UN-Habitat Pledging Conference—Concept Note

Background
Member States agreed on the importance of sustainable urbanization when they adopted the 2030 development agenda; Goal 11 of the 17 SDGs seeks to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable and one third of the 169 SDG targets have an urban component. UN-Habitat has a pivotal role in supporting implementation urban dimensions of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda (NUA), adopted at Habitat III. UN-Habitat’s proposed strategic plan 2020-2025 outlines how this support will be provided.

2018: Governance reform
General Assembly establishes new governance structure for UN-Habitat to strengthen organization and its oversight.

2018: New Urban Agenda (NUA)
Adopted at Habitat III by Member States to achieve cities and human settlements for all enjoy equal rights and opportunities, as well as fundamental freedoms. UN-Habitat given role to support NUA.

2018: Institutional reforms
Launched by UN-Habitat to become more focused, relevant, efficient, transparent, accountable, collaborative, effective organization.

2015: 2030 Agenda
One third of SDGs have urban component. UN-Habitat custodian for nine SDG indicators and supporting agency for five.

2019: UN-Habitat Assembly
Sits for the first time to discuss key urban issues. To approve UN-Habitat’s 2020-2025 strategic plan

Resources required for UN-Habitat’s support for 2030 Agenda and New Urban Agenda

Annual funding targets to meet strategic plan requirements in US$ millions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Technical Cooperation</th>
<th>Foundation Special Purpose</th>
<th>Foundation Non Earmarked</th>
<th>Regular budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>70</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Regular budget: UN-Habitat’s allocations from assessed contributions to United Nations: 5% annual inflationary
Foundation general purpose: voluntary non earmarked contributions for core normative work
Foundation special purpose: earmarked support for specific normative programmes
Technical cooperation: earmarked funding for country programmes to support implementation of New Urban Agenda and urban dimensions of the SDGs

Targets explained in Annex 1
Goals of Pledging Conference

Funding for to support UN-Habitat’s work on New Urban Agenda and urban dimensions of 2030 Agenda: **2019 needs**
- Core normative work: US$13 million
- Specific normative programmes: US$ 70 million
- Country activities: US$ 158 million

Raise awareness and advocate for action by Member States and other stakeholders to advance sustainable urbanization to help realize the vision of a better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world.

Forge strong partnerships to leverage funding for sustainable urbanization programmes

Structure of meeting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introductory Statement</th>
<th>Priorities and funding needs: Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High-level segment</td>
<td>High-level speakers from different sectors: partnerships and mechanisms to leverage financing for sustainable urbanization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>Interventions from the floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pledging session</td>
<td>Opportunity for Member States and other stakeholders to make pledges, announce partnerships, and other commitments for support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing remarks</td>
<td>Closing remarks by high level speaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Press Conference</td>
<td>Announce results of pledging conference</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How to pledge

You may pledge in one or more of the following ways:

- **Non earmarked** amount to support the core normative work of the organization – this is the most flexible funding for the organization and is preferred – **target for 2019 is US$ 13 million**; also **US$13 million for 2020**
- **Soft earmarked** amount to a thematic area of the strategic plan, region or country
- **Earmarked** amount to a specific programme

The attached annexes give more details about the conference, past funding trends for UN-Habitat’s work and pledging form. Details of speakers will be published on the UN-Habitat Assembly website once confirmed.
Annex 1 – UN-Habitat revenue trends from 2006-2018

*As at 31st December 2018 as presented to the Committee of Permanent Representatives*
Annex 2: PLEDGE AND STATEMENT FORM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor Representative</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donor Representative’s Name:</td>
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<td>Email:</td>
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</table>

**Participation in Pledging Conference (see Concept Note above)**

- [ ] Will make a statement and a pledge  
- [ ] Will make a statement only  
 Statements set to maximum of 3 minutes

**Pledges for 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of fund to which contributing</th>
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<th>Programmes / Countries you will support (if known)</th>
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| Voluntary non-earmarked contributions to UN-Habitat’s core normative work (Foundation non earmarked)  
*Annual target for 2019: US$13 million* |        |                                                  |
| Voluntary earmarked contributions to specific normative programmes (Foundation special purpose)  
*Annual target for 2019: US$ 70 million* |        |                                                  |
| Voluntary earmarked contributions to specific regional / country programmes (Technical Cooperation)  
*Annual target for 2019: US$ 158 million* |        |                                                  |

**Total Amount for 2019**

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*Annual target for 2020: US$ 158 million* |        |                                                  |

**Total Amount for 2020**

- Please include funding that has been or will be committed during 2019, 2020 and beyond only; if possible, indicate your pledges towards type of funding, if not, we shall follow up with you on the details. Pledges will be published in the UN-Habitat Assembly Pledging Conference report.

Please contact unhabitat-donorrelations@un.org or call +254 713 601 286 for more information or if you would like to pledge but are not able to do so during the UN-Habitat Assembly.
Annex 1 – Pledging conference details

Background

In 2015, countries adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Goal 11, to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, with one third of the 169 SDG targets having an urban component. UN-Habitat is a custodian agency for nine SDG indicators and supporting agency for another five.

A year later in 2016, Member States adopted the New Urban Agenda (NUA) at the Habitat III Conference with shared vision of cities for all, with equal use and enjoyment of cities and human settlements, to promote inclusivity and ensure that all inhabitants, of present and future generations, without discrimination of any kind, are able to inhabit and produce just, safe, healthy, accessible, affordable, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements, to foster prosperity and quality of life for all. The aim of the NUA was to achieve cities and human settlements where all persons can enjoy equal rights and opportunities, as well as their fundamental freedoms, guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including full respect for international law.

Member States adopted these important agenda because the world’s urban population is expected to nearly double by 2050 with 68% of the global population living in urban areas, posing massive sustainability challenges in terms of housing, infrastructure, basic services, food security, health, education, decent jobs, safety, and natural resources, among others.

UN-Habitat’s focal point role on sustainable urbanization and human settlements within the UN System to support implementation, follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda has been recognized by Member States who have invited the organization to contribute to United Nations system-wide strategy, continue generating evidence-based and practical guidance for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the related dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and further develop the action framework for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, in close consultation with Member States, local authorities and stakeholders.

In response to this call UN-Habitat is presenting its strategic plan for 2020-2025 which focuses on four major domains of change aimed at:

i. reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban rural continuum;
ii. enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions;
iii. strengthened climate action and improved urban environment; and
iv. effective urban crisis prevention and response.

Achieving these goals will require a focus on policy and legislation, urban planning and design, governance, and financing with an enabling framework that has monitoring and knowledge, innovation, advocacy, partnerships, capacity building and efficient systems as its pillars. The plan will be underpinned by principles of human rights, gender equity, and responding to the needs of children, youth, the elderly and disabled persons while resilience and safety will be integrated in all of the organizations work.
Resources required by UN-Habitat to support implementation of NUA and urban dimensions of 2030 Agenda

The resources required to implement this results-focused plan are estimated at a minimum annual level of US$ 250 million in 2020 rising to a level of almost US$ 400 million in 2025 with an average growth rate of 10% annual growth rate.

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**Regular budget:** UN-Habitat’s allocations from the total assessed contributions to the United Nations shows an annual inflationary growth rate of 5% in personnel costs as most of this allocation goes to finance existing regular budget funded staff positions;

**Foundation general purpose:** the governance and institutional reforms of UN-Habitat should result in a more relevant, efficient, transparent, trusted, results-focused organization which will facilitate efforts to attract renewed non earmarked funding from more Member States for the core normative mandate of the organization. The target for 2020 is set at the same level as for 2018-2019 at US$13 million with a 10% growth rate to reach US$21 million by 2025;

**Foundation special purpose:** this account finances specific normative programmes funded by earmarked contributions. Under the new strategic plan, UN-Habitat plans to develop more multi-donor financed large-scale, high-impact global flagship programmes aligned to the main domains of change of the plan. An initial budget of US$70 million in 2020 is set, the same level as that for 2018 and 2019, rising to US$ 113 million by 2025;

**Technical cooperation:** funding for technical cooperation activities at regional and country level supports countries’ implementation of the NUA and urban dimensions of the SDGs. Under the strategic plan, rather than having discrete projects in a country, the aim is to implement integrated country programmes that respond to countries’ urbanization priorities and aligned to national strategies and UN Development Assistance Frameworks in order to deliver greater impact. The initial budget is set at US$ 153 million, slightly lower than 2018 and 2019 levels of US$ 158 million, rising to an annual budget of US$ 316 million by 2025.

Please contact unhabitat-donorrelations@un.org or call +254 713 601 286 for more information or if you would like to pledge but are not able to do so during the UN-Habitat Assembly
Objectives of UN-Habitat’s first pledging conference

1. Raise awareness and advocate for action by Member States and other stakeholders to advance sustainable urbanization as a driver of development and peace, to improve living conditions for all to help realize the vision of a better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world.

2. Provide financial support for the approved programme of work for 2019 and 2020 programme of work, with a special focus on voluntary non earmarked contributions for core normative work which underpins all other work, and whose resource requirements for each year is US$ 13 million.

3. Forge new partnerships and strengthen existing ones to leverage financing to support countries’ implementation of the NUA and urban dimensions of the SDGs by generating knowledge, providing policy advice and technical assistance, and promoting collaborative action to leave no one and no place behind. The main areas of work are outlined in the 2020-2025 strategic plan.

Structure of meeting

1. Overview statement outlining priorities and funding needs presented by Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif

2. High-level panel discussion on mechanisms and partnerships for funding sustainable urbanization work;

3. Open discussion, questions and answers from representatives of Member States, UN agencies, civil society, private sector and other stakeholders;

4. Pledging segment providing an opportunity for Member States and other stakeholders to announce pledges for non-earmarked, soft-earmarked and for specific programmes in the 2019 and 2020 programme of work as well as expressions for future support.

5. Closing remarks

6. Press conference

Desired outcomes

1. Financial pledges from Member States and other stakeholders of voluntary non earmarked contributions to support implementation of UN-Habitat’s core normative work for 2019 and 2020;

2. Financial pledges for specific normative, regional and country programmes for 2019, 2020 and beyond and expressions for future financial support.

3. Commitment to institutionalize the pledging conference as an annual event on approval of the annual work programme and budget to help mobilize predictable funding for UN-Habitat’s approved programme of work.

4. Broader and stronger partnerships committed to leveraging financial support for implementation of the New Urban Agenda and urban dimensions of the SDGs to help realize the vision of a better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world.

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