Technical note by the Secretariat

Resolution on the *Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals*

> This technical note has been prepared by the UN-Habitat Secretariat to facilitate consultations among Member States on the draft resolution on the *Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals*, as requested by the Government of Brazil. The note may be adjusted and updated, as needed and relevant, based on additional information that may become available during consultations.

Version 1, May 16, 2023

Overview of resolution

The main elements of the draft resolution on the Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals are:

To **promote the localization of the SDGs** and bolster local action to accelerate the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda.

- To **support and further recognize the role of cities, local governments and local communities** in achieving the SDGs.
- To build the capacities of local and national governments to **strengthen SDG monitoring and reporting**, through the scale-up of the Global Urban Monitoring Framework and the development of Voluntary Local and Subnational Reviews.
- To recognize and **advance multilevel governance to achieve the SDGs**, including through stronger connection between Voluntary Local and National Reviews.

Requests for UN-Habitat

The suggested operative elements request UN-Habitat to:

- To develop **normative guidance and practical tools** on SDG localization.
- To strengthen the capacities of local and regional governments to develop **voluntary subnational and local reviews (VLR/VSR).**
- To improve **national reporting on the SDGs and NUA**, including stronger linkages between Voluntary Local Reviews and Voluntary National Reviews.
- To strengthen **multilevel governance for SDG localization.**
- To continue **mainstreaming SDG localization across the work on the UN**.
- To strengthen data environments at the local level and scale up the adoption of the **Global Urban Monitoring Framework.**

To improve **spatial and socioeconomic data** on deprived and vulnerable urban and peri-urban areas and build capacities for collecting and analysing the same.

Requests for Member States and development partners

The resolution calls upon and encourages Member States and development partners:

- To **promote SDG localization by advancing local implementation, progress monitoring and reporting**, including by enhancing national frameworks for a coherent and multi-sectorial implementation process

- To **strengthen participation and inclusion of local communities**, particularly those living in vulnerable conditions
- To support the mobilization of human and financial resources through voluntary contributions to **strengthen UN-Habitat's work on SDG localization.**
- To **increase financing for local and regional governments** to implement SDG related projects.

Relation to UN-Habitat Strategic Plan and Work Programme 2023

The overall aim and requests of the resolution are directly related to the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2023 and the Work Programme and Budget for 2023 and 2024.

- **UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2020-2023** recognizes subnational and local governments as the key actors for the pursuit of all four Domains of Change and for the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda as well as for the urban dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- **Domain 2 specifically (enhance the shared prosperity of cities and regions globally)** recognizes the importance of local governments' mandate to provide public services and their limited capacity to fulfil such mandate due to a financial gap at the local level. For this reason, the Plan calls for greater and more efficient sharing of financial resources between central and local governments.
- The **Work Programme and Budget for 2023** reaffirms UN-Habitat's intention to reinforce collaboration with local governments and city networks to support the localization of the SDGs.
- The **proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2024** includes deliverables on Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) under Sub-programme 2.

Existing mandates, decisions related to the proposed resolution

Localization has been discussed, recognized and promoted as a key approach to accelerate SDG achievement in various decisions, resolutions, high-level reports and outcome documents.

UN-Habitat Executive Board

- In November 2021, UN-Habitat's **Executive Board** reviewed the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat on SDG localization and recommended the Executive Director to "actively advance the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in support of the Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals through normative guidance, technical assistance, strategic partnerships and harmonized data collection" (**Decision HSP/EB.2021/22).**
- In line with the EB Decision, **UN-Habitat's Executive Director** identified Localizing the SDGs as one of the Agency's priorities for 2022-23.

General Assembly

- **Resolution 74/4** of 15 October 2019, reaffirms the pledge to make the present decade one of action and delivery on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and reaffirms the commitment to bolster local action to accelerate implementation by empowering and supporting cities, local authorities and communities, as well as recognizing their role in the achievement of the SDGs.
- **Resolution 53/110** of the United Nations Statistical Commission, endorsed the Global Urban Monitoring Framework and its further implementation as part of a harmonized global urban United Nations system-wide strategy, and requested for UN-Habitat to develop technical assistance programmes and instruments to build human settlements statistics capacities in Member States, with an emphasis on ascertaining consistency of data at the national, regional and city levels.
- **The 75th, 76th and 77th session of the General Assembly** on the "*Follow-up to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)*" have increasingly integrated reference to SDG Localization and the role of local and regional governments.

- During the **75th session of the General Assembly (75/224),** the contribution of the New Urban Agenda to the implementation and localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was highlighted.
- During the **76th session of the General Assembly,** the Assembly's resolution 75/224 was reaffirmed, including review of advancements on the topic. Paragraph 68 of the **Quadrennial Report on the New Urban Agenda** identifies the New Urban Agenda as a comprehensive, action-oriented framework, aimed at advancing the localization of the SDGs beyond SDG11, offering countries ways to plan, finance, develop and manage cities and other human settlements. It also mentions Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and their connection with the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), highlighting the importance of the local-national link.
- During the **77th session of the General Assembly (77/173),** multilevel governance was acknowledged as a key driver for SDG Localization, reaffirming that the implementation of the NUA contributes to the implementation and localization of the SDGs at all levels. Multilevel governance and the localization of the SDGs are identified as one of the five action areas to accelerate the implementation of the NUA.
- **The General Assembly's High-Level Meeting on the review of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (HLM)** in April 2022 invited local governments representatives to address Member States. Its **outcome document** confirmed Member States' commitment to strengthen support to localization as well as move towards more effective multilevel governance systems.

High-Level Political Forum

- **2022 Ministerial Declaration of the High-level Political Forum of Sustainable Development (HLPF)** acknowledges the need to empower local and regional governments to ensure ownership and localization of the SDGs.
  - Paragraph 27 encourages the full, equal and meaningful participation of all relevant stakeholders, including local governments, civil society organizations and academia, in the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of national sustainable development strategies and in the preparation of voluntary national reviews. It also encourages the involvement and empowerment of local authorities, to ensure ownership and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, welcoming voluntary subnational and local reviews as an essential tool to show progress and foster exchange on local implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, in coordination and synergy with national actors.
  - Paragraph 28 encourages all relevant actors to better address interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs between the Sustainable Development Goals, enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development and localization of the Goals, including through whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, as well as inclusive governance that can bring about transformative change.

Other High-Level Reports

Some of the latest reports key reports on the SDGs that note the relevance of local action and SDG Localization include:

- The **High-Level Advisory Board's report**, established by the United Nations Secretary-General and entitled "A Breakthrough for People and Planet: Effective and Inclusive Governance for Today and the Future" emphasizes the need for localization to be at the forefront of national commitments on the 2030 Agenda. It pushes for the Summit of the Future to recognize the importance of local and regional governments and take specific measures to support them going forward.

- The **UN Secretary-General's SDG Progress Report** entitled "*Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Towards a Rescue Plan for People and Planet*", recognizes localization, anchored on the principles of multilevel governance and multistakeholder collaboration, as a key approach to

collectively propel us toward greater inclusion and sustainability. It acknowledges the crucial role of local and regional governments to achieve the 2030 Agenda and recognizes Voluntary Local Reviews as key accelerators for SDG Localization.

UN-Habitat SDG Localization Approach and Portfolio

Anchored on UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan and Workplan 2023-2024, and inspired by the documents mentioned above, UN-Habitat has developed the most comprehensive approach to SDG localization within the UN. It is anchored on five pillars:

- **Global Urban Monitoring Framework**
- **Voluntary Local Reviews**
- **SDG Cities Flagship Programme**
- **Multilevel Governance**
- **Local 2030 Coalition**

In the past years, UN-Habitat has been consolidating support to local and national governments to advance SDG localization though its comprehensive approach in more than 20 countries across the globe. Support is specifically articulated across five workstreams:

- **Technical cooperation**
- **Strategic partnerships building**
- **Knowledge development and research**
- **Learning and capacity building**
- **Advocacy and visibility**

Programme budget implication

The implementation, monitoring and reporting of resolutions requires predictable funding.

To provide the requested continuous monitoring and reporting to the Executive Board, the following resources would be required:

	Core	XB	One Time	Recurring	Core / One Time	XB / One Time	Core / Recurring	XB / Recurring	Total
OP 2a Normative guidance and tools									
Coordination - 1 Staff (P3 level) 9 months	x		x				$ 120,000.00		**$ 120,000.00**
Experts - Consultant (Level B) 8 months	x		x		$ 60,000.00				**$ 60,000.00**
Editing and translation	x		x		$ 20,000.00				**$ 20,000.00**
Digitalization	x		x		$ 80,000.00				**$ 80,000.00**
Subtotal, OP 2a					**$ 160,000.00**	**$ -**	**$ 120,000.00**	**$ -**	**$ 280,000.00**
OP 2b Capacity Building for Voluntary Local and Subnational Reviews									
1 Staff (P3 level) 6 months	x			x			$ 80,000.00		**$ 80,000.00**
Expert group meetings (two)	x		x		$ 100,000.00				**$ 100,000.00**

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Capacity-building workshops (four)	x		x		$ 150,000.00				$ 150,000.00
Pilots ($100,000 x 6 pilots)		x	x			$ 600,000.00			$ 600,000.00
Missions		x	x			$ 80,000.00			$ 80,000.00
Subtotal, OP 2b					$ 250,000.00	$ 680,000.00	$ 80,000.00	$ -	$ 1,010,000.00
OP 2c Strengthening National reporting (VLR-VNR connection)									
1 Staff (P3 level) 4 months	x			x			$ 50,000.00		$ 50,000.00
1 Staff (P2 level) 4 months	x			x			$ 35,000.00		$ 35,000.00
Capacity-building workshops (four)	x		x		$ 150,000.00				$ 150,000.00
Pilots ($50,000 x 6 pilots)		x	x			$ 300,000.00			$ 300,000.00
Missions		x	x			$ 80,000.00			$ 80,000.00
Subtotal, OP 2c					$ 150,000.00	$ 380,000.00	$ 85,000.00	$ -	$ 615,000.00
OP 2d Strategic engagement and partnerships with local and regional governments									
1 Staff (P2 level) 6 months	x			x			$ 50,000.00		$ 50,000.00
Workshops and events	x			x			$ 150,000.00		$ 150,000.00
Missions	x			x			$ 100,000.00		$ 100,000.00
Communication (consultants and contractual services)	x			x			$ 100,000.00		$ 100,000.00
Subtotal, OP 2d					$ -	$ -	$ 400,000.00	$ -	$ 400,000.00
OP 2e Multilevel Governance for SDG Localization									
1 Staff (P3 level) for 6 months	x			x			$ 120,000.00		$ 120,000.00
Expert group meetings (two)	x		x		$ 100,000.00				$ 100,000.00
Capacity-building workshops	x		x		$ 150,000.00				$ 150,000.00
Pilots ($50,000 x 6 pilots)		x	x			$ 300,000.00			$ 300,000.00
Missions		x	x			$ 80,000.00			$ 80,000.00
Subtotal, OP 2e					$ 250,000.00	$ 380,000.00	$ 120,000.00	$ -	$ 750,000.00
OP 2f SDG Localization mainstreaming through the UN System									
									$ -
									$ -

Subtotal, OP 2g					$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
OP 3 a,b,c Scale up of Global Urban Monitoring Framework, capacity building and data improvements									
1 Staff (P3 level) 6 months	x			x			$ 80,000.00		**$ 80,000.00**
Expert group meetings (two)	x		x		$ 100,000.00				**$ 100,000.00**
Capacity-building workshops	x		x		$ 150,000.00				**$ 150,000.00**
Pilots ($50,000 x 6 pilots)		x	x			$ 300,000.00			**$ 300,000.00**
Missions		x	x			$ 80,000.00			**$ 80,000.00**
Subtotal, OP 3					**$ 250,000.00**	**$ 380,000.00**	**$ 80,000.00**	**$ -**	**$ 710,000.00**
Reporting									
1 Staff (P3 level) 3 months	x			x			$ 60,000.00		**$ 60,000.00**
Subtotal, OP 4					**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 60,000.00**	**$ -**	**$ 60,000.00**
Total					**$ 1,060,000.00**	**$ 1,820,000.00**	**$ 945,000.00**	**$ -**	**$ 3,825,000.00**

Budget breakdown by category

Staffing	$ 595,000.00
Contractual services	$ 260,000.00
Meetings and workshops	$ 1,050,000.00
Travel	$ 420,000.00
Pilot projects	$ 1,500,000.00
Total	**$ 3,825,000.00**