



# Reporting on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda

Revised Guidelines





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# Table of contents

<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Part 1 – Reporting framework .....</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1 Reporting modalities.....	5
1.2 Preparing the report.....	6
1.3 Leveraging other reporting processes .....	13
<b>Part 2 – Reporting outline .....</b>	<b>19</b>
2.1 Sustainable urban development for social inclusion and ending poverty.....	19
2.2 Sustainable and inclusive urban prosperity and opportunities for all.....	22
2.3 Environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development .....	24
2.4 Effective implementation.....	26
2.5 Strategic ways forward.....	29

# Introduction

**New Urban Agenda reporting** = a contribution to the future of the sustainable urbanization

The New Urban Agenda is the world's roadmap for sustainable urbanism. It was adopted in 2016 during the Habitat III conference in Quito, Ecuador, and endorsed by the UN General Assembly two months later during its 71<sup>st</sup> session ([Resolution RES/71/256](#)). The agenda serves as the implementation framework for the urban components of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities.

Find the full [New Urban Agenda](#) here

In the final section of the agenda on “follow-up and review”, the **UN Secretary-General is requested** in paragraph 166 “...to report on the progress of the implementation of the **New Urban Agenda every four years**” with “... voluntary inputs from countries and relevant regional and international organizations.” In line with this request, the Secretary-General has, since 2016, produced two quadrennial reports on the progress in implementing the agenda – in 2018 and 2022 – and will produce his next report in 2026 as a special mid-term review of the agenda.

Report of the Secretary-General: [Progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda](#)

UN Member States are also requested in the agenda to play a significant role in supporting the Secretary-General in his quadrennial reporting. Specifically, **the agenda requests that Member States** “...carry out a periodic follow up and review of the **New Urban Agenda**, ensuring coherence at the national, regional, and global levels, in order to track progress, assess impact, and ensure the Agenda's effective and timely implementation” (paragraph 161) while also “encourag[ing] voluntary, country-led, open, inclusive, multilevel, participatory and transparent follow-up and review” of the agenda (paragraph 162).

The guidelines contained in this document are meant to guide Member States in this role by advising them on their preparation of **New Urban Agenda National Progress Reports (NUA NPRs)** that serve as critical inputs to the Secretary-General's quadrennial reports. This year, in 2024, the guidelines have been updated to reflect important developments over the past few years in our understanding of the agenda's implementation. These include the publication of the influential *New Urban Agenda Illustrated Handbook* in 2020, the endorsement of UN-Habitat's Global Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF) by the UN Statistical Commission in 2022, and the key finding from the **2022 Secretary-General's report** that the world is far behind in achieving the principles of the agenda – all of which have explicitly contributed to the contents of these guidelines. The guidelines have similarly been updated to include new reporting modalities and processes that aim to lower the reporting burden for Member States in response to feedback from Member States of an excessive reporting burden.

The new guidelines have been organized into two parts. Part 1 details the **reporting framework**, beginning with an overview of new reporting modalities available to Member States. This part then continues with important principles and procedures to consider when preparing National Progress Reports and concludes with a description of the various synergies between reporting on the New Urban Agenda and other reporting and monitoring processes. Part 2 then provides an **outline** for a New Urban Agenda National Progress Report, including specific instructions about what to write and which data indicators to include for each section of the report.



**Guidelines contained in this document are meant to guide Member States in this role by advising them on their preparation of New Urban Agenda National Progress Reports (NUA NPRs) that serve as critical inputs to the Secretary-General's quadrennial reports.**

# Part 1 – Reporting framework

## 1.1 Reporting modalities

Based on lessons from prior reporting cycles as well as ongoing engagement with Member States and other stakeholders, the need for multiple reporting modalities to facilitate easier reporting has become evident. For the 2026 quadrennial reporting cycle and onwards, three modalities are offered to countries to report on their progress in implementing the New Urban Agenda.

### 1. Comprehensive report

For Member States that have the capacity to fully report on the New Urban Agenda, UN-Habitat strongly encourages submission of a full review of progress in implementing the agenda, aligned with these guidelines. This **comprehensive report** is an opportunity to share the experiences and lessons learned from implementing the New Urban Agenda and are essential for the Secretary-General to propose critical recommendations to accelerate implementation of the agenda.

### 2. Update report

For Member States that have already submitted a National Progress Report during a previous reporting cycle, it is possible to submit an **update report** in which countries can amend a prior report to emphasize changes since the last submission. This is also an opportunity for Member States to review the past report for adherence with the **four pillars of good reporting** (described in the section 1.2) and provide a more analytical assessment of progress in implementing the agenda. For an update report, countries are encouraged to use baseline data from an earlier report and analyze evolving data trends relative to this baseline. The suggested National Progress Report outline in Part 2 of these guidelines has been intentionally aligned with previous versions of these guidelines to facilitate an easier update process.

### 3. NUF/NUP report

For Member States organizing a National Urban Forum (NUF) or engaged in the preparation or revision of a National Urban

Policy (NUP), the opportunity is now available to convert the analysis and outcomes of these processes into a New Urban Agenda National Progress Report. This **NUF/NUP report** reflects UN-Habitat's goal to fully integrate reporting on the New Urban Agenda with the NUF and NUP processes that collectively support implementation of the agenda's principles. Specifically, National Urban Forums provide opportunities for substantive discussions that advance the development of National Urban Policies that are evidence-based and informed by best practices.

Thus, an **Urban Forum Report** that is prepared in accordance with the **Guide on Multi-level Urban Forums** can serve as the foundation for Member States in preparing a NUF/NUP report. This report will already include extensive details on the urban forum, including key urban development challenges in the national context and assessments of the specific transformative commitments of the New Urban Agenda discussed during the forum. It is therefore critical to ensure that the NUF/NUP report appropriately aligns the outputs of the NUP and NUF processes with the three transformative commitments of the New Urban Agenda and closely follows the reporting principles detailed in these guidelines. The NUF/NUP report should not simply enumerate the agreements of the NUP and NUF processes, but rather synthesize and build upon its key analysis.

For more details see the Guide on Multi-level Urban Forums

#### Submit your report on the Urban Agenda Platform

Member States are encouraged to submit their National Progress Reports – prepared using any of these three reporting modalities – using the web portal on UN-Habitat's **Urban Agenda Platform**. For additional guidance or assistance from UN-Habitat in submitting a National Progress Report, please contact [urbanagendaplatform@un.org](mailto:urbanagendaplatform@un.org).

# 1.2 Preparing the report

## Four pillars of good reporting

In order to fulfil the commitment on “follow-up and review” on the New Urban Agenda described in paragraph 161, UN-Habitat advocates for **four pillars of good reporting**. These pillars encourage a shift from a descriptive reporting focused on enumerating projects and policies, to a reporting approach that provides a more realistic assessment of the progress and challenges in implementing the New Urban Agenda, as well as greater insight and analysis on enhancing implementation of the agenda and its real impact on the ground. Regardless of the modality used to report on the New Urban Agenda, good reporting is based on four pillars, in which National Progress Reports are:

1. **Realistic and evidence-based**, including through the use of data that are appropriately disaggregated and enable analysis of trends.

- 2. **Analytical** of the trends observed in the evidence base and able to adequately identify the key drivers of change.
- 3. **Connected to local best practices**, case studies and illustrative actions that demonstrate the drivers of change.
- 4. **Prepared in an open, inclusive, multilevel, participatory, and transparent** manner.

Although each Member State will have different processes for completing the report, all reports should explain how the report was prepared, highlighting linkages between national, subnational, and local governments, stakeholders, and the public.



**Realistic and evidence-based**



**Analytical**



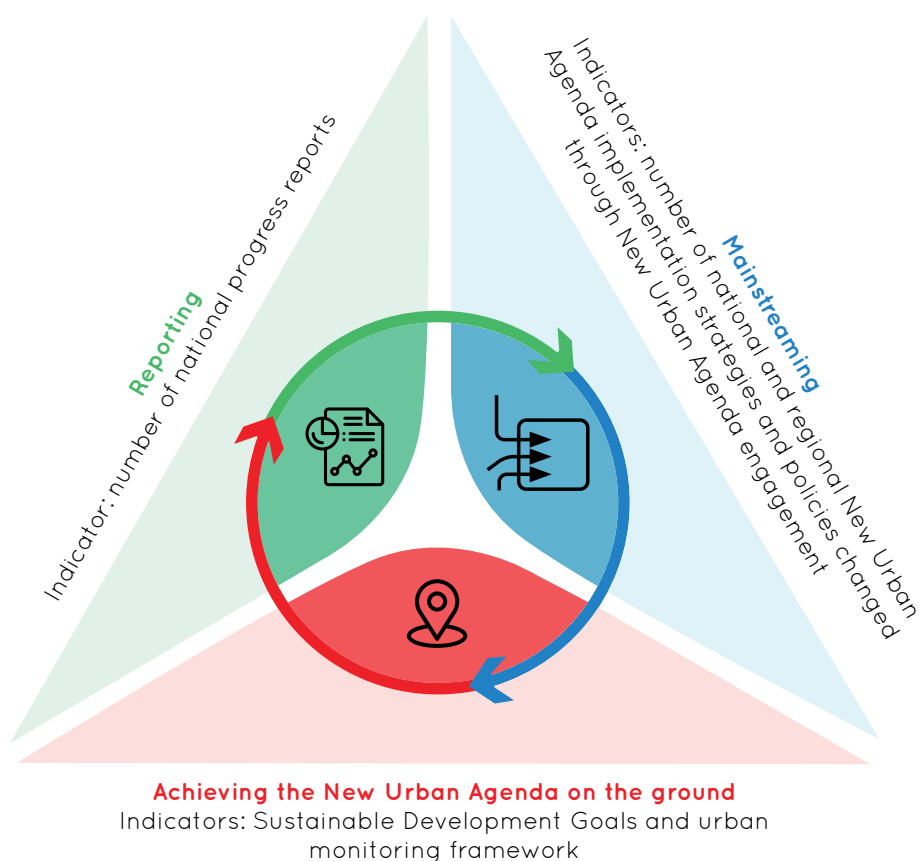
**Connected with practice**



**Inclusive and transparent**



**Figure 1.** New Urban Agenda three-fold implementation framework



It is important that Member States and governments at all levels consider New Urban Agenda reporting in the context of the larger goal to implement the agenda and achieve its principles on the ground. UN-Habitat considers **reporting** to be one of three critical components of implementing the New Urban Agenda, which, along with **mainstreaming** and **achieving principles on the ground**, should operate in a mutually reinforcing cycle. The agenda must first be mainstreamed into or reflected in national and sub-national policies, strategies, and investments. Action is then needed to accelerate progress towards achieving the vision of the agenda and its transformative commitments. Finally, progress towards the agenda needs to be monitored and reported, including as a means of strengthening further mainstreaming and implementation moving forward.

#### Assembling the team

The preparation of a National Progress Report should be led by the key ministry, or a clearly defined consortium of ministries, dealing with urbanization in the country with clear lines of responsibility and accountability. However, in countries where National Habitat Committees (NHC) and National Urban Forums exist and are active, both can play a key role or take the lead in preparing a National Progress Report, notwithstanding the modality of reporting. NUFs provide an ideal place to initiate a New Urban Agenda National Progress Report, engage local governments and civil society in the reporting, or evaluate the results from a New Urban Agenda national progress report. The 2024 *Guide on Multi-level Urban Forums* provides additional

guidance on how NUFs can be used in the New Urban Agenda reporting process. In some countries, the best starting point for reporting on the New Urban Agenda may be a national SDG secretariat that is responsible for conducting *Voluntary National Reviews* of the SDGs.

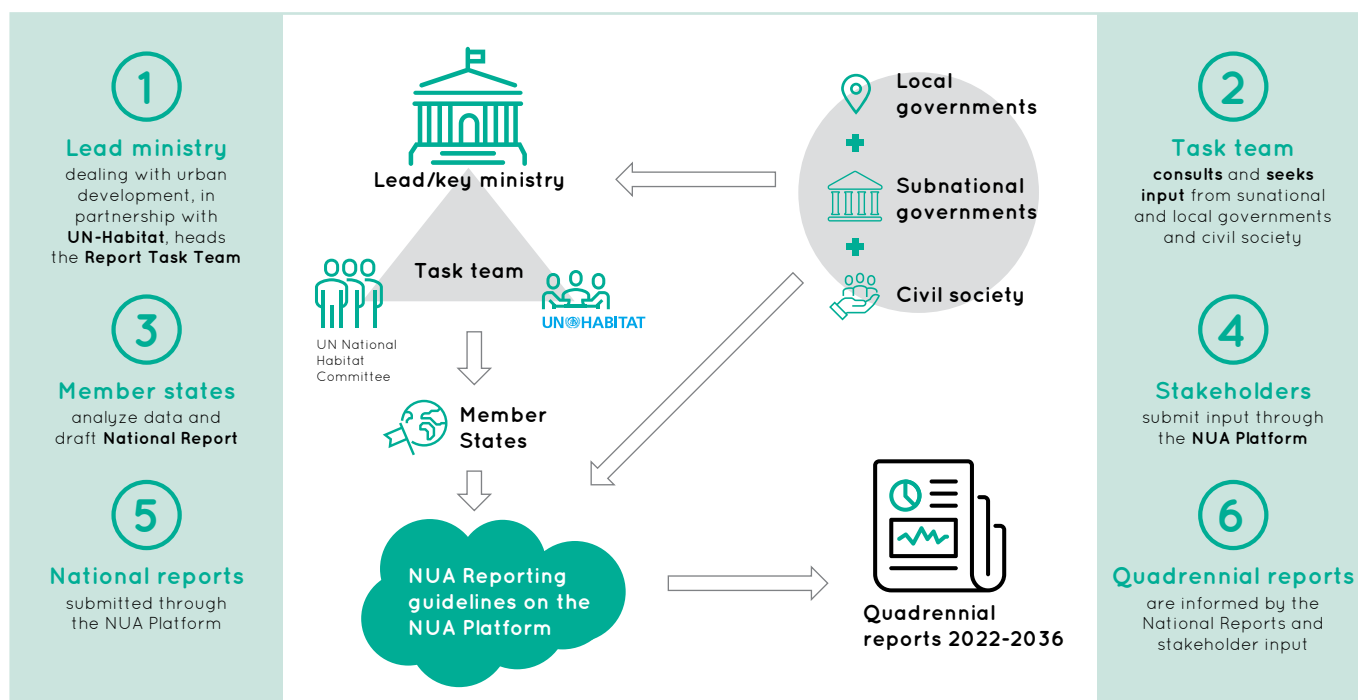
Member States should prepare the report through a country-led, open, inclusive, multilevel, participatory, and transparent process that takes into account the role and contributions of the national, subnational, and local levels of government, the United Nations system, regional and sub-regional organizations, major groups and other relevant stakeholders. Regardless of whether the preparation of the National Progress Report is led by a national government ministry, an NHC or NUF, the composition of the team preparing the report should include the following:

- **National Government**, represented by the key ministries and institutions dealing with national statistics and urbanization, including but not exclusive to offices on local government, urban planning and development, housing,

lands, infrastructure, labour, economic development, finance, and gender;

- **Local Governments**, including their national associations and/or the intermediary cities, as well as medium and small towns, the latter being also geographically, functionally and historically important;
- **Regional Governments**, which includes provincial, county or state governments;
- **Civil Society and the Private Sector**, including NGOs, the media, professional societies, the private sector, women's and youth groups, minorities and special interest groups;
- **Academic Institutions**, including universities, as well as research and training institutions; and,
- **External Support Agencies**, including bilateral and multilateral donors, the United Nations, international NGOs, and other support agencies.

**Figure 3.** Inclusive NEW URBAN AGENDA Implementation Reporting Procedure





## Contributing to the Secretary-General's report

National Progress Reports will provide essential inputs to the Secretary-General's report, and, in the process, improve the ability of UN-Habitat and the Secretary-General to take stock of the progress, challenges, and critical recommendations in implementing the New Urban Agenda. Best practices, lessons learned, and case studies included in the report will furthermore contribute to country-to-country learning and provide a common resource for implementation of the agenda.

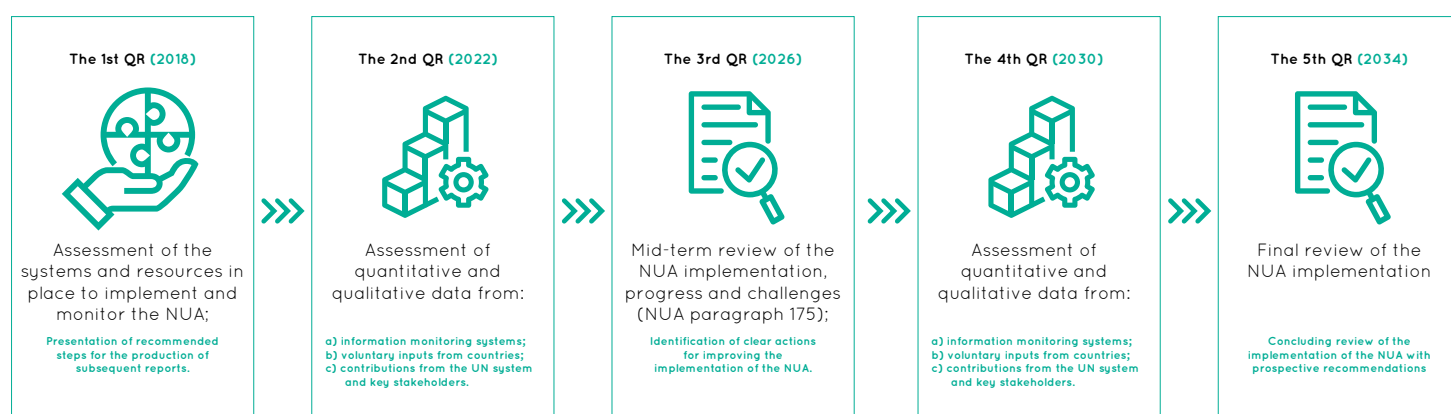
As noted in the introduction, the Secretary-General's report is mandated as part of the review and follow-up mechanisms of the New Urban Agenda. Specifically, paragraph 166 requests that the Secretary General "...to report on the progress of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda **every four years**, with the first report to be submitted during the seventy-second session of the Assembly" in 2018.

Furthermore, paragraph 167 notes that "...the report will provide a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the progress made in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and internationally agreed goals and targets relevant to sustainable urbanization and human settlements" and that "the analysis will be based on the **activities of national, subnational and local governments.**"

In total, the Secretary-General will have produced five quadrennial reports by the end of the implementation period of the New Urban Agenda in 2036. Two reports were already produced in 2018 and 2022, which assessed the systems in place for implementing the New Urban Agenda and took stock of progress made on the agenda's implementation, respectively. After the next report in 2026, the Secretary-General will produce two more reports on the New Urban Agenda in 2030 and 2034 that will evaluate the progress in implementing the agenda up to those years.

**the Secretary-General's report is mandated as part of the review and follow-up mechanisms of the New Urban Agenda.**

**Figure 2.** The five quadrennial reviews of the New Urban Agenda



It is important to highlight among these five quadrennial reports, the unique role of the 2026 report as a special mid-term review of the New Urban Agenda. In addition to the standard function of taking stock of progress in implementing the agenda, paragraph 175 of the New Urban Agenda specifically states that "...in his quadrennial report to be presented in 2026" the Secretary-General is required to also "take stock of the... **challenges faced** in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda since its adoption and to **identify further steps to address them.**"

### Reporting timeline

To the greatest extent possible, reporting on the New Urban Agenda should be a continuous process of building partnerships, exchanging knowledge, and analyzing evidence to monitor and evaluate progress in achieving the principles of the agenda on the ground.

Yet while these processes are ongoing, reporting timelines are needed to ensure that the UN Secretary-General receives the necessary input to meaningfully evaluate progress, challenges, and ways forward in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. To allow UN-Habitat and the Secretary-General sufficient time to synthesize inputs for the 2026 quadrennial report, **National Progress Reports for the 2026 reporting cycle must be submitted no later than July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025** (at the start of the third quarter of the 2025 calendar year).

Deadlines for the 2030 and 2034 quadrennial reports have yet to be confirmed, but are likely to follow a similar timeline to the 2026 cycle (i.e., submission required by the start of the third quarter of the preceding calendar year). The specific deadlines for submitting National Progress Reports for these future quadrennial reports will be confirmed and announced closer to the start of these reporting cycles.

### Learning about and mainstreaming the agenda

As part of implementing and reporting on the New Urban Agenda, it is important to raise awareness of and mainstream the agenda to increase stakeholder engagement in these processes. Perhaps no tool does this better than the *New Urban Agenda Illustrated Handbook*, which was released in 2020 to help familiarize stakeholders with the concepts of the agenda. The handbook achieves this through a combination of illustrations, clear definitions and practical applications that help to make the language, principles and commitments of the agenda more broadly accessible.

Additionally, the report, *Agenda to Action: Implementation of the New Urban Agenda In Nine Cities across the Globe*, offers unique insight into the implementation of the agenda in different geographic settings. It showcases project in nine cities across five regions from the Interregional Cooperation for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda, as global initiative that has aimed to support, connect and catalyse implementation of the agenda.

**Figure 4.** List of UN-Habitat's free online learning resources for the New Urban Agenda and monitoring of key indicators.

UN-Habitat learning resources			
New Urban Agenda Crash Course: Part 1- Core Dimensions	All UN languages		3 hours
New Urban Agenda Crash Course: Part 2- Means Of Implementation	All UN languages		3.5 hours
Learn How to Measure SDG Indicator 11.1.1- Adequate Housing and Slum Upgrading	English only		45 min
Learn How to Measure SDG Indicator 11.2.1- Access to Public Transport	English only		45 min
Learn How to Measure SDG Indicator 11.3.1- Land Consumption Rate	English only		45 min
Learn How to Measure SDG Indicator 11.3.2- Civil Participation in Urban Planning and Management	English only		45 min
Learn How to Measure SDG Indicator 11.4.2- Secure tenure Rights to Land	English only		30 min
Learn How to Measure SDG Indicator 11.6.1- Municipal Solid Waste Management	English only		30 mins
Learn How to Measure SDG Indicator 11.7.1- Public Space	English only		45 min



Visit the [New Urban Agenda Illustrated Toolkit](#) to gain access to UN-Habitat's online course and other resources on the New Urban Agenda

In addition to these reports and handbooks, UN-Habitat offers free online learning resources to educate stakeholders on the New Urban Agenda. The [New Urban Agenda Online Crash Course](#) in particular draws on the content of the [New Urban Agenda Illustrated Handbook](#) to provide a comprehensive overview of the agenda's key principles. It comprises two parts that together unpack the New Urban Agenda and highlight the agenda's specific connections to the SDGs. It includes definitions, illustrations, practical propositions, and examples from across the globe to help stakeholders better understand and implement the New Urban Agenda. The full course takes about 6.5 hours to complete and is an interactive learning experience accessible via any internet-connected device to anyone, at any time, for free on UN-Habitat's learning platform, [UN-Habitat Learn](#).

UN-Habitat also offers a series of seven self-paced e-learning training modules that contain practical guidance on computing SDG 11 indicators. The series aims to strengthen national, regional and local government capacities in collecting, analyzing, and monitoring the urban indicators of the SDGs (which are also many of the key indicators for monitoring the New Urban Agenda). These training courses are intended for all the professionals involved in monitoring and reporting on SDG 11 indicators and anyone who wishes to get guidance in the monitoring and reporting process.

### Using data

## New Urban Agenda reporting = a chance to enhance data processes

High-quality data are critical to understanding, analysing and evaluating progress and challenges in implementing the New Urban Agenda. For

this reason, Part 2 of these guidelines outlines suggested indicators for measuring both the implementation of the agenda's three transformative commitments and the overall effectiveness of this implementation. Member States are strongly encouraged to collect data for these indicators themselves (**Option A**), but in absence of sufficient capacity for data collection (and limited public data availability) are encouraged to consider other complementary approaches in the following order:

- **Option A:** Collect data for all urban areas with relevant disaggregation (e.g., by sex, age, income level) for all suggested indicators.
- **Option B:** Leverage publicly available data, such as that collected and published by UN-Habitat on its [Urban Indicators Database](#), or by other UN agencies and international organizations, for suggested indicators.
- **Option C:** In cases where data can neither be collected nor found publicly for suggested indicators, Member States may incorporate available urban data for other indicators that relate to the three transformative commitments or means of implementation (outlined in Part 2 of these guidelines).
- **Option D:** In cases where representative urban data are missing, Member States are encouraged to use data from specific districts or neighbourhoods as indicative of broader urban trends that are observed across the country (with appropriate qualifications included in the methodological references).

To the greatest extent possible, all suggested indicators listed in Part 2 of these guidelines are aligned with the SDGs and other key global frameworks, such as the [UNESCO Culture2030 Framework](#). This is because the suggested indicators in these guidelines largely consist of indicators from UN-Habitat's Global Urban Monitoring Framework, which harmonized indicators from various frameworks and indexes into a cohesive 77-indicator framework. Given the overlap of these indicators with these other

**UN-Habitat also offers a series of seven self-paced e-learning training modules that contain practical guidance on computing SDG 11 indicators.**

frameworks and the SDGs, the preparation of National Progress Reports is therefore also an opportunity for Member States to monitor their progress on the key urban indicators of the SDGs. The data submitted in these reports will furthermore contribute beyond the Secretary-General's report by helping to address key gaps in global urban data that inhibit key urban analyses, recommendations, and interventions.

Using data in New Urban Agenda reporting is aligned with UN-Habitat's [Urban Monitoring Framework](#), which includes the urban indicators of the SDGs

### Using case studies and best practices

It is important that evidence-based reporting is complemented with local case studies and illustrative actions that demonstrate the key drivers of trends observed within a country. Ultimately, the New Urban Agenda will be judged on its ability to change the lives of people living in cities and communities, making stories from the ground a critical part of National Progress Reports. It is important that such cases are not merely presented in isolation, but are well connected with the urban trends observed in a country. Value can be added by reflecting on lessons learnt from past projects and how these shortcomings have been addressed in subsequent initiatives. The reporting by local and regional governments on the SDGs through *Voluntary Local Reviews* can be a way to access such best practices. Member States are encouraged to share these best practices with UN-Habitat for upload onto the best practices database on the [Urban Agenda Platform](#).

See the [New Urban Agenda Illustrated Handbook](#) for various illustrative actions

## 1.3 Leveraging other reporting processes

### Introduction

Member States face significant reporting burden on a broad range of global agendas with reporting requirements. As acknowledged by the previous UN-Habitat Executive

Director in her *Report on the principal obstacles to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda by Member States* (HSP/EB.2023/14), it is imperative that we work to lower the excessive reporting burden faced by national governments. In the context of the New Urban Agenda, this means leveraging other existing reporting processes to generate input and analysis for a New Urban Agenda National Progress Report. Leveraging such reporting is premised on the alignment of the SDGs, the New Urban Agenda and UN-Habitat's priorities, all of which are fundamentally grounded by a common set of principles for sustainable urbanization. Significant synergies can thus be achieved by linking these various reporting processes.

### The link to voluntary national and local reviews of the SDGs

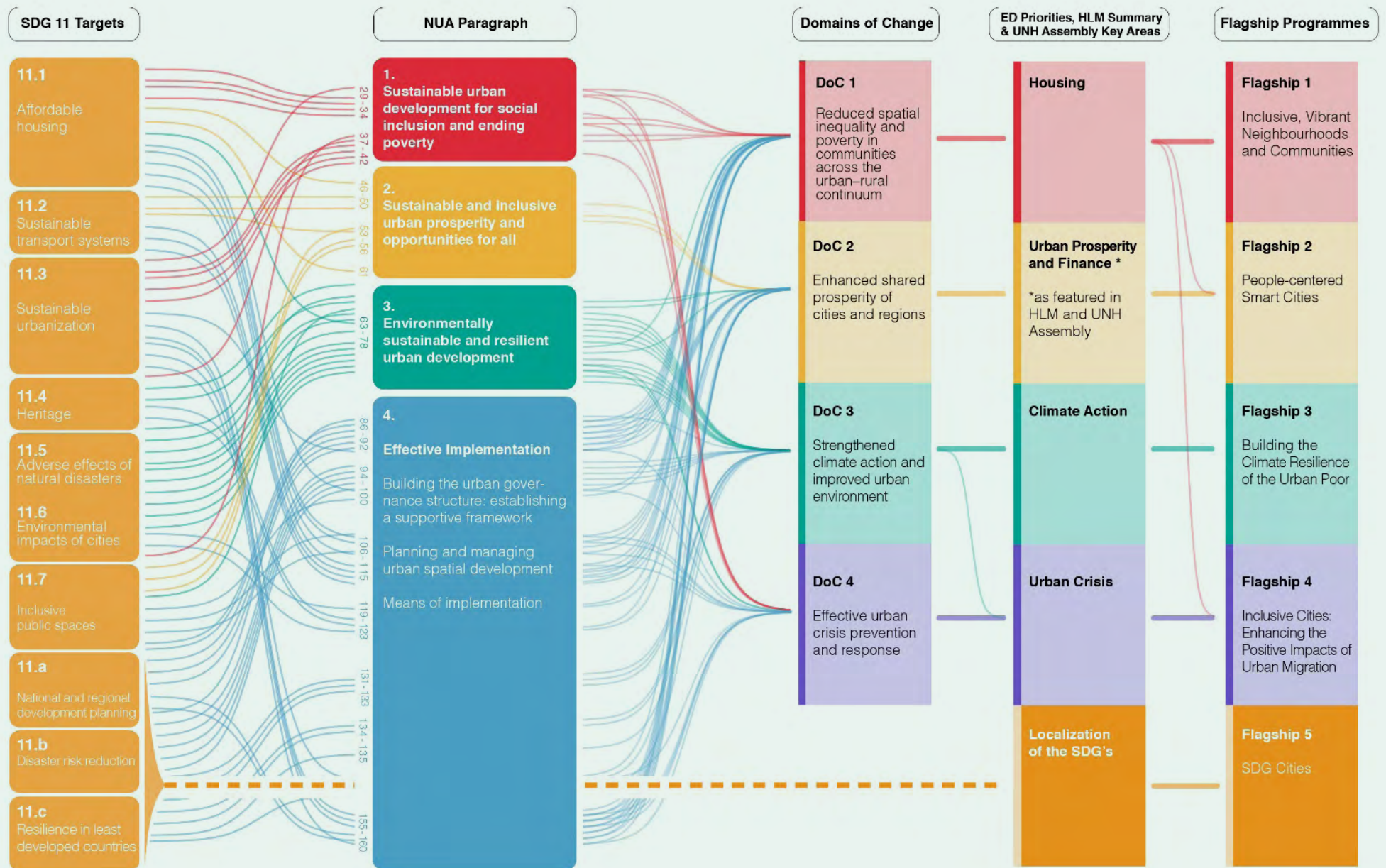
## New Urban Agenda reporting = reporting on the SDGs

Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) are submitted by national and local governments respectively as means of reporting on progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. As the New Urban Agenda is the implementation framework for the urban components of the SDGs (including but not limited to SDG 11), UN-Habitat encourages the use of VNRs and VLRs as inputs to New Urban Agenda National Progress Reports. For example, data that is collected for preparation of a VNR, when appropriately disaggregated at the urban level, could be used in a NUA NPR. Indeed, in some countries the best starting point for reporting on the New Urban Agenda may be a national SDG secretariat that is active in Voluntary National Reviews of the SDGs. Member States should similarly make use of local data, analysis and best practices compiled by cities for VLRs, which since 2018 have become an increasingly popular way for cities to monitor their local contributions to the global goals. In addition to these voluntary reviews, Member States are also advised to use and reflect on data and key findings from the latest SDG 11 synthesis report – *Rescuing SDG 11 for a resilient urban planet* – which highlights regional trends for key urban indicators.

See the [2023 SDG 11 Synthesis Report](#)

See the [2018 SDG 11 Synthesis Report](#)

**Figure 5.** The links between the SDGs, the New Urban Agenda, and UN-Habitat's priorities and programmes (as of April 2024)



### The link to Habitat III baseline reports

In the lead-up to the Habitat III conference where the New Urban Agenda was prepared and adopted, Member States prepared and submitted reports on their national experiences in managing urban issues. These reports significantly informed the development of the New Urban Agenda and can act as a baseline for countries in their National Progress Reports. Member States are encouraged to use the data and analysis generated in these baseline reports and reflect on changes that have occurred since the adoption of the New Urban Agenda.

Baseline national reports from 2016 can be [accessed here](#).

### The link to the Paris Agreement and Global Stocktake

Through a UNFCCC coordinated process of global stocktakes, Member States and other relevant stakeholders are able to take stock of their progress on meeting the goals of the landmark [Paris Agreement](#). The first global stocktake was concluded at COP28 in Dubai and demonstrated that the world was off track in meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement. The inputs to the stocktake can help policymakers and stakeholders strengthen their climate policies and commitments in their next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and help pave the way for accelerated action. Reporting on the progress in achieving environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development can thus help to both inform submissions to the Global Stocktake and potentially help to strengthen the urban component of the NDCs in future rounds of negotiations. Conversely, submissions to the Global Stocktake, when properly disaggregated at the urban level, can similarly act as valuable inputs in reporting on the New Urban Agenda.

Visit the UNFCCC webpage on the [Global Stocktake](#) for more information

### The link to National Urban Policies

New Urban Agenda reporting = an opportunity to advance National Urban Policy

National Urban Policies are an integral part of effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda and can provide useful inputs in reporting on the agenda. This can primarily be done by preparing a *NUF/NUP report*, as detailed in Section 1.1 on reporting modalities. Yet, even if preparing a different type of National Progress Report, Member States should still consider linkages with their National Urban Policies to help bolster both the quality and efficiency of their reports through relevant synergies.

See the [Habitat III Policy Paper 3: National Urban Policies](#) for guidance on the NUP preparation and reporting process

Visit the [National Urban Policy Database](#), available on UN-Habitat's [Urban Policy Platform](#), for a global overview of National Urban Policies

### The link to UN-Habitat's international guidelines

## New Urban Agenda reporting = reporting on international guidelines

The New Urban Agenda acknowledges the principles and strategies for urban and territorial planning contained in the *International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning*, which were approved by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in its resolution 25/6 of 23 April 2015. The New Urban Agenda also acknowledges the principles and strategies for urban and territorial planning contained in the *International Guidelines on Decentralization and Strengthening of Local Authorities* and *the International Guidelines on*

**Through a UNFCCC coordinated process of global stocktakes, Member States and other relevant stakeholders are able to take stock of their progress on meeting the goals of the landmark Paris Agreement**

*Access to Basic Services for All*, which were approved by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in its resolution 21/3 of 20 April 2007 and 22/8 of 3 April 2009. Implementing these international guidelines on planning, decentralization and basic services is an accelerator of the New Urban Agenda. The periodic assessment that countries are requested to make of their planning systems through evidence-based

analysis and profiling of territories provides a great source of information that can be utilized in a National Progress Report. UN-Habitat encourages countries to find the synergies between reporting on these guidelines and reporting on the New Urban Agenda.

**Figure 6.** Links between reporting on the New Urban Agenda and other key monitoring and reporting processes





### The link to UN-Habitat's Quality of Life Initiative

## New Urban Agenda reporting = measuring quality of life

The New Urban Agenda acknowledges the correlation between good urbanization and development and underlines the linkages between good urbanization and job creation, livelihood opportunities, and improved quality of life, which should be included in every urban renewal policy and strategy. The *Quality of Life Initiative* was developed to specifically enhance the measurement of well-being in cities. The initiative's main deliverable is a *Quality of Life Index*, which promotes a people-centred approach to data collection that combines objective and subjective indicators across various domains. The initiative aims to collect disaggregated data to enhance strategic foresight and actions for targeted groups of populations. Since more than half of the *Quality of Life Index* indicators are also suggested reporting indicators for the New Urban Agenda, the submission of National Progress Reports helps to further data collection for this index and, in turn, contributes to a better understanding of quality of life across cities.

Visit the [Quality of Life Initiative webpage](#) to learn more.

### The link to the Urban Performance Index and the Shanghai Adapted Index

## New Urban Agenda reporting = advancing urban monitoring and investment

Reporting on the New Urban Agenda similarly supports implementation of a number of other data initiatives connected with UN-Habitat's Global Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF). These include the *Urban Performance Index (UPI)*, developed by Economist Impact in collaboration with UN-Habitat. The goal of UPI is to improve monitoring of sustainable urban development and guide critical policy and investment decisions in cities. The index comprises 30 indicators across its three domains of urban economy, society, and stewardship, of which more than 70 per cent are derived from the UMF and thus overlap with the suggested reporting indicators in these guidelines.

UN-Habitat has also partnered with national, regional and local governments to develop versions of the UMF that are better adapted to specific urban contexts. Most notable among these adaptations is the *Shanghai Adapted Index (SAI)*, developed through a joint partnership between UN-Habitat, the Shanghai Municipal People's Government, and the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of China. The SAI similarly aims to advance monitoring of sustainable urban development and is also closely aligned with both the UMF and the suggested reporting indicators.

Visit the [Urban Performance Index digital hub](#) for more information.



# Part 2 – Reporting outline

## Introduction

This second part of the New Urban Agenda reporting guidelines provides a detailed outline of the sections of a National Progress Report. UN-Habitat strongly encourages Member States to follow this outline and adopt its structure in their reports to ensure that all significant components of the agenda are covered. Notably, this outline also highlights the key suggested indicators to use for the collection and incorporation of data into reports. These suggested indicators provide a key starting point, but countries are encouraged to complement these indicators with any other thematically applicable indicators that may be available and suitable for reporting on the transformative commitments and means of implementation. Data for some of these indicators are available on UN-Habitat's [Urban Indicators Database](#) and may

be used where relevant to promote evidence-based analysis in National Progress Reports.

In addition to the main body of the report, countries are requested to include an executive summary, which will summarize the most significant elements of implementing the New Urban Agenda. Member States are also requested to include a description of the processes adopted when preparing the report, highlighting the coordination at the various levels of government, the participatory and inclusive methods used, and the composition of the team that created the report. More broadly, it is important that Member States elaborate on all methodologies used or provide the relevant external references to facilitate easy verification of all data and evidence included in the reports.

## 2.1 Sustainable Urban Development for Social Inclusion and Ending Poverty

Paragraphs 25-42

### Data collection

#### ■ Reducing inequality and promoting social inclusion and empowerment of vulnerable groups

Since the adoption of the New Urban Agenda in 2016, describe the progress that governments at all levels within your country (e.g., national, subnational, local), in partnership with any other relevant stakeholders, have achieved in the implementation of the agenda in eradicating poverty in all its forms, reducing inequality in urban areas, achieving social inclusion and empowerment of vulnerable groups (e.g., women, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities and migrants) and ensuring access to public spaces such as streets, sidewalks, and cycling lanes, among others.

#### Suggested indicators for measuring social inclusion and empowerment of vulnerable groups

Proportion of population below like poverty line, by sex, age at urban level

**UMF-15**  
Availability/existence of migration policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people

Presence of national legislation forbidding discrimination

Women's recognized legal right to property inheritance and ownership

data available at UMF portal

**UMF-44**  
Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all

Percentage of road length that has dedicated bike lanes and dedicated sidewalks

**UMF-17**  
Life expectancy at birth, disaggregated by income group

Presence of urban welfare programmes

■ Access to Adequate housing

Since the adoption of the New Urban Agenda in 2016, describe the progress that governments at all levels within your country (e.g., national, subnational, local) in partnership with stakeholders, have achieved in the implementation of the agenda in ensuring access to adequate and affordable housing, ensure access to sustainable housing finance options, establishing security of tenure and fostering slum upgrading programmes, among others.

**Suggested indicators for access to adequate housing**

<p><b>UMD-12</b> Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land</p>	<p>data available at UMF portal</p>	<p><b>UMF-23</b> Proportion of urban population living in slum, informal settlements, or inadequate housing</p>	<p>Total investment in housing (in both formal and informal sectors in the urban area), as a percentage of GDP</p>	<p>Median spending on housing and transportation per household as a percentage of the median annual household income of tenants</p>
<p><b>UMF-21</b> Mortgage debt relative to GDP</p>		<p>Share of urban population affected by displacement</p>		<p>Presence of urban welfare programmes</p>

■ Access to basic services

Since the adoption of the agenda in 2016, describe the progress that governments at all levels within your country (e.g., national, subnational, local) in partnership with stakeholders, have achieved in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in providing access to basic services, including access to drinking water, sanitation services, waste collection, internet and public transport, among others. A more detailed outline of key basic services to monitor and report is available under the metadata for SDG indicator 1.4.1.

**Suggested indicators for measuring access to basic services**

<p>data available at UMF portal</p>	<p><b>UMD-2</b> Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services</p>	<p>data available at UMF portal</p>	<p><b>UMF-3</b> Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services</p>	<p><b>UMF-10</b> Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities</p>	<p><b>UMF-34</b> Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed</p>
	<p><b>UMF-09</b> Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services</p>				

## Review and assessment

Member States should collect data on measuring social inclusion and ending poverty, aligned with the suggested indicators above. In case temporal data going back to 2016 are missing, justified, numerical estimates (e.g., from a scale of 1 to 10) can be provided for both 2016 and today to roughly estimate changes in the relevant indicator.

### **? Member States should also consider the following questions for reflection:**

1. *What are the trends that can be identified based on the data collected by your country and what are the drivers to have improved or hindered social inclusion, ending poverty, empowerment of vulnerable groups and access to adequate housing and basic services?*
2. *Has your government acted mostly as an enabler or as a provider of housing and basic services?*

3. *What have been the key obstacles and challenges to effective implementation of the principles outlined in the New Urban Agenda? And what illustrative actions can your government highlight in which these principles have been advanced and what has their impact been on people?*

Member States are encouraged to share their best practices on the Urban Agenda Platform for greater visibility, and are asked to tie answers to these questions into a cohesive narrative that clearly and explicitly connects data trends, identified key drivers of trends, and illustrative case studies.

### **? Member States should then, based on the assessment made above, consider the following question:**

*What changes are governments in your country (at all levels) going to implement to accelerate the implementation of the principles of the New Urban Agenda in both the immediate term and before 2036?*



## 2.2 Sustainable and inclusive urban prosperity and opportunities for all

Paragraphs 43-62

### Data collection

#### ■ Inclusive urban economy

Since the adoption of the New Urban Agenda in 2016, describe the progress that governments at all levels within your country (e.g., national, subnational, local), in partnership with relevant stakeholders, have achieved in the implementation of the agenda's commitment to tackle inequality and unemployment, including progress on reducing inequality, in achieving productive employment for all including youth employment, strengthen the informal economy, developing technical and entrepreneurial skills to thrive in a modern urban economy and promoting an enabling, fair and responsible environment for business and innovation, among others.

#### Suggested indicators for measuring the inclusivity of the urban economy

##### UMF-24

Gini coefficient at national/ city/ urban levels

data available at UMF portal

Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex

Annual number of vocational and technical education individuals trained

##### UMF-32

Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training

##### UMF-27

Unemployment rate by sex, age, persons with disabilities and by city

#### ■ Urban productivity and prosperity

Since 2016, describe the progress that governments at all levels within your country (e.g., national, subnational, local), in partnership with relevant stakeholders, have achieved in the implementation of the agenda in positioning urbanization as tool for generating urban prosperity, including progress on diversification of the urban economy, promotion of cultural and creative industries, support of small- and medium-sized enterprises and development of urban-rural linkages to maximize productivity, among others.

#### Suggested indicators for measuring urban productivity and prosperity

##### UMF-72

Own source revenue as percentage of the total city revenue

##### UMF-57

Employment in cultural and creative industries of as proportion of total employment

Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment

Small and medium- sized enterprises percentage share of GDP

##### UMF-36

Days to start a business

Annual growth rate of realGDP per employed person

## Review and assessment

Member States should collect data on measuring inclusivity, productivity and prosperity of the urban economy, in line with the suggested indicators above. In case temporal data going back to 2016 are missing, justified, numerical estimates (e.g., from a scale of 1 to 10) can be provided for both 2016 and today to roughly estimate changes in the relevant indicator.

### **?** Member States should also consider the following questions for reflection:

1. *What are the trends that can be identified based on the data collected by your country and what are the drivers to have improved or hindered inclusivity, productivity and prosperity of the urban economy?*
2. *What has been the role of inequality as an obstacle to achieving greater prosperity for all? What have been the key obstacles and challenges to effective implementation of the principles outlined in the New Urban Agenda?*

3. *What illustrative actions can your government highlight in which these principles have been advanced and what has their impact been on people?*

Member States are encouraged to share their best practices on the Urban Agenda Platform for greater visibility, and are asked to tie answers to these questions into a cohesive narrative that clearly and explicitly connects data trends, identified key drivers of trends, and illustrative case studies.

### **?** Member States should then, based on the assessment made above, consider the following question:

*What changes are governments in your country (at all levels) going to implement to accelerate the implementation of the principles of the New Urban Agenda in both the immediate term and before 2036?*



## 2.3 Environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development

Paragraphs 63-80

### Data collection

#### ■ Resilient and adaptive urban development

Since 2016, describe the progress that governments at all levels within your country (e.g., national, subnational, local), in partnership with relevant stakeholders, have achieved in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda's commitment to tackle inequality and unemployment, including progress on developing systems to reduce the impact of natural and human-made disasters, building urban resilience through quality infrastructure and spatial planning and allocating adequate resources for adaptation actions, among others.

#### Suggested indicators for measuring resilience and adaptation to climate change

##### UMF-74

City or local authority adoption or implementation of local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies

The number of cities that have/ percentage of urban population that is covered by multi-hazard early warning systems.

Share of urban population exposed to climate threats

##### UMF-52

Proportion of subnational/ local government budget dedicated to climate change mitigation and adaptation actions

Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution

Urban heat island as variation of temperature relative to non-urban area

#### ■ Climate change mitigation

Since 2016, describe the progress that governments at all levels within your country (e.g., national, subnational, local), in partnership with relevant stakeholders, have achieved in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda's commitment to mitigate climate change through action in urban areas, including progress on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting renewable energy and adopting a smart-city approach that leverages digitization, clean energy and technologies, among others.

#### Suggested indicators for measuring climate change mitigation

##### UMF-42

Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)

Domestic material consumption per capita & per GDP

Material footprint per capita & per GDP

##### UMF-50

Total greenhouse gas emissions per year per capita

##### UMF- 46

Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption



## ■ Biodiversity and ecosystem conservation

Since 2016, describe the progress that governments at all levels within your country (e.g., national, subnational, local), in partnership with relevant stakeholders, have achieved in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda's commitment to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, including progress on resource conservation and waste reduction, reuse, and recycling, implementing environmentally sound management of water resources and urban coastal areas, strengthening the sustainable management of natural resources in urban areas and minimizing urban sprawl and loss of biodiversity resulting from it, among others.

### Suggested indicators for measuring biodiversity and ecosystem conservation

data available at UMF portal

#### UMF-51

Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate

#### UMF-49

Proportion of land under protected natural areas

Existence of an enforced coastal land management plan in the country

data available at UMF portal

#### UMF- 47

Green Area per capita

#### UMF-40

Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flow safely treated

#### UMF-41

Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities

## Review and assessment

Member States should collect data measuring sustainable and resilient urban development, aligned with the suggested indicators above. In case temporal data going back to 2016 are missing, justified, numerical estimates (e.g., from a scale of 1 to 10) can be provided for both 2016 and today to roughly estimate changes in the relevant indicator.

### **?** Member States should also consider the following questions for reflection:

1. What are the trends that can be identified based on the data collected by your country and what are the drivers to have improved or hindered adaptation, mitigation and conservation?
2. What have been the key obstacles and challenges to effective implementation of the principles outlined in the New Urban Agenda?
3. Is your country on track to achieve the urban component of your own climate goals as outlined in the Nationally Determined Contributions or other national climate action plans?

4. What illustrative actions can your government highlight in which these principles have been advanced and what has their impact been on people?

Member States are encouraged to share their best practices on the Urban Agenda Platform for greater visibility, and are asked to tie answers to these questions into a cohesive narrative that clearly and explicitly connects data trends, identified key drivers of trends, and illustrative case studies.

### **?** Member States should then, based on the assessment made above, consider the following question:

*What changes are governments in your country (at all levels) going to implement to accelerate the implementation of the principles of the New Urban Agenda in both the immediate term and before 2036?*

Reporting on progress in environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development contributes to achieving the [Paris Agreement](#) and the global stocktake on assessing the collective progress towards long-term climate goals.

## 2.4 Effective implementation

The realization of the transformative commitments set out in the New Urban Agenda will require enabling policy frameworks at the national, subnational and local levels, integrated by participatory planning and management of urban spatial development and effective means of implementation. In reporting on effective

implementation, countries are requested to both share progress on implementing these enabling frameworks as well as demonstrate how these frameworks have enabled progress in achieving the transformative commitments.

**Paragraphs 81-161**

### Data collection

#### ■ Building the urban governance structure: establishing a supportive framework

Since 2016, describe the progress that governments at all levels within your country (e.g., national, subnational, local), in partnership with relevant stakeholders, have achieved in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda's commitment to build a supportive governance structures to implement the transformative commitments of the agenda, including progress on enabling subnational and local governments to undertake their assigned responsibilities through decentralization, linking urban policies to finance mechanisms and budgets, developing legal and policy frameworks to enhance the ability of governments to implement urban policies, building capacities of local and subnational governments to implement local and metropolitan multilevel governance, implement participatory, age- and gender-responsive approaches to urban policy and planning and achieve women's full participation in all fields and all levels of decision-making.

*Reporting on progress in urban governance structure also contributes to upholding the [International Guidelines on Decentralization and Access to Basic Services for All](#)*

#### Suggested indicators for measuring biodiversity and ecosystem conservation

##### UMF-73

Percentage of the total budget that the local/ sub-national government have discretion over to decide on priorities

Estimated share of revenue lost due to corruption

##### UMF-69

Proportion of seats held by women in sub-national/ local governments

Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services

##### UMF-67

Presence of direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically

##### UMF-68

Utilizing e-governance and citizen-centric digital governance tools by local authorities

SDG indicator 16.7.1

Proportions of positions in national and local institutions, including (a) the legislatures; (b) the public service; and (c) the judiciary, compared to national distributions, by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups

## ■ Planning and managing of urban spatial development

Since 2016, describe the progress that governments at all levels within your country (e.g., national, subnational, local), in partnership with relevant stakeholders, have achieved in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda's commitment to effective planning and management of urban spatial development, including progress on implementing integrated and balanced territorial development policies, integrating housing into urban development plans, including culture as a priority component of urban planning, implementing planned urban extensions and infill, urban renewal and regeneration of urban areas, improving capacity for urban planning and design, training for urban planners at all levels of government, strengthening the role of small and intermediate cities and towns, and implementing sustainable multimodal public transport systems including non-motorized options.

Progress may also be considered on whether urban planning systems include well-coordinated decision-making mechanisms; designated offices on urban and territorial planning; policies, plans, designs and rules and regulation for all planning scales; effective financial and legal frameworks; and incorporation of an evidence-based approach in developing visions and plans, supported by spatial maps, among others.

*Reporting on progress in urban governance structure also contributes to upholding the [International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning](#)*

### Suggested indicators for measuring Planning and Managing Urban Spatial Development

Number of counties, regional governments, and cities in which plans and designs are publicly accessible to residents (on-line) and can be consulted at all times	<b>UMF-06</b> Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live after dark	<b>UMF-29</b> Proportion of trips made in Public Transport  Land-use mix	<b>UMF-76</b> Presence of urban policies or regional development plans that: (a) respond to population dynamics, (b) ensure balanced territorial development, (c) increase local fiscal space
Number of urban planners per 100,000 persons	<b>UMF-08</b> Death rate due to road traffic injuries	Population density	

## ■ Mobilization of financial resources

Since 2016, describe the progress that governments at all levels within your country (e.g., national, subnational, local), in partnership with relevant stakeholders, have achieved in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, including progress on developing a financing framework for implementing the agenda, mobilizing own-source revenues of local and regional governments, enhancing the cost-effectiveness of revenue administration/departments, expand and enhance credit rating for local and regional governments and formulating coherent, reliable and accountable systems of financial transfers from national to subnational and local governments based on realistic needs.

*Reporting on progress on mobilization of financial resources aligns with the commitments made within the [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#)*

■ **Capacity development and enhanced knowledge-sharing**

Since 2016, describe the progress that governments at all levels within your country (e.g., national, subnational, local), in partnership with relevant stakeholders, have made in implementing the New Urban Agenda, including progress on capacity building programmes (e.g., trainings, city-to-city learning) to support agenda implementation, progress in expanding opportunities for city-to-city cooperation and fostering exchanges of urban solutions and mutual learning, progress on enhancing the capacity of all levels of government to monitor and implement the New Urban Agenda, including access and support of adequate higher-level education in built environment professions and fostering of professional associations for built environment professions.

■ **Technology and innovation**

Since 2016, describe the progress that governments at all levels within your country (e.g., national, subnational, local), in partnership with relevant stakeholders, have achieved in technology and innovation, including progress on developing user-friendly, participatory data and digital platforms through e-governance and citizen-centric digital governance tools, expanding deployment of frontier technologies and innovations to enhance shared prosperity of cities and regions, implementing digital tools, including geospatial information systems to improve urban and territorial planning, land administration and access to urban services.

*Reporting on progress in technology and innovation also contributes to delivering on the forthcoming [International Guidelines on People-Centred Smart Cities](#).*

**Review and assessment**

Member States should collect data measuring sustainable and resilient urban development, aligned with the suggested indicators above. In case temporal data going back to 2016 are missing, justified, numerical estimates (e.g., from a scale of 1 to 10) can be provided for both 2016 and today to roughly estimate changes in the relevant indicator.

**? Member States should also consider the following questions for reflection:**

1. *Based on the assessment of the level of effective implementation on each of the three transformative commitments, which enabling frameworks have been most beneficial to achieving progress and why?*
2. *What have been the key obstacles and challenges to effective implementation of the principles outlined in the New Urban Agenda?*

3. *What illustrative actions can your government highlight in which the implementation of the transformative commitments of the New Urban Agenda has been greatly enhanced by effective implementation mechanisms?*

Member States are encouraged to share their best practices on the Urban Agenda Platform for greater visibility, and are asked to tie answers to these questions into a cohesive narrative that evaluates the degree to which progress on each of the transformative commitments has been enabled by better implementation frameworks, with the degree to which progress on these commitments have been enabled

**? Member States should then, based on the assessment made above, consider the following question:**

*What changes are governments in your country (at all levels) going to implement to accelerate the implementation of the principles of the New Urban Agenda in both the immediate term and before 2036?*

## 2.5 Strategic ways forward

In the final section of the National Progress Report, Member States are encouraged to take a step back and reflect more broadly on the strategic changes that are required to accelerate the implementation of the transformative commitments in the New Urban Agenda. Specifically, they should consider the following strategic questions in consultation with a broad range of national stakeholders, such as through a National Urban Forum:

*Which key actions in your country planning to implement in the period up to 2036 to achieve the transformative commitments within the New Urban Agenda?*

*Which aspects of implementation have so far been lacking the most and need to improve to enable achieving the transformative commitments?*

*What are the ways in which adequate political commitment at all levels of government can be secured to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda?*

In this final section, Member States are also invited to complement actions required within their country with recommendations to the international community on how multilateral action can help accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and achieve the SDGs.

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all in an urbanizing world**

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