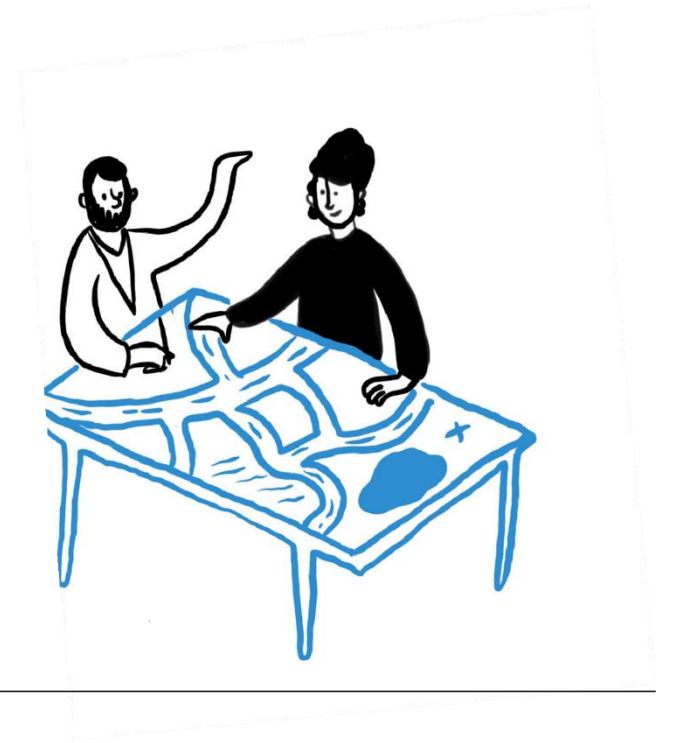Writeshop Report for the
2022 Quadrennial Report of the
Secretary-General on progress in
the Implementation of the NUA

Lara Kinneir

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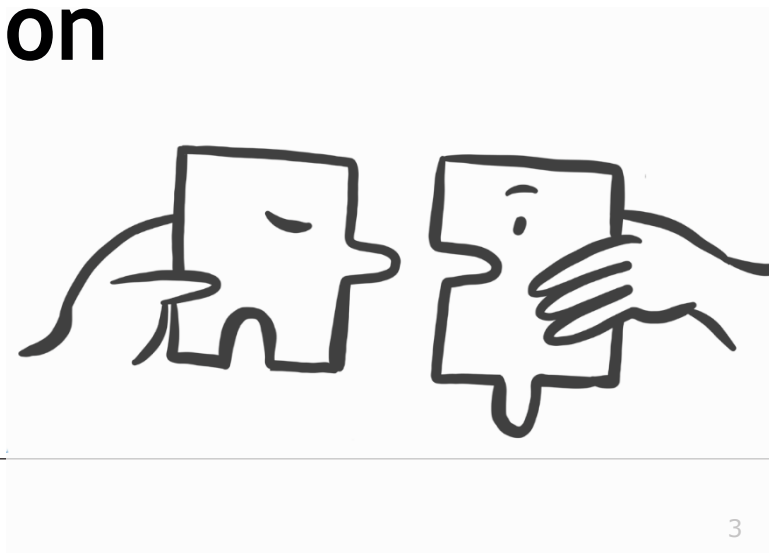
2 days

33 thematic sessions

114 participants

106 on day 1, 75 on day 2

1000 minutes online discussion

470 on day 1, 530 on day 2

13800 words produced

Context

The New Urban Agenda (NUA) is an action-oriented document that mobilizes Member States and other key stakeholders to drive sustainable urban development at the local level. It seeks to provide the global principles, policies and standards required to achieve sustainable urban development, to transform the way we construct, manage, operate and live in our cities.

Every four years, the Secretary General, with voluntary inputs from countries and relevant regional and international organizations, reports on the progress of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The second edition of this quadrennial report is due in 2022.

This writeshop was initiated in order to construct the quadrennial report, enabling participants from government to grassroots organisations, and across the globe to contribute knowledge, evidence and experience of implementing the NUA.

The Quadrennial Report of the Secretary-General on the progress in the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda will be the focus of discussions of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda on 28 April 2022 at the UN Headquarters in New York.

Across the world, we are in a moment of great flux as we address historical challenges alongside continuing inequalities, current emergencies and future risks. There is an urgent need for effective and accelerated action to address these situations affecting millions of people across the globe.

The New Urban Agenda (NUA) serves as a critical tool in this endeavour, helping to provide a coordinated approach to address the myriad of interconnected socio-economic, environmental and spatial challenges facing the world. The quadrennial report is a timely opportunity to record its impact, learn from others and address gaps in activity with a re-commitment of resources, leadership and delivery.

Approach

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the 2022 Quadrennial Report writeshop was held virtually on the 22nd and 23rd November 2021.

Remaining focused on the reporting of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the virtual meeting took the form of a writeshop - an intensive, participatory workshop that produces a written output.

Creating a 'knowledge led' process was critical in order to report effectively, as was creating a dynamic and engaging online experience for all participants across different time zones.

Through engaging presentations and visual capturing, participants were encouraged to share evidence of implementation. A plea was made for all statements to be substantiated with evidenced implementation. Whilst sometimes challenging to get beyond critical and macro-scaled urban challenges to tangible examples, many informative and impactful activities were shared across the group.

Creating an agile writeshop process was vital to ensure that the programme could respond to critical new issues that arose in the discussions, accommodating time to disseminate and record further evidence.

Special sessions were injected into day 2 to address some of the critical issues raised by participants, in particular the need for accelerators for implementation.
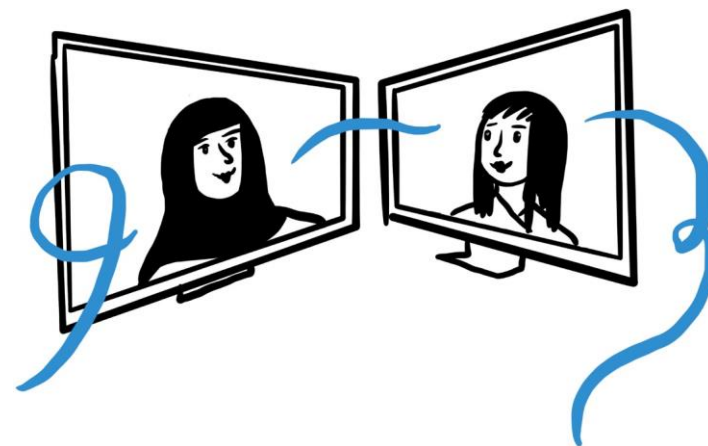
Process

A schedule was drawn up based on the sections of the Illustrated version of the NUA, with repeated sessions to allow for participation across time zones. Each session had breakout rooms to allow for in-depth production, convened by facilitators with discussions recorded by designated scribes.

The schedule was issued before the writeshop so that participants could sign up to breakout sessions in advance.

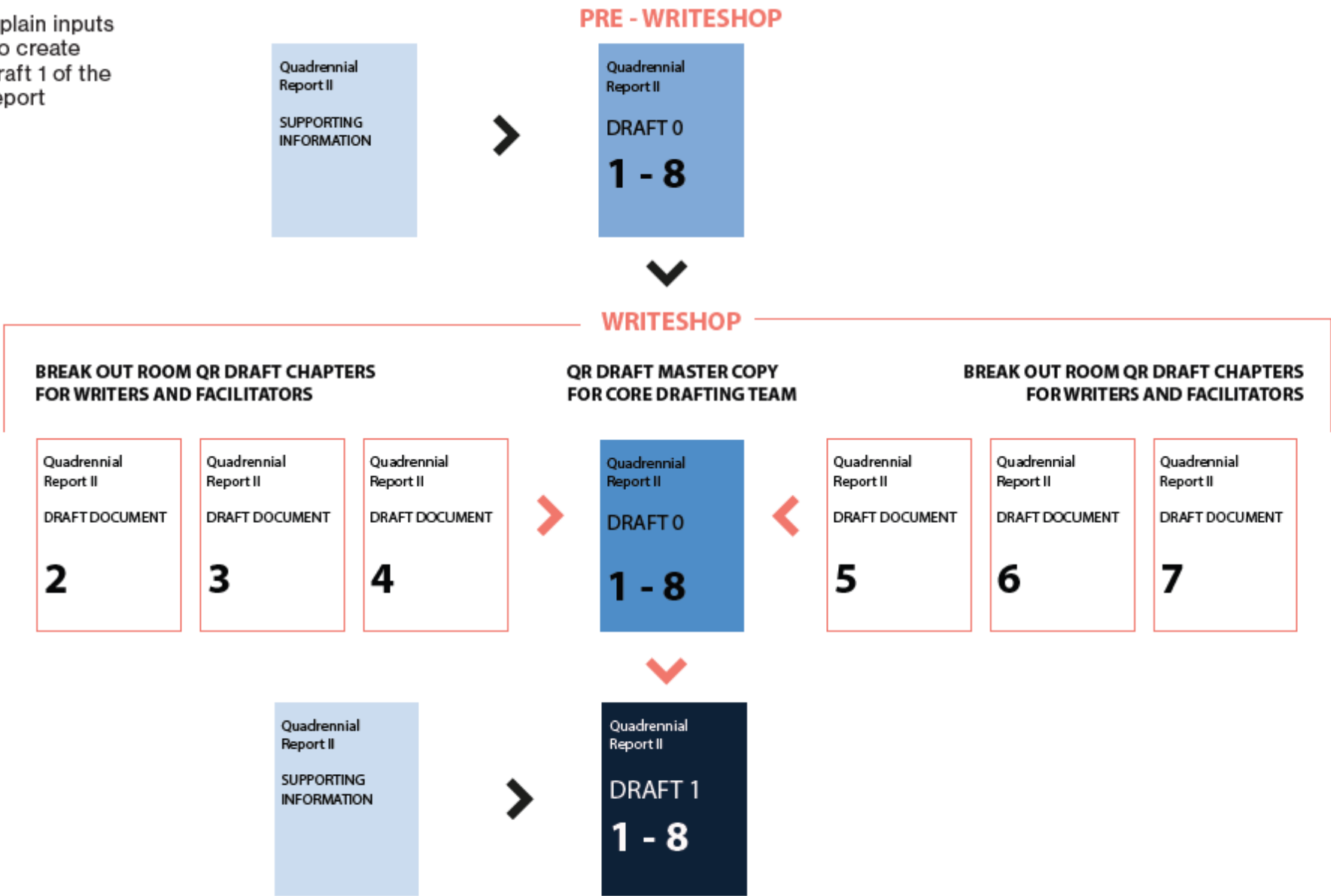Participants were also asked to answer some questions to prepare for the writeshop. These questions were:

- Which themes in the quadrennial report can the organization you represent contribute to? Please feel free to pick 1 to 3 main topics.
- Please provide three examples of projects/programs/trends that contribute to the themes within the New Urban Agenda and that your organization was involved in during the reporting period (2016-2021)? (This input will be shared with all participants)
- Based on your experience of implementing the New Urban Agenda, which challenges remain the most significant in its delivery?
- Based on Sections II – VI, which section has been most effective to date in progressing the New Urban Agenda?
- Are there any new or more pressing urban challenges since last report in 2017?
- Is the New Urban Agenda fulfilling its role as an accelerator for the achievement of all other agendas?

A substantial library of supporting information pre-prepared by the UN-Habitat team was also supplied to participants, created from National and Voluntary Reports, 15 UN entities' HQs reports, including 3 survey responses from UN Regional Commissions and a total of 33 UN Resident Coordination Offices/country offices contributions. This formed Draft 0 for participants to then edit and expand upon.

Process

Diagram to explain inputs and process to create Draft 0 and Draft 1 of the quadrennial report

PRE - WRITESHOP

Quadrennial Report II

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

>

Quadrennial Report II

DRAFT 0

1 - 8

WRITESHOP

BREAK OUT ROOM QR DRAFT CHAPTERS FOR WRITERS AND FACILITATORS

QR DRAFT MASTER COPY FOR CORE DRAFTING TEAM

BREAK OUT ROOM QR DRAFT CHAPTERS FOR WRITERS AND FACILITATORS

Quadrennial Report II

DRAFT DOCUMENT

2

Quadrennial Report II

DRAFT DOCUMENT

3

Quadrennial Report II

DRAFT DOCUMENT

4

Quadrennial Report II

DRAFT 0

1 - 8

Quadrennial Report II

DRAFT DOCUMENT

5

Quadrennial Report II

DRAFT DOCUMENT

6

Quadrennial Report II

DRAFT DOCUMENT

7

Quadrennial Report II

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

>

Quadrennial Report II

DRAFT 1

1 - 8

Process

Each session in the writeshop had specific thematic groups taken from the Illustrated Guide of the New Urban Agenda, where in depth discussions took place in 'break out rooms'.

The following themes were discussed:

INUA Chapter II - Advancing on an incremental and inclusive NUA reporting system
• All sub chapters

INUA Chapter III - Progress on transformative commitments
• Progress on social inclusion and ending poverty
• Progress on inclusive urban prosperity and opportunities
• Progress on environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development

INUA Chapter IV - Effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda
• Building a governance structure and establishing a supportive framework
• Planning and management of urban and territorial spatial development
• Promoting green, climate resilient and healthy cities

INUA Chapter V - Means of implementation
• Financing the implementation of the NUA
• Building capacities to report on the effective implementation of the sustainable urban agendas.
• Use of technology to support sustainable urban development
• Facilitating engagement and participation of development partners

INUA Chapter VI - Strengthening the Inter linkages of the NUA and global development agendas
• NUA as an accelerator of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs and other global agendas
• NUA reaffirmed as the leading role of cities and local authorities and Voluntary Local Reviews
• Asserting a city diplomacy in global affairs and the NUA

INUA Chapter VII - Strengthen mechanisms to enhance reporting by Member States on NUA
• Reinforce the importance of the New Urban Agenda in national development
• Integrate health at local level and sustainable ecological neighbourhoods
• Strengthening urban resilience and the local economy

In addition, there were two 'zoom in sessions' on land and housing, and human rights, alongside an 'acupuncture' session to disperse agreed recommendations across all sub chapters.

During the concluding session of discussions, we held 'focus rooms' to dedicate additional time to further develop critical components of the quadrennial report, namely the Introduction the Recommendations.

A visual scribe recorded the discussions in illustrations, reminding us all of the human focus and need to connect across social, economic, environmental and spatial contexts in order to deliver the improvements to life for people and planet that the NUA can deliver.

The illustrations were collated following the conclusion of the writeshop, focused around the core themes that arose during the writeshop - opportunity, climate, health, housing, human rights, planning, finance and acceleration.

THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE REPORT
•REFLECT•REAFFIRM•RESPOND•

NEW URBAN AGENDA TOOLS

SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

COME TOGETHER TO CREATE

PROGRESS
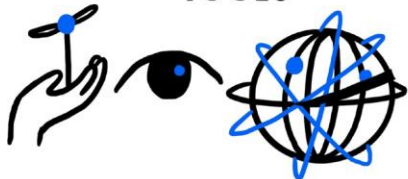
REPORT ON PROGRESS & LACK OF PROGRESS

BRING **EXAMPLES** THAT DEMONSTRATE NUA IMPLEMENTATION, AND WHERE PROGRESS IS STILL NEEDED

IT'S NOT ABOUT WHO SAID IT BUT WHAT WAS SAID...

DATA IS CRITICAL TO SUPPORT EXAMPLES AND EVIDENCE IMPLMENTATION

2030

UNIVERSALITY
- PEOPLE
- COUNTRY
- STAKEHOLDERS

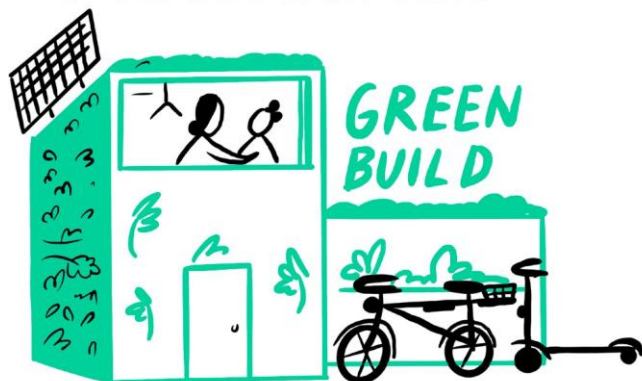NEW *DIVERSE* PERSPECTIVES

AVOID BEING PRESCRIPTIVE

IT'S AN ACCELERATOR

CLIMATE

AN INTEGRATED PROBLEM & THEREFORE AN INTEGRATED SOLUTION

THE NEW ECONOMY
THE IMPACT OF COVID ON CLIMATE EMERGENCY

GREEN BUILD
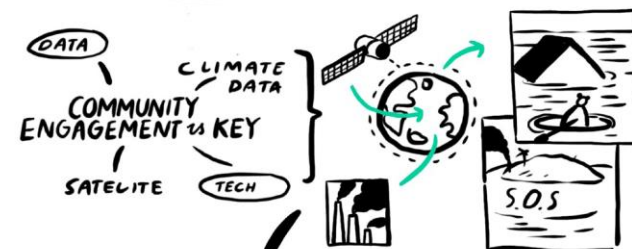
GREEN LOANS WORK!

CLIMATE PLEDGES IN ALL CONTRACTS

CONNECTION BETWEEN RESPONSE TO PANDEMIC & LONG TERM AGENDA OF CLIMATE CHANGE

THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

COMMUNITY DATA

= GLOBAL DATA

DATA

CLIMATE DATA

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IS KEY

SATELITE   TECH

S.O.S
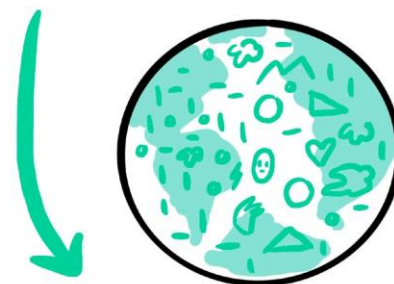
OPPORTUNITY AMASSES CHANGE

HEALTH

HEALTHY CITIES
URBAN GREENING

CIRCULAR MODEL
RETHINK
RECOVER
REDUCE
REGENERATE

HEALTHY PEOPLE
ACCESS FOR ALL
HEALTHY FUTURE
HEALTHY PLANET
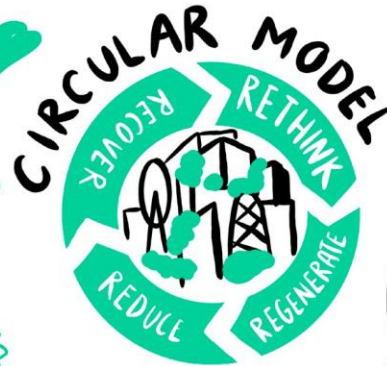
CITY to CITY
CO-OPERATION TO ADVANCED FOOD SECURITIES

PROTECT FOOD SOURCES

HEALTHY PLANET
HEALTH SHOULD BE ON THE TOP OF THE AGENDA CONNECTING OTHER THINGS

NET ZERO PLANS ARE KEY!!

OLD WORLD → NEW WORD

HOUSING

HOUSING & PLACE
From HOUSING as an OBJECT to CITIES as a SYSTEM

LIFELONG LEARNING = GREATER VALUE
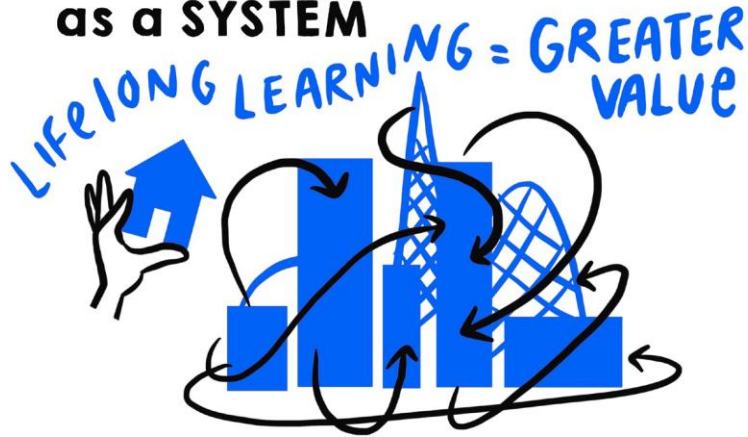
LANDRIGHTS
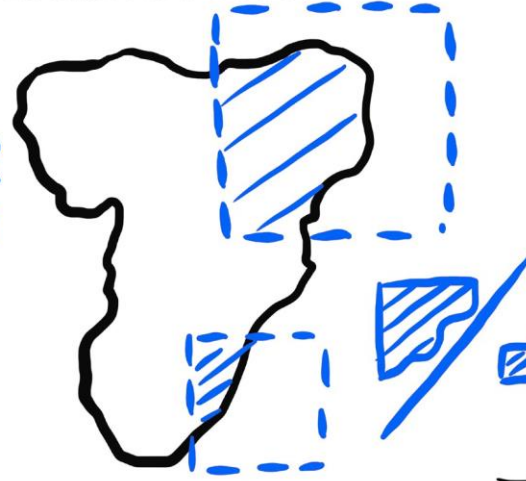
ACCESS, AFFORDABILITY & MAINTENANCE
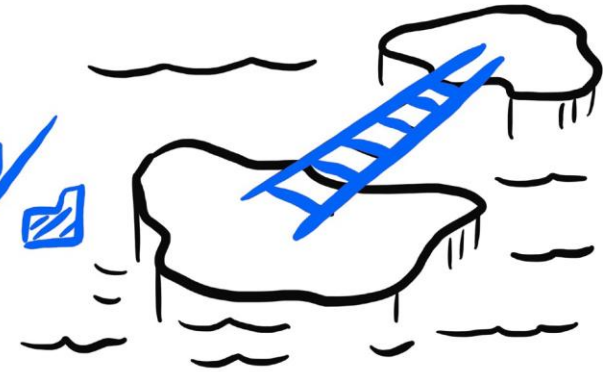
THERE IS CURRENTLY NO REAL ANALYSIS......
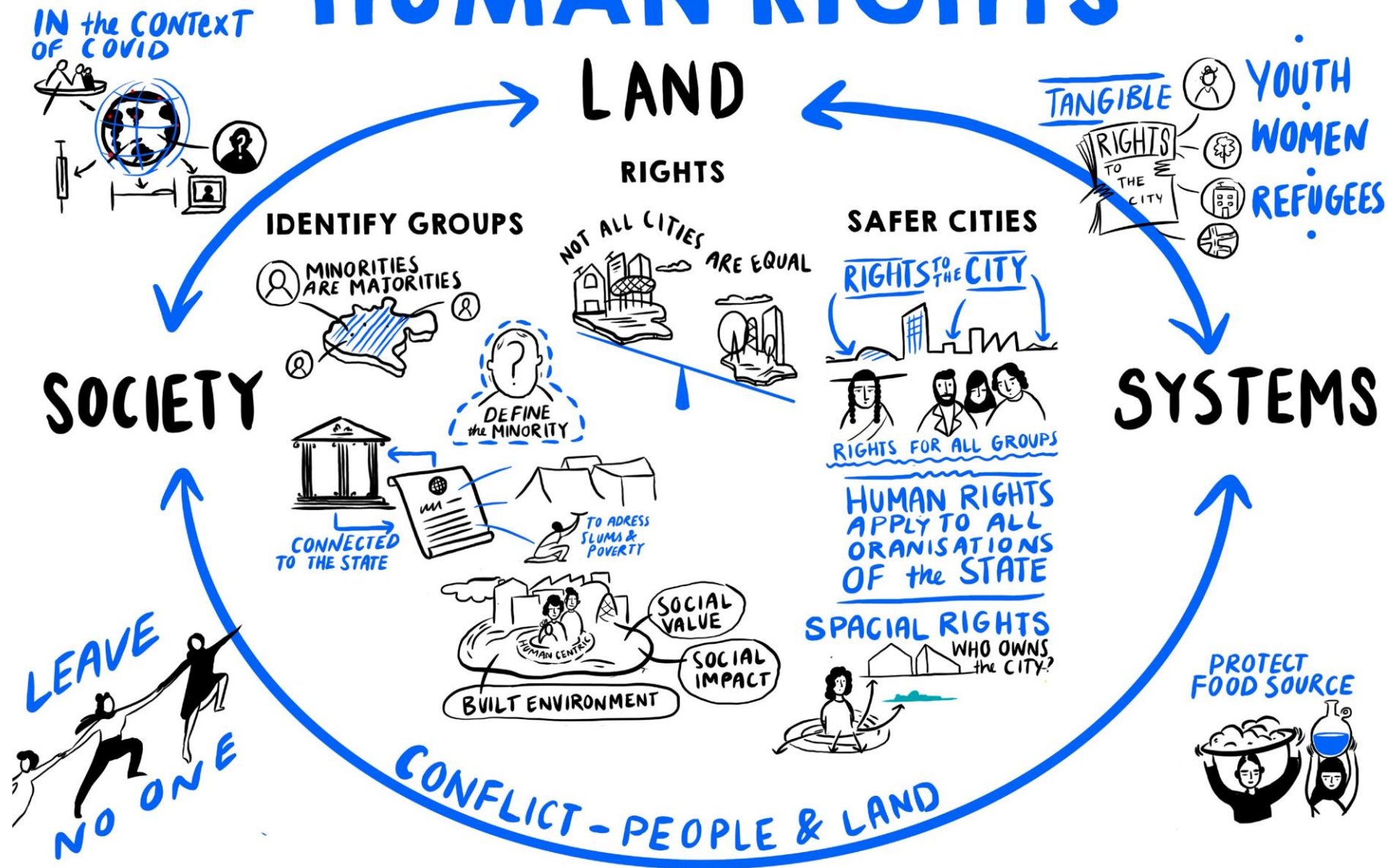
HOUSING

...A HOLE IN THE SYSTEM...

DATA CAPTURE TO INFORM

PAST

FUTURE

PRESENT

HUMAN RIGHTS

IN the CONTEXT OF COVID

LAND

RIGHTS

TANGIBLE — RIGHTS TO THE CITY — YOUTH, WOMEN, REFUGEES

IDENTIFY GROUPS

MINORITIES ARE MAJORITIES

DEFINE the MINORITY

NOT ALL CITIES ARE EQUAL

SAFER CITIES

RIGHTS TO THE CITY

RIGHTS FOR ALL GROUPS

HUMAN RIGHTS APPLY TO ALL ORANISATIONS OF the STATE

SPACIAL RIGHTS — WHO OWNS the CITY?

SOCIETY

CONNECTED TO THE STATE

TO ADRESS SLUMS & POVERTY

HUMAN CENTRIC

SOCIAL VALUE

SOCIAL IMPACT

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

SYSTEMS

PROTECT FOOD SOURCE

LEAVE NO ONE

CONFLICT - PEOPLE & LAND
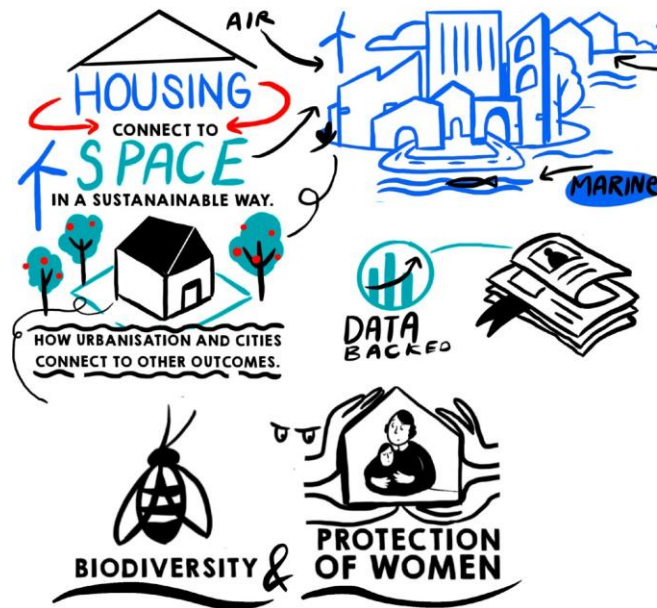
FINANCE
FINANCING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NUA

INTEGRATE DIFFERENT MECHANISMS TOGETHER + CONNECT WITH EQUITY & GREEN TRANSITION

LAND VALUE

RE WRITE TERMS TO RESET RETURNS TO RE-VALUE LAND FOR ALL
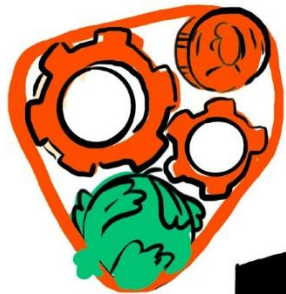
BEYOND COVID

EU COHESION POLICY TO FINANCE DIRECTLY TO CITY STRATEGIES

HANDBOOK & TOOLS

GREEN LOANS WORK !

FOR NEW GENERATION TO SHAPE & SUSTAIN

FINANCING

LETTER - ENGAGE PRIVATE SECTOR

HOUSING

NEW GENERATION

TECH

DATA IS THE EVIDENCE TO INFORM CHANGE

COMMON DATA REQUIRES COMMON MEASURES TO DELIVER EQUITABLE SOLUTIONS

DATA GENERATED FROM COMMUNITIES TO EMPOWER CHANGE - 50,000 HOUSES

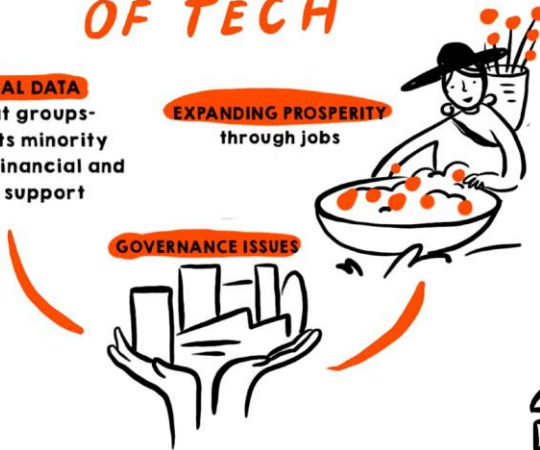DATA FOR ALL! LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND!

RISK OF TECH

GLOBAL DATA Look at groups - migrants minority groups. Financial and legal support

EXPANDING PROSPERITY through jobs

GOVERNANCE ISSUES

HARMONISE DIGITAL RIGHTS

TECH to SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

DATA USE

LOCAL CITIZENS
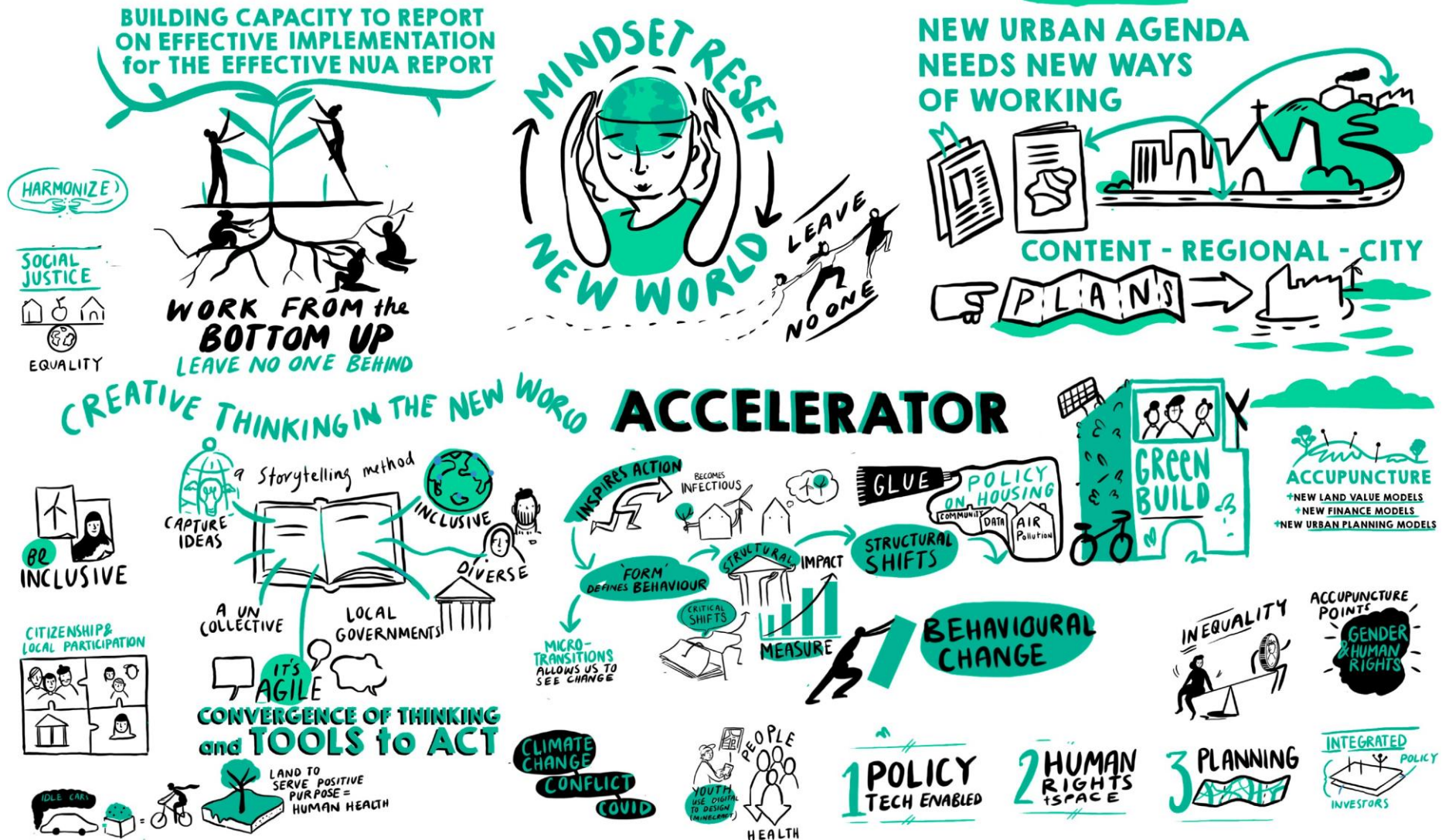
LEAD on SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR WORKERS

SOCIAL HOUSING

FACILITATE ENGAGEMENT

SOLUTIONS LABS

NO MORE SILOS

THE NEED FOR THE REPORT TO CATALYSE FURTHER CHANGE

NUA = NEW WAYS OF WORKING

BUILDING CAPACITY TO REPORT ON EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION for THE EFFECTIVE NUA REPORT

MINDSET RESET NEW WORLD

LEAVE NO ONE

NEW URBAN AGENDA NEEDS NEW WAYS OF WORKING

CONTENT - REGIONAL - CITY

PLANS

HARMONIZE

SOCIAL JUSTICE

EQUALITY

WORK FROM the BOTTOM UP
LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

CREATIVE THINKING IN THE NEW WORLD

ACCELERATOR

BE INCLUSIVE

a Storytelling method
CAPTURE IDEAS
INCLUSIVE
DIVERSE

A UN COLLECTIVE
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

CITIZENSHIP & LOCAL PARTICIPATION

IT'S AGILE

CONVERGENCE OF THINKING and TOOLS to ACT

IDLE CARS
LAND TO SERVE POSITIVE PURPOSE = HUMAN HEALTH

INSPIRES ACTION
BECOMES INFECTIOUS

FORM DEFINES BEHAVIOUR
STRUCTURAL IMPACT
CRITICAL SHIFTS
STRUCTURAL SHIFTS

MICRO-TRANSITIONS ALLOWS US TO SEE CHANGE

MEASURE

GLUE
POLICY ON HOUSING
COMMUNITY DATA AIR Pollution

GREEN BUILD

ACCUPUNCTURE
+NEW LAND VALUE MODELS
+NEW FINANCE MODELS
+NEW URBAN PLANNING MODELS

BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE

INEQUALITY

ACCUPUNCTURE POINTS
GENDER & HUMAN RIGHTS

CLIMATE CHANGE
CONFLICT
COVID

PEOPLE
YOUTH USE DIGITAL TO DESIGN
HEALTH

1 POLICY TECH ENABLED

2 HUMAN RIGHTS + SPACE

3 PLANNING

INTEGRATED POLICY
INVESTORS

Outputs and Key Findings

A collaborative document was produced during the course of the writeshop with contributions from over 100 participants, across 33 thematic sessions, during 1000 minutes of virtual discussions. The Draft 0 of the quadrennial report then went into final editing stages by the UN Habitat team in partnership with a number of writeshop participants to produce Draft 1. The final draft document was submitted to the Office of the Secretary General, revised, finalized, edited and translated and issued on 7 March 2022 as official UN document.

The full content of the writeshop was not possible to include in the final report, however a full copy of Draft 1 is included in the Annex.

Key Findings

There were some repeating themes in regards to the specific needs to increase the implementation of the NUA throughout all discussions of the writeshop that are summarised below in order to focus further discussion and activity. Namely;
- The need for improved working relationships, training and monitoring across national and local government, with the inclusion of civic participation.
- The need and opportunity for financial mechanisms that enable 'green' delivery and that are accessible across national, local and community sectors
- The opportunity of digital technology to aid the delivery of the NUA, through planning and design tools, public engagement, global and local networking, monitoring and impact.
- The need to address gender and women's rights in urban areas to ensure we are creating urban areas for all. NUA calls for social progress and development of the most

excluded: refugees and migrants, homeless, displaced persons, intersectionality, and minorities.
- A new mindset is needed to deliver new methods for urban areas, including accelerated actions to catalyse change now.
- COVID has been an additional challenge, but also an opportunity to respond to the need differently. Behavioural changes and mindset changes that are more human focused have been a positive result of the global pandemic.
- The NUA needs tangible actions and measuring tools, driven by initiatives to encourage necessary implementation.

Across the writeshop sessions there were also some key points made by participants under section themes, that are highlighted below. ***Please not these are not a full representation of the writeshop, and Draft 1 should be referred to for the full content.***

INUA Chapter II - Advancing on an incremental and inclusive NUA reporting system

- There was reporting of many resources to support the reporting of the NUA across regional and local networks
- Within the UN, there is the Urban Agenda Platform, the Illustrated Guide to the NUA, the Action Framework for Implementing the New Urban Agenda and the UN System-wide Strategy on Sustainable Urban Development and guidelines for reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
- Through activities and networks, there is the World Urban Forum, the UN Task Force on Future of Cities, Advisory

Group on Local and Regional Governments, Global Task-force of Local and Regional Governments, Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments.

- Additionally, there are partner engagement platforms which contribute to the NUA implementation and monitoring in close collaboration with UN-Habitat include the Stakeholder Advisory Group Enterprise (SAGE), the General Assembly of Partners, the World Urban Campaign (WUC), the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA) as well as the Advisory Group on Gender Issues (AGGI), the Youth Advisory Board {tbc} and the Habitat Professionals Forum (HPF). Such platforms convened by UN-Habitat play a key role in mobilizing constituencies, reviewing UN-Habitat priorities and work and advising on specific components of the NUA. Some also play a key advocacy role in order to advance urban solutions and generate synergies between partners to implement the NUA.
- A key consideration is for the need for understanding and mapping the various constituents so that there knowledge and support is fully understood.
- The further development of the New Urban Agenda Platform was noted, and the regional UN online platforms for NUA implementation monitoring and peer learning are complementing the global New Urban Agenda Platform as they provide data, knowledge sharing, information and technical guidance specifically within the regional and subregional contexts and priority themes.
- Consistency and quality in recording of impact and actions in implementing the NUA, to enable greater learning and translation across contexts, requires attention.

INUA Chapter III - Progress on transformative commitments

Progress on social inclusion and ending poverty

- The COVID-19 pandemic entrenched and perpetuated disadvantages, deprivations and inequalities that left people behind, both within cities and between the urban and rural divide. Inequality stigmatized and removed significant groups of the urban population from a socially and economically productive life, aggravating living conditions for the over one billion inhabitants living in slums globally and disproportionally impacted the lives of persons with disabilities. It also unveiled the consequences of lack of equitable access to vital public services in territories and communities. In reporting on progress toward the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, Member States and local authorities highlighted the effective use of targeted social protection programmes aimed at addressing rising urban poverty through income, medical and food-based assistance to vulnerable households.
- Progress in enhancing the quality of inclusive governance at central and local levels underscored the importance of the 'right to the city' concept in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Member States leveraged spatial planning tools for social integration and nurtured active participation of diverse communities, civil society as well as small and medium enterprises in municipal decision making to achieve tangible improvements in the lives of people living and working in cities.
- Housing should be at the centre of the NUA due to the substantive investment that it brings. For example, within the '200 sample of cities', over 55% of the total

land coverage across 200 cities is occupied by housing/ residential developments. As such the need to deliver affordable housing is an urgent crisis. The housing sector must also actively incorporate de-carbonisation strategies where 70% of emissions stem from cities & 40% from buildings. Moreover, the notion of housing goes beyond just informal settlements, and we need diverse housing policies/options across contexts, and a re-framed scope of housing.

- There has been no progress in preventing or avoiding evictions, despite moratoriums against forced eviction (See "Pandemic of Violations"), despite the fact that 'all organs of the state' are obliged to prevent and remedy forced eviction. This also should be a feature of NUA reporting guidelines for states, consistent with implementation and reporting obligations under human rights treaties (ICESCR).
- Land tenure, policies and planning featured across the discussions, holding critical solutions to accessibility, equity and fair social and spatial opportunities for all, particularly in relation to women and young people, gender and disadvantaged groups and overall inequalities.
- The role of public space during the pandemic made clear its role for the long term, in providing groups in society that face stigma and discrimination. Parks can also help to address stigma and discrimination and goes to support the achievement of SDGs 5 and 16 and NUA's transformative commitments.
- Ensuring the social, economic, environmental and political inclusion of women in the city remains a key issue. Some steps have been taken such as safer cities campaigns in cities.
- Institutional capacity built/needed - especially for countries in conflict - including local authorities, where IDPs are increasing.

Progress on inclusive urban prosperity and opportunities

- There has been limited progress on enhancing inclusion and prosperity has been marred by the pandemic in the last two years. If there is one arena where goals of generating urban prosperity and reduction of urban poverty has had a very strong impact, this is the one. Several reports outline the hugely negative impact on increase in poverty levels, loss of wages and employment, increasing inequality and disproportionately among women, older persons, persons with disabilities child trafficking and labour, migrant and informal workers etc. Most affected by the lock-downs, and covid-19 are working people in the cities of global South, as well as those at the margins (such as older persons, refugees, migrants, persons with disabilities, informal workers etc. in the Global North. Work burden on women and unpaid care work among women has increased. Progress on environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development.
- Better use of data and understanding trends is helping distinguish between wealth creation and inclusive growth and prosperity through assessing social and economic impacts on groups disproportionately impacted (disaggregate as women, older persons, youth, minorities, disabled and marginalised communities) especially owing to pandemic.
- Creating Urban Employment Opportunities, closing the skills gaps, upgrade of skills, enabling access to capital and blended finance for self- enterprises and cooperative enterprises, small business promotion schemes and also reviving micro, small and medium enterprises which have suffered, such that labour productivity is also enhanced and high value jobs are created. In these times some cities

and countries have focussed on these programmes and the opportunities for city to city cooperation.

- Improved Territorial, Local and Multi-level Governance is leading to improved and shared prosperity. Local governments are delivering expanded opportunities and regional development through improved legal frameworks, despite resources and capacities challenges.
- However, local and city prosperity enhancement initiatives need revenues and financing and investment planning at one level while also the need for ensuring decentralisation of decision making.

Progress on inclusive urban prosperity and opportunities

- Strongly linked to urban form and function of the city such as through concepts of the compact city and the 15-min city.
- Well managed urbanization can be an accelerator in protecting the environment, rather than a burden on the climate.
- Sustainable transportation and mobility are key to environmentally sustainable and resilient cities, such as demonstrated in the link between increased public transport and lower levels of air pollution.
- An increasing number of city governments are embracing climate goals, such as net-zero commitments, and are incorporating nature-based solutions in their planning framework as well as increased commitment to environmental monitoring systems.
- Financing and governance approached that work alongside urban planning and design are essential, alongside new and greater resourced skills and training.
- New tools such as digital technology provides key new tools for impact. Digital and innovative tools must be further leveraged to enhance urban environments and resilience.

- Disruptive technology can be a driver to deliver low-cost sustainable housing

INUA Chapter IV - Effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda

Building a governance structure and establishing a supportive framework

- Urban governance is a vehicle for sustainable development, particularly for socio-economic equity, COVID-19 recovery, climate change action and peace-building. Multi-level coordination among tiers of government improves the delivery of services on the ground and it can be achieved even in contexts where the hierarchical system of governments is not as clear cut. Investing in innovation and digital technology in governance can improve efficiency and productivity while operating in constrained staffing and fiscal environments, especially for local governments. The cross-cutting insight that stood out across all thematic areas during the meeting was the need for people-centred approaches in urban governance. This is embodied by public engagement in decision-making; co-creation of solutions; equitable access to digital technologies; promotion of human rights; and multi-stakeholder partnerships that are driven by and focused on real needs of urban populations. Cities work for people and urban governance needs to reflect this reality. Strengthening the social contract between governments, the public, civil society, and private sector is essential to ensure that indeed, no one and no place is left behind.
- A key insight from the regions was that realities and

dynamics on the ground are changing, and as such governance approaches need to be adaptive to these new processes by having locally relevant interventions that respond to the real needs of the people to avoid a loss of trust in public institutions. This requires fostering the dialogue between citizens and the government by treating people as co-creators and harnessing the power of social networks for knowledge exchange.

- The important of local governance and multi-level governance in achieving the NUA, yet acknowledging that devolution and decentralization have been lacking over the last 4 years.
- City to city co-operations and exchanging experiences between cities are being used to share knowledge and implement the New Urban Agenda. This is a key opportunity as cities hold the most credibility for other cities, particularly in terms of implementing the NUA and localizing the SDGs. This is important as at the local level, often knowledge of the NUA is weak. Voluntary Local reviews (VLRs) can be a tool for identifying best practices, sensitizing communities and enhancing city to city cooperation.
- Establishing linkages between policies and municipal finance to strengthen multilevel governance.
- Linking urban governance with data, information and communication to enhance effectiveness at the local and national levels.
- Integrating capacity building across all levels of the government to foster collaborations, strengthening the role of government participation through local parliaments.

Planning and management of urban and territorial spatial development

- Planning is a public good, which requires strong local leadership and long-term vision of cities. The agenda for better, more inclusive and accessible public space has been enlivened by the Covid-19 pandemic, and now needs addressed and actioned swiftly.
- Effective planning that connects across all scales of environments is still hampered by a lack of capacity, especially in regions such as Africa as well as many smaller cities. There is furthermore a lack of main-streaming sustainable planning in education, as well as a gap between the SDGs and planning. Planners remain in silos and still happens predominantly at the central level.
- 70% of countries have national urban policies in place-but what has been the impact? Reports and data are not showing major progress so we need to understand why.
- The scale and pace of urbanisation needs critical action. Commonwealth Built Environment professionals have documented the needs and the impacts of rapidly urbanising communities on the growth and prosperity of cities - the cities and pandemics report emphasised the importance of public space and incorporating blue and green networks as structuring elements in urban and territorial planning.
- Urban sprawl is a prominent and growing trend globally that leads to inefficient and costly infrastructure provision, degradation of the natural environment, pollution, and inequalities.
- There is a growing trend to incorporate green space targets as part of planning requirements. The provision of quality public space as part of city-wide networks is critical for social integration and inclusion.
- Public transport and non-motorised movement systems are instrumental interventions to transform cities into inclusive, low carbon areas with high accessibility to services. It provides the backbone for creating Transit

Orientated Development and appropriate densities associated with a compact urban form. It remains one of the most significant interventions to improve air quality and healthy cities.
- There has been progress made in implementing gender mainstreaming in planning to promote equality between men and women in cities.
- Monitoring urbanization is a key issue.
- The use of Technology for better planning and more integrated planning and management is important. Local capacity for collecting data and use of ICT needs to be strengthened, but also these tools are fostered by national and not local programs in terms of education and in terms of sub-national frameworks, that limits access to these tools locally. National frameworks and sub-national are key to put these new technologies and data.
- A key insight from the regions was that realities and dynamics on the ground are changing, and as such governance approaches need to be adaptive to these new processes by having locally relevant interventions that respond to the real needs of the people to avoid a loss of trust in public institutions. This requires fostering the dialogue between citizens and the government by treating people as co-creators and harnessing the power of social networks for knowledge exchange.

Promoting green, climate resilient and healthy cities

- The climate crisis increasingly puts human settlements at risk. There is no region around the world that is not affected, but the climate crisis puts a particular and additional strain on rapidly growing towns and cities and on the urban poor, which are likely to be over-proportionally negatively affected during the 21st century.

- Effective resilience planning requires community engagement in data collection (e.g. for urban greening, sustainability progress) followed by community based participatory planning. In combination, participatory planning with technology will accelerate progress to increase resilience.
- Cities are increasingly recognised as key actors to achieve the Paris agreement, UNEP is working with cities networks, like ICLEI, to include local governments in the national efforts.

INUA Chapter V - Means of implementation

Financing the implementation of the NUA
- To ensure that local public service provision is sustained, that people are protected, and a green and just recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is achieved, cities must have direct access to funding from national and international sources, green investments must be scaled-up, and fiscal decentralization and autonomous local financial and administrative institutions should be seen as economic multipliers for national development. Moreover, the principle of subsidiarity must be followed as the key to improve territorial governance and reach multi-level governance framework processes, while enabling sound regulatory frameworks and administrative procedures in order to increase the impact and coherence of policies and private investments; as well as more inclusive multilateral system must be in place whereby cities have a seat at the decision-making table.
- Financing of urban development – primarily urban infrastructure and services, but also housing and public spaces - has been insufficient around the world - the financing gap has been estimated globally and for

different regions with varying figures.

- The control of economic effects of the pandemics highlighted importance of formal and informal collaboration of various levels and sectors of governance, the role of knowledge sharing and capacity development which are important to help municipalities and other stakeholders understand what finance options are available, scaling-up blended financing models, supporting local finance engineering capacity, and taking action to increase flows of domestic and international capital for transformative finance-able investments, especially in developing countries.
- The role of knowledge sharing and capacity development is important to help municipalities and other stakeholders understand what finance options are available and how to identify and structure bankable projects.

Building capacities to report on the effective implementation of the sustainable urban agendas.

- Land value capture mechanisms are an important source of public revenues for investing in urban development.
- It is important to address the situation of intermediary cities , as their population increases fastest – but not their resources. Many are still dependent on bigger cities and national governments. Many cities don't have capacity to access international and domestic financial markets. Achieving creditworthiness of sub-national entities, especially for intermediate cities, requires strengthening their own source revenues.
- Donors can help promote appropriate accountability mechanisms amongst the many organisations involved in financing sustainable development. This need for accountability is especially relevant when using financing approaches that involve private sector actors.

- A growing number of investors and corporations are interested in coupling financial returns with positive social, economic and environmental impacts. Nevertheless, there are sweeping disparities in their approaches to managing and measuring impact. While industry-led initiatives demonstrate the possibility of effectively harmonising impact management and measurement, both in terms of high-level principles and specific, targeted, metrics and indicators, a decision-making framework is missing. A common set of underpinning standards is needed to guide impact management practice, based on existing principles, frameworks and indicators.
- Regulating financial institutions, governments can shape more effective investment in housing to promote affordability, and access and channel investment towards sustainable and productive activities. This can also reduce credit bubbles in house prices, economic instability and inequality.
- Non-profit provision of social and affordable housing. In non-profit affordable housing models, when surpluses are made after finance and operating costs, they are re-invested in additional housing provision, rather than extracted by shareholders. This growth model can also be efficient and productive, especially when public equity and long-term cost finance reduces cost rents and revolving funds are safeguarded and purposefully reinvested.
- Rent subsidies and government assistance for households to meet their housing costs, designed to target needs or location and can be indexed or rationed.

Use of technology to support sustainable urban development

- The Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated trends such as digitalization, shifts to remote work, telemedicine, distance learning and virtual delivery of essential services in cities. The pandemic has also further exposed the urban digital divide, showing disparities in digital access, capacity, knowledge and affordability.
- Science, technology, innovation and digital platforms and tools are having an impact in many crucial urban sectors, including energy, water, mobility, finance, housing, education, urban planning, safety, healthcare and resilience. Cities are increasingly making use of high-speed internet, artificial intelligence, virtual mobile money platforms, virtual work systems and e-governance platforms. However, there are large disparities in capacity, access and use between and within regions, with least developed countries in particular falling behind. The rise of mobile money services has enabled many marginalized communities to access financial services.
- Many governments and urban managers are now embracing the concept of the smart city but it's a complex and constantly evolving. While various approaches and definitions exist, there is a growing consensus that while smart cities are intrinsically linked with urban technologies, they need to be less focused on a narrow technological approach and align closer with national and local strategic priorities, the needs of urban residents, inclusion and human rights considerations and the sustainability ambitions set out in the New Urban Agenda and Agenda 2030. Concepts such as 'smart, sustainable cities', 'people-centered smart cities' and 'inclusive smart cities' have emerged more recently.
- Citizen-centric digital governance is an emerging topic. There is a growing consensus that digital governance,

particularly for national and local governments and in relation to the collection, management and sharing of data, requires special attention.
- Need to move from a top-down "smart city" approach (as a procurement and deployment of "off-the-shelf" digital technology) to a more people-centred and organic approach which addresses inequalities and emphasises strengthening of digital literacy and local capacities to use digital technologies in alignment with their needs and priorities.
- Need to build capacity for digital tools, in particular for cities with limited resources. Remaining gap: need to enable access to different capacities and caution about adoption of digital tools off the shelf without digital literacy and capacity building to local government and social actors. Understand the urban problems first and then use the technology, no top-down/procurement exercise without putting the needs and requirements of local actors in the foreground.
- Many are now embracing the smart city concept, but it is a complex and constantly evolving issue. Some when they hear "smart city" just believe that it is only the use of technologies. It must be more aligned with national and local strategic priorities, the needs of urban residents, inclusion universal design, and human rights considerations and the sustainability ambitions set out in the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda.

Facilitating engagement and participation of development partners

- While many examples point to significant progress and momentum in building the engagement and participation of hundreds of institutional partners over the past four years, there is still much work to be done and there are many issues to be addressed. Over the next four years, special attention should be paid to the following:
- Addressing the needs and conditions of the vulnerable, older persons, persons with disabilities, youth, and the growing migrant and refugee populations
- The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the essential role that local community-based, resident-led and civil society organizations play in responding to major crises, and their capacity needs to be sustained to assure their readiness to provide support in emergency situations
- Promoting National Urban Forums, through which countries articulate their visions for the growth and development of their urban centres
- Partnerships between local governments, national governments, the civil society sector, and community-led organizations have proven to be the necessary structure for implementing change in cities in ways that benefit residents in a variety of ways. Planning for the next four years of the New urban Agenda should place the strengthening of these kinds of partnerships as among its top priorities.

INUA Chapter VI - Strengthening the Inter linkages of the NUA and global development agendas

NUA as an accelerator of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs and other global agendas

- Any city in the world that decides to respond to the vulnerability of its population in terms of resilience, decides to obtain funding to adapt to climate change, or creates specific funds for the distribution of public goods, is implementing the New Urban Agenda and connecting it to the SDGs and other global agendas. If well implemented, the New Urban Agenda has the potential to accelerate the implementation of other goals and agendas.
- Multiple international platforms that are playing a crucial role in accelerating the implementation of the NUA and other global agendas by connecting learning and innovation.
- National territorial and urban policies are also crucial to enable durable local efforts that are fully supported by national governments.
- We have witnessed a new wave of remunicipalisation, with local authorities taking up key roles in managing key local services with transversal impacts across SDGs. For example, the establishment of municipal power utilities offers the opportunity of implementing an independent energy policy at local level, which is critical in creating a transformation to a sustainable energy system based on renewable energies and energy efficiency.

NUA reaffirmed as the leading role of cities and local authorities and Voluntary Local Reviews

The COVID-19 pandemic has spotlighted and reaffirmed the role of cities and local and regional governments in both responding to the health and socio-economic emergency and in promoting an inclusive and sustainable recovery. Guided by the NUA, and in line with the SDGs, cities worldwide are making significant strides in advancing innovative approaches to sustainable urbanization and local development.

- Voluntary Local Reports (VLRs) are a useful mechanism to ensure that local governments and organised civil society

have a voice in articulating needs, aspirations, progress and set back in advancing the implementation of the NUA and SDGs.

- VLRs and the NUA are both powerful accelerators of SDG localization. They are connected and mutually reinforcing: while the NUA can guide the preparation and development of VLRs, VLRs contribute to the achievement of the NUA. Many VLRs explicitly mention the influence of the NUA principles on their local development strategies

- Similarly, truly encompassing VLRs are based on participatory processes bringing local communities, minorities and vulnerable groups closer to decision-making, enhancing their influence on strategic planning –

Asserting a city diplomacy in global affairs and the NUA

- Local and regional governments and their networks have actively engaged in UN-led and international processes with the objective of elevating the constituency's voice vis-à-vis Member States and the international community, while offering opportunities for peer-to-peer learning and support

- Member States have extended invitations to mayors to join national delegations and to serve as panellists in high-level meetings of the General Assembly and segments of the Economic and Social Commission (ECOSOC). The GTF annually convenes the Local and Regional Governments Forum (LRGF) held parallel to both the Opening Session of the General Assembly and of the High-Level Political Forum of ECOSOC

- City diplomacy as a way to tackle dysfunctionality, fragmentation (spatialisation?), lack of integration, and ensuring continuity in investments in urban areas.

- City diplomacy is a way of acting outside the local powers/ jurisdictions.

- Promoting city diplomacy is promoting the representation

of local communities and different interests and needs. A good example of that might be the Mayors Migration Council initiative (about amplifying the voice of city diplomacy but as a coalition for urban dwellers, not just as a cities or mayors).

- We acknowledge the fully catalytic force of the cities to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth, engaging the local communities, linking global sustainable agendas.

- At a global level we notice successful examples of city diplomacy and cities networks efforts i.e. SDG11 as a self-standing Goal, while in some countries the role of cities is less prominent. We need to learn from the lessons from SDG 11, where the prominent role of city diplomacy, supported by many national governments, has led to the commitment of the international community towards sustainable urban development.

INUA Chapter VII - Strengthen mechanisms to enhance reporting by Member States on NUA

Adopting a national sample of cities 250 words

- Without a standardized method of measurement and clear techniques of aggregation, countries were having serious problems creating a consistent set of cities for national level reporting that is representative of their territory, geography and history. This national aggregation problem made it difficult, if not impossible, to report at regional and global levels on locally produced urban/city level data.

- A recommendation for Member States to adopt a national sample of cities and the spatial disaggregation of data was submitted in 2019 through the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal

Indicators. Over the reporting period, more than 90 national statistical offices were trained on the adoption and application of the national sample of cities approach and other innovative spatial and non-spatial urban data collection methodologies.

- In collaboration with the UN regional economic commissions, national statistical offices and various UN agencies, nearly 12 expert group meetings were organised between 2018 and 2020 to strengthen the use of the national sample of cities methodology for monitoring progress made towards the urban-related Sustainable Development Goals and their indicators, in particular Goal 11 and NUA. There is a need for much more capacity building for national statistics offices as the capacities for data collection at city level remains insufficient.

Strengthening the capacities of national and sub-national governments

- International organizations also support building capacities of national and sub-national governments on the collection and analysis of urban data. For example, in 2020 the OECD has developed the localized SDGs indicators which can be used both for national and sub-national governments to measure the distance between national targets and performance of cities.
- UN-Habitat is conducting capacity development programmes on metropolitan management for public officials of sub-national and national governments and in partnership with local universities.

Strengthening existing multi-stakeholder platforms

- The international organizations promote an integrated approach to data collection and analysis. However, more efforts are needed to overcome the data collection done in silos, lack of interoperability of the data; bringing data collected from different sources to provide comprehensive databases reflecting challenges of urbanization.
- Diverse regional, national and local forums and thematic platforms are emerging which allow collecting data from different sources. further development of digital tools facilitates this trend.

Developing inclusive, evidence-based and integrated national urban policies

- National urban policies are recognized as one of the five main pillars of implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Paragraph 15 of the NUA also outlines Member States' commitment, among other commitments, to "recognize the leading role of national Governments as appropriate, in the definition and implementation of inclusive and effective urban policies and legislation for sustainable urban development.
- Best practices and lessons learned continue to be applied as the urban policy programmes are scaled up, with the support of member states.
- There is a need in promoting awareness of governments in applying evidence-based approaches to developing policies and in understanding social and economic costs of not using data and knowledge as a basis of decisions. Further the focus needs to be on the quality of the data.
- National urban policies are being developed more and more based on their voluntary national reviews (VNRs).

The VNRs is an important instrument for data collection and analysis. The experience of the development of the VNRs demonstrated that VNRs should be developed with inputs from local level so that cities provide their data to ensure the detailed nuanced approach to the analysis of the achievement of SDGs at national level.

Obtaining predictable financing mechanisms for the implementation and monitoring of the NUA

• More progress is needed in promoting investments into local and national data infrastructure to ensure data collection, verification, analysis and effective dissemination. To ensure progress, all relevant levels and sectors of government must be involved in making decisions on investment into data infrastructure, instead of just those involved in collecting taxes and other revenues. The success of efforts to decentralise responsibilities to sub-national levels, even if supported by fiscal devolution and authority of sub-sovereign borrowing, have been highly dependent on existing governance systems and traditions.

• Opportunities for own source revenue optimisation depended on streamlining tax policy and enhancing compliance, both of which are impacted by digitalisation and the strengthening of the social contract. Yet administrative reforms improving revenue collection depend even more on strong leadership, the will and ability to overcome vested interests.

Recommendations

Even prior to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, progress on the implementation of the NUA was rather slow. This was considerably aggravated by the pandemic that reduced the development clock on the thematic areas of the agenda. Based on this, the following recommendations are made:

1.   In order to respond to structural inequalities that the COVID-19 pandemic put in evidence, urban development policies, land, security of tenure and affordable housing, access to basic services, and resilience programs and development activities, etc. should pay fundamental attention to the reduction of exclusion, marginalisation accessibility barriers and different forms of poverty and consider gender and women's needs, particularly when these are concentrated in specific areas, ie spatial notion of inequality.

2.   A strong connection should be made between the response to pandemics, the long term agenda of climate change and the inclusive agenda when rethinking the urban functions of the cities, new forms of planning including mobility, public space, connecting homes and neighborhoods, and other urban issues.

3.   The New Urban Agenda should be aligned with Our Common Agenda and its proposal for a renewed Social Contract between Governments and their people within societies, anchored in human rights and with the active participation of women and girls, resulting in universal social protection including health care, basic income security, adequate housing and digital inclusivity to globally reduce inequalities.

4.   The successful implementation of the Agenda has shown the important roles that local governments and mayors are playing. It is recommended to strengthen and expand this role and reinforce this city diplomacy in the global agendas and encourage the preparation of voluntary local reports for every City and discuss them regularly before the respective budget discussions

5.   Responses should consider the need for economic resilience of cities and long-term economic development plans based in communities and local action plans, rethinking the notion of economic space and mechanisms for generating revenue locally. Reshaping the economic space for accelerating the agglomeration of economies - to accommodate economies, capital, financial, human capital.

6.   The need for a long term and predictable financing mechanism is still a priority, including creating enabling (policy and regulatory frameworks, engaging partners and providing technical assistance for the development of innovative financing solutions such as blended financing.

7.   At the global level, keeping the global logistical systems functioning so as to guarantee supply and demand, and rethink the value of production, and regional focus.

Following the writeshop, feedback was requested and the following responses were received from 24% of participants.

Nearly all respondents (12) stated that they could actively contribute to the discussions and felt that their contributions were valued (12 – of which 8 strongly agreeing). At the same time, about the same number of respondents (13 – of which 4 strongly agreeing) indicated that they could have contributed more (with two respondents disagreeing to this statement).

11 of the 15 respondents agreed that the agenda of the writeshop made it flexible for them to attend depending on their schedule and time zone, with 7 of these 11 respondents strongly agreeing to this. The visual graphics were also considered a useful summary by almost all respondents (12).

Nearly all respondents describe the Writeshop as having been co-creative (14 out of 15 "strongly agree" or "agree"), collective (13 "strongly agree" or "agree") and stimulating (13 "strongly agree" or "agree"). For the latter, one respondent disagreed that they found the Writeshop stimulating.

There was also a strong agreement among respondents that the writeshop was disciplined, relevant, encouraging, creative and responsive (12 or 11 respondents, respectively, do "strongly agree" or "agree" with these statements).

"Overall [the Writeshop] has been an inspirational learning experience"

Annex

10.00–11.00	Plenary *Welcome, write-shop introduction and general discussion*

11.00–11.50	**REVIEW AND WRITING SESSIONS ROUND 1** *Three parallel breakout sessions*

Chapter III Progress on transformative commitments (2018-2022)			
Progress on social inclusion and ending poverty	Progress on inclusive urban prosperity and opportunities	Progress on environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development	

11.50–12.00	*Break*

12.00–12.50	**REVIEW AND WRITING SESSIONS ROUND 2** *Three parallel breakout sessions*

Chapter IV Effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda			
Building a governance structure and establishing a supportive framework	Planning and management of urban and territorial spatial development	Promoting green, climate resilient and healthy cities*	

12.50-13.30	Plenary *Chapter III and IV Plenary review and wrap up*

15.00–15.45	Plenary *Welcome and reflection of the morning session, write-shop reintroduction and general discussion*

15.45–16.45	**REVIEW AND WRITING SESSIONS ROUND 1 and 2 – RERUN** *Six parallel breakout sessions*

Chapter III Progress on transformative commitments (2018-2022)			
Progress on social inclusion and ending poverty	Progress on inclusive urban prosperity and opportunities	Progress on environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development	

Chapter IV Effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda			
Building a governance structure and establishing a supportive framework	Planning and management of urban and territorial spatial development	Promoting green, climate resilient and healthy cities*	

16.45–17.00	*Break*

17.00–17.50	**REVIEW AND WRITING SESSIONS ROUND 3** *Four parallel breakout sessions*

Chapter V Means of implementation			
Financing the implementation of the NUA	Building capacities to report on the effective implementation of the sustainable urban agendas.	Use of technology to support sustainable urban development	Facilitating engagement and participation of development partners*

17.50–19.00	Plenary *Plenary review and wrap up of Chapter V* *Priority setting and preparation for Day 2*

10.00-10.30	Plenary check in			
10.30-11.30	**REVIEW AND WRITING SESSIONS ROUND 3 RERUN** *Four parallel breakout sessions*			
	Chapter V Means of implementation			
	Financing the implementation of the NUA	Building capacities to report on the effective implementation of the sustainable urban agendas.	Use of technology to support sustainable urban development	Facilitating engagement and participation of development partners*
11.30-11.45	Break			
11.45-12.45	**REVIEW AND WRITING SESSIONS ROUND 4** *Four parallel breakout sessions*			
	Chapter VI Strengthening the Interlinkages of the NUA and global development agendas			
	NUA as an accelerator of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs and other global agendas	NUA reaffirms the leading role of cities and local authorities and Voluntary Local Reviews	Asserting a city diplomacy in global affairs and the NUA	Chapter II Advancing on an incremental and inclusive NUA reporting system, all sub chapters
12.45-13.15	Plenary *Review and Wrap up of Chapter V and VI*			

15.00-15.30	Plenary check in			
15.30-16.30	**ZOOM IN CLINCS SESSIONS** *Topics to be confirmed and will be based on gaps still identified, these could be cross cutting across the report such as lack of data, gender lens, etc.*			
	LAND AND HOUSING	**HUMAN RIGHTS**	**FOCUS ROOM Introduction**	**FOCUS ROOM Recommendations**
16.30-17.00	Plenary *Wrap up on clinics and any pending issues*			
17.00-18.00	**REVIEW AND WRITING SESSIONS ROUND 5** *Four or three parallel breakout sessions*			
	Chapter II and Chapter VII			
	Chapter II Advancing on an incremental and inclusive NUA reporting system, all sub chapters	Chapter VII - Strengthen mechanisms to enhance reporting by Member States on NUA** - Reinforce the importance of the New Urban Agenda in national development**	Chapter VII - Integrate health at local level and sustainable ecological neighborhoods	Chapter VII - Strengthening urban resilience and the local economy
	FOCUS ROOM Acupuncture Session Injecting agreed recommendations into sub chapters			
18.00-19.00	Plenary *Wrap up of Introduction, Chapter II and Chapter VII Closing of Write-shop and next steps*			

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Disclaimer

This report presents information shared by participants during a Writeshop to provide inputs for the preparation of the 2022 Report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (2022 Quadrennial Report), held online on 22 and 23 November 2021. The findings, observations, information, interpretations, and conclusions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials or Member States.

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