Supporting the implementation of NUA and the urban dimension of the SDGs

Updates on:

1. Urban Data and Reporting
2. Regional Commitments
1. Urban Data and Reporting
UN-Habitat’s Role

- Adoption of New Urban Agenda within the broader context of 2030 Development Agenda, its goals and targets (SDGs), reaffirmed the role and expertise of UN-Habitat, as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements also in recognition of the linkages between sustainable urbanization and, inter alia, sustainable development, disaster risk reduction and climate change;

- NUA (Art. 166) invites the General Assembly to request the Secretary-General, with voluntary inputs from countries and relevant regional and international organizations, to report on the progress of the implementation of the NUA every four years, with the first report to be submitted during the seventy-second session of the GA;

- The implementation of both NUA and urban related SDG 11 and its targets has led to an increased focus on urban data collection for reporting as requested above with the collaboration of partners various levels, including global, regional and country level;
UN-Habitat is working with several partners to:

- Finalize global definition of cities and refine national samples of cities approach for monitoring a core representative set of cities and national level reporting;
- Develop SDG spatial guides helping member states develop capacities for utilizing spatial analysis technologies in the monitoring of SDG 11 goals e.g. large scale slums identification and mapping;
- Finalise several methodological guides for each urban SDGs indicators allowing for several indicators to be reclassified from Tier III to II by the inter-agency expert group on SDG;
- Organise several thematic expert group meetings to finalize data collection and capacity development strategies for NSOs;
- Assert lead on several pilot exercises in many countries/cities as a way to test and proof concepts and assumptions about large scale city monitoring and reporting from local level to global levels;
- Develop new regional partnerships arrangements, e.g. on improvements of census data and sampling frames to cater for important urban variables for disaggregation--such as slum and non-slum clusters;
- Refine CPI for integrated analysis of urban indicators and seamless draw out policy implications for city leaders.
Ongoing collaboration with others, including:

- Joint advisory missions with RC-ESCAP, ECLAC, ECA, ECE, ESCWA;
- Joint reviews of proposed methodologies through EGMs;
- Capacity development materials jointly produced with RCs;
- Consultations with other international organizations, Private sector and academics (EC, ESRI, USAID, Gates, APHRC, Universities in UK/USA/Africa, etc);
- Pilots happening in Botswana, Tunisia, Ecuador, Mexico, Colombia.
2. Regional Commitments
## OVERVIEW

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• Compiling Regional Action Plan (RAP) and the Sub-Action Plan (for the Caribbean) as RAP opens new opportunities for our Agency in the field;
• Discussing and strategizing with MINURVI and ECLAC on positioning RAP in next main meetings (WUF9 Feb 2018, Housing Regional Meeting July 2018, etc.);
• Participation at regional working group on the Platform/Observatory associated with RAP. At the request of MINURVI, ECLAC and UN-Habitat to support MINURVI on this aspect. (Great opportunity for the AFINUA).
• Defining a research agenda for LAC to support Platform/Observatory and based on needs identified in the regional report. (Opportunity to disseminate UN-Habitat’s experience and knowledge on LAC urbanization).
• Strengthening and aligning development of MoU with ECLAC to better respond to MINURVI and country demands in the implementation of AFINUA. (Opportunity to renovate and strengthen engagements with both partners at the regional level).
• Preparing proposal for Joint Programme/Joint Unit to support RAP development with ECLAC. Opportunity to present to member states concrete plans for continued inter-agency collaboration and increased capacity to coordinate with ECLAC in all its mechanisms (RCM, R-UNDG, SDG Platform etc.)
• Catalytic funding ($ 30,900,- from the regular programme of technical cooperation) available to support the national consultations in the Dominican Republic also offering a window of opportunity to expand the pilot phase to additional countries in the future;
• Promoting concrete UN-Habitat technical expertise to support potential demands on Sub-regional/national/city action plans taking advantage of UN-Habitat’s developed methodologies in data collection (CPI) and reporting;
Held an informal ministerial briefing on the Implementation of NUA in Africa during GC26, held in May 2017; (Initial ideas on UN-Habitat’s Action Framework for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda (AFINUA) were shared, including the role of UN-Habitat).

Side event on "Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Africa: A Harmonized Strategic Framework” organized jointly with UNECA and AUC during GC26 was held on 10 May 2017;

Ongoing dissemination of AFINUA content to all African governments focal point ministries;

Development of regional NUA implementation and monitoring frameworks jointly with UNECA and the African Union Commission (AUC);

Two consultants recruited to prepare a draft NUA implementation framework for Africa and a draft NUA monitoring framework for Africa;

Both documents to be published jointly by UN-Habitat, UNECA and AUC;

Catalytic funding ($30,900,- from the regular programme of technical cooperation) available to support the national consultations in South Africa also offering a window of opportunity to expand the pilot phase to additional countries in the future;

Meeting of African Member States in Cape Town, South Africa, at the end of November 2017, to discuss draft NUA implementation and monitoring frameworks. Meeting is being organized jointly with UNECA and AUC;

Held discussions with UNECA/AUC and the consultants working on Africa framework documents and provided substantive inputs needed to advance the process;
• Major event scheduled for WUF9 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, jointly with UNECA and AUC in February 2018 to further discuss and approve the draft NUA implementation and monitoring frameworks;
• Upcoming regional meetings and events in Africa to be used to distribute the AFINUA as well as the draft NUA implementation and monitoring frameworks;
• Assisting Member States to develop national urban policies that integrate both Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11) and the NUA; (ongoing);
• Assisting Member States to develop Habitat Country Programme Documents (HCPDs) that integrate both Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11) and the NUA. HCPDs developed since Habitat III in Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique, South Sudan and Kenya; (ongoing)
• Workshop on ‘SDG11: Monitoring and Reporting on Human Settlement Indicators in Africa’ held in Gaborone, Botswana, from 19 to 20 September 2017 as part of the 10th Tranche Development Account Programme on Statistics Data (DA 10); (ongoing)
• Enhancing UN-Habitat’s engagements in Asia and the Pacific with streamlined and strengthened roles of UN-Habitat in Bangkok, China and Delhi with dedicated resources (financial and human) and a clear agency-wide strategy in line with 2018-2020 strategic plan and in the context of ongoing UN reforms.

• Strengthening collaboration with UNESCAP and other UN and multi-lateral entities, and to allow for developing a joint roadmap and, over time and if possible, a number of new partner initiatives in support of SDGs and NUA;

• Convening Regional Partners Forum @Quito+1 “Strategies and Priorities to Ensure the Implementation of the NUA in Asia and the Pacific” in November 2017, which aims to identify the first good approaches on the implementation of the NUA and SDG localization in the region and to jointly promote key strategies and priorities for actions;

• Further promoting UNDG A-P RCM Task Team on Sustainable Urbanization to assist the UNCTs in the region to articulate common issues around urbanization and to contribute to improving the quality of UNDAFs, etc.

• Follow-up on the outcome and implementation of the established partnership for the forthcoming 2018 HLPF “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”;

• Implementing existing partnership agreements supporting global/regional programmes, e.g. AFINUA coupled with prioritized areas of Sendai Framework for DRR and UNFCC/Paris Declaration on Climate Change;

• Revitalizing partnerships with regional platforms and institutions (ASEAN, SAARC, SOPAC, APMCHUD etc.), Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) and financial institutions (ADB, WB, AIIB, NDB, Exim Banks) in line with strategic synergies on elements of SDG11+AFINUA;

• A new alliance with World Bank (based in Singapore), offering a possibility to focus on financing for the implementation of NUA;

• Implementation of Catalytic funding from the regular programme of technical cooperation to provide surge support to ongoing crisis situations in Asia and the Pacific (Rohingya issues of Myanmar and Bangladesh etc.) and explore partnerships in two new countries (one in West Asia and one in Central Asia)

• One activity on regional initiative (Sustainable cities ASEAN-EU?) and strategy towards agency investments into WUF9 platforms/partnerships and follow-up on outcomes;
Supporting the preparation of the Regional Implementation Plan, incorporating AFINUA principles following endorsement (2015) and launch (2016) of the Arab Strategy for Housing and Sustainable Urban Development by the Council of Housing and Construction Ministers of the League of Arab States (22 Arab States);

The Plan to be endorsed at the Second Arab Ministerial Forum on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (AMFHUD) in December 2017 in Morocco. (Key messaging of AFINUA to be reflected in the themes of the conference);

Catalytic funding ($ 30,900,- from the regular programme of technical cooperation) available to support national consultations in Morocco on the fringe of the 2nd AMFHUD also offering a window of opportunity to expand the pilot phase to additional countries in the future;

Building partnership with ESCWA following up on the collaboration during Habitat III and the joint preparations for the Arab regional report;

Discussing with League of Arab States and ESCWA on the engagement of ESCWA within the AMFHUD secretariat, while exploring possibilities of preparations of a MoU with ESCWA in support of regional implementation of NUA.

AFINUA principles are also reflected in region's activities. Egypt programme has moved from an urban planning related programme to a comprehensive integrated compact that incorporates National Urban Policy, support to national, regional, metropolitan, city, city extension and urban regeneration planning; land readjustment, urban governance and legislation, and municipal finance. The Future Saudi Cities Programme has also attempted to link urban planning, legislation, economy and finance and local implementation. A new generation of projects such as the «Hayanna" project in Egypt should also build on the "Achieving Sustainable Urban Development" project integrates the 5 components of AFINUA and provides a model that can be replicated.
• AFINUA presented on 20 October 2017 at joint RCM and R-UNDG meeting in Venice);
• AFINUA discussed at EU/MS Directors General, responsible for Urban Matters, meeting under Estonian Presidency of the Council of the EU, following up on the EU Urban Development Group meeting in September 2017.
• Consultations on the way for similar conversation with the UNECE CHLM in support of AFINUA before end of December 2017;
• Consulting with regional stakeholders, including regional groups of local governments on the need for UN-Habitat’s expertise and services in support of AFINUA in a series of formats;