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Follow-up to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Abdulrahman Abdulaziz Fahad Al-Thani (Qatar), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution [A/C.2/77/L.39](#)

Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions on the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), including its resolutions [32/162](#) of 19 December 1977, [56/206](#) of 21 December 2001, [65/165](#) of 20 December 2010, [66/207](#) of 22 December 2011, [67/216](#) of 21 December 2012, [68/239](#) of 27 December 2013, [69/226](#) of 19 December 2014, [70/210](#) of 22 December 2015, [71/235](#) of 21 December 2016, [72/226](#) of 20 December 2017, [73/239](#) of 20 December 2018 and [75/224](#) of 21 December 2020,

Reaffirming its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,



Reaffirming also its resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement,¹ and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change² that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Recalling its resolution [71/256](#) of 23 December 2016, entitled “New Urban Agenda”, in which it endorsed the New Urban Agenda, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016, as contained in the annex to the above-mentioned resolution,

Reaffirming its resolution [71/243](#) of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and its general guidelines and principles, as well as its resolution [72/279](#) of 31 May 2018 on repositioning the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Reaffirming also the commitment to urban and rural development that is people-centred, protects the planet and is age- and gender-responsive and to the realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, facilitating living together, ending all forms of discrimination and violence and empowering all individuals and communities while enabling their full and meaningful participation, and reaffirming further the commitment to promoting culture and respect for diversity and equality as key elements in the humanization of our cities and human settlements,

Reaffirming further the commitment to promoting the systematic use of multi-stakeholder partnerships in urban development processes, as appropriate, establishing clear and transparent policies, financial and administrative frameworks and procedures, as well as planning guidelines for multi-stakeholder partnerships,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental and the wish to see the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

Noting that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030³ can contribute to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda,

Reaffirming the role and expertise of UN-Habitat, given its role within the United Nations system as the focal point on sustainable urbanization and human settlements, including in the implementation, follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda, in collaboration with other United Nations system entities,

Welcoming the decision of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to endorse the United Nations system-wide strategy on sustainable

¹ Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

³ Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

urban development⁴ as a whole-of-system approach by the United Nations to harness the opportunities and mitigate the challenges of rapid urbanization through existing global inter-agency processes, regional collaboration platforms and the resident coordinator system to assist countries in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda,

Recognizing the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution [73/229](#) of 20 December 2018, including the convening of the first session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly in Nairobi in June 2019, the establishment and subsequent sessions of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat and the convening by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat of the high-level midterm review of the decisions of the United Nations Habitat Assembly held in Nairobi in July 2021, together ensuring a robust governance structure to strengthen Member States' ownership, leadership and oversight of UN-Habitat,

Welcoming the efforts by the United Nations Habitat Assembly and the Executive Board of UN-Habitat to identify ways to align the strategic planning cycle of UN-Habitat with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review cycle of the United Nations and, as an interim step, to utilize the midterm review of the UN-Habitat strategic plan 2020–2023, convened by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat in July 2021, to take note of the key elements of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review 2021–2024 to inform the midterm review,

Reaffirming the importance of accountability, transparency and improved results-based management and further harmonized results-based reporting for increasing the quantity and quality of funding for operational activities, while recognizing the need to ensure an adequate quantity and quality of funding for the operational and normative activities of UN-Habitat, including its core resources, and the need to make funding more predictable, efficient and effective,

Reaffirming also that the focus of the work of UN-Habitat, in line with the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, should remain within the framework of sustainable development, with the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions as its overarching objective, consistent with the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda,

Acknowledging effective multilevel governance as a key dimension and driver of Sustainable Development Goal localization and strengthening institutional integration, policy coherence and stakeholder engagement across levels and sectors,

Reiterating that the implementation of the New Urban Agenda contributes to the implementation and localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated and coordinated manner at the global, regional, national, subnational and local levels, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders,

Recognizing the role of national, subnational and local governments, as appropriate, and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, throughout the process, including policymaking, planning, design, implementation, operation and maintenance, and monitoring, as well as the financing and timely delivery of services,

Aware that the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda requires enabling policy frameworks at, as appropriate, the global, regional, national, subnational and local levels, effective means of implementation, including finance, capacity-building, technology development and transfer, on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, and mutually beneficial partnerships,

⁴ [CEB/2019/1/Add.5](#).

Reaffirming the importance of financing sustainable and resilient urbanization and quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure and maximizing the impact of public and private investments to improve the financial conditions for urban development, taking into consideration the different capacities of governments at all levels,

Reaffirming also the role of the World Urban Forum as an advocacy platform for all stakeholders in the fields of human settlements and sustainable urbanization, based on its non-legislative nature, and expressing its appreciation to the Government of Poland and the city of Katowice for hosting the eleventh session of the Forum from 26 to 30 June 2022, focusing on the theme “Transforming our cities for a better urban future”, and taking note of the Katowice Declared Actions, comprising voluntary actions and commitments aimed at supporting the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Noting with great concern the threat to human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to help to reduce the risk of future shocks, and recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation,

Recognizing that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has generated new demands for UN-Habitat support for response and recovery plans and strategies promoting sustainable development, as illustrated in the policy brief by the Secretary-General on COVID-19 in an urban world, the report of UN-Habitat entitled *Cities and Pandemics: Towards a More Just, Green and Healthy Future*, in the United Nations framework for the immediate socioeconomic response to COVID-19, with a pillar dedicated to social cohesion and community resilience, and in the UN-Habitat COVID-19 response plan,

Emphasizing the furtherance of the New Urban Agenda to promote more effective emergency preparedness and response in urban areas, and noting the importance of addressing, as appropriate, the particular needs and vulnerabilities of internally displaced persons and host communities in urban settings,

Recognizing that the international community faces increasing challenges posed by the negative impact of climate change, natural disasters and environmental degradation, which have exacerbated vulnerabilities and inequalities for people experiencing homelessness, particularly in developing countries and small island developing States, and stressing the need to anticipate, plan for and reduce disaster risk, including through the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and to ensure that the right to an adequate standard of living is promoted and respected,

Taking note of the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, which was reviewed by the Economic and Social Council at a special meeting on sustainable urbanization and the New Urban Agenda on 21 April 2022 and thereafter by the General Assembly at a high-level meeting to assess progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, held in New York on 28 April 2022,

Taking note also of the summary by the President of the General Assembly of the high-level meeting of the Assembly to review progress on the implementation of

the New Urban Agenda, including the annex thereto containing the declared actions of Member States, which incorporates the commitments presented in the statements of 87 Member States inscribed in the plenary segment emphasizing five areas of action to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, notably, affordable housing and basic services, urban climate mitigation and adaptation, urban prosperity and financing, multilevel governance and the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, and urban crisis reduction and recovery frameworks,

Taking note further of the establishment of the Group of Friends of UN-Habitat, Sustainable Urbanization and the New Urban Agenda, originated during the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to review progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, to strengthen the interface between the Secretariat and the General Assembly in order to strengthen UN-Habitat, highlight the power of urbanization for sustainable development and accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda,

Welcoming efforts by UN-Habitat to jointly coordinate the initiative on sustainable urban resilience for the next generation by the Presidency of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, providing a holistic multi-stakeholder framework to leverage the New Urban Agenda to accelerate the attainment of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals and to coordinate the ministerial meeting on urbanization and climate change,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat),⁵

Governance of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

1. *Looks forward* to the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, to be held from 5 to 9 June 2023 in Nairobi, and recommends the participation of the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council in line with the spirit of integration and universality of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2. *Encourages* UN-Habitat, under the guidance of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, to align the strategic planning cycle of UN-Habitat with the cycle for the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations, within existing resources;

3. *Takes note* of the review of management and administration in the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat) prepared by the Joint Inspection Unit,⁶ and encourages UN-Habitat to provide regular updates to its Executive Board on the implementation of the recommendations of this review;

Ensuring adequate funding and improving information to monitor funding trends

4. *Encourages* Member States to provide voluntary additional financial resources to service the intergovernmental governance processes of UN-Habitat;

5. *Invites* Member States, international and bilateral donors and financial institutions to contribute to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary financial contributions, especially non-earmarked contributions, to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, including the urban basic services trust fund and other technical cooperation trust funds, invites Governments and other stakeholders

⁵ [A/77/310](#).

⁶ [JIU/REP/2022/1](#).

to provide voluntary predictable multi-year funding and increased non-earmarked contributions to support the implementation of its mandate, and requests the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to ensure that reporting on funding is transparent and easily accessible to Member States, including through the creation of an online registry that contains relevant financial information;

6. *Invites* all Member States making financial contributions earmarked for the operational activities of UN-Habitat to ensure that such resources are fully aligned with the strategic plan of UN-Habitat and are in accordance with the priorities of Member States benefiting from those contributions;

7. *Reiterates* the need to ensure that UN-Habitat has appropriate capacity to generate, manage and disseminate its evidence-based urbanization knowledge, based on its normative and operational work, building on existing international instruments, assessments and information networks to raise public awareness of critical, as well as emerging, urbanization issues;

8. *Also reiterates* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of UN-Habitat, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to improve the capacity of UN-Habitat to implement its mandate;

Implementation of the New Urban Agenda to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

9. *Reaffirms* that, by readdressing the way cities and human settlements are planned, designed, financed, developed, governed and managed, the New Urban Agenda⁷ will help to end poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions, reduce inequalities, promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in order to fully harness their vital contribution to sustainable development, improve human health and well-being, foster resilience and protect the environment;

10. *Also reaffirms* the central role that cities and human settlements can play in sustainable development, and urges UN-Habitat to further support increased participation of governments at all levels and regional organizations in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular by providing technical assistance aimed at developing the capacity of all levels of government, especially in developing countries, to plan and implement sustainable urbanization and human settlements programmes and projects;

11. *Further reaffirms* that youth policies, tailored and adapted to national and local contexts, help ensure that youth development challenges are addressed, and encourages meaningful engagement with youth in urban policy and decision-making processes;

12. *Reaffirms* the importance of strengthening the capacities of cities to increase the integration of risk management into preventive urban development policy to create urban resilience;

13. *Also reaffirms* the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to leave no one behind and to taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first;

14. *Recognizes* the importance of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda at the local, subnational, national, regional and global levels, taking into

⁷ Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national legislation and practices, as well as policies and priorities;

15. *Encourages* UN-Habitat to continue its support to countries in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, giving consideration to evidence-based urban planning practices that promote access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing, inclusive urban prosperity and finance, effective climate action and environmental sustainability, multilevel governance and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, and effective urban crisis response and recovery;

16. *Also encourages* UN-Habitat to continue to assist countries in monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, in complementarity with the Statistical Commission methodology for delineation of cities, urban and rural areas for international and regional statistical comparison purposes, develop a common methodology for aggregating subnational urban statistics, strengthen means of verification of new tier III indicators of targets under Sustainable Development Goal 11 on cities and communities, utilizing the Global Urban Monitoring Framework to develop innovative methods, approaches and guidelines for data collection, analysis, monitoring and implementation and harnessing the Urban Agenda platform to share progress, action and knowledge resources on sustainable urbanization, and looks forward to the contributions of UN-Habitat to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in 2023;

17. *Further encourages* UN-Habitat to continue promoting and implementing the People-Centred Smart Cities flagship programme to ensure that the benefit of digital transformation is widely shared among all urban dwellers, especially those in vulnerable situations, living in slums and informal settlements, including through developing normative guidance and providing technical support to governments, cities and communities;

18. *Urges* UN-Habitat to ensure that its normative and operational activities are balanced, that its normative work guides and is integrated into its operational work and that its experiences in the operational field feed into its normative work;

19. *Encourages* UN-Habitat to accelerate the implementation of the United Nations system-wide strategy on sustainable urban development to facilitate coordination among entities of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, to ensure effective support for countries in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban and human settlements dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

20. *Also encourages* UN-Habitat to continue its collaboration with international development banks and the private sector to ensure coherence of policy support and the alignment of large-scale urban investments with the principles of the New Urban Agenda and to facilitate increased investment in sustainable urbanization, including through, but not limited to, the Multi-Partner Implementation Facility for Sustainable Urban Development, the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Adaptation Fund and the Climate Investment Funds;

21. *Calls upon* UN-Habitat to continue to work closely with United Nations organizations to promote joint urban programming at the country level, under the leadership of resident coordinators and in collaboration with the United Nations country teams, stakeholders and other development partners, to foster inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities, and to support country efforts towards the Sustainable Development Goals through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework;

Review and implementation

22. *Encourages* Member States to contribute to the special voluntary trust fund for the purpose of assisting developing countries to attend United Nations Habitat Assembly and UN-Habitat Executive Board sessions, and invites Member States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make financial contributions to the voluntary trust fund;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a progress report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution, to be entitled “Follow-up to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)”;

24. *Decides*, for its next consideration of this topic, to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled “Follow-up to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)”.
