A. Background on processes and engagement mechanisms

The Post-2015 Development Agenda processes are running alongside the Sustainable Development Goals processes, which are a follow-up to the Rio+20 Conference. However, these two sets of processes are very likely to end up as one set of goals. In responding to Governing Council Resolution 24/10, the objective of UN-Habitat’s participation in these processes is to provide adequate information to Governments, United Nations system organizations and other stakeholders on the role of urbanization in sustainable development, with a view to ensuring that sustainable urbanization is reflected in both the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as in the processes leading to these outcomes.

Since the beginning of 2012, UN-Habitat has been participating in the work of the United Nations System Task Team (UNTT) on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and its Working Group on Indicators. UN-Habitat also co-led a thematic consultation on population dynamics, part of 11 thematic consultations organized by the Millennium Development Goals Task Force. In addition, it contributed to five other thematic consultations relevant to its mandate, i.e. those on environmental sustainability, governance, energy, water and inequalities.

UN-Habitat further provided inputs on sustainable urbanization to the work of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. It has been participating in the Technical Support Team of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. In particular, UN-Habitat contributed significantly to the Seventh Session of the Open Working Group held from 6 to 10 January 2014, including co-drafting the related Issue Brief on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements.

It has also been participating in the activities of the Thematic Group on Sustainable Cities of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), the United Cities and Local Governments’ Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments and the Communitas Coalition for Sustainable Cities and Regions.

In December 2012, UN-Habitat suggested a stand-alone goal on sustainable cities and human settlements. This has since been refined and a proposed goal to “Achieve safe, inclusive, productive and resilient cities and human settlements” and a compilation of four clusters of targets was shared with the CPR in December 2013.

Meanwhile, UN-Habitat has worked with Governments at the country level to explain the importance of sustainable urbanization in national development in the context of discussions on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.
B. Outcome of UN-Habitat’s Efforts

The report of the High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, “A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development”, published in May 2013, emphasized that “Cities are where the battle for sustainable development will be won or lost…” and also recognized the key role of local authorities. However, the report considered cities as cross-cutting.

The UN Secretary-General’s report titled “A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015”, released in July 2013, recognized “Meet[ing] the challenges of urbanization” as one of 14 key “…transformative and mutually reinforcing actions that apply to all countries…” that will be required to bring to life the vision of the development agenda beyond 2015 (paragraphs 82 and 94). The report also recognized that “… With rapid urbanization and population growth … the number of slum dwellers is on the rise” (paragraph 29).

The Global Task Force on Local and Regional Governments suggested, in March 2013, recognition of the role of local and regional governments as well as eight objectives, including one on urban planning and design, territorial cohesion and climate change resilience.

The Mayors Adaptation Forum Bonn Declaration of June 2013 urged “…nations to adopt a universal sustainable development goal for cities”. Rio de Janeiro Mayor Eduardo Paes, chair of the Large Cities Climate Leadership Group (C-40) has also endorsed an urban SDG, stating that ‘without an urban goal the SDGs will be incomplete’.

The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) recommended, in June 2013, a stand-alone goal on “empowering inclusive, productive and resilient cities”, plus three targets. SDSN’s Thematic Group on Sustainable Cities, supported by UN-Habitat, UCLG, Cities Alliance, ICLEI, and Metropolis prepared a paper titled “Why the World Needs an Urban Sustainable Development Goal” in September 2013. SDSN also launched the #UrbanSDG campaign, which has attracted more than 200 local, national and international signatories.

The Communitas Coalition for Sustainable Cities and Regions is promoting the adoption of an urban goal and has developed component targets related to the economic, social, environmental, spatial and cultural dimensions of sustainable development.

At the Seventh Session of the Open Working Group (OWG-7) held during the period 6-10 January 2014, which focused on sustainable cities and human settlements and sustainable transport, among other topics, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat opened the session with a keynote address. During the first two days, member states interacted with keynote speakers and panelists on the role of sustainable cities in an SDG framework. There was significant support by Member States for the inclusion of urbanization in the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals. The Co-Chairs, in their summary at the end of the Session, observed that “The inclusion of an urbanization-related goal in the SDGs was supported by many.”

UN-Habitat developed a “Question and Answer” document on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements in the SDGs to clarify some of the questions that came up in the OWG-7 debate, including: “What would an urban SDG mean for rural areas? How might an urban SDG ensure the delivery of universal public services? How might a universal urban SDG accommodate national and local contexts? What kind of signal would Member States send to cities with an urban SDG?”
C. Update on recent developments: February-May 2014

At the regional level, the 22nd session of the African Union Summit saw the urban agenda included in the African Common Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Discussions on the same also featured prominently on the agenda of AMCHUD on 25-28 February 2014.

Within the framework of the World Urban Campaign, an event entitled “The City We Need” was held in New York on 4 March, with a session dedicated to “The City in the Post-2015 Development Agenda and beyond”.

On 26 March, the Chair of the UN Statistical Commission transmitted a compendium of 29 statistical notes as input to the SDGs. They provide information on the measurement aspects of the issues discussed by the Open Working Group during its first eight sessions. UN-Habitat prepared one of these notes, focusing on sustainable cities and human settlements.

At the Tenth Session of the Open Working Group (OWG-10) the topic of sustainable cities and human settlements was discussed on 3 April. During this session, an increasing number of Open Working Group members – including two large regional blocs – expressed support for a stand-alone goal on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements and proposed concrete targets, which were included in the working document prepared by the co-chairs in preparation for OWG-11.

On 3 April the Swedish mission to the UN in New York hosted a luncheon to discuss the role of Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, with more than 20 member states attending including several members of the Group of Friends for Sustainable Cities. Speakers included several Ambassadors, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Jeffrey Sachs of Colombia University and the Project Director of Communitas Coalition. With regard to measurement, the SDSN launched an indicator report with a section on Sustainable Cities on 4 April 2014 in New York. A webinar on “Why the World Needs an Urban SDG” was hosted by Municipal Art Society on 5 May.

The Post-2015 Development Agenda was very prominent in the debates and events at the 7th session of the World Urban Forum in Medellin. Key events included a Special Session on the Post-2015 Development Agenda on 9 April, with speakers representing the Governments of Colombia and Germany as well as representatives from Communitas and SDSN. Also, two networking events were fully dedicated to this topic, organized by the Governments of Brazil as well as by the Communitas Coalition. Post-2015 was also part of the agenda of the World Urban Campaign meeting. The Medellin Declaration on “Equity as a foundation of sustainable urban development”, in its section on “Contributing to the future”, the topic of Sustainable Urbanization in the Post-2015 Development Agenda is addressed as follows: “The framework of the Post-2015 Development Agenda is an opportunity to reaffirm the universal relevance of well planned and managed cities as real drivers for change. Towards this end, the participants at the World Urban Forum reaffirm the need to include key aspects of sustainable cities and human settlements in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, in order to harness the transformational power of cities to achieve and advance sustainable development.”

In their Working Document of 17 April 2014, the co-chairs of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals narrowed down the number of focus areas. They retained "Sustainable cities and human settlements" as standalone Focus Area 10, one of the 16 focus areas. They also suggest eight targets for consideration. For ease of reference, excerpts of this working document are attached in Annex 1 and Annex 2.
The 11th Session of the OWG took place on 5-9 May 2014. OWG members commented on all focus areas and targets. The Co-Chairs concluded that working document remains generally supported, but some clear amendments will need to take place. Some focus areas require more work than others: equality; climate change; means of implementation; and peaceful and inclusive societies, rule of law and capable institutions. There was broad endorsement for FA-10 on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements. However, some members suggested to move certain FA-10 targets under FA-8 on Infrastructure. Statements by OWG members revealed, amongst others, that there is a need to ensure a better balance of urban-rural in the formulation of FA-10; on target (d) there is no common understanding of “ecological footprint of cities”; and target (h) does not enjoy strong support.

The UN Technical Support Team is exploring how the targets under each focus area could be prioritized and refined to enhance the transformative power and measurability of the goals and targets. UN-Habitat, UNEP and UNESCO are co-leading this for FA-10 in consultation with other UN agencies.

D. Next Steps

The Co-Chairs of the Open Working Group announced that they will soon share a “chapeau” text with OWG members. The next iteration of the Co-Chairs working document will be issued on 27 May 2014. There are 150 targets in the current text; the next document will have even more targets to accommodate the target recommendations given by Member States during OWG-11. They need to be reduced in the next steps. The final sessions of the OWG will be preceded by informal sessions to promote conversation between co-chairs and delegations. As part of its work in the inter-agency Technical Support Team on SDGs, UN-Habitat will continue providing support and information to the Co-Chairs.

UN-Habitat, together with UNDP and the “Global Taskforce of local and regional governments for the post 2015 development agenda and Habitat III” is organizing a consultation on "Localizing the Post-2015 Development Agenda". Responding to the call of the UNDG and together with member states, the consultations will discuss the local dimensions of the future global development framework. This dialogue will also explore the important role of cities in advancing progress on national and global agendas. The consultation will be global at worldwewant2015.org with focus on the following countries: Armenia, Bostwana, Burundi, El Salvador, Ecuador, Ghana, Jamaica, Malawi, Malaysia, Philippines, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Uruguay and Yemen.

As a follow up to WUF-7, several members of the World Urban Campaign and the Habitat Professionals Forum are planning to enhance their advocacy with their constituencies with regard to the importance of Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. On 14 May, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network 9th Thematic Group of Sustainable Cities will organize a panel event and expert roundtable on Sustainable Urbanization in China. On 22 May, the Communitas Coalition for Sustainable Cities and Regions is planning to organize focused discussions, on how to best reflect the rural-urban continuum, infrastructure and universal access to services and innovative partnerships in the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

The Open Working Group is expected to prepare their final by 18 July to be submitted to the General Assembly in September 2014. This will be one of three reports, the others being the report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF) and the summary of meetings organized by the President of the General Assembly. After the debate in the General Assembly in September 2014, inter-governmental negotiations on the Post 2015 Development Agenda are expected to be concluded by September 2015.
### Annex 1: Focus areas and suggested goals; adapted from the Working Document for the 11th Session of Open Working Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus Area</th>
<th>Proposed Goal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Focus area 1. Poverty eradication, building shared prosperity and promoting equality</strong></td>
<td>End poverty in all its forms everywhere</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Focus area 2. Sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition</strong></td>
<td>End hunger and improve nutrition for all through sustainable agriculture and improved food systems</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Focus area 3. Health and population dynamics</strong></td>
<td>Healthy life at all ages for all</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Focus area 4. Education and life-long learning</strong></td>
<td>Provide quality education and life-long learning for all</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Focus area 5. Gender equality and women’s empowerment</strong></td>
<td>Attain gender equality and women’s empowerment everywhere</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Focus area 6. Water and sanitation</strong></td>
<td>Water and sanitation for a sustainable world</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Focus area 7. Energy</strong></td>
<td>Ensure access to affordable, sustainable, and reliable modern energy for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Focus area 8. Economic growth, employment and infrastructure</strong></td>
<td>Promote sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth and decent jobs for all</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Focus area 9. Industrialization and promoting equality among nations</strong></td>
<td>Promote sustainable industrialization and equality among nations</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Focus area 10. Sustainable cities and human settlements (see details in Annex 2)</strong></td>
<td>Build inclusive, safe and sustainable cities and human settlements</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Focus area 11. Sustainable Consumption and Production</strong></td>
<td>Promote sustainable consumption and production patterns</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Focus area 12. Climate change</strong></td>
<td>Take urgent and significant action to mitigate and adapt to climate change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Focus area 13. Conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, oceans and seas</strong></td>
<td>Take urgent and significant actions for the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, oceans and seas</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Focus area 14. Ecosystems and biodiversity</strong></td>
<td>Protect and restore terrestrial ecosystems and halt all biodiversity loss</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Focus area 15. Means of implementation/Global partnership for sustainable development</strong></td>
<td>Means of implementation; Technology transfer, technological capabilities; Financing and debt sustainability; Capacity building; Strengthened global partnership for sustainable development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Focus area 16. Peaceful and inclusive societies, rule of law and capable institutions</strong></td>
<td>Peaceful and inclusive societies, rule of law and capable institutions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Focus areas *in italics* are those that according to the Co-Chairs’ conclusion of OWG-11 “will require more work than others.”
Annex 2: Focus area 10: proposed goal and targets; excerpt from the Working Document for the 11th Session of Open Working Group

Focus area 10. Sustainable cities and human settlements

Build inclusive, safe and sustainable cities and human settlements

a) By 2030, ensure universal access to adequate and affordable housing and basic services for alli, and eliminate slum-like conditions everywhereii
b) By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport for alliii, improve road safetyiv and urban air qualityv

c) Enhance capacities for integrated urban planning and managementvi

d) By 2030, reduce the ecological footprints of cities by x%vii

e) By 2020, increase by x% the number of cities adopting and implementing policies and plans towards resilience and adaptation to climate change and natural disastersviii

f) By 2030 enhance social cohesion and personal security, and ensure universal access to inclusive and safe public spacesix

g) By 2030 ensure that all cities are accessible and offer opportunities to persons with disabilitiesx

h) Protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritagexi

Appropriate means of implementation

Note: Targets in italics were questioned by several members at OWG-11.

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i Benin on behalf of LDCs, Australia/Netherlands/UK, Norway/Ireland/Denmark, France/Germany/Switzerland, Cyprus/Singapore/UAE, Greece, Australia/Netherlands/UK, Italy/Spain/Turkey, Argentina/Bolivia/Ecuador, Pacific SIDS, China/Indonesia/Kazakhstan, Brazil/Nicaragua, Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of CARICOM, Croatia/Bulgaria, Poland/Romania, Iran; also supported by Children & Youth and Local Authorities Major Groups

ii Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of CARICOM; similar proposals from Colombia/Guatemala, Cyprus/Singapore/UAE, Norway/Ireland/Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, India, Iran, Children & Youth and Local Authorities Major Groups

iii Norway/Ireland/Denmark, Australia/Netherlands/UK, Pakistan, Greece, Belarus, Montenegro/Slovenia, Benin on behalf of LDCs, Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of CARICOM, Cyprus/Singapore/UAE, Croatia/Bulgaria, Poland/Romania, USA/Canada/Israel, Saudi Arabia, Children & Youth and Local Authorities Major Groups

iv Australia/Netherlands/UK, Argentina/Bolivia/Ecuador, Russia, Belarus, Ethiopia, Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of CARICOM, Cyprus/Singapore/UAE, Saudi Arabia, Children & Youth and Local Authorities Major Groups

v Norway/Ireland/Denmark, Australia/Netherlands/UK, France/Germany/Switzerland, Greece, Italy/Spain/Turkey, Montenegro/Slovenia, Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of CARICOM, Cyprus/Singapore/UAE, Saudi Arabia, Children & Youth and Local Authorities Major Groups

vi Bolivia on behalf of G77&China, Benin on behalf of LDCs, China/Indonesia/Kazakhstan, Australia/Netherlands/UK, France/Germany/Switzerland, Brazil/Nicaragua, Montenegro/Slovenia, Italy/Spain/Turkey, Poland/Romania, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Children & Youth and Local Authorities Major Groups

vii Colombia/Guatemala, USA/Canada/Israel

viii Australia/Netherlands/UK, Norway/Ireland/Denmark, France/Germany/Switzerland, Pakistan, Belarus, Greece, Benin on behalf of LDCs, Peru/Mexico, Croatia/Bulgaria

ix Colombia/Guatemala, Brazil/Nicaragua, Norway/Ireland/Denmark, Montenegro/Slovenia, France/Germany/Switzerland, Australia/Netherlands/UK, Iran

x Zambia on behalf of Southern African States, Pakistan

xi Greece, Croatia/Bulgaria, Iran, Children & Youth and Local Authorities Major Groups