Colombia) arises from the pandemic generated by covid-19, is carried out in the 23 main cities of the country and asks questions on subjective well-being and household support networks. The survey includes questions related to gender-based violence, menstrual hygiene, perceptions of safety in the streets, and unpaid domestic and care work.

8. Contributions from academia

The issue of care has been the subject of much work by Latin American scholars.

9. Challenges

- o Inclusion of the concept of care in the NUA and with greater emphasis on urban policies.

- o Greater political leadership of women at the municipal level.

- o Urban policies: gender mainstreaming at the neighbourhood level.

- o Care as work (3R).

- Feminisation of poverty: precariousness of feminised jobs, informality, access to land, housing, pandemic, etc.
- Overburdening of care work (pandemic, time indicators)
- Physical autonomy
- Violence in public policies
- Data: information with a gender perspective. Cartography of care, violence in the public space.

Sources:

Ana Falú interview (12/01/2022), Franz Vanderschueren interview (2/2/2022).

<https://forum.generationequality.org/es>.

ECLAC- Gender Observatory.

ECLAC (2019): Regional report on progress in the application of the Montevideo Strategy for the Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda in the Framework of Sustainable Development towards 2030 (LC/CRM.14/5)

<https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/44956-informe-regional-avance-la-aplicacion-la-estrategia-montevideo-la-implementacion>

Joint Resolution No. 4 of 2021. Ministry of Territorial Development and Habitat and Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/normativa/nacional/resoluci%C3%B3n-4-2021-350580/texto>

Own elaboration: María José Cuervo and Paola Siclari.

IX. Interrelation of the NUA with global agendas

The NUA is directly related to the 2030 Agenda acting as an accelerator of the SDGs, especially with Goal 11 and its 10 Targets (this being one of its commitments), and is complemented from the territorial perspective with the Paris Agreement (2015), Global Climate Action Agenda (2016), Global Agenda of Local and Regional Governments¹⁸⁰, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015), and Addis Ababa Agenda for Financing for Development (2015)¹⁸¹.

The NUA recognises the principles and strategies contained in the International Guidelines on Decentralisation and Strengthening of Local Authorities, International Guidelines on Access to Basic Services for All (Res. 21/3 2007 and Res. 22/8 2009), and International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning adopted by the UN-HABITAT Governing Council (Res. 25/6, 2015). It is also directly related to the following regional agendas: Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development (2019), and Montevideo Strategy for the Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda in the Framework of Sustainable Development towards 2030 (2016), among others.

The influence of the NUA on the Cooperation Framework for Sustainable Development (2020 - 2024) (MCDS) – Cuba has been of particular interest; as has the internalisation of the approach to climate change risk with a territorial approach in various urban policies and land use plans, especially in the Caribbean, Central America and the Andean Arc.

International cooperation (especially GIZ) has played a fundamental role in accompanying, through programmes and projects, the NUA commitments in Central America through sustainable mobility programmes and in Brazil through the elaboration of the National Urban Development Policy and a series of energy efficiency programmes on an urban scale, as mentioned above.

¹⁸⁰ <https://www.uclg.org/en/agenda>

¹⁸¹ Prior to the NUA, the Istanbul Declaration (HABITAT II, 1996), was linked to the Millennium Development Goals through Goal 7 as a global agenda, as UN-HABITAT assumed responsibility for the achievement of this goal in 2003 (Cohen, 2016).

Development banks have also internalised the NUA in their poverty alleviation, governance and urban planning programmes.

Likewise, organisations such as ICLEI, RAMCC, C35 have contributed to the inclusion of the territorial approach in climate and systemic change risk management instruments.

X. On the NUA from other sectors

The following emerges from the preliminary analysis of one hundred and nineteen (119) semi-structured interviews addressed to key informants from different sectors:

- At the supra-national level and among those who were directly involved in the drafting of the Agenda, there is recognition of the effort behind it, and the importance of being able to count on a global political agreement on sustainable and just urban development. *'It is really an urban pact'* (interviewee 11/11/2021);
- There is a general lack of familiarity with the NUA in local governments, with mayors focusing more on day-to-day urgencies and tangible actions. *'The mayors do not know what NUA is. Only the big ones know about it'* (various interviewees);
- There is little understanding of the interaction between global agendas at the sub-national level. *'Rhetoric'* (various interviewees);
- Various sectors and actors point to a lack of clarity and indicators for the NUA, as well as a lack of clarity regarding the mechanisms for its implementation. *'Lacks an M&E device with clear indicators'* (various interviewees);
- The added value of its implementation at the urban scale is weakly perceived by local governments, and unknown to other sectors. *'The NUA is the little sister of Agenda 2030'* (various interviewees);
- Among the main criticisms of the NUA are that it is very general, that it does not establish priorities according to the existing urban typologies in the region, and that it has become obsolete in the face of the post-COVID reality. *'It is very convenient for some to have such a general agenda'* (various interviewees).

XI. Concluding remarks and lessons for policy

Areas of major progress, omissions, and setbacks in the implementation of the NUA in the period 2018-2022 are detailed below by category, but first, three key points as lessons for policy:

a) The NUA already existed in the region - in part, before it was negotiated and agreed at HABITAT III. The Brazilian and Colombian urban political-institutional apparatus; the extensive regional experience in slum-upgrading, among others, represent key inputs for its design and negotiation in Quito.

The implementation of the NAU faces two types of challenges: i) structural, inherent to its design; and ii) contextual, related to the political and environmental situation in the region. Regarding the former, the NUA can be considered a set of general intentions, some of which are twofold: means and end, such as the production of data for its implementation. The inexistence of an agreed M&E mechanism was also a limitation, that was recently overcome with the approval of the Global Urban Monitoring Framework. An instrument that will allow the definition of a baseline and, from there, the progress of its implementation.

As for the second, i.e. contextual conditions: there are conditions in the region that may make its implementation unfeasible in certain periods. Specifically, when countries and cities face the multiple expressions of a fragile democracy: lack of political leadership within the government, continuous rotation of the high-level technical human resource, lack of transparency, corruption, and co-optation of the state by organized crime networks.

b) It must be considered that, in addition to the impact of disasters that affect the region daily, LAC continues to be the most unequal and violent region on the planet, as pointed out and evidenced in Chapter II of this report.

c) Some key measures for successful implementation include: the definition of a political-technical baseline looking at the territory as one; to recognize customary urban practices in line with the NUA; and, as the following points point out: to prioritize on urban prosperity; decentralization; planning with equity, addressing inequalities and their inevitable consequence: urban violence; to train on resource mobilization; to intensify the regional exchange of know-how and good practices. These priorities can be achieved through an intensive regional programme on city diplomacy.

1. Transformative commitments

The two areas of greatest consolidation and development are (i) social inclusion and ending poverty, and (ii) environment and climate change. In comparison, improvements made to urban prosperity are lagging behind.

Social housing programmes continue to operate in the region, with innovations such as social housing quotas and greater emphasis on adaptation to climate change and other risks (Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia).

The change in priorities imposed by social distancing and mobility restrictions did not manage to trigger innovative policies in economic-productive development at the neighbourhood level, or urban policies or programmes to unblock global production and consumption chains, which were strongly affected by the pandemic. If they exist, there is no evidence of entities documenting and analysing such initiatives as public policy.

In Argentina, the Integral Human Development Policy (2020), which was created as a collective option to address the impact of the pandemic, includes a line of work on the dynamisation of the urban economy. This is one of the few examples of an emergency response that has become public policy in the region.

In urban prosperity, the greatest innovation came about rather spontaneously in the neighbourhoods: childcare centres and community food centres proliferated, urban services that allowed hundreds of poor female heads of household to continue working¹⁸². These are urban processes that need to be monitored, analysed, and replicate at scale if they work well. In Brazil, the Programa de Jornadas Productivas, led by the Municipality of Belo Horizonte recognizes and supports the informal work hundreds of workers.

On environment, there has been progress in institutional strengthening and policy development, especially on issues related to disaster risk management, mitigation, adaptation and resilience to climate change.

2. Effective implementation

The region shows substantive progress in the development or updating of more integrated urban policies¹⁸³.

The metropolitan management in San Salvador, the proposals for commonwealths in several Central American countries, and the proposals for metropolitan management in Guadalajara, Mexico City and Monterrey, all stand out.

Several countries in the region are making progress in redistributive land management instruments: Cuba, Mexico, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Uruguay, Chile, and the Dominican Republic, among others.

¹⁸² <https://www.laolladechile.com>, <https://www.ciperchile.cl/2019/03/04/las-guarderias-de-ninos-inmigrantes-que-albergan-los-guetos-verticales/>, www.parquecapibaribe.org, www.inciti.org, <http://www.cufa.org.br/>

¹⁸³ <https://plataformaurbana.cepal.org/es/countries-cities>

The Smart Cities Charter (Brazil) stands out as one of the first urban policy instruments in this area in the region; similarly, the TECHO document on 'the cities we want', drawn up on the basis of more than 800 workshops with young people in the region.

The emergence of municipal affairs bodies at the national level in various ministries, especially public works ministries, can be read as a step forward, as it would allow direct communication with the local level, or as a step backwards in decentralisation. It will depend on the type of political-technical relationship that is established (El Salvador, Guatemala).

The abolition by law of the National Council of Cities in Brazil is a cause for concern. A multi-sectoral and participatory platform for urban policy-making was deliberately removed without replacement.

There is evidence of a huge setback in the development and/or revision of urban land-use plans in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Panama, Brazil, Chile, and Peru, among others.

3. Means of implementation

Significant progress has been made in the development of methodologies, information systems and data platforms (ECLAC) that facilitate the implementation of the NUA. These are in addition to existing documents and mechanisms.

The regional office and the UN-HABITAT sub-regional offices have developed a series of actions to support the implementation of the NUA, which have not been sufficiently categorised as direct implementation inputs of the Agenda; these actions - at first sight very positive and potentially scalable - should be systematised in the form of annual reports and analysed comparatively with respect to the objectives and principles of the NUA, in order to draw lessons for continual improvement.

Since the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, MINURVI has proclaimed its relevance through its annual declarations¹⁸⁴, and emphasised its support for the Agenda, defining priority approaches and themes¹⁸⁵. This position was reinforced during the 2021 forum, in which an amendment to the internal rules of procedure was contemplated to incorporate the functions of a Technical Secretariat jointly integrated by UN-HABITAT and ECLAC, as part of institutional strengthening. This fact gives the NUA the political-technical space it deserves in the region.

A significant number of cities have opted to use the CPI as a basic diagnostic and agenda instrument, especially in Mexico, Argentina, Ecuador and Colombia.

¹⁸⁴ Forum of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Housing and Urban Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI), an intergovernmental coordination and cooperation entity of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the area of sustainable development of human settlements. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). (n.d.). MINURVI | ECLAC Communities. ECLAC. Retrieved December 8, 2021, from <https://comunidades.cepal.org/ciudades/es/grupos/minurvi>

¹⁸⁵ Principle 21, NUA.

On training on the NUA, it is worth mentioning the course provided by the Tecnológico de Monterrey, the training developed by UN-HABITAT in Brazil and in some Andean countries, and the courses provided by the Universidad de las Villas in Cuba.

SDC, GIZ, the Climate Change Fund, the Andalusian Agency for International Development Cooperation and financial support from development banks (IDB, CAF and World Bank) are relevant resources for the implementation of the NUA in the region.

4. Interrelation of the NUA with global agendas

While it is evident that the NUA acts as an accelerator of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs, no scientific evidence exists specifically evaluating the impacts with a control group that provides quantitative and qualitative measurements.

Despite supranational efforts on the systemic nature of cities and urban policies, the interrelationship and synergy between global agendas is still poorly understood at the national level, and little-known at the sub-national level by various sectors.

The elaboration of the Voluntary Reports is also valued at the national level as a political platform for dialogue between countries.

The international gender agenda takes on a territorial dimension in legislative provisions and programmes.

XII. Recommendations and for the Third Quadrennial Report 2026 and for the NUA implementation

1. Transformation Commitments

- Address urban prosperity with greater emphasis, reinforcing capital gains capture and support for legal, regulatory, financial, economic, fiscal or mixed frameworks that energise urban markets and improve conditions for informal workers.

2. Effective implementation

- Provide support, from various institutions and sectors, for the elaboration or revision of more integrated urban policies.
- Monitor processes that limit or reverse decentralisation processes.
- Invite national governments to monitor the urban and housing deficit, including funding by source and solutions by type.

3. Means of implementation

- Support the elaboration of methodologies, information systems and data platforms that facilitate the implementation of the NUA.
- Intensify dissemination and training on the NUA at sub-national level.

- Raise awareness and involve political leaders and governments at different levels of activity, through the articulation of training networks and support for management, promote the development of projects and apply public resources aimed at sustainable urban development projects.
- Support the formation of a network of initiatives committed to the implementation of the NUA with a view to sharing experiences, financing instruments and advocacy strategies, as well as giving visibility to the NUA.
- Use the RAPs (Regional, Caribbean and Central America) for the implementation of the NUA.
- Provide the NUA with incentives for its implementation.
- Recognise sustainable urban development processes outside the government sphere.
- Recognise regional good practices through incentives.
- Discuss urban policies from a financial perspective with national representatives of finance and congress in the annual MINURVI forums, especially now that UN-HABITAT and ECLAC are part of the Technical Secretariat.
- Link the financing of urban development projects to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, in order to stimulate its implementation and induce governance processes at the local level.
- Define the annual MINURVI thematic discussion in relation to the weakest areas of the implementation of the Agenda, in order to reinforce it; and in relation to the strongest areas, in order to promote intra- and inter-regional knowledge exchange.

4. Interrelation of the NUA with global agendas

- Operationalise *city diplomacy* through UN-HABITAT/ECLAC political-technical work together with Chancelleries, Offices of the Comptroller of the Republic, Associations of Municipalities, City Networks, Development Banks, and supranational sub-regional government entities (SICA, CARICOM, UNASUR, others).
- Work on the implementation of the Agenda with mayors by sub-region according to city typology, size and municipal legal attributions.
- Encourage the inclusion of the NUA principles and commitments in the gender and climate change agendas (including RDD).
- Implement the NUA through the Urban Planners Associations (Caribbean), with political basis in CARICOM.

5. Reporting and monitoring

- Disseminate the Global Urban, as the approved tool for M&E of the NAU Provide the NUA with a monitoring and evaluation mechanism with SMART indicators, based on existing instruments such as the CPI, AFIUNA and the Habitat Commitment Index, to evaluate the implementation of the Agenda every four years and establish guidelines for action based on this evaluation, with a strong emphasis on the new post-COVID reality.

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– Ley núm. 27.452 que establece el Régimen de Reparación Económica para hijas e hijos de víctimas de femicidios (Ley Brisa) (2018)

– Ley núm. 27.499, Ley Micaela de Capacitación Obligatoria en Género para Todas las Personas que Integran los Tres Poderes del Estado. Su monitoreo está previsto en el Plan Nacional de Igualdad de Oportunidades y Derechos (PIOD) (diciembre de 2018)

En 2021 se crea el Programa Interministerial “Habitar En Igualdad”¹⁸⁶, con la finalidad de impulsar políticas públicas habitacionales y de desarrollo urbano con perspectiva de género, dirigidas a mujeres y LGBTI+. “Se propone generar líneas de acción que permitan la inclusión, participación y formación de las mujeres y LGBTI+ en los procesos vinculados al acceso y construcción de viviendas, así como la formación en los oficios asociados y la generación de un espacio urbano más inclusivo”¹⁸⁷.

Chile:

Marcos Normativos promulgados para la autonomía física de la mujer (CEPAL, 2019):

– Ley núm. 21.153 que Modifica el Código Penal para Tipificar el Delito de Acoso Sexual en Espacios Públicos (2018)

– Ley núm. 21.155 que Establece Medidas de Protección a la Lactancia Materna y su Ejercicio (2019)

Uruguay:

– Ley núm. 19.580 de Violencia hacia las Mujeres Basada en Género (2018)

– Ley núm. 19.643 de Prevención y Combate de la Trata de Personas. Promovida por la Mesa Interinstitucional para la Prevención y Combate a la Trata de Personas (2018)

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Appendixes

1. Interviews

Excel spreadsheet with interviewees attached.

2. Cases

See attached Excel spreadsheet.

3. Co-authors invitation



INVITATION
Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)

As part of the preparation of the next New Urban Agenda Quadrennial Report, considering your extensive and engaged participation on urban issues in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Global Report and Trends Unit of UN-HABITAT and the Regional Representative of UN-Habitat Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, cordially invites you to be part of the 'Regional Report 2018-2021 on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean.'

The preparation of the report will take place between September and December 2021; it will be based on collective subregional and regional reflections on the progress, lags, pending issues and challenges of the implementation of the NUA, drafting of preparatory notes, and documentation of cases and good practices.

Paola Siclari Bravo is the consultant that the Unit has selected to coordinate the report at the regional level. The purpose of this invitation is to formally introduce Paola to you in your capacity of regional urban expert and to seek your support in her assignment.

We deeply hope to have an answer in positive in the face of this historic report following HABITAT III.

Benedict Arimah
Head, Global Reports & Trends Unit
Knowledge & Innovation Branch
UN-Habitat

Eduardo Moreno
Regional Representative
UN-Habitat Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

4. Interview schedule (type)



Avances en la implementación de la Nueva Agenda Urbana en América Latina y el Caribe
Entrevista
Gobiernos y Ministerios

Nombre:
Cargo:
Fecha:

Contexto

La Nueva Agenda Urbana (NUA) fue adoptada en 2016 en la Tercera Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano Sostenible (HABITAT III). La NUA, que fue una respuesta a los desafíos persistentes y emergentes de la urbanización, busca trazar el curso y proporcionar una hoja de ruta orientada a la acción para guiar el desarrollo urbano sostenible a nivel mundial hasta el año 2036.

La NUA se basa en tres compromisos transformadores:

- a) desarrollo urbano sostenible para la inclusión social y el fin de la pobreza;
- b) prosperidad urbana sostenible e inclusiva y las oportunidades para todos; y
- c) desarrollo urbano ambientalmente sostenible y resiliente. La Agenda hace hincapié en la aplicación efectiva a nivel local y en el papel de los gobiernos locales. Contempla un seguimiento cuatrienal y la presentación de informes sobre su aplicación.

La siguiente entrevista tiene como objetivo identificar a nivel regional, subregional, nacional, metropolitano y local: i) los indicadores de implementación de la NUA, ii) los procesos de implementación y iii) los resultados, desde su adopción en 2016 hasta la actualidad.

1. ¿Qué ha hecho su ministerio en su país a nivel nacional y sub-nacional para facilitar la implementación de la NUA desde el 2016 en adelante? Marque y comente sobre los siguientes puntos:

- (a) difusión de la NUA
- (b) producción de datos, dispositivos M&E - indicadores
- (c) mecanismos de coordinación intersectorial y con entidades internacionales
- (d) desarrollo de capacidades para informar sobre las políticas urbanas
- (e) financiamiento para la implementación

Describa:

2. ¿Cuándo es posible decir que ciertas iniciativas y procesos urbanos han ocurrido solo gracias a la NUA? Haga referencia a leyes/trabajo legislativo, acuerdos, mecanismos de control, mecanismos de participación, políticas, programas, proyectos, otros.

3. ¿En cuáles de las siguientes áreas la NUA ha tenido mayor avance en su país y a nivel sub-nacional, y cómo se expresa? Marque y describa sobre los siguientes puntos:

- a) inclusión social y fin de la pobreza
- b) prosperidad urbana inclusiva y oportunidades de trabajo y productivas para todos
- c) medioambiente sostenible y desarrollo urbano resiliente
- d) gobernanza urbana (gestión de bienes, control sobre bienes públicos, participación, rendición de cuentas, monitoreo y evaluación, descentralización, financiamiento de políticas urbanas, integración vertical y horizontal de políticas públicas, gobernanza metropolitana, etc.).
- e) planificación urbana (sistema de ciudades, expansiones de ciudad, regeneración, movilidad urbana, cultura y patrimonio, innovación digital, etc.).

Describa:

4. ¿En cuáles de las siguientes áreas la NUA ha tenido mayor retroceso u omisión en su país y a nivel sub-nacional, y cómo se expresa? Marque y describa los siguientes puntos:

- a) inclusión social y fin de la pobreza
- b) prosperidad urbana inclusiva y oportunidades para todos
- c) medioambiente sostenible y desarrollo urbano resiliente
- d) gobernanza urbana (gestión de bienes, control sobre bienes públicos, participación, rendición de cuentas, monitoreo y evaluación, descentralización, financiamiento de políticas urbanas, integración vertical y horizontal de políticas públicas, gobernanza metropolitana, etc.).
- e) planificación urbana (sistema de ciudades, expansiones de ciudad, regeneración, movilidad urbana, cultura y patrimonio, innovación digital, etc.).

Describa:

5. ¿Cuáles son los mayores desafíos de implementación que la NUA enfrenta hoy en su país y a nivel sub-nacional, y cómo se expresa? Describa brevemente:

6. ¿Qué hacer desde el gobierno/ministerio para resolver los desafíos de implementación antes señalados?

Describa brevemente:

7. ¿De qué manera diversos sectores han internalizado/incorporado la NUA en su quehacer regular? Refiérase al sistema de Naciones Unidas, gobiernos nacionales y sub-nacionales, bloques sub-regionales, partidos políticos, sector privado, gremios, tercer sector, academia y ciudadanía

8. ¿Qué hacer para que la implementación de la NUA sea más efectiva, continua, inclusiva y justa en su país, sub-región y región ALC? Señalar aspectos de gobernanza, internalización, financiamiento, vinculación y compromisos específicos de trabajo.

9. Señale algún caso o buena práctica de implementación de la NUA que debiera ser descrito y difundido, y porqué.

Describa brevemente y señale documentos de referencia:

10. Señale algún municipio de su país que ha internalizado de manera efectiva e inclusiva la NUA en sus procesos.