

## Background paper for the preparation of the Quadrennial Report 2022

***“Quadrennial Report of the Secretary-General  
on the progress in the Implementation of  
the New Urban Agenda”***



Draft 1

Final version as prepared during the online Writeshop on  
22 and 23 November 2021

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## I. INTRODUCTION (350 words)

- Legislative mandate for reporting on the New Urban Agenda 50 words

The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/24 and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/235 which requested the Secretary-General to report on the progress of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda every four years, and called upon relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development held in 2016.

- The Quadrennial Report 2018 and the route for 2022 50 words

The Quadrennial Report of 2018 was the first in a series of five quadrennial reports and an element of the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. It assessed the systems and resources in place after 18 months since the adoption of the Agenda regarding implementation and progress monitoring. It recommended incremental steps to ensure the successful production of the second report in 2022 and the three subsequent reports.

The present report was prepared in consultation with X partners and with total of Y United Nations entities at the global, regional and national levels.

- Intensifying multilevel and multistakeholder partnerships. 100 words

During the last years UN-Habitat has intensified their advocacy work on sustainable urban development with local governments' international networks such as UCLG and, especially, its metropolitan body Metropolis. Every year, UN-Habitat, Metropolis and local partners promote cooperation to achieve more sustainable and integrated territorial development through global campaigns such as the World Metropolitan Day (WMD)<sup>1</sup>. The WMD commemorates, on 7 October, the Montreal Declaration on Metropolitan Areas<sup>2</sup> thus promoting collective action to build more equitable, resilient, safe, and sustainable metropolises.

- Covid-19: the disrupting nature of the pandemic (NUA proves to be a robust framework to address multiple crisis) 100 words

As set out in the Secretary-General Policy Brief on COVID-19 in an Urban World, the pandemic exposed the systemic inequalities across our cities and territories. The economic impact of the pandemic has pushed 100 of millions of people back into poverty. UN-Habitat's Cities and Pandemics report gave us a new understanding of the importance of planning and urban design, the centrality of enabling access to adequate housing for all and the need to build more sustainable ecological neighborhoods. It showed the crucial role of equitable access to quality basic public services in proximity and of the frontline workers who deliver them, the need to expand local fiscal capacity, to build and strengthen social security systems for all and the importance of inclusive multi-level governance.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.metropolis.org/campaigns/world-metropolitan-day>

<sup>2</sup> <https://undocs.org/A/CONF.226/PC.3/4>

However, the pandemic response also proved that mindsets can shift, that bold new choices can be made and that local governments can lead the way, for instance in reclaiming control of vital public services such as water and sanitation, of public and green space for softer forms of mobility and finding dignified solutions for the homeless. The lesson learned of the pandemic create the basis for new policies that transcend business as usual and for a green economic recovery that conditions investments towards more inclusive and sustainable urban environments. The New Urban Agenda is a robust framework that can guide us towards more resilient urbanization, maximizing its transformative potential towards greener, healthier and more just societies.

*Add here gender impact of pandemic and make reference to gender mainstreaming legal framework at UN system*

- Preparing a systemic approach to NUA reporting 50 words

Ambitious incremental and inclusive reporting systems enable global progress tracking for cities and countries. For tracking the New Urban Agenda, various platforms were developed through a UN System-wide approach, including indicators, a Global Urban Monitoring Framework, national and global reporting guides and tools for capacity building and data production.

*Sex disaggregated data and gender indicators*

## II. **ADVANCING ON AN INCREMENTAL AND INCLUSIVE NUA REPORTING SYSTEM** (1500 words in total)

- Reinforcing the United Nations system-wide approach and reporting mechanism 350 words

At its June 2018 session, the United Nations recognized urbanization as a “mega trend”. It called upon UN-Habitat to facilitate the work of the UN in the preparation of a guidance paper on how the UN system can better coordinate its efforts to assist Member States to harness the opportunities and meet the challenges of rapid urbanization for the attainment of the SDGs and other global agendas. This work led to the adoption of [the UN Systemwide Strategy on Sustainable Urban Development](#) (CEB/2019/HLCP37/CRP.4) by the UN Chief Executives Board.

Together with the common urban monitoring framework, the UN Systemwide Strategy has helped to reinforce a more coherent progress tracking and reporting mechanism on the New Urban Agenda implementation by the UN system. This effort was further strengthened by a common UN and stakeholder principles and priorities, as set in the UN Secretary-General’s Policy Brief: COVID-19 in an Urban World, to turn the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in cities into accelerated sustainable development gains.

The UN System entities provide guidance to support the member States and partners in the adoption of universal sustainable urban development norms and global frameworks to regional, national and local contexts, policy coherence and dialogue with stakeholders, capacity development and sharing of knowledge, good practices and lessons learned. As a continuous global system wide reporting mechanism, the Urban Agenda Platform, launched in 2020, includes a dedicated section featuring work spearheaded by different UN agencies.

The UN Regional Economic Commissions have played a key role in the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda, given their universal coverage, convening power, intergovernmental platforms, and broad-based cross-sectoral and data expertise. They also provide a greater voice to subregions and countries with distinct needs, including least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developed countries (LLDCs), small island developing states (SIDS) and countries in crisis. Regional commissions are also playing a key role for advocacy and mobilization towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Regional Commissions were integral in the design of the global urban monitoring framework, ensuring alignment with regional specificities.

Sex disaggregated data and gender indicators as they intersect with other relevant social factors such as age, disability, class, race, urban-rural living, etc. identify gender biases and omissions in data gathering, processing, analysis and visualizations.

- **Consolidating guidelines for country and stakeholders reporting 250 words**

The guidelines for reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda were prepared through a consultative process with member states and partners, in response to Resolution (RES/71/256. New Urban Agenda) adopted by the General Assembly on 23 December 2016, which endorses the New Urban Agenda adopted by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).

The key role of the guidelines was to enable countries and relevant stakeholders to undertake the periodic review of the New Urban Agenda, ensuring coherence at all levels, in order to track progress, assess impact and ensure its effective and timely implementation, accountability and transparency in an inclusive manner.

The reporting guidelines allow countries to tell their own story and report progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda with respect to: the transformative commitments for sustainable urban development; effective implementation; means of implementation; and follow-up and review.

A key success of the reporting guidelines is that it enables countries to evaluate their implementation of the New Urban Agenda in terms of successes and results achieved, the challenges experienced and new opportunities, lessons learned and best practices. All these contribute to the role of the New Urban Agenda as an implementing framework for achieving and localizing the SDGs at the urban level. While the guidelines respond mainly to reporting at the national level, more needs to be done in adapting the guidelines to the needs of subnational and local levels of government, including non-governmental stakeholders and partners. Ensure guidelines include appropriate mechanisms to improve the data disaggregation on gender, age, disability, socio-economic status and other intersecting identity characteristics and the progressive elimination of discrimination and biases.

- **Expanding the use of the Urban Agenda Platform 250 words**

The Urban Agenda Platform <https://www.urbanagendaplatform.org/> was launched in 2020 as a recommendation from the first Quadrennial Report process to establish an online repository and provide a system for Member States and other key stakeholders to voluntarily report on their contributions to the implementation of the NUA on the global, regional, country and local levels. It serves as a UN system-wide dynamic and innovative knowledge pillar facilitated by UNHABITAT.



The objective of the Platform is to collate positive initiatives, case studies, lessons learned and other progress on the New Urban Agenda in one location, to accelerate further action.

Development of the Urban Agenda Platform entailed an incremental approach, planned in two phases. The first phase of development has produced an online portal for the Voluntary National Reports on the New Urban Agenda; Member State country pages on the New Urban Agenda; hosting of declared actions and tracking progress of commitments made during the 2020 World Urban Forum; and Urban Best Practices Repository drawing on several number different award schemes; learning and capacity building resources including the *Crash Course on the New Urban Agenda*; and an online library of relevant resources.

The second phase to commence in 2022 will establish an External Advisory Board and intends to widen the co-production of content across partners, as well as a wider use of the platform including through provision of data indicators for monitoring and tracking results through the NUA Monitoring Framework; a diagnostic to assess countries and cities NUA implementation status; further eLearning and capacity building opportunities; and linkages with other relevant global, regional and thematic knowledge platforms.

The NUA formulation process has mobilized stakeholders and actors globally. During the NUA implementation such mobilization has continued and expanded through a diversity of modalities, which reflect the global multilevel engagement of stakeholders in the NUA implementation.

The World Urban Forum was established in 2001 to address pressing issues of urbanization in a world where more than 50% of the population lives in urban settlements, the World Urban Forum platform brings together experts and leaders to identify appropriate actions to ensure that economic growth and development in cities, towns and communities is not reckless but considerate of social and environmental concerns. Drawing from continued commitments to ensuring that sustainable urbanization strategies adhere to and incorporate global climate targets, UN-Habitat is in close collaboration with host country Poland to prepare the upcoming the Eleventh Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF11) set for 26-30 June, 2022 in Katowice, Poland.

WUF11 will offer dozens of opportunities for creative problem solving, innovation, exchange of learnings and replication of best practice to support progress towards implementation of the New Urban Agenda in a way that demonstrates that cities hold the solutions to the challenges of inequity and exclusion; climate change and waste production; health security and solidarity; and improved access to mobility, livelihoods and housing. WUF11 will also seize the momentum engendered by the High Level Meeting set for April 2022 to reinvigorate the New Urban Agenda through clear linkages to broader global development agendas, specifically the acceleration of progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals as envisioned under the Decade of Action.

Specific bodies and organizations addressing gender equality and women's issues including **AGGI**, **the UN Habitat Advisory Group on Gender Issues**, **UN-Women** with their across the UN system mandate of promoting gender equality, or the **Huariou Commission** which represents grassroots women from across the world, the Women Partner Constituency Group of the **General Assembly of Partners**, continue to provide support, inputs, best practice, quantitative and qualitative data for further improvement of the knowledge pillar and expanding the use of the Urban Agenda Platform.

The UN has established the **UN Task Force on Future of Cities** in November 2020 to review the role of local governments in the future of multilateralism. Recommendations from the Task Force have informed the Secretary General report Our Common Agenda issued on 10 September 2021 which calls for the strengthening of the collaboration with subnational authorities through the creation of an **Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments**.

In addition, the Local 2030 Coalition launched in September 2021, as the reformulation of the Local2030 initiative, gathers multiple stakeholders to promote local implementation, as well as monitoring, through Local Voluntary Reviews.

Also, the **Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments** (<https://www.global-taskforce.org/>) initiated for the Habitat III Conference as a coordination mechanism for major international networks of local governments and their partners, including UN agencies, has strengthened its position as a key reference platform for engagement of local and regional governments in the global SDGs review process and the NUA reporting.

Furthermore, partners 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. The General Assembly of Partners (GAP) is an independent, multi-stakeholder platform that was set up to support stakeholder engagement and contributions to the Habitat III process. The GAP Plenary decided to continue working together after Habitat III, to contribute to the successful implementation of the NUA. Since 2018, the World Urban Campaign (WUC) has organized 164 Urban Thinkers Campus engaging more than 18,000 people and 3,600 organizations to address thematic issues of the NUA. The biennial non-legislative World Urban Forum coordinated by UN-Habitat and held in 2018 and 2020 has also mobilized a large number of organizations {key data needed here} to debate on issues and solutions towards the implementation of the NUA.

UN agencies have launched a broad range of platforms to enhance multi-level governance between member states, local governments and UN agencies.

**UNAIDS** has been supporting the acceleration of the HIV response in urban settings through the **Fast-Track Cities Initiative**. The initiative was launched in 2014 in the city of Paris by the four core partners, UNAIDS, UN-Habitat, the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC), and the city of Paris. The initiative recognizes the critical role that cities play in ending AIDS by 2030, and in shaping sustainable global health. To date, more than 350 cities have joined the network and are working towards an accelerated HIV response. (<https://www.unaids.org/en/cities>)

In 2019, **UNDP** established the [City2City Network](#) to serve as a knowledge sharing platform and a repository of urbanization best practices and experiences for cities and local governments across the world. It facilitates exchange among cities from the Global South and North, while offering

tools and diagnostics to support planning and aligned implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda. UNDP also developed its [Sustainable Urbanization Strategy](#),

**UNDP** also launched the United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) initiative, which is a global platform dedicated to supporting cities worldwide in becoming smarter and more sustainable.

**UNESCO's [World Heritage Cities Programme](#)**, which comprises more than 318 cities on the World Heritage List, has contributed to the safeguarding of urban heritage, including built heritage, urban spaces, natural heritage, and associated intangible heritage, advancing the role of culture for sustainable urban development.

**UNHCR's** engagement has focused primarily on the direct engagement of local and city authorities. UNHCR has gradually strengthened relationships with mayors, city administrations and city networks, primarily through efforts undertaken as part of the #CityRefugees Initiative of which there are 275 city signatories.

The **FAO** has established the **urban food systems working group** (26 organization) and the **Urban Food Systems Coalition** to raise the voice of cities at Food Systems Summit, Nutrition for Growth Summit, COP26 and CFS, the world's most prominent intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder fora on food systems, food security and nutrition. The Urban Food Agenda and Green Cities Initiatives have been promoted during various events to link with more partners and present FAO's work and approaches (including Global Taskforce of cities and regional governments and other UCLG events, Forum of Intermediary cities, MUFPP event, Africa Climate Week, COP 26 and 2022 UNEA among many others).

Since 2020, the UN Economic Commission for Europe has convened a **Forum of Mayors** as a platform for mayors to exchange experiences and best practices on city level policies and practices. This complements the 'In Focus: SDG 11' events convened in the region since 2018.

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.

Two online platforms are already fully functional: **The Penang Platform for Sustainable Urbanization** supported the development of Asia-Pacific Regional Guidelines on VLRs. The Platform also co-convened a regional partners forum on implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Asia-Pacific with UN-ESCAP and UN-Habitat in October 2021. **The Urban and Cities Platform of Latin America and the Caribbean** allows navigation and analyses of legislative, planning and financing instruments, tools and systems and statistics by country in the region.

The NUA implementation has also stimulated the creation of national level platforms. First among those the National Urban Forums which have been established and have held meetings in xxx countries, including xxxxx

- **Establishing a Global Urban Monitoring Framework 250 words**

As part of the harmonized approach to reporting on progress towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, SDGs and other global, regional, national, and local agendas, UN-Habitat has

coordinated with many partners the process of developing a Global Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF). The framework is the result of collaboration between various United Nations agencies, regional commissions, city representatives and more than 25 partners from different institutions working with urban indicators. Expert group meetings and bilateral discussions were organised that further guided the development of the framework including development of the harmonized framework principles and indicator selection criterion.

The UMF framework covers 5 key urban development domains (Society, Economy, Environment, Culture, and Governance/implementation), as well as 4 local city objectives (Safe/peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient, Sustainable), allowing for a consolidated approach to reporting on sustainable urban development at all levels. It intentionally draws from well-established trackers to reduce duplication with national and local data production efforts. The framework is a process and set of measures that any city or local government will be able to use to quantify, rate or rank its progress in transforming its urban fabric into a more sustainable form. The indicators selected provide a rate of change or a snapshot status, so that a city can monitor progress and alignment with the objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda or other local targets. Gender crosscuts through the 4 city objectives of safety, inclusiveness, resilience and sustainability, as well as the five key urban development domains. *Lets look for an example.*

The UMF is at the core of urban partners approach to data and indicators for SDG localization, and specifically aligned with the work on Voluntary Local Reviews and SDG Cities flagship initiative. With its core set of urban indicators, the UMF is envisaged to be efficient – not be a burden on cities; effective – able to assist cities to track how they are progressing in their efforts to meet the SDGs and New Urban Agenda commitments and inform local action; and, harmonised – ensuring that data is comparable. The framework has been piloted in various cities that expressed interest and will be used by national teams working on New Urban Agenda reporting, local governments involved in voluntary local reviews (VLRs), cities in the UN-Habitat Sustainable Development Goal Cities flagship programme and countries interested in undertaking a proper urban analysis to form part of the common country assessments. From this experience, it can be complemented with additional sets of indicators allowing deeper thematic analysis, and with geo-spatial and local perception indicators to understand differences experienced at district and sub-district levels of cities, for example on the increased burden on women and girls during the co-vid because of the increase of care tasks as schools and restaurants and many other services locked down, and how health systems were overloaded further increasing care requirements in homes. Adopting this unified and standardized platform for monitoring and reporting of urban indicators will help countries save time and resources on urban monitoring.

- **Integrating regional demands and perspectives 400 words**

Some ECE region specific examples:

Data sharing and data-transparency initiatives for inclusive reporting on NUA and SDGs - the State of Hawaii (in partnership with Hawaii Green Growth), City of Los Angeles and Helsingborg, Sweden have recently developed open data dashboards to display VLR progress and open opportunities for engagement by the public and all stakeholders.<sup>[1]</sup> The critical role of civil society in collecting and analysing data in support of achieving urban development goals is increasingly recognised in such initiatives. These open-data platforms support accountability and transparency on the goals, with community-driven metrics to inform local to national-level decision making.

**additional information: Box:**

State of Hawaii (in partnership with Hawaii Green Growth) Aloha+ Dashboard for measuring progress on SDGs:

The Aloha+ Dashboard ([www.alohachallenge.hawaii.gov](http://www.alohachallenge.hawaii.gov)) is an open-data platform that measures progress on Hawai'i's state-wide sustainability goals. Metrics on the Dashboard were co-developed through an initial four-year stakeholder engagement process starting in 2014 facilitated by Hawai'i Green Growth that brought together government, business, academia, philanthropy, civil society and community partners in meetings across all four counties. Guided by measuring what matters to Hawai'i's communities, the Aloha+ Dashboard currently tracks six sustainability goals through thirty-seven targets and over two-hundred and eighty indicators based on available data. Hawai'i Green Growth Local2030 continues to convene stakeholders regularly throughout the year through established working groups focused on data, policy and legislation, local-global next generation leadership and a CEO-led Sustainability Business Forum. The Voluntary Local Review is part of the on-going Aloha+ Challenge stakeholder engagement process through partner-driven working groups, forums and other convened processes to update the data, identify new metrics, and set priorities for action based on the trends. Hawai'i's local framework and process are aligned with the UN Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) aimed at implementing the SDGs at the country-level, and can be applied to increased stakeholder engagement at the subnational leadership.

Source: State of Hawaii VLR (2021)

Evidence-based policies and measures in the EU are also enhanced by the Urban Data Platform, which includes extensive information on European cities and regions.<sup>[2]</sup> Such monitoring systems can facilitate best practice and information sharing across cities and regions in support of achieving the SDGs and NUA commitments.<sup>[3]</sup>

*Add some examples regarding women and gender*

### **III. PROGRESS ON TRANSFORMATIVE COMMITMENTS (2018-2022)** (1500 words)

#### **Chapter 3 - group 1: Progress on social inclusion and ending poverty (with regional focus)** 500 words

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<sup>3</sup>. 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<sup>4</sup> and disproportionately 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 [Colombia, Mexico, Ciudad Valles, Cauayan City, La Paz,

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<sup>3</sup> United Nations Secretary General (2020) Policy Brief: *COVID-19 in an Urban World*, p.2

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Human Settlements Programme (2018), SDG11 metadata

Victoria Falls, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Maldives, Fiji, Taiwan (China), Timor-Leste, Australia, Thailand, Viet Nam, Pakistan, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong (China), Papua New Guinea<sup>5</sup>].

Comment from first session: Food inequalities (food justice): FAO's urban food agenda and food-system transformation in favor of vulnerable people (urban food insecurity and inequality); roles of food providers (including informal) ensuring access to food.

#### SA Examples

- Ghana National Social Protection Policy launched in 2016 and the accompanying Cash Transfer program (LEAP)
- Zambian population are registered to receive social cash transfers and in 2020 alone, the Zambia's Social cash transfer programme reached over 370,000 households living in extreme poverty across 116 districts.
- Democratic Republic of Congo also provides free health care for vulnerable groups and through the Lisungi Safety nets programme
- Nigeria - N-Power

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 [Brazil, Finland, Kosovo/1244, Lao PDR] to achieve tangible improvements in the lives of people living and working in cities.

Comment from session 1: NUA calls for social progress and development of the most excluded: migrant workers subject to lock-downs, refugees and migrants, homeless, displaced persons, intersectionality (with age, class, sexual orientation, etc.), 'minoritization' of groups in the current narrative. Social inclusion acknowledges differences

The privatization of public goods and services (including health, water, sanitation, transportation) and its effect on vulnerable and excluded groups remains a key obstacle in achieving progress of the NUA. There is an urgent need to reclaim public control and management of common goods in order to combat the increased commodification of cities.

Many local authorities, citizens, service users and workers have successfully reclaimed public services and common resources, returning them under public ownership and control, often encompassing and experimenting mechanisms of democratic governance, accountability and participation. Remunicipalization is a viable and legitimate policy option for LRGs to meet the immediate needs of their communities and territories and to experiment new forms of public service delivery and participation.

#### **Housing at the centre**

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

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<sup>5</sup> Source for Asia-Pacific countries: ILO (2020) Asia-Pacific Employment and Social Outlook 2020: Navigating the Crisis towards a Human-Centred Future of Work. ILO, Bangkok, p.52.

occupied by housing/residential developments. As such the need to deliver affordable housing is an urgent crisis<sup>6</sup>. The housing sector must also actively incorporate decarbonisation 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 reframed scope of housing. We did see progress in housing in terms of legal protection and recognition. (e.g. the number of countries have included these rights in their constitutional law). This has enabled grassroots organisations to claim these rights globally. However, it did not stop evictions during Covid-19, which has had knock-on health and economic implications. Accordingly, the threat of evictions and tenure insecurity pose risks to private investors. The Housing Forum in Latin America and Europe and the Urban Housing Practitioner Hub must be part of the advocacy of many organisations joining this effort. The Housing Forum showed serious problems in Central and East Europe that are not resolved.

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). Likewise, social protection is an obligation of the state under treaty, as social security, food, adequate housing, protection of family, security of person, women’s safety, health, water and sanitation, etc. are codified human rights to be respected, protected and fulfilled without discrimination (‘cities for all’). Secure land tenure for housing of vulnerable groups is needed.

As noted by the former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing, Leilani Farha, “housing is a human right and a primary human need, not a commodity”. States have committed themselves to upholding this right and are responsible for its implementation.

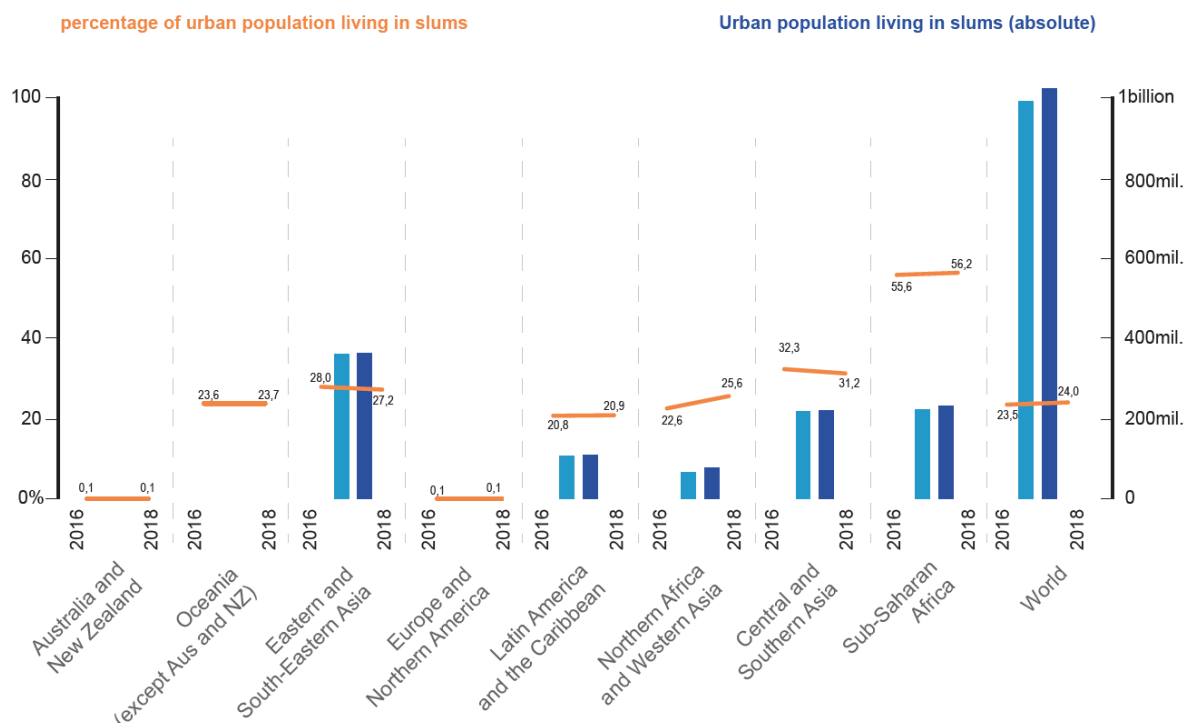
[DC1]Extracts from:

Cibrario, D, Strong public and social housing services: a key asset in halting global pandemics, PSI 2020

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<sup>6</sup> Housing 2030 initiative: UNECE, UN-Habitat & someone else??)





#### *Examples of successful housing reform:*

- Integrated slum-upgrading, institutional reform and upgrading in Zambia (In VNR report).
- Liberia country programme - (housing and land) - CITIES ALLIANCE REPORT
- Community Action Area Planning (CAAP) - Freetown, Sierra Leone.
- Housing partnerships across sector areas (pre-covid) - (gather 200+ organisation) - Vienna is leading this movement. Formulated legislation to the European parliament and gained resources to allow member states to provide affordable rental housing across member states. Housing was made central to the urban agenda. (55 billion euro granted just to improve housing stock in Central and Eastern Europe).
- Asian coalition of housing rights & ESCAP and other organisations have maintained political agenda to increase investments enabled countries to mobilise, protect housing rights etc..
- Kenya's Affordable Housing Programme which aims to provide 500,000 EDGE-certified homes in a bid to address the country's two million unit housing deficit.
- signing of an MOU to provide four million unit in Angola,
- MOU between UNHABITAT and TAF Global to provide a million affordable housing units across Africa
- Zambia has formulated a National Urbanization Policy to address the proliferation of informal settlements.
- Liberia has committed to piloting sustainable cities in five selected cities, emphasising various urban renewal actions, such as in housing, waste management, and other vital priorities.
- Nigeria under the Future Cities Programme is in the process of developing Urban Renewal Guidelines for Lagos.



## **Land**

- In Latin America, social orientated policies towards land have created more socially equitable cities. FAR in São Paulo & Belo Horizonte. In Peru, they just approved a law to give cities the ability to create less segregated cities with greater revenues due to sale of building rights within cities. (Land value increments).
- In Asia, land readjustment has gained scale (e.g. Korea, India Thailand) to increase land availability for social housing. (NEED EVIDENCE HERE)
- In India, impact of incentives only to generate social housing is limited in global south due to land/housing prices so through zoning and regs. it will only happen on a very small scale (GIZ).
- Master planning examples (e.g. Sao Paulo, Belo Horizonte, Brazil)
- Kenya, Spatial Planning Act - A framework for land regularisation
- Land rights mapping: Kenya - providing documentation to local communities (indigenous populations) to grant secure land rights/tenure. Developing platforms and data collection so they can get secure rights from the government.
- Brazil: 'Social Function of the Land' stated in the NUA.
- Gender differences in land tenure security remain a big obstacle to women's (specially widows) safety, access to the labor force, and overall livelihood security. In many countries there are still legal barriers and discriminatory regulations regarding women's access to real estate property. Specifically for women from marginalised groups whose legal capacity is not recognised and upheld in national legislation

## **Ending poverty**

### *Examples:*

- Mozambique continues to prioritise the provision of essential social services for 22 per cent (608 thousand families) of the most vulnerable population living below the poverty line
- Rwanda, social protection has been defined in the updated National Social Protection Policy (2018)

## **Urban safety**

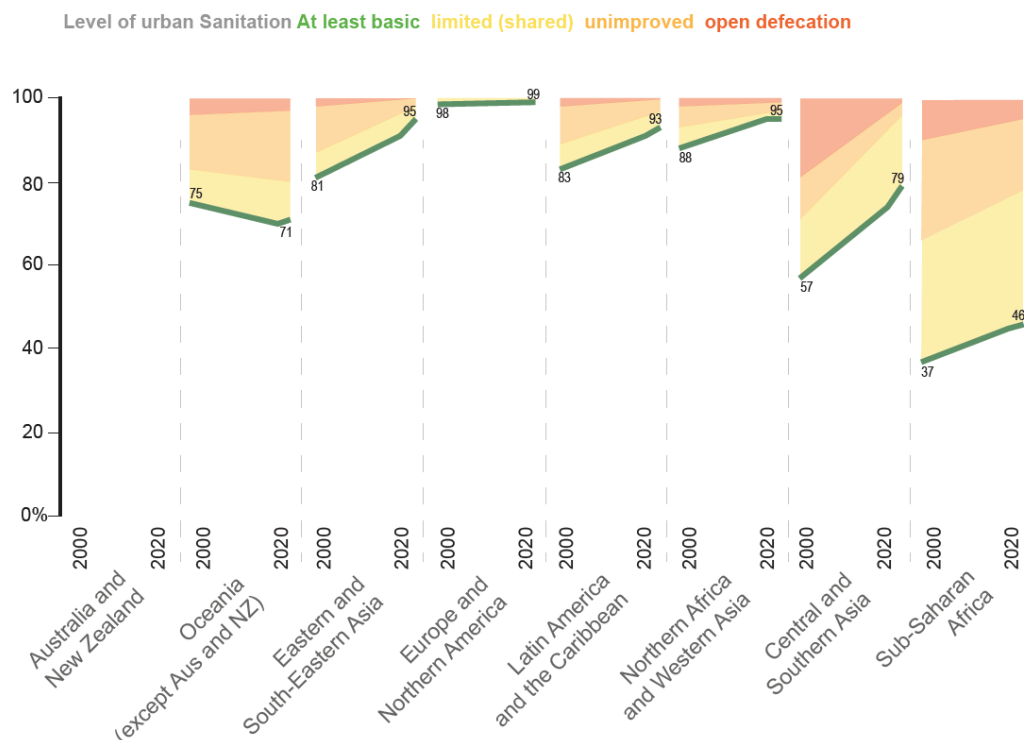
An analysis by UNODC showed a trend in 68 cities across 66 countries of a 34 per cent drop in homicide rates between 2003 and 2016, compared with just a 16 per cent decrease in the corresponding national rates. Critically, this demonstrates that urban growth does not cause an increase in homicide.

## **WASH**

- Central to addressing urban poverty and inequalities in all their forms is removing barriers in accessing urban basic services, including to accessibility, that prevent the upgrading of informal settlements at scale, livability for all urban communities and effectiveness of COVID-19 hygiene measures.

Member States reported progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in this area by improving access to adequate sanitation and clean water by increasing financial subsidies [Kenya, Indonesia] and infrastructure investments which expanded provision of urban water and

sanitation services [Botswana, Colombia, Lao PDR, Turkey] for the urban poor, women and other vulnerable groups.



### The role of public space in addressing social inclusion

Green public spaces which are accessible to all such as parks can also help to address stigma and discrimination (and support achievement of SDGs 5 and 16 and NUA's transformative commitments) if designed and managed in a gender sensitive manner (Aguelovski et al, 2021) For example, a recent study in Denmark found that public spaces were used more equally by both males and females during lockdown than previously (World Cities Report, 2020). There might be negative consequences of urban greening activities or NBS, i.e. forced removals, evictions, gentrification, etc. (Hayley Leck). Many older persons require safe and accessible green spaces to reduce the documented serious negative impact of social isolation.

### Inclusion of disadvantaged groups

- There are many recommendations and projects addressing children in the city, including for instance: from Latin America the CEDEUS Public Policy Document "Experiences of Participatory Urban Design with a Childhood Perspective in Latin America" by researcher Tamoi Fujii is available for download. The research is inserted within the line of Socio-spatial Dynamics and presents the experiences of design of public spaces with a childhood perspective in Santiago (Chile), Cuenca (Ecuador) and Rosario (Argentina), proposing recommendations for an effective inclusion of children, girls and adolescents (NNA) in the urban design process<sup>7</sup>. The Bernard Van Leer

<sup>7</sup> Reference to be given by: Circe Monteiro

Foundation through the Urban95 project provides many experiences and toolkits around the world.

- Policies and budgeted programmes addressing equality between women and men by Member States and local authorities and to end poverty in cities through the implementation of the New Urban Agenda focused most often on their provision of adequate and affordable housing for all [Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Botswana, Indonesia, Turkey, Spain]; in the case of several Member States, national governments and local authorities worked with local communities to provide shelter and financial support for community infrastructure [India<sup>8</sup>, Indonesia<sup>9</sup>, Thailand<sup>10</sup>]. Member States and local authorities tackled the lack of shelter, tenure security and homelessness within urban populations through enhanced provision of social housing [Finland, Kenya, Guangzhou, Rio de Janeiro, Barcelona, Bristol, Sao Paulo] combined with social and economic justice programmes [Los Angeles], with special attention to refugees [Turkey, Barcelona], women and children [Helsinki, Harare]. Member States and local authorities acted to prohibit evictions [Spain] and deploy housing subsidies to residents, owners and renters [Mexico, Colombia, Kenya, Indonesia, Harare, Guangzhou] who were worst hit financially by the COVID-19 pandemic. The National Government of Liberia and its National Housing Authority has adopted its first ever policy on slum upgrading and relocation, with the support of Cities Alliance and Habitat for Humanity<sup>11</sup>.
- In the Asia-Pacific region, 15 Member States now feature over 20 per cent women's representation in the deliberative bodies of local governments. Five countries and territories in the region [India, New Caledonia, Nepal, Northern Mariana Islands, and New Zealand] have surpassed the world average of 36.3 per cent in regard to women's representation in the deliberative bodies of local governments. Further, women's representation at both the local and national levels has reached the 20 per cent threshold in nine countries [Australia, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Lao PDR, Nepal, New Zealand, the Philippines, Turkmenistan and Viet Nam].<sup>12</sup>
- 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 globally, such as Canada, Latin America, Africa, Vietnam India, Spain, which have designed and implemented public space, transportation and infrastructure projects from a gender lens, including affordable (public) housing. At the same time, the pandemic has produced important drawbacks on gender equality around the world that need to be urgently addressed, both in terms of accrued care tasks, in terms of lost livelihoods and jobs in the formal and informal economies, and increased gender and sexual violence.
- COVID 19 compounds women's care burden. Approximately 70% of health professionals are women and their occupational health is currently being compromised by combined impacts of COVID 19 and climate change<sup>13</sup>.

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<sup>8</sup> Government of India (2020) Decade of Action Taking SDGs from Global to Local: India Voluntary National Review 2020. NITI Aayog, New Delhi.

<sup>9</sup> Ministry of Public Works and Housing, Republic of Indonesia (2021) Voluntary National Review for Implementation of New Urban Agenda, Provisional Report. Ministry of Public Works and Housing, Republic of Indonesia.

<sup>10</sup> Community Development Organizations Institute (2019) Thailand's national, people- driven, collective housing program. CODI, Bangkok.

<sup>11</sup> Stephen Seidel to provide full reference: Cities Alliance will have the final report of their Liberia Country Program about the new policy in Liberia.

<sup>12</sup> Information in this bullet-point has been sourced from: ESCAP and UN Women (2019) The Long Road to Equality: Taking stock of the situation of women and girls in Asia and the Pacific for Beijing+25 — A synthesis report, ESCAP and UN Women, Bangkok, p.108.

<sup>13</sup> UN Women. (2020). The shadow pandemic: Violence against women during COVID-19. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/in-focus-gender-equality-in-covid-19-response/violenceagainst-women-during-covid-19>

UN Women, & UNEP. (2020). Gender and climate change in the context of COVID-19. <https://>

- Capacity of systems to respond to migration is far from satisfactory and remains a challenge. Collaboration among UN agencies, local and national governments, and NGOs are working collaboratively in the Middle East to address refugee issues caused by the conflict in Syria<sup>14</sup>.

### **Migration**

- Poverty and social exclusion are exacerbated by the growing number of economic migrants, internally displaced persons and refugees across Africa.
- 2020 African Migration report
- Seychelles has taken actions to protect the rights of migrant workers, while Burkina Faso has adopted a National Plan of Action against Statelessness and issued 37,250 birth certificates and 15,000 nationality certificates to people at risk of statelessness in several countries. Uganda also supports more than 1.4 million refugees through a globally acclaimed programme model, while Rwanda is currently piloting a comprehensive refugees' response framework for their socio-economic inclusion.

### **More Examples**

- The Seychelles National Council for the Disabled (NCFD), promotes the rights of persons with disabilities,
- UNICEF/Government of Malawi Country Programme of Cooperation which aims to support national efforts to progressively realize the rights of children and women through improved child survival, development, protection and participation.
- Ugandan Government mandates gender-and equity-responsive budgeting through the 2015 Public Finance Management Act,
- Sierra Leone, there is targeted funding of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education for girls

### **Additional comments**

- Institutional capacity built/needed - especially for countries in conflict - including local authorities, where IDPs are increasing: e.g., Yemen (OECD report/survey found) 80% of Yemenis needed aid before COVID
- Alignment of related human rights and corresponding obligations of states and their organs
- Universality of SD in SDGs (rather than just halving deprivation under NDGs)
- Climate change affecting the most vulnerable the most marginalized groups
- Urban centers and cities response to economic shock, health shock
- Examples: progressive steps taken for health, livelihoods
- Support for a Convention on the Rights of Older Persons

### **Group 2: Progress on inclusive urban prosperity and opportunities (with regional focus) (500 words)**

- 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

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[asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/05/gender-and-climate-change-in-the-context-of-covid-19](https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/05/gender-and-climate-change-in-the-context-of-covid-19)

<sup>14</sup> Stephen Seidel to provide full reference.

trafficking and labour, migrant and informal workers etc. Most affected by the lockdowns, 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 of women and Unpaid care work among women has increased.

- 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.
- Public investment in health and social care services facilitate inclusive urban development, including education, jobs. What are the long-term impacts (gaps, unintended effects) of interventions to deal with pandemics, such as well-paid jobs, decent working conditions, upholding labour and trade union rights, and ensuring public investment to enable equitable investment in local quality public services including public and social housing and basic services. Crucial to regulate the private sector to ensure they provide affordable housing, and to rebuild social and public housing stocks, utilizing newer technologies and construction methods.  
[https://www.who.int/healthpromotion/conferences/8gchp/8gchp\\_helsinki\\_statement.pdf](https://www.who.int/healthpromotion/conferences/8gchp/8gchp_helsinki_statement.pdf) - worth looking at the more recent framing of this approach with the SDGs, like the 2016 The Shanghai Healthy Cities Mayors' Consensus and its implementation (<https://academic.oup.com/heapro/article/32/4/603/4079493>)  
[https://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/345797/HEN51.pdf](https://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/345797/HEN51.pdf)  
<https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/cities-policy-responses-fd1053ff/#section-d1e2978>  
OECD  
WHO Manifesto for a healthy recovery from COVID-19, Actionable for a healthy recovery from COVID-19 (who.int), Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all (ilo.org)
- Creating Urban Employment Opportunities, closing the skills gaps, upgradation 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 focused on these programmes and the opportunities for city to city cooperation. Examples of Urban Employment Policies and plans in a few states in India (e.g. Indian states of Odisha, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan) to respond to distress and employment during and post pandemic) , National Databases of migrant and informal workers of India (the E-Shram portal in India launched in August 2021 by Ministry of Labour, India). National and City level Skills programmes for youth, women and informal workers (one examples the National Skills mission of India). Enhancing Social Security for communities (examples of social protection programmes in the last two years from different countries).
- Capital and Market access to capital and blended finance (grants and loans at collective cooperative enterprises is a prerequisite, in addition to market access and value chains (MSMEs) e.g. EU External Investment plan (multibillion scheme for developing countries) , Small businesses and local economic development (Kenya and digital jobs for 50,000 youth )
- Women's integration in the labor force has been a key element for economic development in recent years. COVID 19 has resulted in many women being excluded from the labor force because

of excess care responsibilities as schools, restaurants and services of all kinds closed down, so they had to undertake all tasks previously performed through these services. There is extensive empirical evidence throughout the world on this, for women working both in formal and informal employment<sup>15</sup>. Things have been even worse for the many women working in the informal sector. For example, in Asia and the Pacific, approximately 60% of the working force is in the informal economy, particularly direct service jobs which cannot be done remotely. Women are thus more vulnerable to unemployment risk, particularly during the pandemic.<sup>16</sup> Increased attention is required to support how care tasks can be performed on a daily basis by women while they also work in paid employment. Being forced to stay at home to perform care and other tasks has also resulted in increased risk of domestic violence for women and girls; the 'Shadow Pandemic' which has emerged amidst the COVID 19 crisis which requires urgent attention.<sup>17</sup>

*Add more examples?*

- ECE region - youth opportunities: Orlando city's Parramore Kidz Zone; a program focused on reducing juvenile crime and school drop-out rates in the city's most poverty stricken neighbourhoods.<sup>[1]</sup> Through Parramore Kidz Zone 'Black Bee Honey' student entrepreneurship program, youth are being trained as beekeepers through opportunities to maintain hives on city facility rooftops and selling their honey at farmers markets, local businesses, and online.<sup>[2]</sup> The city of New York also has an annual Summer Youth Employment Program that involves thousands of youths.<sup>[3]</sup>

<sup>[1]</sup> City of Orlando and ICLEI

<sup>[2]</sup> City of Orlando and ICLEI, 2021

<sup>[3]</sup> NYC, 2019

- Productivity is being enhanced by managing urbanization for economic growth, through innovative policies, structural change, public finance, multi-level governance. In Kenya, the Ajira Digital programme trained over 50,000 youths on online jobs as well as connected 1.3 million citizens to digital jobs under the programme. EU National Recovery and Resilience Plan and their articulation with City recovery strategies and budget are a good example, however we do not have results yet. In Hargeisa, Somaliland, Somalia, planning for future expansion has been useful for capturing the gains from rapid urbanisation through exaction (land-based finance), and improving future urban investment.
- Example from ECE region - youth - Cities across the ECE region are taking increasing measures to prioritise the needs of children and the youth such as in Rotterdam and Antwerp where a major focus of city planning is creating more child-friendly play opportunities.
- Examples from SSA - mobile banking options in Busia County, Kenya, have contributed to increasing financial inclusion as up to 2million hitherto unbanked adults now have bank accounts

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<sup>15</sup> UN Women, & UNEP. (2020). Gender and climate change in the context of COVID-19.

<https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/05/gender-and-climate-change-in-the-context-of-covid-19>

<sup>16</sup> UN Women, & UNEP. (2020). Gender and climate change in the context of COVID-19.

<https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/05/gender-and-climate-change-in-the-context-of-covid-19>

<sup>17</sup> UN Women. (2020). The shadow pandemic: Violence against women during COVID-19.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/in-focus-gender-equality-in-covid-19-response/violenceagainst-women-during-covid-19>



- Government of Nigeria, in 2019 launched a National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy (2020-2030) which aims to transform Nigeria into a leading digital economy providing quality life and digital economies for all.
- Nigeria recently launched the e-naira
- Tanzanian Government launched the Zanzibar Technology and Business Incubator (ZTBI),

### **Strengthening the Informal economy (examples from SSA)**

- Cameroonian Government created the Municipal Offices of Crafts in 2014 to allow business promoters register free of charge for the first three months of the year and begin the process of transiting from the informal sector
- Republic of Namibia, the country's workers' and employers' organisations, and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) have signed a Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) for the period 2018-2022
- ECE region: Unemployment rates amongst women are generally higher than men across the ECE region and gender pay gaps remain significant. For example, on average women earn approximately 14% less than men in the EU (Eurostat, 2021) Moreover, female job loss rates resulting from COVID-19 are almost two times higher than male job loss rates globally (UN Habitat Flagship Covid Report, 2021).
- Small and medium-scale companies (MSMEs) are being supported through better financing and de-regulation to contribute further to inclusive urban development. In Asia and Asia Pacific regions -National governments have supported MSMEs with public financing and guarantees, which has come in four modalities: specialised banks for MSMEs, soft loan programmes, mandatory lending schemes, and credit guarantees. (Asian Development Bank (2020) Asia Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Monitor 2020: Volume I—Country and Regional Reviews. ADB, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila.) SMEs access to markets and Global Value Chains, G20 priorities; Example of Madrid - regulation [central government], giving back added value on housing from municipalities, retroactive and impact on budgets [15% reduction], integrating fiscal in multi-level governance in practice; new revenue patterns, circular economy [data/example], local revenue generation important. Cambodia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and Mongolia supporting in-depth assessments to identify legal and regulatory barriers to effective and efficient development of e-commerce in these four countries from four different subregions. (Reference: Asian Development Bank (2021) Regional: Enabling a Conducive Environment for the Digital Economy. Sovereign Project No. 54395-001. Available at: <https://www.adb.org/projects/54395-001/main>). Secure revenue streams for better planning, borrowing and investment and establishing enabling conditions to create an ecosystem of public and private financial partners that can mutually support each other and aid in securing needed financing. In 2021, the Pacific nation of Palau passed a new 'Corporations Act' that will make it easier and faster to start and run a business in this SIDS in the Pacific subregion. (Reference: Asian Development Bank (2021) ADB Welcomes New Corporations Act to Boost Business in Palau. News Release, 21 October. Available at: <https://www.adb.org/news/adb-welcomes-new-corporations-act-boost-business-palau>)
- On SMEs: Facilitate the access of SMEs to international value chains, with an initiative focused on reducing bureaucracy and establishing a "single passport" that allows global access to small companies from all G20 member countries. Localize the SDGs and harmonize as well as expand international standards and certification mechanisms for companies and investment funds to contribute to the SDGs at local level.

Examples from SSA

- training and targeted entrepreneurship initiatives have been developed for youth, women and PLWD. Malawi's "Technical, Entrepreneurial and Vocation and Training (TEVET)" programme and the Nigerian Npower programme specifically targets youth employment in key sectors
- Liberian SME microfinance loans has provided over 125 entrepreneurs (80 per cent female) and local service providers with start-up opportunities
- Mauritius launched a Back-to-Work programme,
- Ghanaian government also established a national development blueprint: "Agenda for Jobs: Creating Prosperity and Equal Opportunity for All, 2017-2024"
- Liberia and the 2018 World Bank supported MSME Access to Finance project of Cabo Verde.
- Lake Zone Rice Project, an initiative between Anglo-Ashanti Gold, smallholder farming communities and local governments
  
- ECE region: small and medium business support example: New York is implementing innovative measures to support small and medium businesses such as providing free services at scale and investing in projects that support entrepreneurs across the city. Specific focus is on supporting women entrepreneurs. This will also be of particular benefit to immigrants who own more than half of New York's small businesses (NYC VLR, 2019)
- LGBTQ poverty and unemployment is a rising significant concern across several parts of the ECE region, specifically for LGBTQ communities of colour and transgender and gender non-binary people. For example, LGBTQ New Yorkers have considerably high unemployment rates and more than 60 per cent of the low-income LGBTQ New York population report difficulty in being able to pay for a basic need in the last year.[1] For building back from COVID-19 The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights has requested that donors, governments and multiple stakeholders pay particular attention to the rights of the LGBTI people and for those with gender non-conforming identity.[2]
- 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. Economic geography of agglomerations creates multiplier effects for the urban economy. The Commonwealth Sustainable Cities group of built environment professionals & The Prince's Foundation has documented the clear lack of resources to assist local governments with planning - to help address that, we have developed, trialed and released a free online Toolkit (<http://www.rapidplanningtoolkit.org/>) to help communities and local governments. Mayors of the GPM developed a Call to Action ahead of COP26 together: GPM-Call-to-Action\_-July-2021.pdf ([globalparliamentofmayors.org](http://globalparliamentofmayors.org)) which ensured that they came to COP26 with a united voice. This was especially important since most mayors from the Global South were unable to attend due to budgets. EU work of the Urban Agenda for the EU for example. Foster new sources of revenue taking the opportunity generated by the data production, use and property of local governments as well as through the new markets created by the patterns of production and consumption stimulated by the adoption of circular economy and de-carbonization models. Institutional innovation in Spain has been the renaming of the Ministry (formerly under The Ministry has adopted a Spanish Urban Agenda and also organized a Spanish Urban Forum with enormous success in Sevilla 2021. This visibility of the Urban Agenda at the national level has steered a lot of activity around adopting and implementing Urban Agendas at regional and local levels around the country and devolution. The 'OECD habitat report on national urban policies' and the 'compendium on urban-rural linkages' may be consulted to support these.



**Examples from SSA**

- Evidence from Niger shows that citizen ownership and co-responsibility were essential in the implementation of the SDGs as citizens were willing to pay local taxes when resources were allocated to projects that aimed to overcome needs that had been jointly identified and incorporated into development plans by the local governments and citizens
- The Seychelles have also put in place a Medium-Term Revenue Strategy to increase the efficiency of government spending and enhance the governance of public enterprises.
- 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. With revenues of cities and urban local bodies shrinking, this needs to be protected and revenues enhanced, through adaptation and mitigation financing, as well as finding innovative ways (Eg In Hargeisa, Somaliland, Somalia, planning for future expansion has been useful for capturing the gains from rapid urbanisation through exaction (land-based finance), and improving future urban investment).
- Cities of today present an ongoing challenge. Overcrowded settlements with poor public services, basic Quality of Life levels etc. This needs to be focused in territorial development plans with a focus on vulnerable and poor neighbourhoods. Both in terms of investments on direct economic programmes but also through ensuring focus on urban basic public services (water, sanitation, social housing, public transport) , and development of nature based solutions for promoting quality of life and leisure in cities (e.g. regeneration of water bodies, wetlands and public parks and spaces e.g., Khayelitsha wetlands park, Cape Town )

**Additional issue requiring greater attention for social inclusion - indigenous populations:**

- ECE example - As indigenous populations continue to grow and their centrality in global agreements are increasingly emphasised cities and regions across the ECE have begun to implement various initiatives to support indigenous populations and inclusivity in urban processes. For example, Hawaii's local framework for SDG and NUA implementation; the *iAloha+ Challenge* is grounded in a legacy of systems thinking and indigenous wisdom through Kānaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) host culture values and practice to *mālama* (care for and steward).<sup>[1]</sup> Furthermore, through the Global Island Partnership, the Hawai'i Green Growth Local2030 Hub is leading the Local2030 Islands Network which brings together a diverse set of island nations, states and provinces, communities and cultures from all regions of the world to achieve the SDGs with a strong emphasis on indigenous knowledge and building on and strengthening island culture and values.<sup>[2]</sup>
- A particularly pertinent recent example is Kelowna in Canada's Voluntary Local Review which is embedded in an indigenous approach: 'Leaving no one behind: an indigenous approach' that places indigenous knowledge and communities at its core.<sup>[3]</sup>

<sup>[1]</sup> Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) Local2030 Hub, 2020.

<sup>[2]</sup> Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) Local2030 Hub, 2020.

<sup>[3]</sup> BCICC and GECCO, 2021

**Chapter 3 - Group 3: Progress on environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development (with regional focus) 500 words**

*Since the section "Chapter 4: Promoting green, climate resilient and healthy cities" will be edited down and partly shifted to the introduction to highlight the climate and health emergencies, this*

*text written for that section can be used in the section on 'Progress on environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development'*

*In addition, this section can among other things highlight:*

- That progress on environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development is strongly linked to urban form and function of the city such as through concepts of the compact city and the 15-min city;
- Progress is also linked to effective territorial governance and enforcement of legal protection for natural systems and for environmental human rights;
- The fundamental link to issues of clean water and sanitation which are still problematic in many cities;
- The importance of adequate waste management in achieving environmentally sustainable cities. Co-produced solutions are important here.
- That well managed urbanization can be an accelerator in protecting the environment, rather than a burden on the climate;
- That 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;
- That 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;
- The progress that has been made in enhancing biodiversity in cities, urban forestry and sustainable urban food systems;
- The tools that are used to finance environmental programmes;

**Multilateralism and integrated, multi-sector policy approaches** are critical to mainstream environmental sustainability into urban policy. National urban policies (NUPs) have been integrating climate change more extensively, whereby from 2018-2020, global monitoring shows the proportion of NUPs providing extensive or moderate attention to climate resilience increased from 36 to 48%. More than 50 existing NUPs address both climate resilience and the low-carbon transition to leverage synergies with low-carbon mobility (89%), mixed-use and compact development (74%), sustainable buildings (69%), risk assessment (63%) and risk-sensitive land-use policies (59%)<sup>18</sup>. UNECE is convening the Forum of Mayors, the first of which was in 2020 and the second will be in 2022, which reports to the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE region and to the UNECE Inter-governmental Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management. This allows to strengthen better vertical coordination of implementation of urban policies<sup>19</sup>. Urban planning should be used as a horizontal tool to tackle environmental sustainability, with multi-level coordination and integration amongst different governance levels. There is a clear need for stronger multilateralism at international and country levels regarding the green transition, re-thinking the system of management<sup>20</sup>.

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<sup>18</sup> Global State of National Urban Policy 2021 <https://doi.org/10.1787/96eee083-en>

<sup>19</sup> <https://forumofmayors.unece.org/>

<sup>20</sup> New Multilateralism" Forum of Mayors (FoM) <https://unece.org/forumofmayors> & New Multilateralism" Climate Breakfast at COP26: <https://unece.org/housing/events/unfccc-cop26-climate-breakfast>

**Disaster risk reduction (DRR) and city resilience strategies** are also essential to ensure robust cities. The following countries have made a commitment to achieving low-carbon (South Africa's Carbon Tax Act ), sustainable health systems, and/or enhance their climate resilience of their health systems: Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Ghana (Accra Resilience Strategy: <https://ama.gov.gh/documents/Accra-Resilience-Strategy.pdf>), Kenya (Kenya's National Climate Change Action Plan (2018–2022) provides for low-carbon, climate resilient development that is centered around seven priority areas, including disaster risk management, food and nutrition security, water and blue economy, forest wildlife and tourism, health, sanitation and human settlements, manufacturing, energy and transport), Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda (Rwanda's Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy), Sierra Leone (Transform FreeTown: Progress on city level frameworks (see second year report) <https://knowledge-uclga.org/IMG/pdf/transform-freetown-2-year-final-report-min-2.pdf>), Sao Tome and Principe, Togo, and Uganda. Furthermore, the C40 Compact of Mayors, which has eleven African members: Accra; Addis Ababa, Cape Town, Dakar, Dar es Salaam, Durban, Johannesburg, Lagos, Nairobi and Tshwane. In addition, the Sendai framework is referenced as the specific agreement that inspires DRR policies in Africa. Other Africa wide policy, strategies, and frameworks include the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services), the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy, and Africa's Blue Economy Strategy. A Climate Resilience and Adaptation Center is also to be set up and be established in Egypt. There is considerable progress in community-led capacity and agency in small scale DRR in Africa in regards to urban risks and small scale disasters with emphasis on informal settlements<sup>21</sup>.

In Bangladesh the government's Disaster Climate Change Support Unit (DCCSU) has developed a plan to ensure a multi-sectoral approach in all aspects of disaster risk management and response; by designing, building and maintaining water and sanitation systems which include simple modifications to withstand the risks of disasters, any hazards and ensure safety of the interventions; and facilitating community and DRR and Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) as well as vulnerability assessments of community supplies of water and sanitation systems to assess ability to provide essential services in the event of a disaster and apply risk-proofing lens on any investment.

In the ECE region, during 2020 and 2021, several nations adopted or significantly changed laws and policies relating to adaptation or disaster risk management. For example, the Russian Federation released its first National Adaptation Action Plan; and Spain published significantly revised adaptation policies from the 2011 version. In addition, Ireland's 2019 Climate Action Plan (Ireland's 2019 Climate Action Plan exemplifies how national targets (e.g. large scale retrofitting of homes) can be effectively designed with local implementation considerations at the forefront. The Plan sets out a national sectoral roadmap that is reliant on direct partnership with local authorities, each of which have created Climate Action Regional Offices which have responsibility for delivering the action plans) has set out a national sectoral roadmap for climate action, and Bulgaria has initiated a distinct requirement to integrate climate measures into territorial planning across cities and regions as part of integrated municipal development plans. Projects to develop urban economic resilience during and after the COVID-19 have been developed by 5 Regional Commissions, UN-Habitat and UNCDF. Here, 17 pilot cities have joined the initiative including Bishkek,

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<sup>21</sup> [https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/03/un\\_report\\_2019\\_ebook\\_high\\_res.pdf](https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/03/un_report_2019_ebook_high_res.pdf)

Kyrgyz Republic, which in cooperation with the Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA) have been advancing their urban economic resilience during and after Covid-19<sup>22</sup>.

Racial equity considerations form the basis of Boston's (US) resilience strategy. e.g. racially and culturally diverse Dudley Square neighbourhood where the city is partnering with a local community land trust, Dudley Neighbours Incorporated (DNI), to secure land for providing essential services and facilities (e.g. urban gardens) within the neighbourhood, which help food security, community cohesion and environmental sustainability in the face of climate change and other shocks<sup>23</sup>. In support of its commitment to equity and resilience The City of Atlanta merged key departments into a single Office of Resilience, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, known as One Atlanta. Established in 2018, One Atlanta is responsible for mainstreaming equity and resilience into city government operations, streamlining and enhancing the City's equity work, and collaborating with diverse stakeholders to facilitate an intersectional approach<sup>24</sup>.

**Digital and innovative tools** must be further leveraged to enhance urban environments and resilience. In the ECE region, a growing number of cities are developing tools for monitoring air pollution and adopting air quality action plans through policy tools (e.g. London's Ultra Low Emission Zone). Many cities have also increased attempts to expand public and green spaces (e.g. Edmonton, Canada's ambitious Urban Forest Management Plan) in support of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

**Leveraging transformative sectors** (such as the Smart Cities Strategy) to re-introduce and bring additional visibility to the NUA. For example, Battambang, Cambodia there is strong governmental interest in this approach (example provided by UNESCAP). A disaster management agency was created which highlights support from the national government. NUA dedicated teams at national and local levels in the Philippines: Naga City (as pilot city) established a unit for the implementation of NUA. Also under the Ministry of Housing in the Philippines, there is a whole team/ unit focusing on the NUA, including stakeholder engagement and addressing horizontal and vertical integration. It should also address not just integration of climate and NUA but also the integration with gender issues especially at local levels. Some communication at national level but at local levels can be challenging - understanding the normative and practical side of a high level agenda.

**Funding support and financing for national/ local efforts against climate impacts/disasters:** Architecture for funding devolution has been set up for independence of financing in West Africa - but whether devolution actually happens merits a strong follow up. Notably, the Scottish government also committed funds (at COP26) particularly addressing loss and damage in coastal communities. During the last four years, the Municipality of Niterói (500,000 inhabitants) was the fourth city in Brazil to produce its VLR reporting on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its synchronization with the implementation of the NUA in its territory. This includes improvements in its fiscal and financial management to improve its revenue collection, concrete actions on environmental sustainability to protect large areas of its territory under environmental protection, the adoption of clean technology in urban mobility and an innovative and robust local economic policy to support small and mid-sized enterprises and low income families to overcome the dramatic impact of Covid-19 on income and jobs in the city. Niteroi shows that city and local government matters in addressing global and local health, environmental and economic challenges and that integrated planning that brings spatial development together with economic and social

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<sup>22</sup> <https://urbaneconomicresilience.org> (Bishkek case study)

<sup>23</sup> Boston Government, 2019; WCR, 2020

<sup>24</sup> Boston Government, 2019

integration is key for the implementation of the NUA<sup>25</sup>. The city's Citizen Enterprise Programme (Empresa Cidadã) secured around 12,000 jobs in the city and granted more than USD 7 million in loans benefiting micro and small businesses in the city. The municipality made use of its Sovereign Fund originated from royalties drawn from oil exploration in its territory and provided small scale enterprises with access to funding provided that they did not dismiss their employees during the pandemic, realizing a social pact between businesses and the public sector. It resulted in the city generating 3,167 new formal jobs in a period when loss of jobs and incomes were the order of the day. This was unprecedented in Brazil and unique in the world. Data from the Municipality shows that the program benefited 2,832 companies in Niterói and maintained around 12,000 jobs<sup>26</sup>. The city allocated USD 50 million to minimise the economic impacts on the city through its Economic and Social Impact Mitigation Plan which nurtures partnership with private sector, banks and small and medium-sized companies to prevent bankruptcy, loss of jobs and human suffering<sup>27</sup>.

**Additional considerations:**

**Disruptive technology as a driver to deliver low-cost sustainable housing**

- 3D printing for construction - challenge with social ethics (need jobs)
- Housing forum for Europe - initiatives for energy efficiency improvement for housing stock to gain scale in Central & Eastern Europe
- Climate emergency is adding weight that was already there since privatisation in 1990s
- Construction sector through circular economy - shifting towards new low-carbon, sustainable materials. Need to scale up new constructive systems that use new technology for site building, - creates new job sectors and reduces pollution, whilst increasing efficiency of building.

consider adequate technologies and how countries are up-scaling this (vernacular construction technologies).

There has been an increase in recovery measures with positive impacts on the environment (both in numbers and in budgetary terms). However, spending on environmentally positive measures still represents only 21% of total COVID-19 recovery spending (up from 17%) in OECD, EU and Key Partner countries<sup>28</sup>.

Climate Change/ Climate Justice, Right to the City and NUA connections - CSOs tried to push for stronger connections on this in LA. Good Practice on Road Map for Climate Justice (Agua Barrion, Bolivia, Aldea Feliz Colombia, Biocanteens, France, Community Support Agriculture China, Cooperative Comunitarian Mexico).<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> [https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/12/vlr\\_niteroi\\_portuguese.pdf](https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/12/vlr_niteroi_portuguese.pdf)

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.fazenda.niteroi.rj.gov.br/site/programas-economicos-impulsionam-saldo-positivo-de-empregos-em-niteroi/>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.fazenda.niteroi.rj.gov.br/site/em-parceria-com-bancos-prefeitura-de-niteroi-anuncia-credito-a-juro-zero-para-micro-e-pequenas-empresas/>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/key-findings-from-the-update-of-the-oecd-green-recovery-database-55b8abba/>

Note: \*Check The World Bank and International Finance Corporation's Scaling Solar & South Africa's Carbon Tax Act

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.right2city.org/right-to-the-city-a-roadmap-for-climate-justice/>

Zero-carbon Cities: There is a commitment to achieve 100 carbon-neutral cities by 2030<sup>30</sup>.

Leveraging data collection and technology to promote transparency and engagement: Data collection, facilitation of data portals so that communities can also access information to inform their actions and advocacy.

Land and tenure security have not been present in the conversations. We cannot have a conversation on the environment without including land and tenure security

Intergovernmental coordination: A lot of work still needed in intergovernmental coordination and promoting NUA to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs,

Climate justice as a critical element - making connections to address inequalities we are having in our cities. Ex. Indigenous people - experience to protect and defend environments and land regarding some economic activities (addressing water resources for example).

Circular economy - key environmental issues, air pollution and waste management (i.e. also plastic management in marine environments) - vertical integration: local and national level government at policy and institutional level. Also local gov - private partnerships on circular economy (i.e. . building materials)

Loss and damage - Loss and damage has not been discussed or is underrepresented in discussions and documents on the urban environment. There was a relevant statement on loss and damage in an urban context (from COP26) that will be shared by Jane by email.

Increasing attention to gender issues in climate policy: e.g. Canada has shown significant progress in enhancing gender equality and gender-responsive climate policy development and action at the national and multilateral levels. Its most recent climate plan was informed by specific gender analysis to support gender equality in existing and planned policies and programmes.

Harmonisation implementation framework for the African 2063 Agenda and the NUA<sup>31</sup>:

#### **IV. EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW URBAN AGENDA** *(2000 words in total)*

##### **Chapter 4 - Group 1: Building a governance structure and establishing a supportive framework** 700 words

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-centered approaches in urban governance. This is embodied by public engagement in decision-making; co-creation of solutions; equitable access to

<sup>30</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/100-climate-neutral-cities-2030-and-citizens\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/100-climate-neutral-cities-2030-and-citizens_en)

<sup>31</sup> [https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/02/publication\\_nua\\_framework.pdf](https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/02/publication_nua_framework.pdf)

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.

*In addition, this section can among other things highlight:*

- 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;
- The broad range of platforms that have been launched to enhance multi-level governance between member states, local governments and UN agencies;
- If Covid-19 has interrupted multi-level governance?
- The changing relationship between stakeholders. Which stakeholders have become more important over the last 4 year, and which have reduced in importance;
- That the digitalization of governance has been accelerated by Covid-19;
- Whether governments have been effective at imposing lockdowns and other Covid measures and explore what kinds of local governments have had the best results, with a focus on sub-city level governments;
- Whether governments after Covid-19 have been adapted to respond to new unforeseen future shocks and whether this is reflected in disaster reducing strategies;
- The new social contract the SG is trying to achieve;
- That many transformative commitments transcend jurisdictions and that metropolitan and regional governance is critical in overcoming these challenges;
- The efforts that been made a local level to empower communities;

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Summarised Notes from both sessions

Session 1: Monday, 22 Nov, 12:00 - 13:00 hrs. EAT

*Session notes taken by Olamide udoma and summarized by Lynne Karago*

and Session 2: Monday, 22 Nov, 15:45 - 16:45 hrs. EAT

*Session notes taken by Anaclaudia and summarized by Ann-Marie Webb*

- City to city cooperations 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.



- It was noted in another session (Facilitating Engagement) that this form of cooperation is particularly challenging for cities in the Global South, where a lack of decentralisation makes city to city cooperation limited (See also: <https://www.citiesalliance.org/resources/publications/cities-alliance-knowledge/knowledge-sharing-among-cities-global-south>)
- In India, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs alongside GIZ held a workshop on '*Urban Missions in India and linkages to UN-SDGs*' as part of the local level knowledge sharing workshop. After the Presentation of Mannheim on Localising SDGs, there was a mind shift in the audience. It was trustable shown, that the Localisation of NUA, with the integrated view and the evidence based management was an additional value for the city itself. So there is a practical use of charters and they are not "only" a top down process, where the National States wants the city to report data. Key point: "City to City Exchange about NUA is trustful and instantly connective to the local needs."
- In 2020, the Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative was established to share knowledge and support cities in disaster risk reduction mechanisms. This initiative has provided training to local government agencies, national governments, academia, youth, and community representatives. It has also fostered multi stakeholder and multisectoral approaches to building resilience.
- SDG alliance from the Brookings Institute between Mexico City, Accra, Manheim and others. Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) were developed and used to monitor cities, and see them as integrated systems internationally.
- Attempts to integrate local governments into the implementation of the SDGs at municipal levels have been undertaken by Burundi through initiating the process of integrating the transformative commitments into municipal community development plans.
- In Kenya, through collaboration with the Council of Governors, county governments are encouraged to create County SDG coordination units to mirror the SDGs Coordination Directorate at the national level.
- Establishing linkages between policies and municipal finance to strengthen multilevel governance:
- India - made commitments linking policies to finance. UMRUT - universal access to water supply - 5 yr. program.
- The European Union introduced the EU cohesion policy and the Urban Agenda for the EU targeting regional level implementation of the agenda and investment in multilevel governance. Member States in this region are now working on defining governance structures & rules that will form the basis of resources allocation from design to implementation.
- National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRPs) introduced by member states have started to receive the first instalments of their allocation and are now moving from design to implementation of new projects.
- Worth noting there have been numerous cases where national policy approaches have gone in the opposite direction to the globalisation of local level action, as with the case of Australia seeking to limit the capacity for city diplomacy: <https://pursuit.unimelb.edu.au/articles/new-foreign-relations-bill-puts-city-diplomacy-at-risk>
- Decentralisation - This is an evolving process that cannot be done by just a legal act.
- Indonesia - law made in 2014 amended 3 times. As part of governance it needs to adapt to reality.
- Philippines - it has gained momentum in the last decade with the support of the Asian Development Bank. tied with grants. 1 big project has been implemented. (need to share information via another format.). Important to improve governance but it is a slow process.



- Nicolas: Contribution from Tadashi/OECD on the NUPP global report should be integrated in this Chapter too. Nicolas, Madrid - Since last year cities were actively engaging with national governments and calling to contribute to the design and the future implementation of the plans. City contributions clearly confirm the trend identified last year that the consultations in most EU countries have not meant cities have sufficiently been involved. No significant improvement was achieved despite strong efforts and proactive attitude from cities and repeated calls from EU institutions to Member states. Cities of the EU identify the lack of a structured dialogue as the main barrier towards a meaningful contribution during the design phase. Other recurrently identified barriers include the absence of a clear feedback mechanism for their project proposals, a lack of political will to include them and time constraints.
- Cecilia - Food systems is an easy entry point to foster local governance. Supporting food governance policies and plans - multi stakeholder. Strategy using at local level - establishing food policies. Milan food policy pact. Can support climate agendas and resilient strategies. Urban food system coalition, bringing together different stakeholders working on urban food. Pushing the role of cities.
- *Food and gender*
- Example of the strength of Multilevel governance in practice from Nihal El Megharbel. In Egypt, the “Decent Life Program” was launched as a 5 year, 700 billion EGP (US Dollar 45 billion) project is being implemented to upgrade infrastructure and public services in rural areas, with the aim of improving citizen’s life in rural areas, serving sound 53 percent of Egypt’s population, minimizing internal migration, and reducing multidimensional poverty. The implementation is under the governance of ministries, civil society and private sector groups, requiring close collaboration between different stakeholders at both the national and local levels.
- An example of the need to empower local level and civil society actors also provided by Nihal. In Yemen, where the state is failing to provide public services, the community, civil society and private sector are providing basic services to vulnerable groups. In different governorates, the social fund for development and the public works program are implementing infrastructure projects, financed through humanitarian aid, provided by international development agencies and donors. While the officially recognized government, in Eden, is aiming at building back its institutional capacity, to provide public services and infrastructure projects, other initiatives are implemented by the private sector and local NGOs, and financed through remittances from Yemeni migrants, to provide mainly health and education services. Issues related to public services quality and pricing are challenges that local authorities are dealing with, despite weak empowerment, and lack of central government transfers and local financial resources.
- Senegal Code of Local Authorities gives local authorities the competence to develop economic, spatial and urban planning documents, to ensure the management of local resources
- Kenya, mainstreaming the transformative commitments at the sub-national level is done through the five (5) year County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs), which domesticates the National Government Medium Term Plans (MTPs) at the sub-national level. The CIDPs form the basis for planning and budgeting.

**Impact of COVID 19 on governance at the local level:**

- City networks were shut down due to COVID 19 however regional support networks were established for reporting, information sharing and implementation. These have overtime proven to advance implementation of the NUA and SDGs.:

- The Pacific Partnership Network provides a platform where different states can report their progress and tell what type of support they need. A couple of links to the size and amount of city networks initiatives, more than 300 today, out there functioning as an effective base and urban governance structure (<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0042098020929261>  
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41893-020-00620-3>)
- *Gendered participatory processes and Participation of grassroots women and movements like WIEGO*
- *Women in decision making. The Spanish Government has adopted legislation that ensures balanced representation of women and men across all appointed positions in the public sector including planning and urban policy.*
- *Gender expertise is included in decision making. Example Basque Country in Spain has Gender Equality Units in the Regional Urban and Territorial Planning Ministry and at its Directorates, with the mandate of properly integrating gender dimensions in all legislation, plans and programs developed by the regional ministry.*
- *Grassroots women groups in Jogjakarta, Indonesia started with risk assessment with women lead the community capacity building on disaster resilience responding to the pandemic, developing action planning for community resilience initiatives such as managing waste bank, making vegetable aisles, fish farming in buckets due to limited space, support the community during pandemic through sharing food and groceries by hanging them on the shelf, door to door health services (measurement of body mass index, blood pressures measure for OP, supplementation of healthy food) for children and older people, helped in collecting and verifying data on the beneficiaries for government program which targeting households affected by the Covid-19 pandemic to fulfill basic needs.*
- *In Malaysia the Ministry of Housing and Local Government has put up an instruction for local governments to institutionalize gender responsive and participatory budgeting using the success in Penang State as an example of best practice. Sri to complete.*
- **Linking urban governance with data, information and communication to enhance effectiveness at the local and national levels:**
- Melbourne (the longest on the planet for a city): <https://pursuit.unimelb.edu.au/articles/modelling-victoria-s-escape-from-covid-19> - <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/melbourne-readies-exit-worlds-longest-covid-19-lockdowns-2021-10-20/>.
- Importance of data and information mechanisms - data has had an influence on governance and communication to citizens. Nicolas, Madrid - Data missing but important - involvement of local authorities in design and implementation.
- Euro Cities National Recovery Plans - report on this. Provide initial data.
- Flood of new resources in Spain - if local governments are missing, they miss out on this.
- Gonzalo: Information and Data and Governance - issue of trust (shared in chat) - Latin America, mayors are the most trusted. Highest level of trust they have been able to implement harder measures. Multi level governance - not all cities are equal. Local capacities are at times a limiting factor. Developing capacity are increasingly important.

**To participants, how has digitalization of governance been accelerated by COVID 19?**

- **Integrating capacity building across all levels of the government to foster collaborations.**
- Mutarika (Mai) Pruksapong, UNDRR - Capacity building - all levels and different departments of government. Foster collaborations. WHO and UNDRR - due to Covid. Attracted not usual participants, such as health care professionals. Understanding cascading risk and build resilience.
- UNDRR through its Global Education and Training Institute (GETI), in Incheon, is dedicated to strengthening capacities of governments and stakeholders on risk reduction and resilience. Its training programmes include an orientation to disaster risk reduction and resilience, the use of tools such as the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities to develop a resilience baseline, improved integrated risk reduction planning, (including climate change adaptation and public health system resilience) and more. From 2018 to 2021, UNDRR conducted more than 140 trainings. More than 11,000 people from 203 countries and territories have benefited from these initiatives, benefiting their own capacity as well as the national governments, local governments, and institutions that they work with.
- These trainings, especially during COVID-19, reached not only local government agencies, but also national governments, academia and youth, community representatives and non-traditional agencies such as airport operator, jail manager, logistics providers, etc. -- good to stress the importance of multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach to resilient and sustainable urban development somehow. Joseph - layers of government (in chat) - after 1994 SA constitution - spheres not level. Adopt this kind of language.
- Cabo Verde, Namibia have expressed a commitment to continue to strengthen the administrative capacity of local governments,
- Data collection through innovative use of artificial intelligence enables greeted creation of sex disaggregated data. Examples include use for safety of women and girls particularly in urban space such as Safety pin in India and other cities; when women and girls are safe everybody is safe.
- With the pandemic increased use of technology there are lots of challenges in gender access to ICT as coverage, reliability of connection, need to have access to electricity, and cost of data in many locations, which has gender implications because of women's lesser mobility and lesser power structure within the family which reduces access of women to devices and connections.
- **Strengthening the role of government participation through local parliaments**
- Analia: example from LAC. Programme: The Local Parliament Network on SDGs, using urban legislation to strengthen public policies in the long term. They found that often, while National governments know about the global agendas, SDGs and NUA, Local governments do not. This approach means they do not have to wait for the National government to disseminate information from the top down, but can proactively turn the global agenda into local legislation from the bottom up. Work in Argentina, Panama and Ecuador towards improving the legislation on the NUA. City of Mar del Plata had no legislation to support recovery of tourism in a sustainable way, the new legislation addresses issues such as sustainable materials, how tourists can protect the city environment. Make the overall tourism industry more sustainable and adapted to the principles of the NUA. It is critical to work with legislation to guarantee continuity in the long term.
- This example could also be very useful for Chapter 5, NUA as an accelerator of development agendas, in response to the comments made there that local governments do not know about global agendas

- The programme supports training, advocacy, and creates specific tools (such as an e-book for the localisation of the SDGs). It is a challenge to include the local legislative bodies in the governance structure for the implementation of the NUA.
- Kenya, the multi-stakeholder Inter-Agency Technical Committee which was set up in 2016 to coordinate SDGs activities is now co-chaired by government, private sector and CSOs
- Parliaments' representatives are also members of the transformative commitments' coordination entities (Benin, Gambia, Mozambique)
- Kenya Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs and Business was formed in 2017 to promote sustainable development through legislation, resource mobilization, oversight and partnerships.
- In Malawi, the Parliamentary Committee on SDGs constantly engages with government to ensure effective implementation of the SDGs.
- In the Nigerian National Assembly, there are two standing committees - the Senate Committee on SDGs and the House of Representatives Committee on SDGs – that ensure funds are committed to SDG implementation and also provide oversight on the implementation of SDGs-related projects in Nigeria.
- Ugandan Parliament assesses the performance of the national budget using SDG compliance tools – issuing a Certificate of Compliance after gauging the country's commitment to achieving her national development priorities and the SDGs through budget interventions and allocations.

Key Takeaways from this first session shared by Ben for the second session:

- 1) Importance of PARTICIPATORY multilevel governance implementation.
- 2) Link to urban policies - finance & budget
- 3) Covid underscored need for inclusive and responsive local governance and effective multilevel governance" (change proposed)
- 4) Nature of transformative commitments, how covid and environmental aspects got across and related to issues of governance.
- 5) Investing in digital technology

#### **Chapter 4 - Group 2 Planning and management of urban and territorial spatial development 700 words**

Reports and data are not showing major progress so we need to understand why. There are a few examples where planning tools have been used positively, contributing to sustainable urban development. These should be highlighted. In addition, there have been adoption of policies and guidelines (NMT policies, Resilient Strategies, ) however we are yet to see the impact at a local level. Maybe by 2026 the impacts will be visible.

There is a gap between planning and sustainability. This may be due to the lack of capacity, especially at a local level and a lack of mainstreaming sustainable planning in education.

Effective planning 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 mainstreaming 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 (example of Egypt)

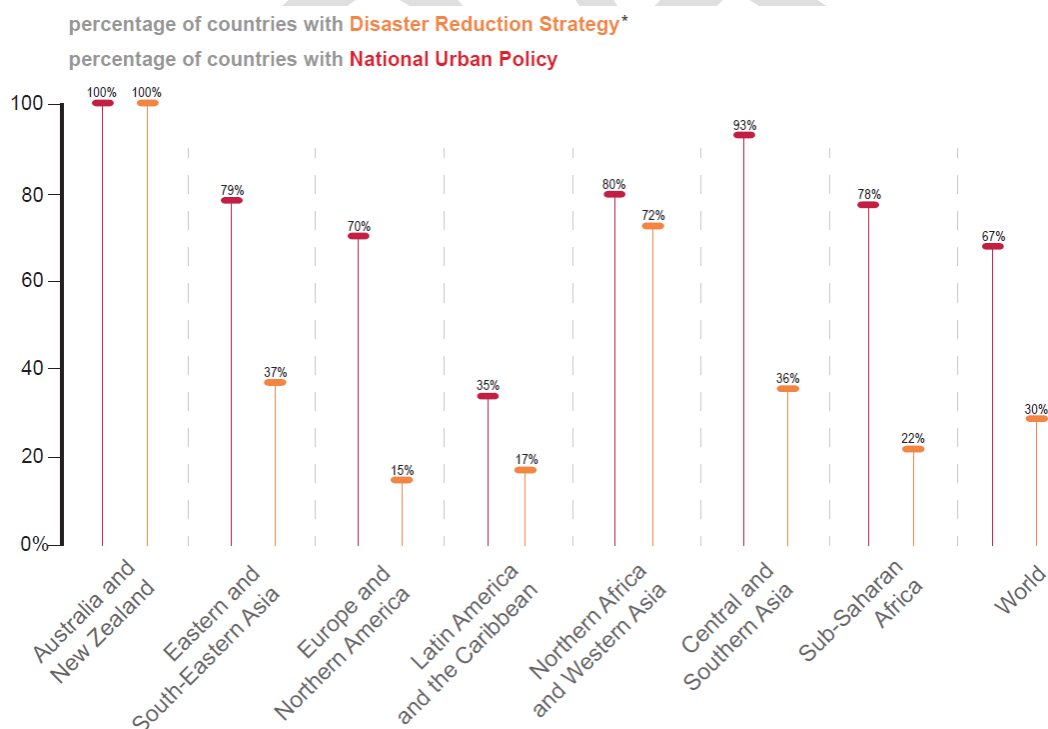
The state has retreated from the planning and delivery of housing. Limited resources for infrastructure planning and therefore planning has become redundant. Enforcement of spatial plans and implementation. Regional planning becomes important - consolidating decentralisation. (facts and figures needed)

### Planning frameworks

The Cities and Pandemics report highlighted the growing regional and urban-rural imbalances. Planning across the **urban-rural continuum** ensures a more balanced growth outcome that increases sustainability and resilience. **Territorial (regional) planning addresses the gap between national-level development policies and NUPs and local implementation.** The successful application of regional planning tools and methodologies such as the SDF in various contexts provides a framework for decision-making across different levels of government. Examples are the regional plan for Conakry and the strategic development framework for Guinea Bissau. Territorial planning is gaining momentum through national programs such as the ten regional plans underway in Ethiopia and another five regional plans envisaged in Zambia.

Comment from Wallis: EU territorial and Spatial development: cohesion policy encourages and funds it. Earmarked system in budget, money goes directly to cities willing to integrate development policy. Supported 985 urban dev strategies, of which 20% target functional urban areas. Key concept. 40% target cities, Excellent, addresses gap with national, regional and local level policies. Take details from written note.

70% of countries have national urban policies in place- but what has been the impact? Urban sprawl continues in sub regions. Therefore the urban policies need to be strengthened. Not yet seeing the impact of implementation.



### *Examples of planning frameworks*

Examples of best practices on planning from the MENA region: (1) Oman prepared the Oman National spatial Strategy (ONSS) in line of its long-term vision (Oman vision 2040), (2) Egypt is preparing a National Urban Policy (NUP) in line with NUA and is also localizing the NUP at the governorate level, (3) Egypt is piloting new spatial planning tool, namely land readjustment and implementing infrastructure projects (will provide more info later today)

In 2019, Oman launched its long term vision, promoting Oman as a developed nation in 2040 (source: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23489Sultanate\\_of\\_Oman\\_National\\_Voluntary\\_Report\\_2019\\_Arabic\\_Spreads.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23489Sultanate_of_Oman_National_Voluntary_Report_2019_Arabic_Spreads.pdf)) The vision included 12 priorities, under 4 main pillars, namely economic, social, environment and governance pillars. The 9th pillar aims at empowering governorates and promoting smart cities, in line with SDG 11, 13 and other SDGs. Accordingly, Oman prepared “Oman National Spatial Strategy (ONSS)” and developed local development strategies for its 11 governorates. In addition, the government is paving the way towards implementing decentralization and empowering local authorities, through issuing new legislation, and institutional reform. According to its 2020 state budget, OMR 2 million were allocated to each governorate to implement municipality service. The Government of Oman is also implementing an ambitious digital transformation program, aiming also at digitizing local services. Several local and spatial development projects are included in its tenth development plan, ratified and launched in January 202, as the first execution plan 5-year of the “2040 vision” (<https://www.economy.gov.om/PDF/The%2010th%20Five-Year%20Development%20plan-Strategic%20Programs-Executive%20Summary.pdf>).

In 2018, Egypt started the preparation of the National Urban Policy (NUP, to integrate the NUA and SDG 11, in its planning, budgeting and national policy making mainstream. The NUP includes 5 main pillars, namely urban planning and upgrading, system of cities, mobility, urban economy and urban governance. According to NUP, existing and new cities are classified according to productivity, and competitiveness criteria in a new system, mainly promoting local economy and employment, and attracting investments. Based on the new proposed system of cities, a policy guide is prepared for each governorate, according to the different types of cities. The main objective of these policy guides is to localize the implementation of the NUA ([https://www.urbanagendaplatform.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/Egypt%20National%20Report\\_0.pdf](https://www.urbanagendaplatform.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/Egypt%20National%20Report_0.pdf)).

In Asia Pacific there were some best practice, solutions for **integrated approach**. Focus on integrated territorial planning includes transportation, housing, employment, all of that, it is not a financial institution that will lend money in an unplanned community.

Well planned urban areas increase property values, security of investment, land value capture.

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 - more info at <https://commonwealthsustainablecities.org/calltoaction/> In order to help, we have worked with The Prince's Foundation to prepare, test and release a free online toolkit for all to use - <http://www.rapidplanningtoolkit.org/>

### **Public space**

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. There is a growing trend to incorporate green space targets as part of planning requirements. (Finland – green area factor tool, Turkey



Milit Gardens Program, Indonesia – green cities program). The provision of quality public space as part of city-wide networks is critical for social integration and inclusion. The application of the public space assessment tool and the involvement of communities in design processes with Minecraft and the HerCity initiative creates tangible impact and illustration of NUA principles.

Comment by Curt: ESCAP. There are some examples such as ??? climate change adaptation and resilience. Asia Pacific. Not only cities are greening but what are the benefits. Water harvesting, cleaner air, etc. Send detailed info. Covid research had examples.

Examples in the US of integrated greenways for mobility, water management, recreation, conservation of greenspace, even community gardens/urban agriculture

City of Barcelona is implementing its Universal Accessibility Plan 2018-2026 to ensure public spaces and services are accessible to all, regardless of disability. [1][HL1]

[1] [https://www.barcelona.cat/mobilitat/en/noticia/a-plan-to-guarantee-services-for-everyone\\_507139](https://www.barcelona.cat/mobilitat/en/noticia/a-plan-to-guarantee-services-for-everyone_507139)

[HL1]TC capture a great example from the City of Barcelona on universal accessibility of spaces and services which can be captured.

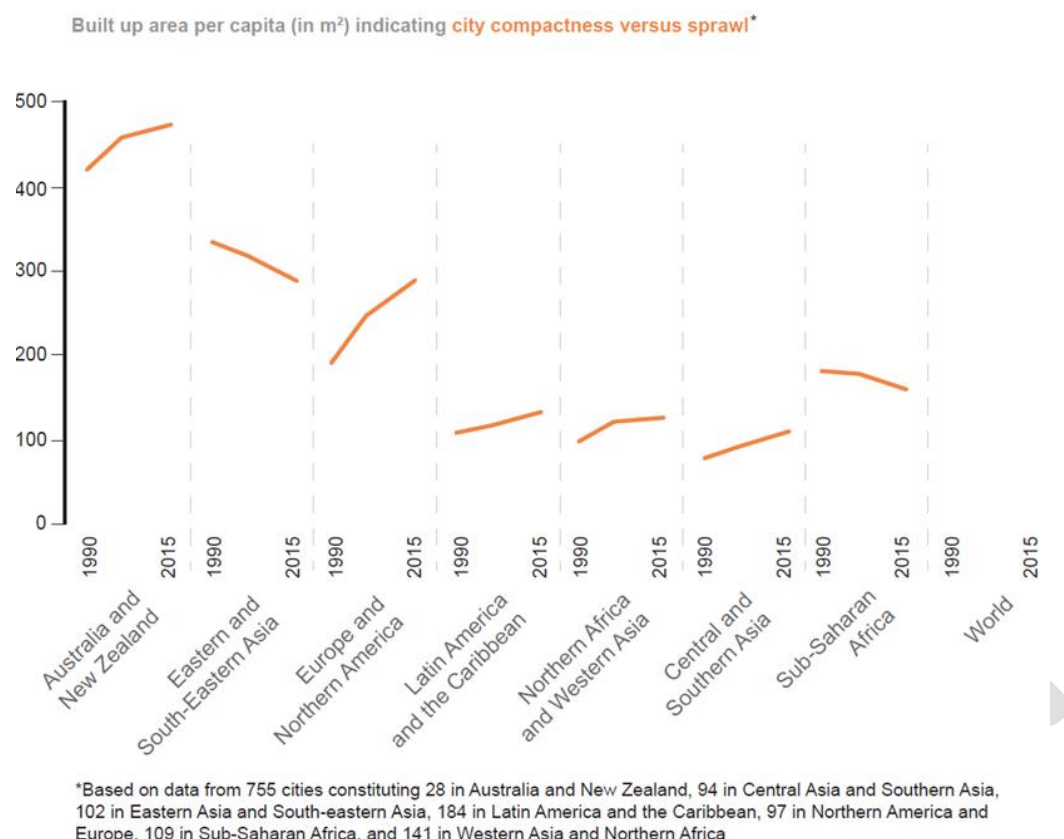
A key insight from the regions was that realities and dynamics on the ground are changing, and as such governance approaches need to be adaptive to these new processes by having locally relevant interventions that respond to the real needs of the people to avoid a loss of trust in public institutions. 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.

Examples at:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/187r\\_V4s3YQmK7FNdJ1SzOHeTPsmXWVOq/edit#](https://docs.google.com/document/d/187r_V4s3YQmK7FNdJ1SzOHeTPsmXWVOq/edit#)

## **Urban Sprawl**

**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.



### Examples

In LAC the deployment of innovative land management and value capture instruments are important and used to generate 2 things: fiscal instrument, control sprawl, get funds for infrastructure improvement, more spatial vision of cities. Important Robin Hood type of policy: creates internal resources to generate funding to improve lives and the poorest parts. Bello Horizonte, Porto Alegre, Colombian cities. ILP works with them. Peru national government has similar national legislation using same instruments of value capture.

During the last four years, the Municipality of Belo Horizonte, Brazil, undertook concrete steps to territorialize the NUA and the SDG 11 by adopting and implementing policies that were grounded on the fundamentals of the NUA which inspired many cities and worth to report herein. Citizen participation in governance and urban planning combined with reforms in its fiscal and public administration basis levered greater transparency and efficiency in local governance and resource allocation. Participation and broad-based consultation were key in the formulation and approval of a transformative urban development plan that broke new grounds in terms of urban land management. It approved a unified FAR (Floor Area Ratio) for the entire city's land cover based on which revenue is captured from building rights in addition to land value capture instruments employed to mobilize land value increments in favour of investment in infrastructure and social housing in poorer areas of the city. It implemented an urban mobility plan to reverse the levels of emissions and established a systematic measurement of GHG emissions to support its mitigation and adaptation plan to climate change. The city shows unequivocally how a local government can nurture sustainable spatial development with social inclusion while curbing the carbon footprint of the city by adopting and implementing the fundamentals of the NUA



(Sources: <https://prefeitura.pbh.gov.br/politica-urbana/regulacao-urbana/informes-tecnicos/plano-diretor-de-belo-horizonte-regulamentado>; <https://prefeitura.pbh.gov.br/politica-urbanaregulacao-urbana/simulacao-da-utilizacao-de-potencial-construtivo-adicional>; [https://www.jica.go.jp/jica-ri/publication/booksandreports/175nbg00000ltoak-att/LAND\\_READJUSTMENT\\_web.pdf](https://www.jica.go.jp/jica-ri/publication/booksandreports/175nbg00000ltoak-att/LAND_READJUSTMENT_web.pdf); <https://www.cgee.org.br/documents/10195/734063/09MariaCaldas.pdf>).

We have seen an emerge in policies with sustainability at core, spatial and environmental, efforts to change economy . But reality is different, making difficult to achieve the targets of COP. Africa and Asia informality, spread of land development is generating an out of controlled city. In Africa it is going to be dramatic because cities are not able to get this into a planning framework. In LAN a lot of 5-7 increase in slums. Mid-sized cities hit very hard. Brazil informal settlements in all cities, grew 20 times. This is the reality. Affordability, not only in Europe but worldwide. The Affordable Housing in Africa, 349 different markets, 200 sample of cities show quite clear affordability big issue, people are not able to buy nor rent. Where do they go? Hidden issue that will have tremendous impact in how we want our cities to grow in next 10 years if we want to reduce emissions.

#### Examples from SSA

- Uganda's national development plan - Vision 2040 – sets out to control urban sprawl through legislation, integrated physical planning and strict development control.
- Efforts towards jumpstarting economic growth in Africa's secondary cities include the Cities Alliance Country programme in Uganda which through a US\$150 million municipal support programme, expanded TSUPU from five to 14 secondary cities.
- Burkina Faso, the programme is supporting the secondary cities of Dori, Dedougou and Tenkodogo in building capacity to implement strategic development plans.

#### Public transport

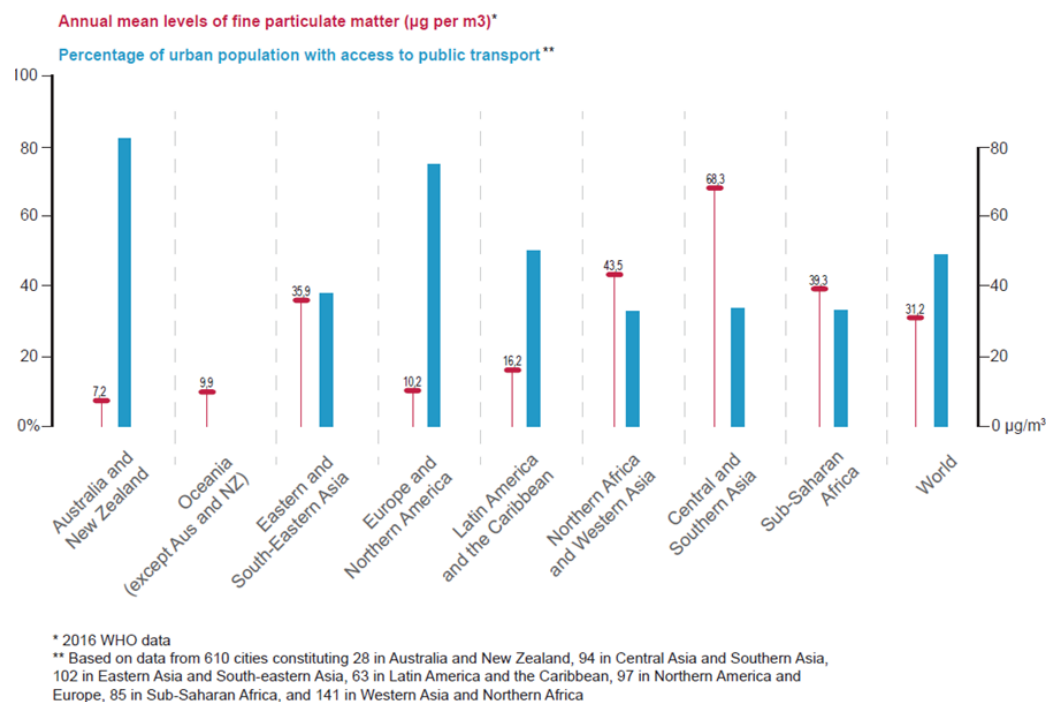
Public transport and non-motorised movement systems are instrumental interventions to transform cities into inclusive, low carbon areas with high accessibility to services. It provides the backbone for creating Transit Orientated Development and appropriate densities associated with a compact urban form. It remains one of the most significant interventions to improve air quality and healthy cities. Evidence indicates a correlation that high public transport access levels lead to lower levels of air pollution in cities.

Comment Andreas: Should be linked to Polycentric cities model and in relation to 15 min cities

Comment by Alice: mobility varies by region, in some regions more car-use, while in other regions more use of public transport

How does public transportation link What we should highlight regarding public transport and that people are not choosing it. That we need to do something. A trend is digitalizing working at different modes of transports: car sharing, active mobility cycling, are becoming integrated thanks to digitalization, this could help continue use of public transport.

What has been the impact of teleworking and ecommerce on office demand, location of offices, and on transportation needs, even on working outside of big central cities.



### Examples

The Northern Multimodal Transport Corridor in the Southern African Region entails the design and implementation of a smart corridor system for both road and rail on the multi-modal African Regional Transport Infrastructure Network in Southern Africa covering South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The project, primarily funded by African Development bank will allow easy border crossings across countries in the Eastern and Southern African economic communities, thereby speeding up regional integration efforts through regional trade and logistic cost savings. The project will be implemented through a public-private partnership structure and also increase efficiency, capacity and the capacity of transport systems, especially railways, in the partnering countries, as well as cross-country collaboration and multi-lateral development banks.

The project includes the modernisation of ARTIN and includes 560 kilometers of highway and 900 kilometers of road. It also entails the construction of 180 kilometers of railway Associated projects include the Projects include but not limited to: Bachuma Gate – Maji ya Chumvi Road in Kenya, Bujumbura Lake Port Upgrading in Burundi, Juba-Bor-Malakal-Renki-Sudan border Railway in South Sudan, Kalemie Port Upgrading in Democratic Republic of Congo. <https://www.au-pida.org/view-programme/20/>

The mobility section of this report presents emerging trends and some early examples from cities: <https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/cities-policy-responses-fd1053ff/>

### Gender mainstreaming

There has been progress made in implementing gender mainstreaming in planning to promote equality between men and women in cities.

#### *Examples*

Most examples are in the data review for QR2020:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/187r\\_V4s3YQmK7FNdJ1SzOHeTPsmXWVOq/edit?usp=sharing&oid=110046927780416036300&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/187r_V4s3YQmK7FNdJ1SzOHeTPsmXWVOq/edit?usp=sharing&oid=110046927780416036300&rtpof=true&sd=true)

In Spain, including both legislative and planning experiences at national, regional, local and sub local scales have mainstreamed gender into planning. The experiences cover aspects regarding transportation, housing, public space, urban facilities, office space. (At the legislative level, the regional Land Use and Territorial Planning Law of Extremadura LOTUS 2019 includes an extensive technical Annex with norms indicating how local and regional plans should address gender equality: 19050329.pdf (juntaex.es). This piece of legislation is complemented by a manual to support actual implementation addressed to professionals and decision makers in public and private sectors: sitex.gobex.es/SITEX/files/guiagenero/GuiaGeneroJuntaex.pdf. Another example is the Regional Plan of the Basque Country adopted in 2019 Directrices de Ordenación Territorial (DOT) - Planificación territorial y urbanismo - Euskadi.eus which includes significant gender requirements addressing transportation, housing, employment, and municipal plan drafting which where integrated following specific recommendations (Microsoft Word - Perspectiva G\351nero DOT \ISdM\).docx) (euskadi.eus). At the local level, many municipalities in the Basque Country are integrating gender dimensions through funding provided by the regional government to do so Subvenciones para la integración de la perspectiva de género en el planeamiento municipal y el urbanismo 2021 - Gobierno Vasco - Euskadi.eus. An example is the city of Irún which received a national award for its integration of gender in a regeneration project Vía Irún El proyecto 'Vía Irún' recibe el premio Matilde Ucelay del Ministerio de Transportes - Observatorio del Bidasoa (bidasoa-activa.com). Another example is the project Madrid Nuevo Norte, a regeneration project involving 10.000 new housing units, a new CBD and the renewal of the railyards including a new multimodal transportation hub and several new subway stations, TOOLKIT: GÉNERO EN GRANDES INICIATIVAS URBANÍSTICAS - Vecinos Madrid Norte in which a Gender Impact Statement has been carried out Madrid Nuevo Norte, primer gran proyecto urbanístico de España en contar con un informe de impacto de género - Madrid Nuevo Norte (distritocastellananorte.com). The Ministry has created an Award to recognize experience)

Uganda also adopted the Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls Act with the aim of ensuring that women and girls are socially, economically and politically empowered in urban public spaces.

US Adopted its Infrastructure and Jobs Act which will provide additional funding to US infrastructure investments; including country-wide upgrades to accessibility in public transportation systems and to foster pedestrian urban mobility[HL1].

[HL1]US infrastructure bill could be worth capturing - including investments towards accessibility across - though it is not enough on that part can still be captured.

### Monitoring urbanization

Monitoring urbanization is a key issue. Progress has been made in a methodological improvement through the monitoring the global urbanization by the OECD which gives more comparable ways to measure urbanization and tries to address the urban rural dichotomy. Related to this is the EU 2020 Cities in the World Document, which uses functional urban areas as a powerful tools to compare. When it comes to spatial planning, functional better suited than administrative areas to understand what is going on in labour markets and urbanization and guide city governments in their planning.

#### *Examples*

Example from MENA region, dichotomy between spatial and socio economic planning. Recommendation of NUA was to combine. Another was to localize or nationalize the NUA and integrated in national planning system. Example from OMAN Spatial Strategy in line with vision and NUA and SDG11. Egypt new National Urban Plan and Policy. Chapters for cities in ????. Implementation of infrastructure projects in some cities. Good practices and initiatives to highlight. will send more details- and sources.

Initiatives addressing poverty and planning, income generation at local level, better resources local level planning capacities.

### Technology

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 subnational frameworks, that limits access to these tools locally. National frameworks and subnational are key to put these new technologies and data.

Comment: A key issue is Small and intermediate cities, cadastro management, digital solutions GIS to manage cadastral as a foundation of planning, effective, early stages of planning. Technology assisted. How do you see? Is technology assisted planning piecemeal or not? example of results of great work: will send.

Regarding the use of GIS and ICT for urban planning and management, we need to take into account capacities and financial resources for the establishment and management of these tools in the medium-long terms. There is significant institutional and technical path-dependency on the pre-existing strategic and policy planning frameworks and data collection and data use at local level. (Ref:<https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC124580> doi:10.2760/9692 and ref2:<https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC126179>)

#### *Examples*

Most examples are in the data review for QR2020:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/187r\\_V4s3YQmK7FNdJ1SzOHeTPsmXWVOq/edit?usp=sharing&oid=110046927780416036300&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/187r_V4s3YQmK7FNdJ1SzOHeTPsmXWVOq/edit?usp=sharing&oid=110046927780416036300&rtpof=true&sd=true)

A 'fit for purpose' tech for improving land use tenure: In Lao PDR, the Secure Access to Land and Resources (SALaR) project, implemented by UN Habitat and the Global Land Tool Network has been taking existing land tools and modifying them to meet the needs of Laos' unique context and to align with government planning and aspirations. In particular, Un Habitat's Social Tenure Domain Model (STDm) tool was introduced to capture person/s to land relationships. The STDm is a pro-poor, participatory and gender-

responsive land information system which aims to close the gap between the formal system and those tenure arrangements that are not recognized by the statutory and legal system. This is leveraging technology that is appropriate to the digital development readiness of the local municipalities. Some other examples are here : [https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/Cities%20Alliance\\_Securing%20Tenure%20in%20African%20Cities\\_2021.pdf](https://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/Cities%20Alliance_Securing%20Tenure%20in%20African%20Cities_2021.pdf)

### **Other**

Claudio. The spatial dimension and spatial inequality in recent work with Lincoln Institute, found the increase in slums, in addition to densification. Backwards from previous achievements. The post-pandemic we will find incredible liability with the types of problems we will have with continuing informalities, land use, peripheral growth, flood risk, disaster, we need to take stock of this and put a red flag and try to identify if there is any city looking at this. Linking SDG 11 with Urban Agenda we are in deep trouble if we do not take this into account from the beginning of these last 10 years of the SDGs.

Important also to mention the normative guidance that is provided for cities to address this challenges. For instance informality has happened in Asia. This needs to be linked to the normative guidance of urban territorial planning, resilience, technology, finance, Report ??? Planned growth increases property values. We need for planning as a foundation to finance these initiatives. How the UN system and countries are providing guidance to address the problem. Integrated planning is the foundation to address these issues.

Two additional documents which could be referenced: 1) the UN Statistical Commission endorsement <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/BG-Item3j-Recommendation-E.pdf>; and 2) EC JRC effort to disseminate the tool (<https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC109075>)

*This section can among other things highlight:*

- That planning is a public good, which requires strong local leadership and long-term vision of cities;
- That different scales of planning need to work in tandem;
- That the agenda for better, more inclusive and accessible public space has been enlivened by the Covid-19 pandemic;
- The challenges that cities face through allowing continued sprawl;
- The progress that have been made in land registration and land titling and their relationship with secure tenure;
- How governments can engage in participatory and inclusive planning processes;
- How nature-based solutions and disaster reduction strategies have increasingly become part of the planning process;
- The importance of sustainable multi-modal transport in achieving the transformative commitments such as access to jobs and their linkages to the environmental benefits of compact cities;
- The role of small and intermediate cities and towns and the importance of strengthening their local planning.

### **Chapter 4 - Group 3 Promoting green, climate resilient and healthy cities 600 words**

**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 21<sup>st</sup> century. The NUA recognizes and addresses this risk.

Several countries reported to have initiated new climate adaptation strategies and interlinked disaster risk reduction strategies.

The Government of Kenya and the Government of Brazil, together with other member states, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, and the private sector, in 2019 have started the global initiative on **Building Climate Resilience of the Urban Poor**. Through the initiative, partners are taking active steps towards building community resilience and adapting cities to climate change. They also focus on building resilient and low carbon urban infrastructure.

More than **70 municipalities in Germany** have declared a "climate emergency" or launched actions to mitigate climate change. Examples of municipality commitment are evident in the annual "Climate Active Municipality" competition organised by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and the German Institute of Urban Affairs.<sup>32</sup>

Partnership with regional bodies such as SADC working on **Urban Climate Change Resilience** projects has ensured the scaling up of the **CityRap tool** in 16 SADC countries. The CityRAP tool developed by UN-Habitat and Disaster Risk Management Sustainability and Urban Resilience (DiMSUR) technical centre has had a very positive impact at the regional, national, local and community levels. The tool has enabled communities to further understand and plan actions aimed at reducing risks and building resilience through the development of a Resilience Framework for Action.<sup>33</sup>

Several countries reported to have initiated **environmental monitoring systems**, including Finland, Botswana and Turkey.

In Mexico, an **Emissions Trading System (SCE)** test program was launched, which is a market instrument designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>34</sup>

In Finland, Helsinki's Ilmastovahti service monitors the progress of Helsinki's 147 emission reduction measures in real time.<sup>35</sup>

In Botswana, The **National Air Quality Management Programme**, which monitors air quality and has a total of 24 ambient air monitoring stations spread across the country and 1 mobile laboratory vehicle.<sup>36</sup>

The *Greater Accra Metropolitan Assembly (GAMA)*, in 2018/2019 has developed and adopted an **Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP)** that addresses pollution emissions from various sources, including vehicles and the transportation sector, from burning of waste, from food production, from using charcoal and wood for cooking etc. This GAMA AQMP also addresses the issue of climate change mitigation, by reducing emissions of **short-lived climate pollutants**, in particular black carbon, and methane (from landfills). The GAMA AQMP is linked to other city-wide initiatives, like for instance the development and rejuvenation of green public spaces and parks in Accra, as well as the development of a system of bicycle lanes and the improvement of other non-motorized transport infrastructure.

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<sup>32</sup> (Page 10)

<sup>33</sup> [http://dmsur.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/UN-Habitat\\_ROAf-regional-project\\_Inception-report\\_July-2020.pdf](http://dmsur.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/UN-Habitat_ROAf-regional-project_Inception-report_July-2020.pdf)

<sup>34</sup> (Page 34)

<sup>35</sup> (Page 135)

<sup>36</sup> (Page 34)



**Public spaces**, especially green spaces are key for building urban resilience against rising temperatures, extreme weather events and in responding to disaster. **Nature-based solutions** and **ecosystem-based approaches** in public spaces have the potential of balancing the carbon cycle, improving the air quality, and regulating and management of urban water, thereby reducing the likelihood of extreme weather and natural disasters.

**In Indonesia**, the green city development program has run since 2011 and has developed 250ha of green open space since its inception. In 2016, 194.68 billion rupiah was spent in a total of 165 municipalities that participated in the program, among others are Batu 10 park in Tanjung Pinang, Pantai Panjang park in Bengkulu, and Fatmawati park in Wonosobo. The latter is considered best-practice by the Indonesian government.<sup>37</sup>

**Several countries** have reported to have initiated or increase their standards for green area per capita, combined with programs to add additional urban green spaces.

**In Finland**, a *green area factor* tool has been introduced in the largest Finnish cities. For example, in Helsinki and Turku, the target levels for green efficiency have been set for new local detailed plans for the entire city.<sup>38</sup>

Many cities have been making progress in moving towards **improved circularity**. The **African Cleaner Cities Platform** has been established and expanded, aiming at creating clean and healthy cities in Africa, mainly by focusing on improved Solid Waste Management services. Cities in Bangladesh are tackling the problem of plastic leakage into the environment, into waterways, and subsequently into the Gulf of Bengal. In this way, cities in Bangladesh are increasingly instrumental in helping to protect vital marine eco-systems.

**In Colombia**, the Manos que Alimentan aims to promote the production of food for self-consumption and the promotion of healthy eating habits.<sup>39</sup>

#### **Data collection and urban monitoring for more resilient cities:**

- 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:
  - o Example from Nairobi, Kenya: A community with 50,000 households (WRI)
- Need to create baselines for reviewing progress in the domains of environmental and human health in cities as well as resilience e.g. adaptation/mitigation strategies?
  - o REF: e.g. progress made on urban forestry - reforestation in Madrid; micro forests in Japan and Jordan)
- Monitoring systems are incorporated to monitor, air pollution, floods and disasters
  - o In Bangalore, India, they are measuring progress across informal settlements through technology (e.g. satellite imagery) together with cities. Adaptation and mitigation plans, and on-ground implementation progress are also being implemented in many cities

(REFERENCES)

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<sup>37</sup> <http://sim.ciptakarya.pu.go.id/p2kh/knowledge/categories/best-practices/3> (Page 29-103)

<sup>38</sup> (Page 66).

<sup>39</sup> (Page 31)



- Increased reporting on air pollution monitoring (to WHO) and integration of community data, and also on how local community and local governance capacity building on the use of this data (e.g. AQI+ data).
- In Brazil, there is a community environmental data collection and integration project across local communities and schools that is being integrated into a national early warning centre for natural disasters (floods/landslides)<sup>40</sup>.
- Net-zero plans of cities and the campaign of UN-Habitat
- Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) solutions are being implemented as well as national adaptation plans e.g. Kathmandu, Nepal) (REFERENCES: UNEP examples)
- While a lot of attention is paid to indicators, there is no mention of qualitative monitoring and analysis of lessons learned. Indicators may help local authorities in assessing their weaknesses and eventually lead to benchmarking, but it is the qualitative monitoring (how cities are implementing the SDGs and NUA) that will enable cities to learn quickly from each others' experience.
- Change in the last 2 years: there has been a shift in the role of local government in disseminating data on health-related issues - emissions, COVID-19, etc.
- ESCWA in collaboration with UN-Habitat developed, in 2021, a technical paper on "Smart Sustainable Cities and Smart Digital Technologies for Urban Resilience: Lessons from the Pandemic". It focused on urban economic resilience of cities as one of the four main dimensions of urban resilience; captured good related practices in the Arab region; tackled the socioeconomic challenges of the pandemic, as well as its impacts on Arab cities and possible opportunities for building back.
- Support access to data on health and the environment <sup>41</sup>
- New initiatives on data collection at neighborhood level: World Environment Situation Room

#### **Promoting human health in cities:**

- Health impact of urban policy, (e.g. air pollution in Ghana): UN-Habitat / WHO are integrating health into urban planning and are measuring its impact on sustainability and health in combination. COVID has highlighted the importance of public health systems and local governance, sectoral contributions to advance public health and sustainable cities;
- UNEP: 26 cities and 9 countries on the question of regulation and its role in advancing green progress. - the importance of vertical integration.
- Public services and health e.g. access to housing, water and public transport. Some examples from cities can be pointed out. (REFERENCES)
- Increased role of agencies in awareness generation, e.g. Breathe Life Campaign.

A number of urban agriculture/food initiatives have been implemented, positively impacting human health in the city:

- Coalition of cities at the World Food Systems Summit at UN level to advance food security for vulnerable and other communities.

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<sup>40</sup> <http://educacao.cemaden.gov.br/site/news/MTY3MDAwMDAwMDEwOQ==https://www.cnm.org.br/comunicacao/noticias/mapeamentos-colaborativos-e-dados-comunitarios-podem-auxiliar-municipios-na-prevencao-e-mitigacao-a-desastres>

<sup>41</sup> <https://wesr.unep.org/>

- Good practices on locally-produced food to reduce the urban footprint. Reference ILO publication on urban agriculture<sup>42</sup>

### **Promoting environmental health in cities:**

Reference: Emphasis on integration and cross sector symbiosis. Release in 2018 of the UNEP Weight of Cities report identifying the lever that can reduce their resource consumptions and emissions and highlights the pressing need for a transformative and integrated approach

- Advancements made on urban commons - success in the restoration of urban water bodies/green (e.g. small forest lands in Indian cities). Here policy has helped to restore urban commons e.g. public parks and community use areas, urban water bodies and green lungs etc.
- Nature, Green spaces and Informal settlements, Environment and social justice go hand in hand.
- There has been improvement but a lack of progress from Slum, e.g. SDI and other grassroots based formations to monitor. Carbon Data Project to measure carbon footprints (e.g. CO2 emissions) (UNEP on data points) City Reporting emissions mechanisms and advances. Examples of Climate Change City Profiles several cities have taken up that. WHO and UN-Habitat are collaborating on Urban Health and Climate Action and enhanced by COVID-19 Impact.
- Role of youth in advancing environmental action. (REFERENCES)
- Climate emergencies are declared by cities e.g. Delhi, India and many others (REF: UCLG network).
  - o ECLAI has prepared practical tools for declaring and working on climate emergencies.
- breath life campaigns - testing low cost monitoring tools with specific cities. Addis Ababa and San Jose. It includes data on air quality<sup>43</sup>.
- Protecting the world's biodiversity without the tools to do so: public wildlife rangers in Africa and Asia: Where parks and forests are overseen by subnational governments, rangers and park guards are part of the pool of LRG workers. A WWF 2018 report shows that while wildlife rangers are one of the planet's first and last lines of defense for biodiversity and wildlife protection, their working conditions are often unbearable. Their role is key to protect natural heritage, biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, also by combating illegal trade in wildlife and logging. However, from a survey carried out among 4,686 rangers from 17 countries in Africa and Asia, it emerges they work on average 76 hours a week, day and night, for less than \$9 (US) a day. Sixty percent of them have no access to drinking water or shelter while on patrol and over 50% had no or inadequate work equipment to do their job. Almost four out of 10 rangers didn't feel they had adequate training when they started their profession. One in four reported they had contracted malaria (almost 75 percent in Africa) and only 20 percent had access to a mosquito net. Rangers are also exposed to high rates of on-the-job verbal abuse (31%), threats (32%) and third-party violence by gang and illegal poachers/loggers' crime. Source: WWF, Life on the frontline. A global survey of the working conditions of rangers, 2018

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<sup>42</sup>[https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---integration/documents/instructionalmaterial/wcms\\_568945.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---integration/documents/instructionalmaterial/wcms_568945.pdf) page 13 onwards, for examples of jobs in urban agriculture

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.iqair.com/uneep>

The promotion of green jobs has also aided urban environmental progress:

- Most public service jobs de-facto are so-called “green jobs” as they contribute to limiting the carbon footprint and deliver sustainability and socio-economic value to communities and the economy. 23 LRGs jobs are eminently green: water and sanitation, waste collection and disposal, housing services, funeral services, green and public space maintenance, urban transport, park rangers, firefighters and many PES professions, urbanists, infrastructure engineers, public procurement officials and many more play a vital role preserving biodiversity, public space and health, protecting the climate and ecosystems. But if LRG workers are to unleash the full “green” potential their jobs can deliver to communities, they must be empowered, have access to the tools, the rights and the working conditions enabling them to fulfil their missions at their best. Unfortunately, many “green” LRG workers are forced to operate in extremely poor conditions, such as is the case of the majority of waste workers worldwide (see section 4). While the hype is about the “circular economy” or the “green” side of environmental protection jobs, the reality of green LRG professions leaves much to be desired. LRGs employers, trade unions and civil society have an important opportunity and a major responsibility to urgently change this situation.

#### **Urban Climate Resilience Initiatives:**

- Qatar has been witnessing a major Shift towards Green Buildings in the context of promoting green development and in line with the role of Qatar National Vision 2030 to transform Qatar from depleted natural resources- based economy such as oil and gas to a knowledge-based economy.
- Amman city is a leading example in transitioning into a climate resilient and a green city. Since 2016 the city has been on the path for a paradigm shift with the introduction of the concept of resilient city in its planning efforts. The city has launched its resiliency strategy which includes major areas of intervention, allowing the implementation of its vision through 5 main pillars of resiliency that have been identified through stakeholders’ engagement and participatory approach to ensure that no one is left behind.
- The empowerment of workers to influence national climate plans is critical in how Jamaica and other Caribbean SIDS approach climate resilience. Workers represented by PSI affiliate the Jamaica Association of Local Government officers (JALGO) include fire fighters, social workers, disaster preparedness workers, workers providing water services, and other frontline workers in disaster preparedness and response. Through social dialogue and various collective bargaining rounds – and especially during Jamaica’s IMF programmes and the COVID-19 pandemic, JALGO insisted on ensuring the involvement of trade unions in the country’s development plans and efforts, especially at the local level.
- Bislig City, The Philippines: social dialogue at the heart of disaster preparedness and response In November 2013, typhoon Hayian – one of the world’s strongest storms ever - hit the Philippines causing over 6,000 deaths and displacing over 4 million people. Ninety percent of Tacloban City, Island of Leyte, was destroyed. Drawing from this tragic event and recognizing that the fundamental role of public emergency workers in the response to extreme climate events - as well as in post-disaster rebuilding - the Local Government of Bislig City (Surigao del Sur, Mindanao) and the Bislig City Employee Association trade union agreed in 2016 to work together to develop a comprehensive

disaster preparedness action plan. The terms of this collaboration resulted into a Memorandum of Understanding acknowledging that “a functioning and effective social dialogue between local government employers and workers, who are involved as first responders and must enjoy full trade union rights, is the essential condition for a successful disaster preparedness scheme”. With the help of a union solidarity fund, this dialogue has also enabled Bislig City emergency workers to upskill, get better disaster preparedness training, and access to adequate personal protective equipment to better respond to their city emergencies and save lives and infrastructures when disaster hits. This approach anticipated the recommendations contained in the 2018 Guidelines of the ILO on decent work in public emergency services.

### **Additional comments:**

#### **How is the NUA implementing the Paris agreement?**

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.

Two events at COP: a One UN event organised by UN Habitat, UNEP, UNDRR, UNCDF; UNU:

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=cities+at+crossroads](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=cities+at+crossroads)

And a UNEP event on Multi-level governance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSaL4I5nM60&t=1s>

Cross-Sectoral (integrated) approach emerged in the last couple of years- it is been tested in many cities - with ICLEI and other partners

In Asunción, Paraguay the InterAmerican Development Bank is working on the redevelopment of the Chacarita Alta neighborhood that is flooded every year due to climate change, with a `program that integrates a gender action plan in the redevelopment program.

UNECE is working on supporting implementation and monitoring climate neutrality, cities (building construction transportation, public space, ..).

#### **Examples:**

1. Forum of Mayors (FoM)<sup>44</sup>. Cities are on the front lines of addressing humanity’s most pressing challenges, including pandemics, climate change and natural hazards. As our world is growing increasingly urban – with some 75% of the population already living in cities in the UNECE region – these challenges cannot be solved by national governments alone. The Forum of Mayors 2020 brought together city leaders from Europe, North America, Central Asia and the Caucasus to address the key challenges of our time. The 2020 Forum was focus on “City action for a resilient future: Strengthening local government preparedness and response to emergencies and the impact of disasters and climate change”. The second Forum of Mayors (Forum of Mayors 2022) will be held back-to-back with the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. The event will provide a platform for Mayors from the UNECE region to exchange information on experiences and best practices on city level policies and practices.

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<sup>44</sup> <https://forumofmayors.unece.org/about.html>

2. Smart Sustainable Cities Profile - Voznesensk, Ukraine. The study analyses the city of Voznesensk by using the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Smart Sustainable Cities and support the municipality in setting priorities for action on urban sustainable development.<sup>45</sup>
3. The preparation of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) enables the review of SDG implementation at a local level. VLRs have already been demonstrated to be a useful tool for cities and subregions to catalyse action towards the SDGs and to support economic and social recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic. Many cities in the UNECE region, mostly in Western Europe, have developed and published VLRs.
4. The Guidelines for the Development of Voluntary Local Reviews in the UNECE Region endorsed in October 2021 by the UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management will assist local and regional governments in the region in developing VLRs. The Guidelines contain a set of principles and recommendations on concrete steps to be taken. The guidelines were elaborated based on the existing best practices in the region with the development of the VLRs and in consultation with UN-Habitat and other partner organizations, cities and their networks and other stakeholders.<sup>46</sup>
5. After the COVID-19 pandemic has put the housing problem under the spotlight again. Effective policies for affordable housing in the UNECE region; the Housing2030<sup>47</sup>, is a joint international initiative of UNECE, UN-Habitat and Housing Europe. It explores housing affordability challenges and existing policy instruments for improving housing affordability in the UNECE region and facilitates the exchange and dissemination of good practices in improving housing affordability among countries and cities of the region.
6. The Geneva Declaration was endorsed by the Mayors of the UNECE region at the first Forum of Mayors held in October 2020<sup>48</sup>. It is a commitment to:
  1. Strengthen the resilience of our cities;
  2. Take ambitious climate action;
  3. Make our cities greener;
  4. Accelerate the transition to sustainable energy;
  5. Ensure urban transport is sustainable;
  6. Ensure housing is affordable, healthy and adequate;
  7. Make cities more equitable and inclusive.
7. The Regional Action Plan<sup>49</sup> identifies policy propositions, targets and actions to assist governments and cities of UNECE member States in addressing the difficulties brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic for an already stretched affordable housing system across the region. It aims to tackle inequalities, strengthen the capacities of local actors, and pursue a green, resilient and inclusive economic recovery by focusing on two policy areas:
  1. cities, neighbourhoods, homes and rural life
  2. sustainable housing and homes.
8. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs): In 2015, the UNECE, together with 16 other UN agencies created the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Smart and Sustainable Cities. This methodology contains 91 indicators from the Economy, Environment and Society & Culture realms. The KPIs are the starting point for the development of the City Profiles, that is, data-driven assessments measuring smartness and sustainability. As of today, this methodology has been tested in over

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<sup>45</sup> [https://unece.org/DAM/hlm/documents/Publications/SSC\\_Profile\\_Voznesensk.ENG.pdf](https://unece.org/DAM/hlm/documents/Publications/SSC_Profile_Voznesensk.ENG.pdf)

<sup>46</sup> [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/Nur-Sultan%20City%20Profile\\_compressed\\_E.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/Nur-Sultan%20City%20Profile_compressed_E.pdf)

<sup>47</sup> [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/Housing2030%20study\\_E\\_web.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/Housing2030%20study_E_web.pdf)

<sup>48</sup> <https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-03/Mayors%20declaration%20booklet%20-%20ver.4.pdf>

<sup>49</sup> [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-08/ECE\\_HBP\\_2021\\_2-E.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-08/ECE_HBP_2021_2-E.pdf)

150 cities worldwide. The KPIs proved to be a useful tool during the COVID-19 pandemic, the responsiveness, preparedness, and capacity of municipal health systems proved to be a key measure of smartness. In this context, the KPIs include key indicators such as the per capita number of public and private hospital beds, the time taken for emergency services to respond to residents, the number of inhabitants covered by health insurance, or the percentage of city dwellers whose health records are registered within the public administration, among many more. Ref. Collection Methodology for Key Performance Indicators for Smart Sustainable Cities.<sup>50</sup>

## **Recommendations**

While reviewing the implementation of the New Urban Agenda during the past 4 years, taking into consideration findings on progress made, analysing data and information and also best practices, knowledge, etc., looking at how this agenda has integrated other global agendas and serve as an accelerator of these agendas, the Secretary General makes the following recommendations:

1.- The recommendations of 2018 are still valid, particularly c, d and f; a, b and c are being implemented.

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

All development policies particularly urban development policies should consider health as a strong element of the policy.

All development policies particularly urban development policies should consider gender and women's needs and universal design (strongly integrated in NUA and KL declaration) as a strong element of the policy.

A strong connection should be made between the response to pandemics and the long term agenda of climate change and the inclusive agenda which are connected.

In order to respond to structural inequalities that the pandemic put in evidence, resilience programs and development activities should pay fundamental attention to the reduction of exclusion, marginalisation and different forms of poverty, particularly when these are concentrated in specific areas, i.e. spatial notion of inequality.

Responses should consider to the need of economic resilience of cities and long term economic development plans based in communities and local action plans, rethinking the notion of economic space locally. Mechanisms for generating revenue.

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.

Need to rethink the urban functions of the cities, new forms of planning including mobility, public space, connecting homes and neighborhoods, and other issues that are covid responses.

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<sup>50</sup> <https://unece.org/DAM/hlm/documents/Publications/U4SSC-CollectionMethodologyforKPIfoSSC-2017.pdf>



To revise housing models of production, financing, planning, design, in order to create appropriate responses to vulnerable populations, particularly in slum areas and informal settlements, addressing homeless populations.

New social contract that considers universal access to housing, income, social security. Stronger engagement, presence and participation of the state is needed, understanding that the market has shown incapacity to address the needs of very significant sections of the population, not only of vulnerable groups.

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.

The need for a long term and predictable financing mechanism is still a priority, but the importance of engaging partners for the development of innovative financing is highly recommended.

Broaden resource mobilisation beyond that of funding, engaging different actors to make resources easier to access, including capacities and in-kind contributions.

- a) The Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division are invited to consider the adoption of a national sample of cities for the harmonization,
- b) The United Nations system may wish to strengthen the capacities of national and subnational governments to implement, monitor and report on the Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, in collaboration with knowledge-based institutions;
- c) The United Nations system should strengthen existing multi-stakeholder platforms that facilitate participation and engagement at all levels and support Member
- d) Member States may wish to further develop, as appropriate, inclusive, evidence-based and integrated national urban policies, as catalysts for implementing the Agenda and urban dimensions of the Goals at the national and local levels;
- e) In the spirit of localizing the Agenda and the Goals, Member States may also support the collection and analysis by subnational and local authorities of disaggregated quantitative and qualitative data, including gender, age, and disability indicators, to inform policy making and ensure that no one and no place is left behind in implementation of the Goals;
- f) Long-term and predictable financing mechanisms for the implementation and monitoring of the Agenda, including the capacity of subnational governments to raise revenue from their own sources, should be created.

## **V. MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION** (1700 words)

### **Financing the implementation of the NUA (500 words)**

#### **Group 1: Financing the implementation of the NUA.**

*This section can among other things highlight:*



- That the financing of the NUA has been lacking in many regards. Access to credit does not exist in many cities, private investment is not being mobilized and fiscal decentralization has not panned out as expected, and blended finance is not the silver bullet we were expecting;
- That in many ways the sources of revenue have not fundamentally changed since the 70's and that the political will for local taxation remains absent;
- That most financing tools from national and local governments are focused on providing housing through loans or subsidies;
- The need for frameworks to guide governments on where to initiate their financing strategy and where to prioritize;
- How cities are dealing with the dramatic reduction in revenue due to Covid-19 while facing an increase in expenditure;
- That economic inequality is still rising and that the role of equitable financing to ameliorate the inequality have not been effective.

## **Introduction**

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, but it remains the largest in Sub-Saharan Africa (Comment by Olamide: The African infrastructure-financing gap (the difference between investment needs and actual investment) is estimated at between USD 130 and USD 170 billion per year. The Climate change adaptation financing needs (gap) in Africa is projected to range from \$160 billion to \$260 billion for the period 2020 to 2030). This gap cannot be closed entirely, yet experience shows that synergies pursuing coherence of different sources of capital can help increase available financing for investment. The effects of dealing with COVID-19 pandemics decreased productivity and employment opportunities and tied up funding in social security measures, but more resourceful countries also introduced investment frameworks and funds for building back better. The pandemics also offered opportunities to rethink investment priorities and models, improving the enabling environment such as national laws and regulatory frameworks to leverage investments (private, social and public, formal & informal).

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 financeable investments, especially in developing countries. It sharpened the focus on fostering new sources of revenues, taking the opportunities generated by the data production, use and property of local governments as well as through the new markets created by the patterns of production and consumption stimulated by the adoption of circular economy and de-carbonization models.

### **1. Towards a paradigm change**

#### ***Qualifying text***

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.

The international community is grappling with the implications of COVID-19 on both public budgets and widening financing gaps for the sustainable development goals (SDGs). If we are to reorient progress back towards delivering the 2030 Agenda, we need more sustainable investments with measurable evidence of their SDGs impacts.

There has been change of paradigm in providing ODA, centering on blending grants, loans and guarantees for private sector investment: in 2017 European Union launched EU External Investment plan[1], providing blended finance and guarantees for investment in sustainable development in the developing countries in Africa and EU Neighbourhood. In 2021, the geography of this plan has been extended to global. The Plan includes a special window for investing in urban development. Across all themes, the Plan will generate over 50 billion Euro in public and private investment for development.

In addition to financing sectoral policies such as housing, the governments need to invest in city-wide strategies, planning, capacity building, campaigns. This needs to be done at 3 levels

1. Local (land - value capture and taxation + decentralization)
2. National (decentralization & funding city wide strategies as anchor to make a better sense of sectoral investments at local level).
3. International: green finance.

There are established tools that worked for infrastructure and services, yet we should consider a creative approach [Giuseppe, we need clarification what is meant by “creative approach”]. key point on the importance of green interventions and land value capture [Green Corridors in Colombia, Giuseppe, more info, please]. Different financial mechanisms should be integrated, connecting more finance with equity and green transition goals. Collaboration of various actors has been underpinned by examples from Brazil and Guatemala, consortia and mancomunidades [?], pooling resources to fund public goods at metropolitan and urban cluster levels.

Blended Finance can work if you are ready to tackle complexity. There is a Finance gap and a knowledge gap. The grant component can go not only to cover part of the investment (or financial cost) but perhaps it is even more useful for covering the preliminary technical activities you need to set up the project.

While all of these interventions in their own right may help to optimise city finances, it is not clear which ones are most applicable in which contexts and where decision makers should start. In what circumstances do municipal finance foundations, i.e., OSR capacity, effective budgeting, and expenditure, need to be in place before other financial options are explored? To what extent do different interventions to enhance access to finance support each other and where is sequencing/prioritisation of interventions needed?

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 etc. There have been some valuable progress in this area over the past few years, for example by the Cities for Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (CCFLA), the C40 Finance Facility, and networks such as ICLEI, GCoM and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), and partnerships designed to work with a select group of cities such as the Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA) as well as many others.

### ***Examples***

UN-Habitat strengthened partnership with the European Investment Bank – the largest multilateral development bank in the World, to join efforts in implementing NUA by promoting well-planned and managed urban development, in the context of rapid urbanization, as a driver of sustainable development and a vehicle to achieve green and climate-smart transformation.[2]

In the EU, the response to COVID-19 crisis has been collective and the 27 MS decide to create common debt in order to implement a massive reform and investment response at regional level through National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRPs). So far, member states have started to receive the first instalments of their allocation. The recovery process is now moving from design to implementation. In the EU context, Member states are working on the definition of the governance structures and rules that will be at the basis of resources allocation and the implementation of new projects. Since already last year cities were actively engaging with national governments and calling to contribute to the design and the future implementation of the plans. City contributions clearly confirm the trend identified last year that the consultations in most EU countries have not meant cities have sufficiently been involved. No significant improvement was achieved despite a strong efforts and pro-active attitude from cities and repeated calls from EU institutions to Member states. Cities of the EU identify the lack of a structured dialogue as the main barrier towards a meaningful contribution during the design phase. Other recurrently identified barriers include the absence of a clear feedback mechanism for their project proposals, a lack of political will to include them and time constraints. An example is the Madrid Recovery and Resilience Plan which aligns Municipal priorities, projects and budget with National and EU priorities, proposing a pipeline of already *ready-to-implement* transformative project of 4 Billions showing expenditure capacity the will to contribute to all level of governance and foster private-public partnership (<https://www.madrid.es/UnidadWeb/NxC/PlanRecuperacion/rtssingles.pdf>).

The EU Cohesion policy provides funding for deploying the New Urban Agenda through its territorial and urban dimension. Out of each national allocation of the European Regional Development Fund, 5% have been allocated to sustainable urban development supporting strategies drawn up by local and territorial authorities over the period 2014-2020. 985 integrates urban development strategies received support across the EU. This support will amount to 8% in the period covering 2021-2027[1]. It is accompanied by capacity building tools like the Urban Development Network[2], the Handbook for Sustainable urban development strategies[3], and in the future the European Urban Initiative[4].

Agreement in Egypt to fund infrastructure at local level with Ministry of Finance [more details to be shared by Nihal].

Egypt issued "green bonds" for the first time to finance infrastructure projects (Comment by Olamide: Green climate fund - 37 per cent of the portfolio of the Green Climate fund totaling USD 3.3 billion is invested in Africa – spread across 70 approved projects including multiregional projects) [3]. Example of fund established in Costa Rica [to be provided by Ben Arimah]. Investments in informal settlements bring

high returns to the city and countries GDPs. Green loans work, examples from Mexico and Colombia [Ben, references, please]. How can we use this approach in Africa? It would be important to strengthen the green transition in Africa. Johannesburg has proved that green bonds can work [Ben, reference, please]. National endorsement is needed for subnational authorities to have rights to issue financial instruments such as e.g. bonds. Multilateral banks warn of inflexibility of the bond versus loan in case of failing return from investment funded by bond, as bond is a fixed-income instrument and thus interest must be paid regularly and on maturity the principal must be paid in full, whilst a loan may be restructured by negotiation.

Tanzania, the national government, in collaboration with UNCDF, has trained 177 members of investment committees from 60 local government authorities on public investment management. Similarly, the African Development Bank is assisting Dakar, Senegal, to improve financial and administrative management systems as well as helping them to create financial mechanisms to attract new investments for sustainable urban development.

## **2. Revenue generation and fiscality national, sub national and local level**

### ***Qualifying text***

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 subnational entities, especially for intermediate cities, requires strengthening their own source revenues.

Land value capture mechanisms are an important source of public revenues for investing in urban development.

Comment by Olamide: In South Africa, the cities of Tshwane, Cape Town, Ekurhuleni, Johannesburg and Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality have been empowered and are implementing sustainable public procurement practices that not only achieve value for money but also drive toward sustainability.

Through the Joint Programme on Local Governance, UN-Habitat has been strengthening capacities for municipal revenue generation in Somalia over the past decade. It has resulted positively, for example Hargeisa Municipality has seen an increase in revenue from US\$1.3 million in 2018 to US\$1.6 million in 2019, which has facilitated the delivery of social and physical infrastructure. Similarly, Berbera Municipality has seen an increase and implemented 30 development projects in 2019, including construction of roads and improvements to the health and education sectors.

In Tanzania, the national government, in collaboration with UNCDF, has trained 177 members of investment committees from 60 local government authorities on public investment management. Similarly, the African Development Bank is assisting Dakar, Senegal, to improve financial and administrative management systems as well as helping them to create financial mechanisms to attract new investments for sustainable urban development.

### ***Examples***

Malawi, central government transfers to cities make up less than 20 per cent of the total budget, while for rural local authorities, they account for 80 per cent. Mzuzu is an example of how intermediary cities, where revenues are low and capacity is minimal, can innovate municipal finance reform. Its Revenue

Mobilisation Programme – a simple and fit-for-capacity property valuation system – has yielded a seven-fold increase in revenues. Yet legal barriers in the current property valuation process inhibited further progress, underlining the importance of creating innovative tools that are legally in conformity with national policies.

In Hargeisa, Somaliland, Somalia, planning for future expansion has been useful for capturing the gains from rapid urbanisation through exaction, and improving future urban investment - landowners on the outskirts of the city who apply to convert their land from rural to urban land use must provide the city government with 30 per cent of the asset. In this way, the city can access the land it needs to provide public infrastructure to service a growing city. At the same time, rent from this land offers the city a valuable source of additional income to pay for the infrastructure development. Real estate tax was also implemented in Egypt and according to the law 25% of the real estate tax revenue is allocated to the governorates to finance urban development projects. Land value capture pilot project was implemented in one of the governorates in Greater Cairo Region [more information will be shared by Nihal]. In addition, starting 2021/2022 budget the Ministry of Planning and Ministry of Local Development will allocate state budget directly to localities to finance the preparation of detailed plans at the local level as a tool to reduce and hopefully stop unplanned and informal sprawling. Land is a critical resource, and it is Important to recognize the social function of the land, and establish a land cadaster. For example, laws have been enacted by Sao Paulo to enforce the use of vacant and underutilized land, and by Rio de Janeiro to unlock and speed up process to make available public state for social housing purposes.

Sao Paulo show (CEPACS & FUNDURB and outorga onerosa [?]). Funds [what funds?] are used to finance slum upgrading and housing.[4] Example from Burkina Faso, city government cross subsidy on sanitation from higher income households, also for training programmes [reference, please?]. Nigeria, national governments refuse to decentralize resources.

A number of countries (Cabo Verde, Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritius, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Togo) pointed to the role of remittances and contributions of diaspora in providing resources for sustainable development. Togo reported that the mobilization of the Togolese diaspora has intensified in recent years through innovative initiatives such as "Réussite diaspora", someone mentions about building capacity of local government - Through the Joint Programme on Local Governance, UN-Habitat has been strengthening capacities for municipal revenue generation in Somalia over the past decade. It has resulted positively, for example Hargeisa Municipality has seen an increase in revenue from US\$1.3 million in 2018 to US\$1.6 million in 2019, which has facilitated the delivery of social and physical infrastructure.

The Thailand Land and Buildings Tax Act (2019) supports four important changes: (i) the change of the tax base from the annual rent determined by individual district officials to the value of the land, buildings, and condominium units as appraised by the government, which is intended to increase impartiality and reduce the scope of discretion for individuals; (ii) the change of the tax rate from the flat rate of 12.5 per cent to different rates, depending on the use of the property; (iii) tax collection from residential properties that were not previously subject to property tax; and (iv) the tax collection to be done by the local 'sub-district administrative organization' for each 'sub-district'. (Reference: Charoenkitraj, N. and Amonpiticharoen, J. (2019) Insight: New Property Tax in Thailand from 2020. (Source:<https://news.bloombergtax.com/daily-tax-report-international/insight-new-property-tax-in-thailand-from-2020>)

PPP for property tax collection in India: In India's Jharkhand state, a PPP appointed three tax collection agencies and a project management unit across 41 cities and towns (Reference: Sharma, M., S.H. Li, and

R. Teipelke (2021) 'Advancing the Financial Sustainability of Asian Cities', in B. Susantono and R. Guild (eds) *Creating Livable Asian Cities*, Asian Development Bank, Mandaluyong City, Philippines, pp. 284-314.)

Sierra Leone, the cities of Bo, Kenema and Makeni increased local revenues by 200–450 per cent between 2007 and 2011 by implementing a simplified and transparent system of property valuation. In Cotonou, Porto-Novo, Parakou and some other smaller cities in Benin the government has been implementing a land information system (Registre Foncier Urbain) that has positively impacted local finances.

### **3. Private sector and community**

#### ***Qualifying text***

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.

Localize the SDGs and harmonize as well as expand international standards and certification mechanisms for companies and investment funds to contribute to the SDGs at local level.

#### ***Examples***

Here's an example I recently prepared for ESCAP on an ADB loan to catalyse private sector investment for affordable and accessible housing: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is currently providing loan support to complete unfinished residential complexes, Chkondideli and Mirtskhulava, in Tbilisi, Georgia. The support aims to address prevailing developmental

The ADB loan will partially finance the development of the two affordable residential complexes in Tbilisi being developed by M Squared and Optima, two private developers, who have taken over a failed project that was initiated by another private developer. This will be ADB's first non-sovereign financing of the housing sector in the Central and West Asia. The support is provided under the ADB's Project Readiness Facility for Livable Cities Investment Program

Low-income households in Lagos, Nigeria, meet their water needs through both communal sources and small-scale private hawkers or cooperative providers.

In India, community organizations helped the city of Mumbai to rethink its approach to sanitation. Supported by Mahila Milan (the federation of women slum dwellers' savings groups), groups of women living in informal settlements or on sidewalks redesigned public toilets so they were managed by the community rather than the local government, providing improved facilities to half a million residents. The Mumbai government financed the toilets' construction, so the community pays only for operation and

maintenance. Residents buy monthly passes that provide access to all household members for less than two dollars per month.

#### **4. Sectoral - Housing**

##### ***Qualifying text***

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 Government assistance for households to meet their housing costs. Designed to target needs or location and can be indexed or rationed.

##### ***Examples***

An example of NWB Bank (Nederlandse Waterschapsbank N.V) affordable housing bonds, the Netherlands. The NWB Bank (<https://nwbbank.com/en>) is a large Dutch public investment bank which created affordable housing bonds to attract dedicated investors into affordable housing provision. These affordable housing bonds are priced according to demand and strategically marketed to a small pool of investors interested in social and green housing. The bonds fund loans for the provision, renovation and retrofitting of income-targeted social housing in the Netherlands, managed by not-for-profit organizations.

Source: UNECE and Housing Europe. .2021. #Housing2030: Effective policies for affordable housing in the UNECE region. at [www.housing2030.org](http://www.housing2030.org)

In Indian cities such as Surat and Ahmedabad, the Mahila Housing Trust has tried this approach by negotiating with city agencies and leveraging city funds on behalf of informal workers. These funds have been used to upgrade housing conditions and access solar energy technologies to run refrigerators, soldering irons, and sewing machines for home- based businesses.

Example on national funding on housing for the urban poor in Thailand: Thailand's 'Baan Mankong' or Secure Housing programme stands out as a longstanding transformative commitment towards slum upgrading in the Asia-Pacific region. During its operation from January 2003 to March 2018, the Secure Housing Programme has supported 1,042

Using redevelopment strategies, such as onsite upgrading, reblocking, reconstruction and land-sharing, 61 per cent of all assisted households have been given new housing on the same site. Baan Mankong programme has provided public sector financial support to the poor communities to the tune of US \$121.89 million as grants (subsidy) for infrastructure and housing, and US \$272.57 million as loans for land



and housing (Reference: Community Development Organizations Institute (2019) Thailand's national, people-driven, collective housing program. CODI, Bangkok.)

Additional contributions by Olamide:

### **investments to cities**

To address low levels of FDI and attract private investment, countries have implemented diverse strategies. Comoros set up a National Agency for the Promotion of Investments that facilitates business registration

Remittances continue to be an important source of capital for economic growth and development (Benin, Burundi, Comoros, Uganda), although they remain below desired levels in some countries. Remittances, which are monies sent home by migrants to their families, are known to provide a financial boost to millions of households. The positive impact that they have is seen in the fact that their flows into Africa surpassed Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) and Developmental Aid in 2019, reaching a total of \$48 billion (See Figure 16). These are only recorded flows; the true size of remittance flows, however, including those through informal channels, is often predicted to be even larger. According to the Africa Growth Initiative, the top recipient countries in 2019 were South Sudan, Lesotho, and The Gambia, and in 2020, most of the money sent to Sub Saharan Africa went to Nigeria. While recorded data is not available for Somalia, it is widely believed that the country is heavily dependent on remittances

PPP - Public private partnerships (PPP) were noted to play key roles in supporting infrastructure investments by numerous countries (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa). Several countries reported on steps taken at the legislative level to strengthen the transparency and efficiency of PPP frameworks (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania).

Ghana has established a CEOs Advisory Group on the SDGs, which champions the private sector's engagement on sustainable development

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[1] [https://ec.europa.eu/eu-external-investment-plan/sites/default/files/documents/efsd\\_guarantees-feb\\_2021-en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/eu-external-investment-plan/sites/default/files/documents/efsd_guarantees-feb_2021-en.pdf)

[2] <https://www.eib.org/attachments/events/joint-communique-africa-day-04032020.pdf>

[1] Urban Data Platform + <https://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/strat-board/#/where>

[2] [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/themes/urban-development/network/](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/themes/urban-development/network/)

[3] <https://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/urbanstrategies/>

[4] [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/tender/pdf/eui/annex\\_a\\_memo.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/tender/pdf/eui/annex_a_memo.pdf)

[3] <https://www.sis.gov.eg/Story/152386/Egypt-issues-first-Green-bonds-at-%24750-million-value?lang=en-us> and <http://country.eiu.com/article.aspx?articleid=1630223146>

[4] Reference: Mahendra, A., R. King, J. Du, A. Dasgupta, V. A. Beard, A. Kallergis, and K. Schalch. 2021. "Seven Transformations for More Equitable and Sustainable Cities." World Resources Report, Towards a More Equal City. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute. <https://doi.org/10.46830/wrirpt.19.00124>. Available online at [publications.wri.org/transformations-equitable-sustainable-cities](https://publications.wri.org/transformations-equitable-sustainable-cities)

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**Chapter 5 - Group 2: Building capacities to report on the effective implementation of the sustainable urban agendas. 500 words**

*This section can among other things highlight:*

- That this is an internal part of all the activities that the UN has been pursuing;
- Whether the capacity of governments to report on the implementation of sustainable urban agendas has improved or not;
- That evidence-based planning relies on data and effective monitoring;
- That cities lack capacity to understand the whole value chain to drive impact

Round 3: facilitator: Eduardo. Writer: Inés

**Mechanisms, functions and tools**

*Awareness raising*

*Trust*

*Digitalization*

**Multi-level Reporting systems and Capacity Building**

**Integration of regional, national and local levels crucial for building awareness and capacity on the New Urban Agenda and related reporting,**

The coherence of local and national level needs to be established.

**a) Local level**

*Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs)*

The preparation of VLRs enables the review of SDG implementation at a local level. VLRs have already been demonstrated to be a useful tool for cities and subregions to catalyse action towards the SDGs and to support economic and social recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic. Many cities in the UNECE region, mostly in Western Europe, have developed and published VLRs.

The Guidelines for the Development of Voluntary Local Reviews in the UNECE Region endorsed in October 2021 by the UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management will assist local and regional governments in the region in developing VLRs. The Guidelines contain a set of principles and recommendations on concrete steps to be taken. The guidelines were elaborated based on the existing best practices in the region with the development of the VLRs and in consultation with UN-Habitat and other partner organizations, cities and their networks and other stakeholders.

[https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-08/ECE\\_HBP\\_2021\\_4-2109985E.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-08/ECE_HBP_2021_4-2109985E.pdf)

Nisreen. Three examples. One implementation of NUA in 2 cities Aman Jordan Agadir Morocco. The main issues identified by local authorities themselves the need to implement VLR. Would be first in region. Capacity buildings are in process. In order to build not only for city staff but for others.

#### *Asia Pacific*

Asia Pacific is very dependent on capacity of local governments to grasp and adopt NUA at local level. Now this year since UNH more educational material, etc. and integrated narrative, as accelerator of SDG agenda, it is being easier to advance. Potential for stronger action in different platforms.

Cambodia, low income country low capacity to absorb the agendas and integrate them in local systems, quite challenges, capacity to implement difficult. But: they had stakeholder consultation within the country and found access to implementation, this is the approach and priorities. Cambodia: introduced NUA to officials last year, they were not aware at beginning; then stakeholders. Philippines very different: they had already adopted NUA at national level, they had set up an institutional mechanism, Ministry of Housing in charge of NUA, much easier to engage in discussion at local level. Capacity is much higher, they already have projects, decentralized committee functions, the reporting indicators easier at local level. Has Asian internalized NUA to the extent the Philippines has?

Curt: in the current years applications they have attracted mayors, asking if they were familiar with SDGs etc., half were unfamiliar, This illustrate need to raise awareness. There is significant opportunity to raise awareness of NUA, Big cities more familiar and probably have capacities. There is limited awareness for those coming in. City of Co&& in India did; but others in Bangladesh were not familiar with NUA (yes with SDGs). So localising SDGs would facilitate introducing the topic.

Please correct the note for mayors Academy Mayors- half unaware/unfamiliar with NUA; more are familiar with SDGs. Example Mayor of Thrompon Bhutan: Aware of SDGs and VLR, but not NUA.

#### *Capacities for national level reporting of local level interventions and vertical integration of local examples*

Amann: Mayor and local political will were very decisive elements for advancing reporting. The choice of the city depends on this, they have knowledge of VLR and link to national level, which was not existent, but they are hoping this will be established with this project.

#### Other thematic entry points

- urban economic resilience is a global project in 3 cities: Kuwait, Alexandria and Beirut: role of local authorities in leading economic resilience and recovery plans. All these together formulate a very good start . They will develop the capacity of stakeholders within cities.

#### *Grassroots Reporting - NGOs, Academia, Communities*

Emmanuel. Sides a lot with what Claudio says. Working on the grassroots and as a researcher. Emphasis on big cities as opposite with medium and small. Word city. Agenda is urban areas, there are many areas in Africa that do not have city infrastructure and have no urban status. Capacities are being built in data creation and collection, many cities, Accra, Dar es salaam, are doing it collect and visualize in very new ways. Bottom up data is till limited, example of ??? A city level framework is showing the utility of community generated data. Broader recommendation on this plethora of community generated data, this can be transformational. A lot of this happens in informal settlements. SDI network has played a very instrumental role. Freetown, Lagos. This grassroots engagement, capacity building with new tools and geo referenced data is something that can be useful for formalized reporting processes if it is recognized. The role of largely set consortia and research projects . Send link. UCL brings to the fore an important approach for capacity building, accumulated process, mutual and reciprocal recognition of agency and capacity. There is a grounded push towards recognition of grassroots agency and knowledge.

Increased role of research consortia in building capacities (e.g. <https://www.urban-know.com/> and <https://www.mistraurbanfutures.org/en>) and coproducing knowledge especially with informal settlements .... and the concerted efforts to link to city-level policy makers to advance the recognition and utility of community generated data. i.e. The “Transform Freetown” Agenda recognises and incorporates informal settlement collectives and their data in design, monitoring etc.

*Women’s groups, particularly those from the community base are included in the reporting platforms and mechanisms for the NUA so that bottom-up processes and initiatives with women are captured. This can be done through the National Urban Forum mechanism and through Voluntary Local Review processes. e.g. the State of Hawaii (in partnership with Hawaii Green Growth), City of Los Angeles and Helsingborg, Sweden have recently developed open data dashboards to display VLR progress and open opportunities for engagement by the public and all stakeholders.<sup>[1]</sup> The critical role of civil society in collecting and analysing data in support of achieving urban development goals is increasingly recognised in such initiatives, including a core focus on gender equality in participation. These open-data platforms support accountability and transparency on the goals, with community-driven metrics to inform local to national-level decision making.*

### **Lessons learned and recommendations**

The need to localize the training material: translate material prepared by UNH to Arabic and local context. Handbook for NUA has also been translated. These will be used for capacity building for different stakeholders. It should also be adapted into alternative formats like braille and audio formats.

#### **National level**

##### **Structural dimension of capacity building**

Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Gambia, are examples of capacity built via new legislations and legal frameworks. Legal recognition of

The goal is to achieve higher levels of local production and increased competitiveness through the provision of technological support to local firms in order to expand the South African economy. Enhancing research capacity is the fuel that drives this ambition.

The **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** has made substantial progress in enhancing knowledge production, growing and transforming the pool of knowledge workers, and exploiting knowledge for development through the Centers of Excellence Programme and the South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARCHI).

By partnering with civil society organisations, Malawi enhanced capacity development aimed at eliminating violence against women and children through interventions like the Spotlight Initiative, where girls and women at risk of violence can access essential services, including sexual and

United Republic of Tanzania, through the Local/Decentralized Climate Finance project (2016–2018), helping small holder farmers, pastoralists and fishermen acquire the basic technical skills required to make informed decisions in their income generating activities as well as engaging women and traditional leaders in planning.

A curriculum on the goals was developed in collaboration with the Kenya School of Government, and these are being taught through targeted workshop to diverse groups.

### Urban Observatories

Not just building capacity but building trust.

ex: Johannesburg. Freetown.

Partnering of the observatories with central gov? A large number are reporting on SDGs but the question is how many on NUA.

Eduardo: Add as a Recommendation: Partnering of the observatories with central gov

“Urban Observatories: A Comparative Review<sup>51</sup>” report. This international review of the role of urban observatories by University of Melbourne, UCL and UN-Habitat highlighted the centrality of relations of information mobilisation/data monitoring (SDGs and other indicator frameworks including in some cases the NUA/CPI) are critical to build trust between urban stakeholders. A key recommendation of the report is to better strengthen and value these boundary institutions

Tangible examples of this are the Gauteng City Region Observatory, the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre, Karachi Urban Lab, Beirut Urban Observatory, AURIN and many more as represented in the Global Urban Observatory Network.

→ many useful examples of engagement and action

Observatories often speak in ‘the language’ of NUA in places, but it is often as an artefact of their engagement with SDGs or other frameworks or convergence from local level issues (or a mix of all).

### CPI<sup>52</sup>

Clear NUA-SDG alignment - examples?

### Regional level

Highlight regional context for reporting because the national reports in the region could benefit. There are some platforms that can support and share experiences to help build the capacities for national to strengthen their reporting. The regional context needs to come in. Some solutions and guidance that have been developed could also benefit from regional experience. Ex: megacities in this region are better capacitated have more data, but secondary and emerging cities it is a burden to expect that they start with significant amounts of data, it needs to be incremental. So what are the frameworks for data and how are they delivered, with various jurisdictions (national, subnational, local), capacities etc. It is important because many existing platforms encourage exchange and this needs not to get lost, It is also about strengthening national reporting.

### Example:

EU

The EU made three commitment commitments in Quito and this year completed reporting on all of them:

i) producing global definition of cities

Two reports regarding the Degree of urbanisation and global definition of cities :

<https://www.oecd.org/publications/cities-in-the-world-d0efcbda-en.htm> and

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/en/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/ks-02-20-499>

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<sup>51</sup> <https://unhabitat.org/urban-observatories-a-comparative-review>

<sup>52</sup> <https://unhabitat.org/programme/city-prosperity-initiative>

ii) methodological tool. Implementation of the New Urban Agenda through the Urban Agenda for the EU. Leipzig charter adopted last year guidance tool for sustainable urban development in Europe, Urban agenda for EU multilevel tool, reference to NUA and SDGs  
just completed review for its contribution to NUA: <https://futurium.ec.europa.eu/en/urban-agenda/news/review-contributions-urban-agenda-eu-new-urban-agenda>

iii) Cities in the World. *Third EU commitment, which is the International Urban Cooperation programme.* setting up of international cooperation program, cities from EU and other regions, report published 2020:  
[https://iuc.eu/fileadmin/templates/iuc/lib/iuc\\_resource//tools/push\\_resource\\_file\\_resource.php?uid=wlvdN5NF](https://iuc.eu/fileadmin/templates/iuc/lib/iuc_resource//tools/push_resource_file_resource.php?uid=wlvdN5NF)

Union for the Mediterranean active in urban development, plan for NUA, there is window for monitoring, working with mMS for monitoring frameworks.

#### Effective incentives

They have not worked on mMS perspectives, MS are working on their reports. Guidelines on national reporting that report on other activities not necessarily framed in same way. Based on these guidelines, adapted framework for reporting on these initiative, but maybe this is a tool that can help for other non national level initiatives. Union for the Mediterranean a number of actions. Strong willingness to have national urban policies, city strategies, capacity building and reporting goes together to evaluate impact and implementation on the ground They are now working on this.

Another example we would like to share is the following : The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Regional Platform on sustainable urban development was launched in 2017 and created dialogue between the 42 UfM Member states on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in the region. A UfM Strategic Action Plan on urban development 2040, and an accompanying plan on housing have been published in 2021 to provide guidance on best practices, and progress towards integrated development via specific actions and capacity building tools and activities to be implemented.

and here is the source with all documents available: <https://ufmsecretariat.org/urban-agenda/>

### **including capacity building on reporting building in other thematic projects**

#### **Smart City Profiles**

Smart City profiles UNECE is developing:

UNECE development of the Smart Sustainable Cities (SSC) Profiles for Nur-Sultan (Kazakhstan) and Alesund, Asker, Rana, and Trondheim (Norway), and endorsed the Guidelines on tools and mechanisms to finance Smart Sustainable Cities projects. It further took note of the information on the implementation of the U4SSC programme and reiterated the invitation to national and local governments to use the KPIs for SSC to evaluate cities. The Nur-Sultan City Profile was developed with the support of the Russian Federation within the project "Strengthening capacities of selected CIS countries to implement urban-related SDGs through the Country Profiles on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management and innovative financing mechanisms".

[https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/Nur-Sultan%20City%20Profile\\_compressed\\_E.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/Nur-Sultan%20City%20Profile_compressed_E.pdf)

Indicators, evidence data, new methodologies, older urban policies, topics of NUA.

City profiles linked with VLR plans need to follow

(UNECE) City Profiles UNDA 12th tranche project on Smart Sustainable Cities and innovative financing: Based on the recommendations included in the SSCP of Bishkek, the UNECE and the Cities

Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA) established a partnership with local and national government and academia for the development of a pre-feasibility study on the integrated development of 5 informal settlements in Bishkek, covering a total of 75,000 beneficiaries. The project aims to plan for and identify downstream financing for water supply, sanitation, stormwater management, drainage, district heating, power supply, solid waste management, paved roads, green open spaces, schools, medical facilities and green buildings for job creation based on informal workers' skills.

In addition, the project puts tailored capacity-building to operate and maintain such infrastructure at the core. In this context, UNECE's work is estimated to have leveraged an additional USD550,000 in technical assistance from the CDIA and the City of Bishkek. Considering that pre-feasibility studies constitute on average 5 percent of the overall infrastructure cost in the region, the Smart Sustainable City Profile of Bishkek has the potential to leverage USD55 million which would massively contribute to socio-economic, governance, environmental, health and climate mitigation benefits.

(UNECE) the UNDA12th tranche project Smart Sustainable Cities for the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda in the UNECE Region (2020-2023), UNECE is developing data-driven urban assessment and sustainable urban infrastructure planning and financing strategies in 5 cities across Central Asia and Western Balkans. It is thanks to the establishment of partnerships with local authorities, national ministries, multilateral development banks and agencies, local and international NGOs, the private sector, think tanks, academia and civil society at large that in 2021, the subprogram successfully developed and launched three Smart Sustainable City Profiles (SSCPs): a) Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan b) Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan and c) Grodno, Belarus. Multi-stakeholder alliances such as the ones mobilized by the development of SSCP have a higher chance to deliver tangible quality of life increases, such as the Bishkek example later showcased.

## **Biodiversity**

Biodiversity agenda also inspiration

Adnan. localizing illustrated handbooks. ESCWA, through its development project focus on the "Interregional cooperation for the implementation of the New Urban agenda Project" that is being implemented in the Arab region strengthens the capacities of Member States includes activities related to building capacities for the implementation of the New urban Agenda. In support of the capacity building efforts, ESCWA localized the Illustrated Handbook on the NUA to Arabic. It also localized the crash course on the NUA (2 modules: Core dimensions of the NUA and Means of Implementation). These learning materials will be used as part of the capacity building workshops on the NUA conducted for the region. Also, ESCWA together with all UN RCs, UN-Habitat and UNCDF are in the process of developing e-learning material on building urban resilience and recovery.

At the level of capacity building on the urban monitoring framework, ESCWA in partnership with UN-Habitat organized the first regional webinar on the NUA and its urban monitoring framework in 2021.

## **Link between action and reporting.**

Other good practice on national reporting capacities?

Are there opportunities for a sample of cities approach to help support at national level? Ex in India.

Curt yes, regional reporting not as a formal mechanism, but looking at regional approaches, ex intergovernmental platforms, such as Asia Pacific Urban Forum could be used as venues and platforms for reporting. How to do that needs to be incorporated into the overall approach, so that it does not come in the year before the quadrennial report. Milestones of different stages, systemic approach. National sample of cities could be a useful approach but at the same time needs to be shared with the cities in which we are trying to build the capacities. Makes sense for national governments in their reporting, but



vertical down to local that they can build their capacities in support of long. Penang is a great example for Asia Pacific Region.

Partnership with academia, how to strengthen this particularly with gov.

Michele Acuto. yes Bridge data in information and capacity gaps. The reporting

De Emmanuel Osuteye para todos 09:28 AM

Area planning”),

Emmanuel: There needs to be an increase in recognition for increased utility.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

- *That this is an internal part of all the activities that the UN has been pursuing;*
- *Whether the capacity of governments to report on the implementation of sustainable urban agendas has improved or not;*
- There is an issue of long-life training for public officials and in universities. A lot of university level courses have been developed on the SDGs and the NUA. Also in Spain we are seeing that our curricula at the university are integrating both SDGs and the NUA as part of their content within planning and architecture degrees. Then organizations focusing on supporting the international agendas, such as UN-SDSN, have developed specific courses with the collaboration of the universities that are part of it
- Sectoral capacity building on gender: several toolkits on various aspects of planning and addressing different world contexts, some on specific topics, like housing, transportation, etc.
- In the last two years, we have seen an increase in online training and capacity building - for public officials, but still lack access, due to lack of digital tools.
- **National governments lack of guidance on how to translate the NUA in the national context -** Recommendation: UNH should provide some guidance on the implementation that is tailored to the national legislation, competences, etc.

### *Lack of understanding of value chain*

- **WHO:**
  - Implementation of capacity building on the use of key tools that help assess health impacts of urban environmental risk factors on health/or of sectoral policies on health; such as AIRQ+, GReenUR, HEAT etc.;;
  - Implementation of HIAP training (Health in all policies) at urban level to support multi sectoral dialogues and collaborations.
  - we need to capitalise on existing capacity and training materials ( comprehensive platform that include different sources)
- **In the EU:**
  - capacity building has been focused on the city networking, such as URBACT, that enables peer-to-peer learning and knowledge sharing.

- methodological support, via production of Handbook for Sustainable Urban Development Strategies.<sup>53</sup>
- **UNECE**
  - Forum of Mayors (FoM)<sup>54</sup>. The Forum of Mayors will bring together city leaders from Europe, North America, Central Asia and the Caucasus to address the key challenges of our time. The 2020 Forum was focus on “City action for a resilient future: Strengthening local government preparedness and response to emergencies and the impact of disasters and climate change”.
  - The second Forum of Mayors (Forum of Mayors 2022) will be held back-to-back with the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. The event will provide a platform for Mayors from the UNECE region to exchange information on experiences and best practices on city level policies and practices.
  - A Regional Action Plan 2030. The Regional Action Plan identifies policy propositions, targets and actions to assist governments and cities of UNECE member States in addressing the difficulties brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic for an already stretched affordable housing system across the region. It aims to tackle inequalities, strengthen the capacities of local actors, and pursue a green, resilient and inclusive economic recovery by focusing on two policy areas:
    1. cities, neighbourhoods, homes and rural life
    2. sustainable housing and homes.
- **Structural dimension of capacity building:** Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Gambia, are examples of capacity built via new legislations and legal frameworks. Legal recognition of disaster-management authorities is one example of this structural change. Many of the implementing projects of the NUA included capacity building and trainings (i.e. Accra). SDI framework includes enumeration activities that enables the inclusion of communities in informal settlements.
- the GPR2C has developed a series of awareness-raising, advocacy and capacity building activities to highlight the linkages between such commitments and the Right to the City, putting forward concrete lines of action for their localization through the Right to the City. Some activities are listed below:
  - The Right to the City Agenda for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda, which develops the crossing between the Right to the City components, the SDGs and NUA commitments;
  - Active participation with side-events and training-events during key fora for the follow-up of SDGs and other agendas, such as the High Level Political Forum (2021, 2020, 2019, 2018) and the World urban Forum (2020);

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<sup>53</sup> Work on Sustainable Urban Development Strategies, which includes three building blocks: Strat-board.

Handbook of Sustainable Urban Development Strategies

Self-assessment Tool for Sustainable Urban Development Strategies

<sup>54</sup> <https://forumofmayors.unece.org/>

- Training activities and courses on the Right to the City and localization of global agendas;
- Communication and awareness raising campaigns
- UCLG, World Blind Union, Cities 4 All, GAP Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons Constituency Groups have mobilised efforts amongst cities and urban practitioners to learn and exchange on policies and practices when it comes to disability inclusion towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. This resulted in key policy papers, events, activities at WUF10, and trainings of representative organisations

## **LAC**

- The NUA was key to linking the local communities - challenges with the SDGs. The NUA helps us to implement the SDGs in a more concrete way from the Cities to the Cities
- Considering the balance that we are doing on the 5 years of the New Urban Agenda in Latin America by the Global Platform for the Right to the City, Habitat International Coalition and Cities Alliance, national and local governments have considered in their actions the 2030 Agenda and SDGs as the objective 11 but it has not considered the New Urban Agenda in its actions as an important instrument for sustainable urban development.
- Recommendation: We recommend that for the New Urban Agenda to be implemented it is important to have initiatives such as campaigns for its implementation, to encourage the inclusion of this agenda in the institutional field, such as councils and other national and local bodies , and planning instruments such as the master plan
- Significant progress has been made in the development of methodologies, information systems and data platforms (ECLAC) that facilitate implementation: NUA/Urban platform, methodology to assess inequalities and integration in urban policies.
- UN-Habitat has accompanied the elaboration of national reports in Cuba, Mexico and Colombia. It has developed implementation workshops in the Andean region, especially in Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia, which are rather rural countries with little urban culture.
- Two interesting cases: in Cuba, a training agreement with the Universidad Central de las Villas agreed to collaborate to implement the NUA in Cuba. Something similar in Mexico 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 at the local level. So far, this diploma course has been held four times in Querétaro, Monterrey (2) and Guadalajara.
- NUA implementation through Urban Legislation: we are working in LAC with the local parliaments giving them trainings about this Agenda and the SDGs and we have legislation on Sustainable Tourism (SGD11) and Beekeeping (SDG2). Legislation is the best way of implementation in a long term (institutionalized public policy)
- Progress in the last 4 years in realizing Urban thinkers Campuses with the civil Society in Cities About "The City we Need" . A lot of capacity Building was made there all around the globe<sup>55</sup>.

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<sup>55</sup> <https://www.worldurbancampaign.org/urban-thinkers-campus>

- Kenya translated the NUA into a national Urban Agenda that also addresses capacity building, bringing together actors at different levels and with different powers. Kenya was the first country to submit the national report on the NUA. they recognised the need to add quantitative to qualitative approach.

Nelson: NUA connection to the right to the cities

#### MONITORING

- *That evidence-based planning relies on data and effective monitoring;*
- *That cities lack capacity to understand the whole value chain to drive impact*
- EU-tailored methods for local monitoring and reporting of the SDGs and sustainable urban development. The URBAN2030-II Project aims at fostering the achievement of SDGs in European cities and regions. It focuses on providing methodological support and inspiration for the design and implementation of SDG Voluntary Local Reviews. The main output of the first phase was the European Handbook for SDG Voluntary Local Reviews offers to policy makers, researchers, and practitioners an inspirational framework to set up Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs).
- **UNECE: Guidelines for the Development of Voluntary Local Reviews**<sup>56</sup>. The Guidelines for the Development of Voluntary Local Reviews in the UNECE Region endorsed in October 2021 by the UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management will assist local and regional governments in the region in developing VLRs. The Guidelines contain a set of principles and recommendations on concrete steps to be taken. The guidelines were elaborated based on the existing best practices in the region with the development of the VLRs and in consultation with UN-Habitat and other partner organizations, cities and their networks and other stakeholders.
- There is a lot of Progress through the last four years in capacity Building (localising NUA) in Special themes (Gender, SDG and Budget, etc.) and Monitoring and creating VLR's, which were not possible in this amount without the Knowledge of these Networks. - German cities<sup>57</sup>
- UNSDSN - how to land the Agenda 2030 to cities - (national reports for the US, Italy, twice for Spain), it is not only on monitoring, but also to inform policies and how to improve data granularity for local governments.<sup>58</sup>
- Civil society has advocated operationalizing the UNSD principle of drawing on assets across the system, including the implementation and reporting obligation of states under treaty, particularly on forced evictions and the criteria for 'lawful' evictions. These lessons are also indispensable for the Global Urban Monitoring Framework and NUA reporting guidelines (NUA, paras. 31, 107, 11, etc.).

#### **Chapter 5 - group 3: Use of technology to support sustainable urban development 400 words**

<sup>56</sup> [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-08/ECE\\_HBP\\_2021\\_4-2109985E.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-08/ECE_HBP_2021_4-2109985E.pdf)

<sup>57</sup> <https://www.brookings.edu/multi-chapter-report/city-playbook-for-advancing-the-sdgs/>

<sup>58</sup> <https://reds-sdsn.es/documentos>

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. Integrated ticketing, for example in Iskandar is enabling a modal shift towards higher transportation usage.

Singapore's floating solar panels reduce carbon emissions by an estimated 32 kilotons annually. Bengaluru has fully automated, real-time traffic control through a digital platform. CCTV, predictive analytics and machine learning are being used for policing and safety in many cities, for example in Kanagawa, Japan. In Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, IBM researchers used anonymized data from mobile phone users to discover the most frequented bus routes and then came up with 65 network improvements that would save passengers an estimated 10 per cent travel time. Electric and shared mobility is transforming cities in large parts of the world. Electric scooters, bikes and motorcycles is changing mobility patterns and there have been rapid innovation in electric mobility sharing platforms.

Reflecting the New Urban Agenda's guidance, most Member States now have national ICT strategies – including Singapore, India, China, Kenya, Rwanda, Malawi, Senegal, Lebanon, Germany, Sweden, Spain, Canada, Mexico and Colombia.

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. Cities as varied as London, Barcelona, Johannesburg, Buenos Aires, Sao Paulo, Singapore, Sihanoukville and Seoul are taking a more human-centric approach to smart city transition.

National governments are increasingly taking responsibility for steering smart city development. In 2016, China focused attention on 'New Smart Cities' - in its 13<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan' and made smart city construction one of 12 priority areas in its ICT strategy. India selected the first tranche of cities in the Smart City Mission in 2016. Singapore launched its Smart Nation strategy in 2017. Rwanda published its Smart City Masterplan in 2017. The United States issued its federal smart cities guide in 2018. Argentina published its national smart city strategy in 2019. The EU launched the Living in EU declaration in 2020 and the Climate Neutral and Smart Cities mission in 2021.

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. Some governments are taking a governance approach to smart cities, formulating data frameworks, digital transformation strategies, establishing digital

innovation agencies and appointing chief technology offices. The G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance was established in 2019 to help cities identify and adopt foundational policies for sound technology governance. In 2020 a model policy on ICT accessibility was adopted by the G20/OECD to support cities in their procurement processes ensuring that what is procured are meeting expectations and requirements of accessibility for all.[1]

[1] [https://globalsmartcitiesalliance.org/?page\\_id=90](https://globalsmartcitiesalliance.org/?page_id=90) & <https://globalsmartcitiesalliance.org/?p=244>

London published its 'Emerging Technology Charter' in 2021. A range of digital participation platforms exist, for example Consul and Decidim which have been used for public participation and participatory budgeting in cities including Madrid, Kagogawa, Quito and Trondheim.

Artificial intelligence, machine learning and big data are increasingly finding application in urban contexts, but in many cases to long-term positive impact on sustainable development is yet to be demonstrated. AI is being used in cities for traffic management, chatbots, video surveillance, data analysis and energy efficiency. The issue of AI ethics and impact on human rights and gender equality is a growing concern, with cities such as Dubai, Barcelona, New York and Amsterdam publishing AI strategies and AI ethical frameworks. The digital transformation of society is bringing up the debate around human rights in the digital space. In 2018, 50 cities came together as the Cities Coalition for Digital Rights to advance human rights in their digital transformation efforts (<https://citiesfordigitalrights.org/>).

Perhaps the biggest ongoing challenge is the question of equality: who in cities, benefits from innovation and digital technologies? While in 2020, almost the whole world lived within a mobile internet connection, there are major disparities in use of digital technologies, with already marginalized groups being particularly affected. In LDCs, only one in five people were online in 2020. Cities will need to put concerted effort and resources into combatting digital exclusion and ensuring that innovation is used to transform the lives of the nearly one billion people still living in informal settlements and slums. For example, New York City in 2020 published its Internet Masterplan, outlining how to connect the 1.5 million unconnected residents. Mumbai in 2017 launched a free Wi-Fi project to bring internet to all of the city, including informal areas. It has been reported that certain marginalized groups who lack access to the internet (connectivity) or are un or under-represented in data sets or have limited digital skills tend to be discriminated and don't benefit from the expanded deployment of digital technologies such AI-enabled solutions<sup>59</sup>.

The negative impact of digitalization on the environment is a growing concern, with the datacenter industry responsible for an estimated 2-4 per cent of global carbon emissions. Resource-intensive digital processes such as bitcoin mining is a growing factor. In addition to energy use, the location and integration of data centers within urban areas is an important consideration.

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<sup>59</sup> [1] <https://rm.coe.int/icc-brief-preventing-the-potential-discriminatory-effects-of-the-use-o/1680a03272>

<https://www.aclu.org/news/privacy-technology/how-artificial-intelligence-can-deepen-racial-and-economic-inequities/>

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/lsereviewofbooks/2018/07/02/book-review-automating-inequality-how-high-tech-tools-profile-police-and-punish-the-poor-by-virginia-eubanks/>

- In relation to the need for enhanced cooperation and knowledge exchange on science, technology and innovation to benefit sustainable urban development, UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the Cities of Amsterdam, Barcelona and New York launched the Cities Coalition for Digital Rights (<https://citiesfordigitalrights.org/>) in November 2018. The Coalition, currently with 50 plus cities and organizations, work together to share best practices, learn from each other's challenges and successes, and coordinate common initiatives and actions. The Coalition, together with CIDOB, recently established [Global Observatory of Urban AI](#). The observatory recently put forward a [report on the ethical governance of algorithm in cities](#).
- In terms of who benefits from the increased use of digital technologies and who is left behind, it has been reported that certain marginalized groups who lack access to the internet (connectivity) or are un or under-represented in data sets or have limited digital skills tend to be discriminated and don't benefit from the expanded deployment of digital technologies such AI-enabled solutions.
- Here are references to support this observation:
  - <https://rm.coe.int/icc-brief-preventing-the-potential-discriminatory-effects-of-the-use-o/1680a03272>
  - <https://www.aclu.org/news/privacy-technology/how-artificial-intelligence-can-deepen-racial-and-economic-inequities/>
  - <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/lsereviewofbooks/2018/07/02/book-review-automating-inequality-how-high-tech-tools-profile-police-and-punish-the-poor-by-virginia-eubanks/>

### Group 3 - notes from discussion session (technology)

- COVID has accelerated adoption of digital technologies in cities around the world, but with a danger of this increased adoption leading to progress in some areas whilst exacerbating inequalities within cities (between different groups and neighbourhoods) and between cities.
- **Increased use of digital tools for communities to generate data, such as** Cadaster Foundation providing **digital tools for communities to map** their communities and collect data. Through training of community groups they can map and document land rights (refugees, indigenous populations). Need to provide access to the data for communities for advocacy on their development issues with local governments. We have seen progress in the use of digital tools by communities to generate data. Data generation can be a platform for [empowerment and evidence generation](#). However, there are gaps in other sectors such as disaster scenarios (<https://cadasta.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opstdashboard/index.html#/ec4cd83720fa44d6af7dab54af9b1e65>).
- Tools for presenting data to mayors and policy makers in a format that is accessible have been increasingly available. UNEP reports about a tool to support decision making by the Sustainable Cities Programme in Brazil (<https://www.thegef.org/project/cities-iap-promoting-sustainable-cities-brazil-through-integrated-urban-planning-and>), and a **digital tool for downscaling national data** to the city level to support cities to monitor and improve use of resources (<http://scp-hat.lifecycleinitiative.org/>). Uptake of the SCP-HAT was accelerated by **buy-in by the leadership in the highest levels** UNEP and UNDP.
- Approaches for integrating community and citizen-generated data (e.g. Know your City Campaign by SDI, OpenStreetMap) with AI are now becoming implemented, as for instance the IDEAMAPS



approach which enables cities to identify priority deprived areas by combining data from communities with machine learning applied to satellite imagery (<https://www.mdpi.com/2076-0760/9/5/80>).

- Important challenges in dealing with inequalities include evidence of growth in the usage of digital mapping tools such as **OpenStreetMap** (<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-021-82404-z>) which enable open collaborative mapping and have been more used during the pandemic, including usage to calculate access to healthcare facilities ([https://apps.heigit.org/healthcare\\_access/#/](https://apps.heigit.org/healthcare_access/#/)). However, the analysis of the data shows that important gaps remain and that mapping in some areas is triggered by short-term projects which is not sustained in the long term without local capacity building.
- **Existing gaps in the accessibility of digital tools and data for different social groups.** UNDRR has a stakeholder engagement mechanism, videos show specific information for people with specific accessibility requirements (e.g. reduced mobility and other disabilities).
- Differential needs and blockers to access to technologies amongst different social groups need to be better addressed, e.g. by training and tutoring which cater for special needs of people with disabilities and different cultural/educational backgrounds, skills etc.
- There is **greater understanding of digital technology potential**, but **missing consideration of building local capacities of local governments** which are not very well resourced. Some cities (smart cities champions) are more advanced, but several cities lack local capacity. Several cities in advanced economies are in 5G but the majority of the world lacks access to this (still in 2G). Several cities (particularly in LDC) only have basic means to engage citizens digitally, such as using social media (Facebook). Importance of emphasising the need for stronger digital citizen engagement, **gap is lack of trusted digital platforms available for cities to engage citizens**. Digital literacy is lagging behind, citizens and local governments lack capacity.
- Cooperation and Collaboration among cities, in particular use of technologies through platforms. Example. Cities Coalition. by collaborating, cities are able to share best practices, learn from each other's challenges and successes, and coordinate common initiatives and actions
- Focus on Digitalization. Technologies are changing different sectors (major shift) , but the effects (outcomes) are sometimes seen in a few years. According to data by the European Union, the long-term effects on the housing market and city attractiveness due to the changes in working patterns and habits are still to be clarified and might expose considerable differences from country to country and from type of settlement. According to EUROSTAT (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/edn-20210517-2>), Finland topped the list of the EU Member States for home working, with 25.1% of employed people usually working from home in 2020. Finland was followed by Luxembourg (23.1%) and Ireland (21.5%). In contrast, the lowest shares of home-workers were reported in Bulgaria (1.2%), Romania (2.5%), Croatia (3.1%) and Hungary (3.6%).
- If it is true that those new hybrid patterns are more applied especially in Europe and in North America, many sectors will continue to adopt hybrid work patterns or completely in-presence, since depending on the economic sector, the very nature of some occupations makes it difficult or impossible to perform them away from the standard worksite. Indeed, JRC studies ([https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/sites/default/files/jrc120945\\_policy\\_brief\\_-](https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/sites/default/files/jrc120945_policy_brief_-)

\_covid\_and\_telework\_final.pdf) revealed that “the outbreak of the pandemic has revealed large differences in the prevalence of telework across EU Member States, sectors and occupations.

- Within certain systems (Transport etc.) green shift. New Technologies are making systems more efficient or greener (Food system). Gender friendly Transport Systems for more safety for women. Monitoring helps here (also using AI). Monitoring in the Energy sector is a long tradition and helps making/Using energy more efficiently. Technologies for monitoring the systems better (identifying water leaks etc.). Evidence based data is needed.
- Looking for references (JRC). Use of data for city management will capitalize on different systems. Water Management system, Energy system, Transport system, improved in using data, but the platforms are in their Department Silos. No integrated Platforms for cities (Urban Planning). There is no Urban Planning Platform which can measure/monitor the major change in implementing the NUA. Data Platform Integration is needed. Though City Level and Regional level are not harmonized. Integrated Planning Platform is still a challenge.
- Data/Statistics are very diverse (scale, time, geographically, themes), this is challenging for harmonizing the data. Cooperation with Universities is highly recommended. Using Multiplicity sort of research. Building Partnerships-> Tools for cooperation. Working with Research centers.
- During Covid, lower income kids were only partly able to share the education, because they had no devices or Wi-Fi at home, as one example. Children with accessibility requirements often faced challenges to access their education equal to their peers, resulting in that parents had to take their time to provide support when the system could not[HL1]

[HL1]TC proposal showing an example of exclusion due to insufficient accessibility of services and platforms leave people behind.

- Poor usually have less access to technology. Exclusion. **New disadvantaged groups during Covid.** Migrants have disadvantages when they move to another country. The World Bank has started issuing grants to countries to support digital transformation , not much is known how this helps cities. (<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2021/06/02/uganda-secures-200-million-to-accelerate-digital-transformation-and-inclusiveness>)
- In Uruguay, transport is the highest emitter sector of CO2. But with a clean electricity matrix (97% renewable) and the maturation of electric mobility technologies, Uruguay is now transitioning towards e-mobility. The support of UNDP Movés project (GEF) has been instrumental in the approval of a new subsidy to cover the price gap between an electric and a diesel bus, instead of subsidizing the diesel costs. This subsidy will cover up to 150 buses to start. It is great to see that from a fiscal point of view this new technology subsidy equals the fossil fuel (diesel) subsidy, while contributing to a transformation of the sector toward sustainable transport. (<https://www.undp.org/publications/handbook-smart-urban-innovations#modal-publication-download>, <https://sdgintegration.undp.org/countries/bolivia>, <https://sdgintegration.undp.org/countries/dominican-republic>, <https://www.cn.undp.org/content/china/en/home/ourperspective/ourperspectivearticles/2017/12/05/green-transportation-and-the-path-forward.html>)

- In Paraguay, UNDP is fostering **integrated urban planning and active mobility**. The project 'Asunción green cities of the Americas' has supported the participatory design of a 600 km bicycle lanes network, connecting all eleven cities within Asunción's metropolitan area. The executive project to build the initial 61 km is ongoing. Better and more comfortable bus stops have also been installed in the city and currently there is an open call for proposals for tactical urbanism solutions for transport in the metropolitan area of Asunción.
- **Digital Divide** is a key issue **within cities and among cities**. Example: If you don't have a credit card you are excluded from new technologies and services in Europe. Digitalisation in Public Administration is more on the user side at the moment and less on the administration to use and handle this. Access to the internet in general was not guaranteed during Covid (booking appointments in offices etc.) so people are left behind.
- Also other sectors can impact the technological sector (Finance...). No Smart Phone excludes you (esp. the elderly) in certain developed economies. No credit card, hard to use w.g. transport systems. Function of transport for the city and the citizens is not guaranteed in this way. New types of people are left behind. Vaccination with QR Code is another example. People are left behind (no matter which gender, age, accessibility ).
- You have to be a 'digital citizen', otherwise there is the danger that you are no longer a member of the city any more. 'Digital vulnerability' is opened through digitalization. Examples for technology and innovation will follow, to show energy efficiency or trading of energy or optimizing cleaner air (environment dimension). (REFS NEEDED)
- Digital divide between countries through Covid was rising (REFS). Grants for these countries are needed and especially for cities to start digital transformation. Investments and financial support for countries and cities are needed. *[Interlinkage with the Financial chapter.]*
- Leaving no one behind is a key challenge in the digital transformation. On the one hand, digitalisation made services in a city easier and quicker on the other hand there is the danger that when you are no digital citizen with smart/cell phone and credit card, you are excluded from essential infrastructures (Transport System), administration appointments and Health Services (Vaccination access through QR-Codes) in cities. Interlinkage with Human Rights. (Right to the city)
- Many Improvements have been made in the last 4 years (cleaner air, better water management, carbon free energy production), there was a major shift, but many impacts are long term effects.
- The use of Data capitalises on many systems in a city (Mobility, Security etc.) , but there is no integrated data platform for urban planning. Usually the data is in the thematic silos (Environment, Transportation etc.) and the data is very diverse in scale, time, area. Harmonisation and integration of data is necessary to harvest the potential of data for changing systems.
- Cooperation and Information Platforms here are useful, for improving access but also data security and private data control. (<https://citiesfordigitalrights.org/>)

### Recommendation

- 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.

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### Covid-19 pandemic

Rwanda, introduced robots as part of their fight against COVID-19. The robots have the capacity to screen 50 to 500 patients per minute, deliver food, administer temperature checks, monitor patient status, and keep medical records of COVID-19 patients.

Telemedicine across the sub-region also enjoyed a boost especially in Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Uganda, South Africa, Nigeria, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Kenya. Rwanda, daily consultations of about 3000 in March 2000 before the pandemic grew to about 5000 by August 2021, while Uganda saw a 500% increase in phone and video consultations in 2020

Kenya also launched the enhanced eCitizen portal, to continue delivering government services during the health crisis.

In Nigeria as in many other countries social media was deployed for health messaging and public advisories by governments and for social interaction among citizens.

rise of mobile money services

region being home to nearly half of the world's mobile money accounts in 2018.

The percentage of Kenyan adults with access to at least basic financial services has grown from 26 to 83 per cent in approximately 15 years due to the introduction of Mpesa.

national ICT strategies

Sierra Leonean Government established a National Civil Service Capacity Enhancement scheme and a Directorate of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI) in 2018 which was a catalyst for taking bold action to address systematic issues, through technology-based solutions. DSTI is leading the transformation towards e-governance in Sierra Leone and has developed and tested three web and mobile applications as part of the Government's Digitization Initiative. It also developed a prototype for an integrated GIS mapping solution of government services and infrastructure in collaboration with several ministries. This has enabled the creation of Sierra Leone's first school for computer coding, hosted at the innovation hub at the Institute of Public Administration and Management (IPAM).

Ghana, in 2019, developed a National Data for Sustainable Development Road Map with three priority objectives: filling data gaps, encouraging data use, and strengthening the entire data ecosystem.

connectivity

South Africa is the only sub-Saharan African country to have launched commercial 5G services. Due to great advancements in fiber optic networks across the country, the price of internet bandwidth dropped.

However, the cost of digital technologies continues to be high across the region, limiting the number of people who can access them. In fact Equatorial Guinea has the highest internet data price in the world.

#### **Chapter 5 - Group 4: Facilitating engagement and participation of development partners\* 300 words**

The partners' commitment to the NUA is key to its effective implementation at all levels and its articulation with localization processes of other development agendas.

Participation of relevant actors in processes of elaboration, implementation and monitoring of **urban policies** has proven to be an essential element to reinforce this commitment, as has also been the strengthening of city networks (i.e.; ) and the promotion of learning systems that have included the exchange of good practices (i.e.;). Facilitating access to knowledge and generating awareness and advocacy around the ways of NUA implementation are being equally important as means of its effective impact. *REFERENCE, EXAMPLES from countries/regions*

When this commitment exists and an enabling environment for supporting **multi-level, multi-sectorial and multi-stakeholder approaches** in the policy formulation and implementation is promoted, innovative methods to facilitate engagement and genuine partnership are generated.

In the case of Spain, the Spanish Urban Agenda approved in 2019 includes specific mechanisms for inclusion and participation of stake-holders, such as the National Urban Forum - first edition held in October 2021 - as well as specific actions for the dissemination of good practices and transfer of knowledge to stimulate creativity and participatory culture.

The more than 100 Action Plans presented by Spanish cities and approved as part of the Implementation Strategy of the **Spanish Urban Agenda**, together with the 5 Subnational Urban Agendas that have been approved ,or are in the process of being elaborated, by the Basque Country, Andalusia, Catalonia , Extremadura or the Valencian Community regions, make up a network of policies that have become the main means of locating the NUA in that country. The participation of all these actors in the national process and vice versa, has generated mechanisms aimed at improving coordination (**horizontal and vertical**) and creating synergies between governments at different levels, as part of a truly innovative **territorial governance**.

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#### **Multilevel governance (horizontal and vertical coordination) and stakeholder collaboration**

*From Session 1:* The frameworks provided by the NUA and the SDGs have enhanced spaces for **collaborative action and engagement** at various levels, particularly at city, national and supra-national levels. COVID provided a further impetus and urgency for diverse actors to come together to respond to compelling pandemic needs.

SDG based **city plans and national NUA plan** in several countries have promoted spaces for collaboration and joint actions. The Urban ministry in Spain is now renamed to include the name of New Urban Agenda.

[*Repeated:* The Spanish Urban Agenda approved in 2019 includes specific mechanisms for inclusion and participation of stake-holders, such as the National Urban Forum - first edition held in October 2021 - as well as specific actions for the dissemination of good practices and transfer of knowledge to stimulate creativity and participatory culture. The more than 100 Action Plans presented by Spanish cities and approved as part of the Implementation Strategy of the Spanish Urban Agenda, together with the 5 Subnational Urban Agendas that have been approved ,or are in the process of being elaborated, by the Basque Country, Andalusia, Catalonia , Extremadura or the Valencian Community regions, make up a network of policies that have become the main means of locating the NUA in that country. The EU impetus on NUA has also led to involved spaces for collaboration.]

Participation of all these actors in the national process and vice versa, has generated mechanisms aimed at improving coordination (horizontal and vertical) and creating synergies between governments at different levels, as part of a truly innovative territorial governance. **National Urban Forums** driven by civil society formations (such as in Indonesia) have also opened up spaces for collaboration and partnerships among formations of slum dwellers, informal workers, women's rights, children, young urban women, academics and also policy makers leading to grounded informed participation and leadership, strengthening the demand side mechanisms with city governments. **Civil society formations** were key in securing social protection and housing rights for workers and city makers in several cities across the world, particularly during the pandemic.

Key advances have been witnessed at the global level too. Spurred by the New Urban Agenda, UN-Habitat's **World Urban Campaign** not only enhanced their cross sectoral partnerships to more than 170 formations of local governments, media, civil society, grassroots groups, research institutions and universities, architect associations, private sector and business but also led to relaunch of **Urban Thinkers** campuses across all continents to focus on Action and Solutions to develop innovations and alternatives, while also empowering constituencies. Several hundred such UTCs have been organised across this period. WUCs campaign #TheCityWeNeed in pursuance of climate resilient and sustainable cities is now taking the shape of concrete micro campaigns such as the New Gournia Initiative in Egypt.

On multi-stakeholder collaboration on implementation on NUA  
[https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/documents/2019-07/20190529\\_new\\_clean\\_first\\_global\\_stakeholder\\_declaration\\_un\\_habitat\\_assembly\\_1.pdf](https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/documents/2019-07/20190529_new_clean_first_global_stakeholder_declaration_un_habitat_assembly_1.pdf)

*From Session 2:* [*Repeat:* The partners' commitment to the NUA is key to its effective implementation at all levels and its articulation with localization processes of other development agendas.

During the period considered in this report, participation of relevant actors in processes of elaboration, implementation and monitoring of urban policies has proven to be an essential element to reinforce this commitment, as has also been the strengthening of city networks (i.e.; ) and the promotion of learning systems that have included the exchange of good practices (i.e.;). Facilitating access to knowledge and generating awareness and advocacy around the ways of NUA implementation are being equally important as means of its effective impact].

[*Repeat:* When this commitment exists and an enabling environment for supporting multi-level, multi-sectorial and multi-stakeholder approaches in the policy formulation and implementation is promoted, innovative methods to facilitate engagement and genuine partnership are generated. Numerous examples illustrate the extent to which various **multi-stakeholder coalitions** have forged collaborative initiatives to implement the NUA]:

In Yogyakarta, Indonesia – Women resilience actions at urban area which started with risk assessment in women groups and community, capacity building for women groups and community related disaster resilience, response to pandemic, action planning for community resilience initiatives such as managing waste bank, making vegetable aisles, fish farming in buckets due to limited space, support the community during pandemic through sharing food and groceries by hanging them on the shelf, door to door health services (measurement of body mass index, blood pressures measure for OP, supplementation of healthy food) for children and older people, helped in collecting and verifying data on the beneficiaries for government program which targeting households affected by the Covid-19 pandemic to fulfill basic needs.

In Yogyakarta the collation of associations of persons with disabilities worked together with other actors and the local government for the city to adopt the Yogyakarta Accessible 2024, an ambitious framework to support the implementation of national and local regulations towards accessibility for all .

In Mathare, Kenya, a local **women-led community group** has been engaged by local government on the slum improvement initiative in **data collection** in the informal settlement to enable the progress of economic empowerment for women and safe spaces for economic empowerment. *[link to the Use of technology]*.

Bringing the **urban dimension to global policy platforms** such as the Action Coalitions of the Gender Equality Forum (GEF) on land & security as well as on safe public spaces by NUA partners, expanding the reach to those who are not generally focus on urban

Partnership between local government, UN agency and grassroots women in undertaking **mapping of community needs** - in Kathmandu Valley, Nepal with Community Women Forum (CWF) a grassroots women-led cooperative.

In Latin America, the Urban Housing Practitioners Hub (UHPH) was formed during the Habitat III Conference in Quito, Ecuador as a multistakeholder coalition designed to implement the SDGs and the objectives of the New Urban Agenda. In the five years since, the UHPH has nearly forty institutional members and more than 1000 individual members; convenes the Latin America **Regional Housing Forum**; has facilitated more than 50 Housing Laboratories in the region and beyond; and hosts hundreds of studies, research reports and best practices examples on its website, [www.uhph.org](http://www.uhph.org).

*[Repeat]*The **World Urban Campaign** (<https://www.worldurbancampaign.org/>), another multi-sector partnership, engages 169 partners from civil society, private sector, etc., has gained momentum in last two years - it has created several concrete campaigns in cities, with a major focus on climate change; has conducted over 160 Urban Thinkers Campuses which have generated knowledge and disseminated it, toward building more sustainable cities; and promoted city-to-city partnerships, building support and capacity among urban leaders.

Nearly 40 cities around the world have endorsed the Cities for Adequate Housing declaration since 2018 (<https://www.citiesforhousing.org>) – an effort initiated by United Cities and Local Government (<https://www.uclg.org/>)

**Numerous additional platforms continue to advocate for the engagement** of all voices in the charting the course for the continuing improvement of cities and urban spaces, including:

- The Global Platform on the Right to the City (<https://www.right2city.org/>)
- The General Assembly of Partners
- The Huairou Commission (<https://www.huairou.org>)
- Habitat International Coalition (<https://www.hic-net.org/>)



*[Repeat]* In Spain, the Spanish Urban Agenda approved in 2019 includes specific mechanisms for inclusion and participation of stake-holders, such as the National Urban Forum - first edition held in October 2021 - as well as specific actions for the dissemination of good practices and transfer of knowledge to stimulate creativity and participatory culture. The more than 100 Action Plans presented by Spanish cities and approved as part of the Implementation Strategy of the Spanish Urban Agenda, together with the 5 Subnational Urban Agendas that have been approved, or are in the process of being elaborated, by the Basque Country, Andalusia, Catalonia, Extremadura or the Valencian Community regions, make up a network of policies that have become the main means of locating the NUA in that country. The participation of all these actors in the national process and vice versa, has generated mechanisms aimed at improving coordination (horizontal and vertical) and creating synergies between governments at different levels, as part of a truly innovative territorial governance.

### **City to city collaboration**

*From session 1:* **The General Assembly of Partners** is another such coalition of partners of UN-Habitat enhancing stakeholder collaborations. **Coalitions of cities** have emerged in creative ways. A group of cities is collaborating at the UN Food Systems summit to advance food security for urban vulnerable populace. City partnerships led and co-led by WHO on Urban Health and Sustainability, together with UNHABITAT, promises to energise action on healthy cities in future.

**COVID-19 acted as an accelerator to desire for collaboration.** Particularly within cities and across cities the need to respond to the emergency brought together local ministries, departments, hospitals, small businesses, civil society and citizens groups in newer ways. This has led to several policy changes too, such as new national initiatives, guidelines and policies on social protection, working conditions, wages etc. for informal and migrant workers in cities, such as in India and in (examples from Sub Saharan Africa from Emmanuel). Multicounty collaborations were witnessed during for instance the COVID Vaccine sharing and roll out.

In going ahead further collaboration and strengthening the basis of collaboration across sectors is strongly needed for these accelerators to sustain. The tendency to work in Silos at the interagency levels and at the national levels too needs to be resolved by efforts targeted to provide enabling frameworks and capacity building. For cities to further promote collaborations and open spaces for such innovation, not only do they need better revenues and resources but also enabling national policies which serve as benchmarks but also provide space for city and peoples leadership.

### **Participatory budgeting and planning**

*From Session 1:* At the local level practices of **participatory budgeting and planning**, and the incorporation of climate adaption and resilience planning, along with social housing and labour focus such as in the Indian state of Kerala hold out inspiration and message to the future of collaboration and partnerships by bringing communities and their concerns and ideas to the centre of protagonism, alongside involving local businesses, educational institutions, resident welfare organisations and local governments. Partnerships with affected communities in advancing inclusive urban development are on the rise.

**Key action areas going forward**

*From session 2:* While these 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. By 2050 over two billion persons with disabilities and older persons will live in cities necessitating adaptation of strategies and practices (UCLG 2019, UN-Habitat, WBU etc.)

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 centers

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.

**Other notes:**

Cooperation done at local level, but also needs strength from national frameworks. Encourage

National level policies needs to be defined nationally to provide a framework and supporting space for . National level standards for development of Urban Agenda have happened in XXXX countries

In general there are some silUN Global Compact (private/ business) and does not engage others as well as other UN bodies)

Report trends on increased collaboration among national ministries under the NUA and SDGs (Joseph , MENA and NA)

Impact of engagement showing specific outcomes based on engagement (Local national regional would be a good idea in the final version) . Better coordination has promoted better engagement e.g. COVID impetus (WatSan, Food, Health, Cash , Workers ) an also making other actors

**VI. STRENGTHENING THE INTERLINKAGES OF THE NUA AND GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDAS (1400 words)**

**Chapter 6 - group 1: NUA as an accelerator of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs and other global agendas including climate and health (with cases and evidence). 400 words**

*This section should focus on providing evidence on how the NUA has accelerated the achievement of the SDGs and other dev agendas in cities, not on describing existing linkages*

[[The New Urban Agenda is an accelerator for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, among others. The ongoing efforts to implement the New Urban Agenda are inextricable from the fulfilment of the goals, principles and targets of the other agendas, all of which have important urban and territorial dimensions.]]

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.

3-5 key examples of how the New Urban Agenda has worked as an accelerator of the SDGs and other global agendas in cities, providing evidence of where an interaction or crossing between the NUA and one or more SDGs has happened and where the NUA actually is an accelerator (each about 100 words)

**Facilitator: Dyfed Aubrey**

**Writer: Adriana Allen**

**Edits: Ann-Marie Webb**

We departed from a common understanding of the NUA as key in **localising the SDGs and other global agendas, commitments and targets in order to advance urban and territorial equality.**

The discussion covered three key aspects: (1) What does acceleration entail / how it works / to capture it? (2) What are the key mechanisms that are enabling cities to uptake the NUA as a key means to accelerate progress towards 2030 Agenda and other global agendas? and (3) What evidence do we have about acceleration and what is required to build more robust and comparable evidence across the world?

### **(1) What does acceleration entail / how it works / how to capture it?**

Inclusive, well planned and managed urbanisation, characterised by compact, connected cities, with adequate equitably distributed public spaces and services, multi-modal mobility and economies of scale, lays ground to deliver positive economic, social and environmental outcomes. Acceleration implies sustained processes of transformative change, as such, it is helpful to shift from looking just at single interventions and instead focus on 'pathways' to change, that is processes that cities can sustain over time to tackle the NUA and SDGs localisation in a transversal fashion. In short, we need to account for incremental and gradual processes of change and their impacts over time, whether intended or unintended.

In this respect, UCLG is leading its Latest Gold Report on *Pathways to Urban and Territorial Equality* across the NUA while accelerating the advancement of 2030 Agenda, in collaboration with The Bartlett Development Planning Unit (DPU) at University College London, the Habitat International Coalition (HIC,

SDI, Co-Habitat, the GPR2C and other networks. The Report captures 68 experiences in which local and subnational governments are making progress in the implementation of the NUA across the following pathways: Commoning, Prospering, Caring, Connecting, Re-Naturing and Democratising. The report will conclude in a discussion of some of the challenges to mobilise **transformative change at scale** and the presentation of final recommendations. Through the lens that each of these chapters offers, a diversity of themes will be addressed, such as issues related to informality, housing, land, basic services, education, urban health, migration, violence and discrimination, food security, sustainable transport, digital connectivity, decent livelihoods, resilience, energy transition, decarbonisation, culture, finance, regional inequalities, all within a framework of political participation and accountability.

The report also aims to centre equality and justice in the debates on global development agendas, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath; and to identify current policy and planning actions and coproduced interventions that recognise the agency of local and regional governments and civil society groups.

While the report will be published in 2022, a number of working papers can be accessed here: <https://www.urban-know.com/gold-vi>

## **(2) What are the key mechanisms that are enabling cities' up taking the NUA as a key means to accelerate progress towards 2030 Agenda and other global agendas?**

Five key mechanisms and processes were identified as key enablers:

1. **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. *A recent study by UN-Habitat on the VLRs offers several insights, including the key takeaway that both mechanisms (VLRs and NUA) are accelerators of the SDGs - they are connected and mutually reinforcing. Many VLRs explicitly mention the influence of NUA principles on development strategies, including Malaga in Spain.*  
*(The research was conducted specifically for the NUA QR input on VLRs, this can be cross referenced if necessary.*  
*VLRs can be found here: <https://unhabitat.org/topics/voluntary-local-reviews>)*

*Fortaleza, Brazil, is involved with a programme with the Brazil Association of Municipalities. This involves capacity building for the localities, to empower them to be able to effectively localise the SDGs. As a result, the city's Strategic Plan for 2040 has been aligned with SDG11, particularly with regards to climate change and slum upgrading.*

## **2. International platforms articulating cities commitments and learning**

We witness the emergence of 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.

In this regard, UCLG has been championing progressive approaches through municipal action across various campaigns - including its Cities are Listening. A concrete example supported by UCLG is the *Cities Coalition for Digital Rights*, a network dedicated to protect and uphold digital rights at the local and global level and to ensure that technology doesn't leave anybody, anywhere behind. More information at: <https://citiesfordigitalrights.org/> And at <https://citiesfordigitalrights.org/ai-public-service-accountability-ai-registers>

Another example of international platforms includes the Geneva Declaration of Mayors, an ambitious platform purporting to “place the SDGs at the centre of our recovery efforts and create new urban realities for the benefit of all”. The Geneva Declaration was endorsed by the Mayors of the UNECE region at the first Forum of Mayors held in October 2020. It is a commitment to: 1. Strengthen the resilience of our cities; 2. Take ambitious climate action; 3. Make our cities greener; 4. Accelerate the transition to sustainable energy; 5. Ensure urban transport is sustainable; 6. Ensure housing is affordable, healthy and adequate; 7. Make cities more equitable and inclusive. For more information visit: <https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-03/Mayors%2520declaration%2520booklet%2520-%2520ver.4.pdf>

Also see: <https://forumofmayors.unece.org/>

### **New subsection on Addressing Inequalities?**

(UNECE) The Regional Action Plan identifies policy propositions, targets and actions to assist governments and cities of UNECE member States in addressing the difficulties brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic for an already stretched affordable housing system across the region. It aims to tackle inequalities, strengthen the capacities of local actors, and pursue a green, resilient and inclusive economic recovery by focusing on two policy areas:

1. cities, neighbourhoods, homes and rural life
2. sustainable housing and homes.

<https://unece.org/hlm/documents/2021/08/session-documents/place-and-life-ecr-regional-action-plan-2030-tackling>

[We could also add here the case study shared by Juan from UNECE - full details should be the chat] Bishkek, the capital of the Kyrgyz Republic, has a population of approximately 1.05 million and is located on one of the main transit routes through the Central Asian corridor. The population nearly doubled since 1989 and over the next 15 years, it is forecasted to grow by about 400,000, or 40% of its current size. There is a critical window of opportunity to step-up the delivery of inclusive and sustainable infrastructure and reap the benefits of urbanization. The socio-economic profile of the population of Bishkek shows an entrepreneurial society, with 60% of Kyrgyz Republic's Small and Medium Enterprises in the capital city, also accounting for 18% of national industrial production. However, the Covid-19 crisis has had a major impact on economic development, with a reduction of remittances in 2020, and a decrease of the tourism sector's contribution to municipal Gross Domestic Product (from 5.1% in 2019 to 2.9% in 2020). [Need to add on the actions taken to tackle the aforementioned challenges]

From the chat:

Considering the demographic growth of the city, the situation of the unplanned settlements and the socio-economic challenges, the self-government bodies, the Mayor's Office of Bishkek, has designed a program concept for the upgrade of five urban settlement areas and the construction of industrial and logistics centers in the informal residential areas of Kalys-Ordo and Ak-Bosogo, Pervomaisky district of Bishkek. This program has received the technical support from the UNECE Program on Housing Areas and is supported by the Council of Ministers and the Administration of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic. As a result of such engagement, UNECE has partnered with the Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA) to launch a feasibility study to link the project to downstream financiers capable of providing the necessary outlay to upgrade the informal settlements of the pilot study.

*UCLG co-led a cities coalition, consisting of a knowledge exchange on digital rights and ensuring that technology leaves no behind. The core cities were New York, Amsterdam, and Barcelona. One case study involves a joint project between Amsterdam and Helsinki called the Artificial Intelligence Registry. This shows where AI is used in the public sphere, and enhances transparency and accountability to understand how AI is used in public decision making. Here is the link to the coalition's website: <https://citiesfordigitalrights.org/> AI registry example: <https://citiesfordigitalrights.org/ai-public-service-accountability-ai-registers>*

3. **National territorial and urban policies** are also crucial to enable durable local efforts that are fully supported by national governments. Examples include the recently enacted Zimbabwe Human Settlements National Policy that endorse the NUA and SDGs by setting contextually relevant objectives and targets for equality not just referring to cities but the wider territory - that is including smaller towns and villages and the need to support rural-urban linkages. More information at: <https://zimbabwe.iom.int/news/human-settlement-policy-validated-government-consider-best-practices>

*However, there concerns were raised about the localisation of these policies, particularly in Asia, Latin America and Africa. In these regions, local government (particularly mayors and city leaders) generally does not have knowledge of the agenda, its principles, or commitments. This was evidenced by a set of national surveys in Brazil, which approximately 800 cities and 11,000 respondents completed. Last year, there was evidence that the SDGs were becoming more popular, however there is regardless a real need to strengthen this acceleration and connection. Member states need to do more in this regard.*

An example from Chapter 4 Group 1 could be useful here.

LAC region. Programme: The Local Parliament Network on SDGs, using urban legislation to strengthen public policies in the long term. They found that often, while National governments know about the global agendas, SDGs and NUA, Local governments do not. This approach means they do not have to wait for the National government to disseminate information from the top down, but can proactively turn the global agenda into local legislation from the bottom up. Work in Argentina, Panama and Ecuador towards improving the legislation on the NUA. City of Mar del Plata had no legislation to support recovery of tourism in a sustainable way, the new legislation addresses issues such as sustainable materials, how tourists can protect the city environment. Make the overall tourism industry more sustainable and adapted to the principles of the NUA. It is critical to work with legislation to guarantee continuity in the long term.

The programme supports training, advocacy, and creates specific tools (such as an e-book for the localisation of the SDGs). It is a challenge to include the local legislative bodies in the governance structure for the implementation of the NUA.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=23132>

#### 4. Decentralisation and remunicipalisation

We witness 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. Municipal ownership allows a strong governance towards more political influence on

key local services but this requires tackling previous concession arrangements to establish a legitimate and legal processes for local authorities to play an active role as service providers in new areas, such as running power utilities, water and sanitation utilities, health care systems, land banks, and so on.

Examples of good practices can be found here: [https://futureispublic.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/TNI\\_the-future-is-public\\_online.pdf](https://futureispublic.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/TNI_the-future-is-public_online.pdf)

#### **5. Locally controlled financing mechanisms such as Participatory Budgeting (PB)**

There is ample evidence that mechanisms such as PB play a key role in directing local government resources towards social groups and intervention areas that have been typically neglected.

For more details see: <https://pubs.iied.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/migrate/10713IIED.pdf> A crucial value of mechanisms such as PB, is that their use to bring to the fore a strong intersectional and feminist perspective through concrete steps to articulate gender equality while targeting inclusion mechanisms across not just gender, but also race, age, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, class, religion.

Comment: Proposed revision of terms to avoid mental and physical ability. Language not compliant with human rights instrument; CRPD

Local climate change action plans [we didn't have much time to go into details but worth articulating] Various forms of global governance are emerging to address planetary crises (e.g. UNFCCC processes, High Level Panel on the Oceans, UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Reserves, Convention on Biological Diversity, etc.). These all are attempts to reconcile complexity and directionality, with greater or lesser degrees of success to confront global polycrises (that compound climate change and the COVID19 pandemic, among others). The articulation between these global governance responses to the breakdown of the planetary commons depends on the way cities are configured to change global resource consumers impacts. As an example, the city of Melbourne decided in 2003 that it wanted to be carbon neutral by 2020. It adopted a strategy document called *Zero Net Emissions by 2020 – A Roadmap to a Climate Neutral City*. It assembled a city-wide partnership to drive the strategy, resulting in radical improvements in energy efficiency, reductions in energy and water consumption, as well as improved waste management in city operations. Given the prolonged droughts that Melbourne experiences, water consumption was reduced by 40% by 2020. Direct actions included the gradual replacement of city parks and sports grounds with drought tolerant grasses; the use of reclaimed water for irrigation purposes; and the use of extensive mulching to improve water retention. A free showerhead exchange initiative reduced the amount of water used per person per year by 13,500 liters and citizens were encouraged to collect rainwater for garden irrigation. Water restrictions were introduced with compliance enforced. Without the facilitation of partnerships by a unit within the City of Melbourne to achieve city-wide support and commitment, these changes in resource flows would not have been possible.

#### **(3) What evidence do we have about acceleration and what is required to build more robust and comparable evidence across the world?**

[although we didn't discuss this in detail, I am building on a few points raised at the plenary sessions, which I believe are relevant here] Evidence towards progress continues to be scattered and is urgently needed. This requires concerted actions on at least the following fronts: (1) Clarifying what 'acceleration' means and how it can be captured across time. In this regard, there is still ambiguity in the NUA which encompasses goals that can undermine each other. (2) Building a robust and comparable system of indicators that are meaningful to track progress. (3) Adopting a more explicit gender perspective to understand how acceleration and progress are impacting upon those typically marginalised across gender, class, race, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion and physical and mental ability.



## **Chapter 6 - group 2: NUA reaffirms the leading role of cities and local authorities 300 words**

The New Urban Agenda strongly advocates for the role of local and regional governments in advancing sustainable development, driving climate action, and building an inclusive and resilient future for all. 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. Many of these experiences were shared as part of the UCLG-UN-Habitat-Metropolis Live Learning Experiences webinar series<sup>60</sup> and resulted in the UCLG Decalogue for the post-COVID era<sup>61</sup>.

Even prior to the pandemic, local and regional governments had started to adopt their own urban agendas - for example, the Basque Country<sup>62</sup> and the city of La Paz<sup>63</sup> - to guide urban and territorial strategic planning. Local actors are increasingly engaged in the development of National Urban Policies<sup>64</sup>. Furthermore, local governments have taken the lead in instituting some radical measures to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, which, if made permanent, can contribute tremendously to the advancement of the Agenda 2030 and implementation of the NUA. For example, responding to the housing crisis generated by the COVID-19 outbreak, Bogota, Colombia, made unconditional monthly transfers to vulnerable citizens to support them with their rents and mortgages<sup>65</sup>. Banjarmasin, Indonesia, worked directly with community members to develop and maintain a local kitchen to provide food to the community and the most vulnerable<sup>66</sup>. Guimaraes, along with five other Portuguese municipalities, is using a footprint approach to assess its local ecological footprint versus available biocapacity<sup>67</sup>, specifically in relation to urban interventions. Furthermore, city authorities are working closely with the United Nations at regional, national and local levels, to strengthen their capacities on implementing the NUA, as exemplified by the collaboration between African city authorities, UN-Habitat and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)<sup>68</sup>.

### **Cities are taking new leading roles:**

There has been good progress in cities taking a leading role in reporting progress about SDGs (e.g. building urban economic resilience in Arab cities<sup>69</sup>).

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<sup>60</sup> The knowledge from this series is captured in the UCLG Knowledge Hub <https://www.beyondtheoutbreak.uclg.org/>

<sup>61</sup> [https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/decalogue\\_for\\_the\\_post\\_covid-19\\_era.pdf](https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/decalogue_for_the_post_covid-19_era.pdf)

<sup>62</sup> The Basque Country launched the Agenda Bultzatu 2050 during World Urban Forum 10 in Abu Dhabi in 2020. For more information, please visit:

[https://www.euskadi.eus/contenidos/informacion/bultzatu\\_2050/es\\_def/adjuntos/bultzatu\\_2050/agenda\\_urbana\\_en.pdf](https://www.euskadi.eus/contenidos/informacion/bultzatu_2050/es_def/adjuntos/bultzatu_2050/agenda_urbana_en.pdf)

<sup>63</sup> La Paz launched the *Politica de Ciudad* in partnership with UN-Habitat on October 2020. For more information please visit: [https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/10/cities\\_policy\\_onu-habitat\\_bolivia\\_10082020.pdf](https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/10/cities_policy_onu-habitat_bolivia_10082020.pdf)

<sup>64</sup> See UN-Habitat National Urban Policies website <https://unhabitat.org/programme/national-urban-policy>

<sup>65</sup> See UCLG-UN-Habitat-Metropolis #BeyondTheOutbreak series on Housing <https://www.beyondtheoutbreak.uclg.org/housing>

<sup>66</sup> Please see UCLG-UN-Habitat-Metropolis #BeyondTheOutbreak series on Equity and Access [https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/accessible\\_eng\\_briefing\\_1le\\_accessibility\\_xt.pdf](https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/accessible_eng_briefing_1le_accessibility_xt.pdf)

<sup>67</sup> Eurocities, Paving the way for sustainable cities, 2020 [https://eurocities.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/EUROCITIES\\_SDG\\_report\\_2020.pdf](https://eurocities.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/EUROCITIES_SDG_report_2020.pdf)

<sup>68</sup> <https://www.uneca.org/stories/africa%E2%80%99s-pursuit-to-localize-the-new-urban-agenda-gains-momentum>

<sup>69</sup> <https://www.unescwa.org/building-urban-economic-resilience-COVID-19>

- ESCWA produced knowledge products (performance diagnosis reports for selected Arab cities, regional policy papers, local briefs and recovery plans) reaffirming the leading role of cities and local authorities in sustainable development. ESCWA is also supporting the development of the first VLRs in the Arab region to further highlight the leading role of cities and local authorities and reaffirm the need for local priorities and needs to inform the national ones.
- The Interregional Cooperation for the Implementation of the NUA (2020-2023) project is being implemented in nine cities, two of which are from the Arab region, namely, Amman (Jordan) and Agadir (Morocco). It aims to improve policy coherence amongst member states for the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda and the NUA. Throughout this project, ESCWA generated localized knowledge on the New Urban Agenda in the form of manuals and e-learning material in support of strengthening capacities of national and local authorities and relevant stakeholders. Also, through this project, ESCWA in close coordination with UN-Habitat is supporting the two Arab cities in developing their Voluntary Local Review (VLR), making them the first cities in the Arab region to undertake their VLRs, thus join the global momentum in advocating for local reviews to inform the national reviews. Beyond their reporting role, VLRs have proven to be powerful accelerators of the SDG localization process worldwide. VLRs can enhance da
- **Local Climate Action Plans** of cities are more ambitious than the country ones, for example declaring the goal of carbon neutrality by an earlier date than the national targets. This allows cities to lead on attracting financing for local actions towards urban agendas, such as economic resilience and climate action. With this leadership to attract donors, countries are starting to recognise the leading role of cities. Both sides (national and cities) need to understand each other and explore their complementarities. Aman a leading city in the Arab region.
- Cities are using PPPs as a way of leveraging investment in housing. This involves social housing and private housing. The developer (financer) can benefit from community housing. In Australia, local councils must have an affordable housing strategy, they are leveraging their assets (e.g. relaxing building regulations and constraints) and trying to involve the developer (financer).
- **Recommendation:** We must remove blockers from legal frameworks for cities to take leadership, for instance in relation to housing policies.

### **Chapter 6, Group 3: Asserting a city diplomacy in global affairs and the NUA 300 words**

In its follow up and review section, the NUA recognizes “the importance of continuing to engage [...] with subnational and local government associations represented at the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments”<sup>70</sup>. To drive this forward, United Cities Local Governments (UCLG) has established two Policy Councils dedicated respectively to City Diplomacy and the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda<sup>71</sup>.

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<sup>70</sup> See paragraph 169, p. 41 of the New Urban Agenda (2017) A/RES/71/256

The World Assembly is the mechanism through which the local and regional government constituency brought its political voice to the Habitat II and III processes. A meeting of the World Assembly was also held during WUF 10 in Abu Dhabi

<sup>71</sup> For more information visit <https://www.uclg.org/en/policy-councils>

Local and regional governments and their networks have actively engaged in UN-led and international processes<sup>72</sup> 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.

The Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments (GTF) has actively engaged in the UN Secretary-General's Future of Cities task Force, chaired by UN-Habitat, and made a seminal contribution to the Secretary-General's paper "Our Common Agenda".

Member States have extended invitations to mayors to join national delegations and to serve as panelists 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<sup>73</sup>.

In addition to the constituency's engagement, individual local governments have strongly supported international processes with resources and technical expertise. Among others, Madrid City Council has backed the development of the Global Urban Monitoring framework<sup>74</sup>, the cities of Buenos Aires, New York<sup>75</sup>, Shanghai<sup>76</sup> and Moscow<sup>77</sup> have contributed to the launch and growth the global movement of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs), Finnish cities have contributed their experience live in the development of guidance related to VLRs<sup>78</sup>, Izmir, has taken the lead on mainstreaming culture in the global and local agendas, and many others.

### **GROUP 3 day 2: City diplomacy. Facilitator: Eduardo. Writer: Alice**

#### ***- On the increasing role of cities in the post-COVID-19 world***

The UNDA project "Building Urban Economic Resilience" develops city level assessments and local action plans for 16 pilot cities globally to overcome economic and financial consequences at city level. The cities include Albania (Tirana), Cameroon (Yaoundé), Ecuador (Guayaquil), Egypt (Alexandria), Fiji (Suva), Ghana (Accra), India (Pune), Kuwait (Kuwait), Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek), Lebanon (Beirut), Malaysia (Subang Jaya), Perú (Lima), República Dominicana (Santo Domingo), Ukraine (Kharkiv), Viet Nam (Hoi An), Zimbabwe (Harare). With better Urban Economic Resilience, cities will develop and implement response and recovery plans to withstand shocks like the COVID-19 pandemic and other urban challenges.<sup>79</sup>

#### ***- Making the case for city diplomacy***

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<sup>72</sup> Such as the UN Climate Change Conference, Commission on Status of Women, HLPF, United Nations Environment Assembly, and the United Nations Habitat Assembly, among others

<sup>73</sup> The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the LRGF was celebrated during the 2021 edition of HLPF. The LRGF is convened by the GTF, UNDESA, UN-Habitat, UNDP and the Local 2030 Coalition

<sup>74</sup> Mandated by the UN General Assembly, UN-Habitat is coordinating the UN-wide effort to develop a framework to monitor SDG localization and NUA implementation. The Global Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF) responds to the UN Systemwide Strategy for Sustainable Urban Development and is aimed at providing cities, local and national governments with a common set of indicators to monitor development results at the local level and in line with the global agendas

<sup>75</sup> Along with three Japanese cities, New York was the first city to present a Voluntary Local Review at the High-Level Political Forum in 2018. Since then it has launched the NY Declaration on VLRs with more than 200 signatory cities

<sup>76</sup> Shanghai is hosting the first edition of the SDG Cities Global Conference in occasion of World Habitat Day on October 31, 2021

<sup>77</sup> UN-Habitat has supported the city of Moscow to develop its first VLR. Since then, in partnership with the Moscow Urban Forum, the city has organized many global debates on VLRs and financed two research on VLRs and megacities and gender.

<sup>78</sup> Captured in the second volume of guidelines for VLRs, <https://unhabitat.org/guidelines-for-voluntary-local-reviews-volume-2-towards-a-new-generation-of-vlrs-exploring-the>

<sup>79</sup> <https://urbaneconomicresilience.org/>

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).<sup>80</sup>

LG associations are linked to development banks from which the financial resources come from, i.e. Asia - point of reflection. Though some major banks do have sizable engagements with city diplomacy, ADB and IADB as examples.<sup>81</sup>

Recommendation: solidarity among local government associations for better impact.  
We need to marry SDG11 and NUA for local transformation.

- *Cities need to be recognised as leaders in promoting sustainable urbanisation.*

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.

Cases like #UrbanSDG are indicative of the need to recognise not only the growth of city diplomacy but the influence of “global urban governance” coalitions: philanthropies, multilateral agencies and community groups.<sup>82</sup> A reference for the growth of “urban philanthropy” but also its key challenges when philanthropic agendas change (100 Resilient Cities as an example).<sup>83</sup>

Whilst still not recognised formally with a seat at the table cities and city networks are increasingly recognised in UN frameworks: since 1972 there have been at least 1,246 formal acknowledgments across at least 32 current UN frameworks and treaties with more than half of those post-2000 explicitly recognising cities as actors.<sup>84</sup>

Last year’s version of the City Diplomacy survey (47 cities large and medium) highlighting extensive capacity and interest in participating in multilateralism<sup>85</sup>.

Worth flagging ‘city diplomacy’ is not just a big/global city matter: As of 2019 the total international network membership accounted for at least 10,536 local and metropolitan authorities members of at least one such network.<sup>86</sup>

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<sup>80</sup> <https://www.mayorsmigrationcouncil.org>

<sup>81</sup> <https://www.adb.org/what-we-do/themes/urban-development/overview> <https://www.iadb.org/en/urban-development-and-housing/emerging-and-sustainable-cities-program>

<sup>82</sup> <https://www.ditchley.com/sites/default/files/2019-01/The%20Foreign%20Policy%20of%20Cities%20-%20RUSI%20Journal.pdf>

<sup>83</sup> <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/00420980211024158>

<sup>84</sup> <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/1758-5899.12783>

<sup>85</sup> <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/08111146.2021.1886071>

<sup>86</sup> <https://www.nature.com/articles/537611a>

However there is room for improving the recognition of the role of cities in diplomacy. There are a number of countries that are directly supporting, also financially, city diplomacy, for example, establishing different forms of collective representations of city leaders and mayors. Examples: Australia and the USA are working on the establishment of a city diplomacy office/department.<sup>87</sup> These types of experiences aim at fostering collective efforts and facilitating access funds.

- *Cities play a critical role in territorializing different agendas.*

The city diplomacy supports sustainable urbanisation and also other global agendas, for example C40 promotes the achievement of the Paris Agreement.

### **International organisations and IGOs support these efforts.**

For example, the Forum of Mayor supports the efforts towards a better city life. UNECE convened the UN's first Forum of Mayors and thus further opened the multilateral stage to city leaders.<sup>88</sup>

ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF)<sup>89</sup> has transformed into a matured regional network of mayors and city representatives, who are committed to ASEAN's integration and sustainable development. Since the creation of AMF in 2011, ASEAN Mayors have asserted their voices and roles, through frank dialogues and collaboration with development partners, within and outside the region. The 5th AMF successfully concluded in Bangkok, Thailand, with more than three hundred fifty participants including one-hundred and thirty mayors, governors, and representatives of cities and local governments taking part. The gathering came at a critical time as ASEAN member states need to accelerate their work in various areas if the region is to get back on track in realising the SDGs and other global development agendas.

The event concluded with the adoption of the ASEAN Mayors' Declaration on Driving Local Actions for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth, which outlines concrete areas for further collaboration among ASEAN Mayors<sup>90</sup>.

Institutionally, AMF has set ambitious targets to realise its full catalytic force in ASEAN. The Forum has started the process to develop a Charter to strengthen organisational management, coordination and common actions. In parallel to this, ASEAN mayors have been proactively engaging with and contributing to the ASEAN Community and global agendas especially on SDGs, climate change, disaster risk reduction, and urban development<sup>91</sup>.

Funded by the European Union, the International Urban Cooperation (IUC)<sup>92</sup> programme activities support the achievement of bilateral policy objectives, as well as major international agreements on urban development and climate change, such as the Urban Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Paris Agreement. The IUC programme engages with major international financial institutions and partners to link city decision-makers with potential funders. EU businesses are an important partner for activities under the components of sustainable urban development and innovation cooperation for local and regional development. Target countries include China, India, Japan, Canada, Mexico, USA, Argentina,

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<sup>87</sup> <https://pursuit.unimelb.edu.au/articles/new-foreign-relations-bill-puts-city-diplomacy-at-risk>

<sup>88</sup> The second Forum of Mayors (Forum of Mayors 2022) will be held back-to-back with the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. The event will provide a platform for Mayors from the UNECE region to exchange information on experiences and best practices on city level policies and practices. <https://unece.org/forumofmayors>

<sup>89</sup> The accreditation of AMF to ASEAN in 2018 has been a recognition from ASEAN on the importance of sub-national governments and subsequently provided further vigour to AMF's dynamics. UCLG ASPAC (2019) Annual Report 2020: Our Voice, Our Work for Sustainable City Development. UCLG ASPAC, Jakarta

<sup>90</sup> The Joint Declaration of the ASEAN - Republic of Korea Mayors on the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations was also adopted.

<sup>91</sup> This included their participation in the ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) Stakeholder Consultation and Preparatory Meeting, at the 6th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), Bangkok, 27-29 March 2019

<sup>92</sup> <https://iuc.eu/about/>

Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Peru. For Component 2, South Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and all countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region are included in the programme.

Component 1 focuses on City-To-City Cooperation On Sustainable Urban Development: EU cities are paired up with peers from other regions facing related sustainable development challenges. Chosen cities are supported to share knowledge and best practices on sustainable urban solutions. This is achieved partly through the development of local action plans, which outline activities and pilot projects to achieve tangible results. A knowledge-exchange platform has been established with resources and best practices on overcoming specific urban development barriers.

#### **Chapter 6 - group 4: Reporting at the local level and by other stakeholders: voluntary local reviews 400 words**

In an increasingly urbanized world, the New Urban Agenda is a comprehensive and action-oriented framework to advance the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>93</sup>. It is guided by the principles of the 2030 Agenda, such as leaving no one behind and environmental sustainability<sup>94</sup>. It proposes to readdress the way we plan, finance, develop, govern and manage cities and human settlements, in line with the Global Goals. In essence, the NUA acts as a strategic lever to achieve the SDGs by emphasizing and guiding local action.

Policy setting and reporting on the SDGs and the NUA is predominantly a national governments led process. Yet, we know that over 65% of the SDG targets will not be met without concerted action at the local level. In this context, Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) have emerged as a powerful process to accelerate SDG localization. VLRs have become the tool of choice for local and regional governments to monitor and report on their SDG progress. They are enabling local governments to become catalysts and game-changers in the implementation of global Agendas<sup>95</sup>. The global community of local governments committed to local reporting on SDGs has been growing at an encouraging pace, from 37 VLRs in May 2020<sup>96</sup> to 106 VLRs in October 2021 – a 186 percent increase in less than a year and a half. Latin America and Europe are the regions that have been most active, with 70 VLRs published combined<sup>97</sup>. However, other regions are catching up, with several cities in Africa and the Arab States initiating VLR processes in 2021<sup>98</sup>.

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 - for example, Guadalajara (Mexico), Mexico State (Mexico), Montevideo (Uruguay), Málaga (Spain), and Shah Alam (Malaysia). Implementing the NUA and undertaking a VLR are driven by common underlying principles. For instance, the NUA identifies multilevel governance as a key means of implementation<sup>99</sup>; at the same time, VLRs have contributed to revamp multi-level dialogue, made national governments more aware of localization and strengthen the connection with Voluntary

<sup>93</sup> See paragraph 9, p. 4 of the New Urban Agenda (2017) A/RES/71/256

<sup>94</sup> See paragraphs 14a, 14b, 14c, pp. 7-8 of the New Urban Agenda (2017) A/RES/71/256

<sup>95</sup> "Guidelines for Voluntary Local Reviews Vol. 2: Towards a New Generation of VLRs: Exploring the Local-National Link" UCLG and UN-Habitat (2021) pp. 25, [https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/07/vlrguidelines\\_vol2.pdf](https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/07/vlrguidelines_vol2.pdf)

<sup>96</sup> "Guidelines for Voluntary Local Reviews Vol. 1: "A Comparative Analysis of Existing VLRs" UCLG and UN-Habitat (2020) <https://bit.ly/3wTWaw2>

<sup>97</sup> Data as of October 2021

<sup>98</sup> The prospect for VLRs in Africa is highly encouraging. One VLR is expected to be published from Northern Africa (Agadir, Morocco); One VLR is expected from Western Africa (Accra, Ghana); Another is expected from Middle Africa (Yaoundé, Cameroon); in Eastern Africa, several local authorities in Uganda have expressed interest in presenting local report or are in the drafting process, also Harare and Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe will present their second VLR; in Southern Africa, Cape Town (South Africa) will present its second VLR.

<sup>99</sup> See paragraph 15b of the New Urban Agenda (2017) A/RES/71/256

National Review<sup>100</sup>, as in the cases of Finland, Malaysia and Argentina. In terms of inclusion and participation, the NUA commits to promoting inclusive platforms that allow meaningful participation in planning and decision-making<sup>101</sup>. 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 – such as in the cases of Mannheim (Germany), Hawaii (United States) or Sao Paulo (Brazil). By applying the participatory principle, VLRs contribute not only to the implementation of the NUA, but also to boost co-ownership of the NUA by local communities, while *leaving no one behind*.

## **Notes from Session:**

### **Role of VLRs:**

- We need to bring clarity in the text about the relationship between the NUA and VLRs. The Urban Monitoring Framework can be an integration mechanism to guide data collection of VLRs about the SDGs. Critically, we must build on the momentum of cities which are increasingly adopting VLRs where they are helping to accelerate and track the NUA.
- Evidence on normative guidance: AP Regional Guidelines on VLRs were produced one year after APUF. Subang Jaya, Malaysia and Surabaya have both completed VLRs using the guidelines less than one year after. Other cities (Naga PH, Singra, Bangladesh, Nakhon Si Thammarat, TH, Dhulikel, Nepal) are currently underway. However, legal frameworks are lagging behind and do not allow cities to move forward at the pace they would otherwise.

refer to database of VLR extracts

Need examples from cities which have produced VLRs and key findings and outcomes coming from their engagement with VLRs. Process of VLRs is as important as results, so we need to capture outcomes from both process and the final VLR output.

### **Status of implementation of the recommendations of the 2018 quadrennial report 1750 words**

Lack of reliable data and evidence and the insufficient capacity of national and local governments to use data constrain opportunities to develop adequate policy responses and achieve the NUA objectives.

### **Collecting and analyzing disaggregated quantitative and qualitative data 300 words**

Considerable investments have been put in since 2018 to enhance data collection at the city level knowing that cities will not overcome the urban 21st challenges unless these challenges get to be properly documented and understood. Lack of appropriately disaggregated data at the city levels often leads to ineffective policy choices and investments that results in limited impacts on the improvements of urban residents. However, in a few exceptions where good city level data exists, the technical capacity to analyse, and manage such data to inform decision-making and ensure accountability remains a challenge.

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<sup>100</sup> Best examples of multi-level dialogue and relationships are the case of Malaysia, Germany, Finland, England, Argentina and Spain. See detailed information in the Guidelines for Voluntary Local Reviews Vol. 2: "Towards a New Generation of VLRs: Exploring the Local-National Link" UCLG and UN-Habitat (2021) pp. 21-28, [https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/07/vlrguidelines\\_vol2.pdf](https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/07/vlrguidelines_vol2.pdf)

<sup>101</sup> See paragraph 41, p. 14 of the New Urban Agenda (2017) A/RES/71/256



The lack of granular qualitative and quantitative urban data not only affects the formulation of evidence-based policies and designing of programs that respond to urban dynamics and related challenges, but also undermines the efforts towards leaving no one behind. As countries and cities move towards increased decentralization and localized decision-making, the need for strengthening local monitoring systems such as urban observatories that can support tracking of local progress has been intensified through local support and development of new partnerships.

Various UN system agencies such as UNEP, UNICEF, UNAIDS, WFP, IOM, UN Regional Economic Commissions, UN-Habitat, etc., have been working closely to ensure better coordination around the production of urban qualitative and quantitative data and with the right granularity. Use of earth observation (EO) data and geospatial analysis techniques has also become an integral part of urban monitoring and informed decision-making processes over the last 6 years. Global monitoring frameworks such as the SDGs, NUA, Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction, etc. have deeply integrated the use of such spatial data sources into their indicator systems, while national and city-specific monitoring efforts have also increasingly included indicators which require the use of spatial technologies and qualitative measures. Noting the monitoring requirements for urban indicators, in which at least 10% of indicators require qualitative data, developing the capacity of partners to collect qualitative data and integrate citizen generated data became a priority since 2018.

UN-Habitat worked jointly with the European Commission, International Labour Organization (ILO), FAO, OECD, the World Bank and other organizations to harmonize definitions of cities and metropolitan areas to improve international comparability. In March 2020, the United Nations Statistical Commission endorsed the proposed method and definitions.<sup>[1]</sup> Based on both the mentioned resolution and the 2018 revision of the World Urbanization Prospects, UN-Habitat analyzed global and regional metropolitan trends among the United Nations Regional Groups,<sup>[2]</sup> featuring new information for better understanding of recent and future urban and metropolitan dynamics and offering a disaggregated comparison among global regions.<sup>[3]</sup>

UNECE and UN-Habitat published in 2020 “Guidelines on evidence-based policies and decision-making for sustainable housing and urban development” which serves as a practical reference for policymakers and for other experts involved in the development, review and implementation of policies on sustainable housing and urban development with the focus on disaggregated granular data production (Source: <https://unece.org/info/Housing-and-Land-Management/pub/21970>.)

Also other international organizations produce disaggregated data to help to provide an adequate analysis of urbanization in communities. For instance, Slum Dwellers International through its “Know Your City” campaign produces data on informal settlements. This work creates alternative systems of knowledge that are owned by the communities and have become the basis of a unique social and political argument that supports an informed and united voice of the urban poor. SDI’s databases are becoming the largest repositories of informal settlement data in the world and the first port of call for researchers, policy makers, local governments and national governments. (Source: <https://sdinet.org/explore-our-data/>.)

What is still needed in the future is focus on function scale data collection (depending on the objective of the analysis). For instance, there is no sufficient data for the analysis of urban-rural linkages, analysis of cities of different scale, for instance, of secondary cities, and of accessibility of urban spaces and services

Methodologies for the functional scale data need to be developed.

**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.<sup>[4]</sup> 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. One of best practices exists in the Netherlands where 'Urban Data Centers' were created jointly by the Dutch National Statistics Office and cities' governments. (Source: <https://www.cbs.nl/en-gb/onze-diensten/urban-data-centres>.)

**Strengthening the capacities of national and subnational governments 300 words**

International organizations also support building capacities of national and subnational 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 subnational governments to measure the distance between national targets and performance of cities. Reference: OECD (2020), A Territorial Approach to the Sustainable Development Goals: Synthesis report, OECD Urban Policy Reviews, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/e86fa715-en>. and <https://www.oecd-local-sdgs.org/index.html>

UNECE develops its smart sustainable cities profiles based on the developed in 20215 by ITU and UNECE key performance indicators for smart sustainable cities, which are well coordinated with the SDGs indicators and therefore also allow measuring achieving the SDGs and the NUA objectives at local level. See, for example, a smart sustainable city profile for Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, at <https://unece.org/info/Housing-and-Land-Management/pub/351960>; a smart sustainable city profile for Voznesensk, Ukraine, at <https://unece.org/info/Housing-and-Land-Management/pub/2921>.

UN-Habitat is conducting capacity development programmes on metropolitan management for public officials of subnational and national governments and in partnership with local universities. These programs have been implemented in countries such as Argentina, Colombia, El Salvador, Italy, Paraguay, among others. They are customized according to local needs, duration and beneficiaries, and involve topics such as policy, governance, legislation, planning, financing mechanisms and SDGs territorialization at metropolitan and regional scales.

**Strengthening existing multi-stakeholder platforms 300 words**

*This section can among other things highlight:*

- The various Regional, National and Local forums that have been launched and the impact they have had;
- Existing single-actor platforms that are being brought together in multi-stakeholders forums;
- The rise of digital platforms.
- The broad range of UN platforms that are available;
- The future of cities taskforce.

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. For instance, the International Land Coalition is mobilising its members to monitor land-related targets through LANDex, a global land governance index that puts people at the centre of land data, democratising land monitoring and building a data ecosystem where all voices can be heard (Source: <https://www.landcoalition.org/en/explore/our-work/multi-stakeholder-platforms/>.) The Cadasta foundation develops and promotes the use of simple digital tools and technology to help partners efficiently document, analyze, store, and share critical land and resource rights information. In India, for instance, Cadasta has partnered with 22 Indian organizations to document and advance land rights for 1.9 million people in 226,000 households across eight states (Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Manipur, Odisha, and Telangana). In addition, Indian partners use the Platform's tools for mobile data collection, data management, analysis, visualization, storage, and advancing rights for community stakeholders. (Note: see here for more details about JAGA Mission work specifically). In Ghana, Cadasta is working with the Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands (Customary Lands), providing tools for local collection and management of customary land rights within local Customary Land Secretariats (CLS), with the data replicated back to the national system. Along with our local partners, we build the capacity of CLS, district, and central government actors to issue land documentation, and locally manage data. Also international cities' networks, including UCLG, ICLEI, Metropolis, CLGF, CEMR as well as national associations of local governments put efforts to promote data collection and evidence based policies. The future efforts need to be put to promote interoperability of different data sources already available in different networks.

### **Developing inclusive, evidence-based and integrated national urban policies 300 words**

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". To this end, UN-Habitat continues supporting national and subnational governments in development of their national and subnational urban policies. Since 2014, UN-Habitat and partners have supported more than 56 national and subnational authorities in development of their urban policies, with three regional programmes focusing on specific thematic regional priorities. (Africa- Urban-rural linkages; Asia-Pacific and the Caribbean- Climate change; Arab States- economic development). Additionally, the adoption of national urban policy as an *indicator* for SDG 11.a.1 at the 51st session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2020 has continued accelerating national and local governments interests in development and implementation of the urban policies.

Best practices and lessons learned continue to be applied as the urban policy programmes are scaled up, with the support of member states. For example, following the successful completion of phase 1 of the Korea-funded national urban policy programme in three countries (I.R Iran, Myanmar and Niger State, Nigeria), UN-Habitat is renewing its partnership with the Government of Korea through the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport to scale up the urban policy programme to five additional countries across five regions globally with key focus of people-centered smart cities, which in return support one of the key UN-Habitat flagship programmes on 'People-centred smart cities', an effort that supports the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-23. The [national urban policy database](#) as well as the [Global State of National Urban Policy 2021](#) report also continue to monitor and report progress in the development of national urban policies.

The National Urban Policy Programme (NUPP) is a joint initiative of UN Habitat, OECD, Cities Alliance and several other UN agencies who are working together to support the development and implementation of NUPs globally.

UNECE produced 20 country profiles on urban development, housing and land management which serve as an important tool to collect national and local data and analyse countries' urban development, housing and land management policies, institutional and financial frameworks and to compare the progress made internationally. The study is conducted on the request of UNECE member States. The intergovernmental Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management reviews the implementation of country profiles' recommendations on a regular basis (Source: <https://unece.org/housing/country-profiles>.)

The above described activities support the development of capacities of the national governments for evidence-based policies. Moving forward, 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 SDSs at national level. In Norway, for example, the national voluntary review 2021 was developed based on "whole-of-society" approach and is building on outcomes of municipal local voluntary reviews elaborated on rigorous data collection and analysis and stored in relevant databases. (Source: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/28233Voluntary\\_National\\_Review\\_2021\\_Norway.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/28233Voluntary_National_Review_2021_Norway.pdf).)

### **Obtaining predictable financing mechanisms for the implementation and monitoring of the NUA. 300 words**

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 subnational 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. Kampala in Uganda has greatly improved its revenue collection from around US\$ 1 million in the financial year 2010/11 to US\$ 25 million (24 per cent of city budget) in the financial year 2018/19. Increased tax compliance was achieved through digitalisation, massive taxpayer sensitisation, training revenue collectors, conducting revenue audits and allowing taxpayers to pay in instalments.

In Malawi, central government transfers to cities make up less than 20 per cent of the total budget, while for rural local authorities, they account for 80 per cent. Mzuzu is an example of how intermediary cities, where revenues are low and capacity is minimal, can innovate municipal finance reform. Its Revenue Mobilisation Programme – a simple and fit-for-capacity property valuation system – has yielded a seven-fold increase in revenues. Yet legal barriers in the current property valuation process inhibited further progress, underlining the importance of creating innovative tools that are legally in conformity with national policies.

[1] <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/BG-Item3j-Recommendation-E.pdf>

[2] <https://unhabitat.org/a-third-of-the-global-population-now-lives-in-metropolitan-areas-according-to-un-habitat-research>

[3] <https://unhabitat.org/global-state-of-metropolis-2020-%E2%80%93-population-data-booklet>

[4] Reporting on a handful number of cities that are not necessarily the same does not represent, statistically, the country, and data cannot be aggregated at national urban level without a clear method of aggregation.

## **VII. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE QR 2026** (400 words)

- 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 neighborhoods\*\*
- Strengthening urban resilience and the local economy

\* Addition to the outcome document of Quito 2016 in response to the current situation and necessary adjustments.

\*\* These recommendations are to be produced through consultations and participatory process with a regional focus, if possible.

### **Recommendations**

While reviewing the implementation of the New Urban Agenda during the past 4 years, taking into consideration findings on progress made, analysing data and information and also best practices, knowledge, etc., looking at how this agenda has integrated other global agendas and serve as an accelerator of these agendas, the Secretary General makes the following recommendations:

The recommendations of 2018<sup>102\*</sup> are still valid, particularly c, d and f; a, b and c are being implemented.

### Revised Version + Additional Notes

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, i.e. spatial notion of inequality. (it does not only relate to the concentration of specific areas - **mainly related to mobility issues, interrelationship of spaces and city structures (?)**)
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. To make the local economy more competitive**

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<sup>102</sup> (a) The Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division are invited to consider the adoption of a national sample of cities for the harmonization,  
(b) The United Nations system may wish to strengthen the capacities of national and subnational governments to implement, monitor and report on the Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, in collaboration with knowledge-based institutions;  
(c) The United Nations system should strengthen existing multi-stakeholder platforms that facilitate participation and engagement at all levels and support Member  
(d) Member States may wish to further develop, as appropriate, inclusive, evidence-based and integrated national urban policies, as catalysts for implementing the Agenda and urban dimensions of the Goals at the national and local levels;  
(e) In the spirit of localizing the Agenda and the Goals, Member States may also support the collection and analysis by subnational and local authorities of disaggregated quantitative and qualitative data, including gender indicators, to inform policymaking and ensure that no one and no place is left behind in implementation of the Goals;  
(f) Long-term and predictable financing mechanisms for the implementation and monitoring of the Agenda, including the capacity of subnational governments to raise revenue from their own sources, should be created.

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.
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