Documentation of the Work of the **United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)** NMUN simulation*

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Committee Staff

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Agenda

  I.   Achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11

  II. Creating Inclusive Cities for the Elderly

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
UNHabitat/1/1	Achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11	28 in Favor, 1 abstention

Code: 1/1
Committee: United Nations Human Settlements Programme
Topic: Achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

Acknowledging that 1.6 billion people around the world are experiencing inadequate housing conditions according to UN-Habitat, simultaneously with the increasing threat of climate change,

Recalling Article 25 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948), which recognizes safe and secure housing as an inalienable human right,

Emphasizing the UN-Habitat mandate to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities,

Reiterating appreciation for the principles outlined in the New Urban Agenda (NUA) adopted at the *United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development* (Habitat III) in 2016,

Desiring equitable and accessible engagement with individuals from all sectors of society, including vulnerable groups such as women, the elderly, youth, and Indigenous populations,

Reaffirming the importance of financing sustainable development and resilient urbanization for quality, reliability, and sustainable infrastructure,

Discussing the principles outlined in UN-Habitat's Global Housing Strategy Program,

Expressing appreciation for the adoption of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015), particularly Sustainable Development Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, which seeks to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable,

Recognizing that low-income countries do not have the same access to sustainable and resilient materials and resources that align with SDG 11,

Highlighting the lack of useable data among SDG 11's indicators as reported in the 2023 High Political Forum Report titled *Rescuing SDG 11 for a Resilient Urban Planet Synthesis Report,* specifically including indicators 11.3.1, 11.3.2, 11.4.1, and 11.6.2,

Noting the findings of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) *The Critical Importance of SDG Localization* (2024), which reframes the fulfillment of the SDGs as a necessarily local endeavor,

Taking into consideration the effectiveness and importance of global support for locally tailored solutions and bearing in mind the need for tailored data collection, individualized development frameworks to track Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement,

Deeply concerned by the lack of resources dedicated towards national and regional urban development planning,

Alarmed that vulnerable groups in Lower and Middle-Income Countries (LMIC) do not have adequate access to affordable housing and basic needs, and observing that 60% of urban development is occurring in LMIC, leading to difficulties with sustainable and social infrastructure and strain on natural resources,

Concerned by the lack of sufficient data and access to data, which could lead to an inefficient distribution of funds and aid,

Convinced by the need for urban planning to foster safe, healthy, and prosperous communities,

Promoting the United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) initiative designed to facilitate digital transformation in cities and communities while enabling technology and knowledge transfer,

Realizing the increasing global trend of urbanization and population growth and the potential of smart city technologies,

Noting with satisfaction the success of public transport policies that effectively mobilized citizens, reduced carbon emissions, and provided affordable public services,

Bearing in mind the economic need to support Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Sustainable and Resilient Building for the improvement of Member States' public transport systems,

Appreciating the Global Platform for Sustainable Cities designed to provide a knowledge-sharing platform fostering collaboration among cities worldwide,

Recalling the Pro-Poor Policy by the United Nations Development Programme, highlighting growth models for microfinance options for residents to help mitigate informal settlements in urban developments,

Recognizing the importance of mobilizing funds for sustainable development through creative and alternative solutions involving contributions by both public and private actors,

Encouraging the maximization of private and public investments to improve the financial conditions for urban development,

Confirming the ability of shock-resistant and fireproof infrastructure to decrease the financial cost of natural disasters,

Seeking the knowledge of successful practices used in the work of the Red de Ciudades Como Vamos (RCCV) in reporting and connecting the work of cities toward SDG Goal 11,

Acknowledging the disastrous effects of carbon emissions and the significant role the creation of infrastructure plays in its continued addition,

1. *Suggests* the consolidation and reinvigoration of the Urban Resilience Hub into the NUA Platform to function as a decentralized open-access digital platform for information sharing, capacity building, and fostering collaboration to address urban challenges and promote sustainable urban development, operating via:

   a. Collaboration with all willing UN bodies, UN-Habitat's Global Urban Observatories (GUO)-Net, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), academic institutions, and Member States' national and local governments;

   b. The oversight of UN-Habitat in coordination with its regional offices to ensure local contextual adaptation and support in a format that integrates existing sources of data compatible with UN informational exchange standards;

   c. The inclusion of capacity-building programs targeted towards least developed communities in the form of online training modules specific to urban development best practices, minority inclusive governmental programming, and community representation;

2. *Calls for* the establishment of the Sustainable Sister Cities (2SC) platform, building off of the groundwork laid by the defunct Sister Cities Network for Sustainable Development, with the express purpose of promoting, streamlining, and sustaining sister cities between those of differing regional blocs, operating through:

   a. The newly consolidated New Urban Agenda Platform;

   b. The coalescence of SDG and NUA indicator data in order to algorithmically align communities facing common challenges or developing compatible solutions;

   c. The inclusion of the input of a broad contingent of stakeholders following pairing, such as public and private-sector representatives, local, regional, and national government officials, relevant experts, and civil society;

   d. The consideration of the diverse interests of underrepresented groups, fostering global understanding of common issues with the express goal of mainstreaming such considerations into urban development policy;

3. *Encourages* the expansion of the Academia Consultation Conference held jointly by UN-Habitat and the UN Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities (UNITAC), to:

   a. Have a special focus on the role of technology in social infrastructure;

   b. Create a forum to allow city delegations and students to showcase their efforts in developing and implementing resilient infrastructure;

   c. Encourage further partnerships between Member States and educational institutions and Universities to highlight current research on the topics of sustainable urban development;

      d.   Open the opportunity for underrepresented urban areas to host future summits and share unique perspectives on sustainable development;

4. *Invites* Member States to develop national Smart City frameworks that align with the NUA and the U4SSC agenda to adequately distribute funds for specific urban infrastructure while:

      a.   Recommending the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to work with UN-Habitat to promote the integration of smart cities forums;

      b.   Proposing an update to the UN-Habitat "people-centered smart cities" framework to better address specific regional challenges and needs by monitoring the progress of urban sustainable development to identify trends, gaps, and funding to adaptively tailor the needs of communities;

      c.   Requesting the UN-Habitat to include a review of the implementation and effectiveness of smart city initiatives when participating Member States produce Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), basing the reports on the RCCV format;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of Member States' engagement with stakeholders such as NGOs, private sector organizations, and international organizations, utilizing the reinvigorated New Urban Agenda Platform, to empower local governments to generate specific goals and actions, including:

      a.   Partnerships with local private organizations to connect private investors with sustainable urban development projects to bridge the gap between capital availability and investment needs, providing resources such as clean energy, resilient infrastructure, and water resource and waste management, similar to the Cities Investment Platform (CIP);

      b.   Capacity building programs, in conjunction with NGOs such as Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), to create urban management strategies for local leaders;

      c.   Data-driven insights in conjunction with regional institutions such as development banks and financial institutions to address the specific nuances of local areas;

6. *Requests* Member States adopt sustainable, time-efficient, and high-capacity transportation networks to strengthen the interconnectivity between human settlements and combat traffic congestion while reducing the environmental impact to a minimum by:

      a.   Prioritizing investment in the public transport sector as opposed to the private one;

      b.   Diversifying public transportation systems, in particular, by using different means such as railway, bus rapid transport, metro, and public water transport;

c. Considering the reduction of the use of fossil fuels in the transportation sector gradually and transitioning to environmentally friendly means of commuting through electrification, biofuels, e-fuels, or synthetic gasoline in internal combustion engines while sharing knowledge through Group of Friends of UN-Habitat, Sustainable Urbanization, and the New Urban Agenda;

d. Modernizing and upgrading existing transport frameworks by utilizing the resources found in UN-Habitat's Mobility & Transport documents, which offer "potential data sources, software, and stepwise criteria for assessing access to public transport," as well as implementing the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)'s Guidelines for Transport;

e. Making cities more walkable and bicycle-friendly with services that are easily accessible to citizens within a 15-minute walking distance based on SDG indicator 11.2.1, for example by:

   i. Investing in sidewalks and cycling tracks;

   ii. Creating pedestrian and car-free zones;

   iii. Introducing speed limits to increase pedestrian safety particularly close to schools and other institutions mostly visited by vulnerable groups;

   iv. Introducing city tolls to reduce overall traffic congestion;

f. Participating in UN-Habitat knowledge-sharing programs such as the Global Future Cities Programme to implement Bus Rapid Transit systems modeled after the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy standards;

g. Utilizing professionals from UN-Habitat's Board of Mobility and Transportation in cooperation with local teachers to educate administrative staff and policymakers to safely build, maintain, and plan their transportation infrastructure in such a way that limits damage to property and loss of life;

7. Further recommends the expansion of the Global Platform for Sustainable Cities to include an urban public transport section designed to provide strategic guidance, foster innovative solutions, and support cities in implementing effective public transit systems by:

   a. Adapting policies such as the OECD's Guidelines for Transport that set certain standards regarding emission reduction targets that focus on promoting the transition to low-emission public transit vehicles as well as accessibility and affordability to ensure that public transportation systems meet the needs of diverse populations;

   b. Synchronizing the outcomes of various UN transportation forums, such as the World Urban Forum and the Global Sustainable Transport Conference in order to

facilitate the evaluation of the progress of cities towards sustainable public transport goals through data-driven assessments and stakeholder consultations;

    c. Calling upon the Secretary-General to issue an annual report detailing progress, challenges, and policy recommendations to support Member States' commitments to sustainable transport goals;

8. Calls upon all Member States to advance energy and resource independence within cities by prioritizing the adoption of green energy technologies and resource-efficient infrastructure, such as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Framework on Energy Programme, including:

    a. Solar mini-grids to support urban and peri-urban energy needs;

    b. Compact wind turbines for localized energy generation;

    c. Geothermal heat pumps for sustainable building climate control;

    d. Hydroelectric generators to control renewable water-based energy sources;

    e. Bioenergy systems through biomass conversion to reduce urban waste and generate clean energy, to foster resilient, self-sufficient cities that contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 11;

    f. References to UNIDO's Clean Energy Mini-Grid Policy, UN-Habitat Sustainable Urban Energy Planning and the Cities and Climate Change Initiative.

9. Advises that Member States promote policies that incentivize the transfer of materials and resources to low-income countries are able to accelerate progress towards sustainable cities, such as:

    a. Creating a focus on affordability due to low-income countries who are unable to afford shipping of the materials and resources that are key to sustainability and resilience;

    b. Enhancing trade partnerships to easily facilitate the transfer of materials and resources;

10. Further invites Member States to increase civic engagement, participation, and opportunity provision for employment and volunteerism within vulnerable groups and minorities through:

    a. The resources provided by UN-Habitat's People-Centered Urban Planning, PSUP, Safer Cities;

    b. Recalling the aid from social investment funds from UN-Habitat to increase job opportunities offered to Indigenous people, youth, elders, those without homes, immigrants, and persons with disabilities;

c. Enhancing accessibility in public spaces to enhance and encourage intergenerational use;

d. Promoting the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in labor, social protection, and support, health, and transportation by expanding guidelines to improve accessible systems to meet the mobility needs of vulnerable groups;

   i. Demonstrating reliability by delivering projects in a timely and qualified manner;

   ii. Regularly updating shareholders on feedback and effectiveness using plain language;

   iii. Publicizing local, private, institutional, and organizational engagement and activity through press, media, conferences, and public forums;

   iv. Advocating for action and support from organizations that represent the wider community, governments, international organizations, professionals, academic institutions, the media, and the private sector;

e. Supporting community-based efforts to facilitate the development of affordable, age-friendly housing to increase the accessibility of cities for elderly populations and enable aging-in-place;

f. Emphasizing activities be designed to overcome inequity and foster inclusion, aiming to:

   i. Implement social protection measures, such as the equitable distribution of resources, while addressing barriers faced by marginalized persons;

   ii. Advance equal opportunity by promoting decent work and expanding on job protection;

   iii. Allocating resources for defenseless and poor populations by increasing attendance of non-profits and other NGOs in impoverished areas;

11. Calls upon Member States and NGOs to allocate resources and create property rights for defenseless and informal settlements by requesting governmental participation in a sense of shared responsibility to prevent habitative backsliding, drawing on the principles of debt-for-equity swaps to promote empowerment in informal settlements;

12. Suggests that Member States integrate microfinance into urban and rural development plans by identifying specific areas, such as informal settlements and underserved rural communities, where small loans can empower residents to secure housing and start businesses to emphasize collaboration between governments, microfinance institutions, and local organizations to create tailored policies and programs that align with national development priorities;

13. Requests Member States' respective finance ministries address the SDG 11 funding gap by partnering with local businesses within the sustainable development sector to:

    a. Provide grants and other economic incentives to foster innovation and technology development necessary to make cities sustainable;

    b. Provide education to empower local businesses to seek funds through alternative fundraising means, such as crowdfunding, social-impact bonds and peer-to-peer lending through forming mentorship relations between ministries and businesses and producing online educational resources;

14. Reaffirms its belief UN-Habitat's commitment to sustainable housing recalled within UN Habitat's Global Housing Strategy, adhering to SDG 11.1 accessible, safe, and affordable housing for all by:

    a. Aligning with principles outlined in the UN-Habitat Technical Guidebook for Financing, Planned City Extension, and Planned City Infill;

    b. Reviving #Housing2030, a 2020 online forum, sharing best practices on affordability challenges within housing, allowing policymakers to develop housing initiatives;

    c. Encouraging Member States to become partners of the Global Housing Strategy;

    d. Suggesting Member States create national programs, in cooperation with the private sector, that empower local and municipal governments by providing low-interest, long-term loans to be used towards the construction, renovation, and maintenance of social housing, prioritizing:

        i. Sustainable and scalable design and construction methods, such as modular and prefabricated homes;

        ii. Sustainable materials such as reclaimed wood and compressed earth bricks;

15. Calls for the use of recycled materials and natural resources that are native to the region of Member States in the construction of housing to reduce costs and carbon emissions, in collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Inter-governmental organizations (IGOs), including:

    a. Promoting the implementation of a survey to find materials to recycle, wherein recycled materials will come in the form of uninhabited buildings or unused resources between building projects;

    b. Encouraging LDC partnerships with international development organizations like the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to achieve sustainable infrastructure outcomes, Plastics For Change to use fair-trade recycled plastics to build housing infrastructure, Habitat for Humanity to use locally available natural

resources to build homes, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to expand upon the shared pilot initiative of the promotion of Vernacular Architecture to protect the cultural heritage and history of other Member States;

    c. Advocating for local partnerships between Member States and regional development organizations to tailor infrastructure and development strategies to the unique needs of each Member State;

16. Expresses support for increased practices of "Slum Upgrading" through the Participatory Slum Upgrading Program (PSUP) within Member States by addressing key issues such as safe public spaces within communities, equitable transport access, and inclusive and affordable housing;

17. Affirms the need for Member States to collaborate with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Using (CityRAP) and aligning with the Coalition for Climate Resilient Investment (CCRI) to grow the private and public sectors, which promotes policies for safe housing, inclusive spaces, and reduces disaster risk;

18. Invites Member States who are willing to create property rights in order to legalize informal settlements to collaborate with the Global Land Tool Network to facilitate the ability of occupants of informal settlements to obtain the appropriate legal documents, such as deeds, that establish legal certainty of occupancy and security of tenure, providing these programs to individuals and families with long-established occupancy at a low-cost that is affordable for vulnerable populations, including women, the elderly and the poor;

19. Implores Member States to consult with the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA) to adapt guidelines for comprehensive and sustainable zoning and land development through the Global Housing Strategy (GHS), Planning Law Assessment Framework, PSUP, City Prosperity Initiative (CPI), and the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning (IG-UTP) for the consideration of urban developers in the areas of:

    a. Urban sprawl to increase security for people living in informal settlements and to promote sustainable housing construction;

    b. Green spaces to improve public health;

    c. Public works to increase revenue, employment, and social cohesion;

    d. Disaster relief to protect communities and infrastructure;

20. Recommends Member States to incorporate infrastructure that is capable of weathering natural disasters, incorporating fireproof and flood-resistant materials by:

a. Requesting the aid of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) and NGO's to provide financial resources in the creation of disaster-resistant infrastructure;

b. Promoting cooperation between member states and urban planning organizations such as the Urban Green Infrastructure(UGI) to build simulations on the disaster-resistant buildings;

c. Affirming the benefit member states would have by incorporating policies that strongly urges the use of disaster-resistant materials in areas prone to environmental hazards;

21. Supports the notion that member states should implement community workshops with the goal of educating citizens on the risk of disaster in their areas and evacuation practices in case of disaster by:

a. Requesting the financial aid of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and other NGOs to implement workshops;

b. Advocating for the collaboration between local fire and rescue services to supervise the creation of the workshops and verify the accuracy of it's content;

22. Suggests that Member States implement disaster risk reduction practices into their national policies by:

a. Collaborating with UN agencies to map out areas at risk for natural disasters;

b. Requesting the collaboration between Member States to share data and reduction practices if they are prone to the same natural disasters;

c. Advocates for Member States to implement zoning laws that restrict the creation of infrastructure in areas that are at high risk for natural disasters;

23. Encourages adherence to section 97 of the NUA to ensure that Member States plan for urban regeneration in a manner that prevents gentrification while also promoting economic growth;

24. Promotes the development of community-based programs tailored to vulnerable populations needs by:

a. Enhancing accessibility in public spaces to enhance and encourage intergenerational use;

b. Expanding guidelines to improve accessible transportation systems to meet the mobility needs of older adults and individuals with disabilities;

c. Supporting community-based efforts to facilitate the development of affordable, age-friendly housing to increase the accessibility of cities for elderly populations and enable aging-in-place;

25. Advises that Member States promote policies that incentivize the transfer of materials and resources to low-income countries to accelerate progress towards sustainable cities in partnership with the UN Office for Project Services (UNOP), such as:

    a. Focusing on affordability in low-income countries who are unable to afford shipping of the materials and resources that are key to sustainability and resilience;

    b. Enhancing trade partnerships to facilitate the transfer of materials and resources easily.