UN-Habitat inputs to the report of the Secretary-General on Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)

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UN-Habitat addresses poverty eradication through reducing inequality and poverty between and within communities. The main areas of work include increased and equal access to basic services, sustainable mobility, accessible and safe public space; increased and secure access to land, adequate and affordable housing; and effective human settlements growth and regeneration. In addition, UN-Habitat addresses climate-related poverty by developing tools to adapt communities and essential infrastructure to climate change.

Progress relevant to the policy areas of the Decade for the Eradication of Poverty:

A) Structural Transformation, Productive Employment and Decent Work in the Context of a Changing Global Scenario.

In 2018, for example, the world generated about 2.4 billion tonnes of municipal solid waste, of which 45% was mismanaged. The informal waste collection and recovery sector improves solid waste management by collecting, processing and recycling plastic and other discarded materials. In 2022, UN-Habitat, with the Norwegian Institute for Water Research, published the normative guide 'Leaving no one behind - How a global instrument to end plastic pollution can enable a just transition for the people informally collecting and recovering waste'. The report explores the measures that can be taken on a just transition of the informal waste workers across local, national and global levels.

C) Human Capability Development: Addressing the Non-Income Forms of Poverty; E) Reducing Inequalities; G) Fighting Poverty in Fragile and Humanitarian Contexts

Local governments and community organizations are increasing their role in effective responses to multiple global crises and in recovery efforts. Patterns of inequality characterized by the lack of access to basic services, including digital infrastructure, to adequate housing and sustainable, safe human settlements constitute a spatial dimension of urban poverty that often remains hidden in the absence of spatially disaggregated local data.

To this end, during 2022, UN-Habitat UN-Habitat supported, for example, 530,000 people in poor and vulnerable communities to gain increased access to basic services and sustainable mobility. Water Operators Partnerships supported by UN-Habitat established 21 new water and sanitation operators, serving more than 61 million end users, and are building capacities for improved and sustainable water services.

UN-Habitat also intensified collaboration with associations of local and subnational governments and the UN Regional Economic Commissions to support localization of the SDGs. In addition, UN-Habitat as a co-chair of the Local2030 Coalition – the UN system-wide mechanism for delivering SDGs locally in partnership with local governments and the UN Resident Coordinator system – is leading the localization of SDGs through, for example, provision of normative and technical support to the Voluntary Local Review process. UN-Habitat also supported the establishment of a localization window of the Joint SDG Fund that is opening opportunities to UN Country Teams to obtain funding for dedicated local

level work as part of the implementation of UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks.

Regarding the persisting, multifaceted crisis of adequate housing, UN-Habitat in partnership with major organisations working on poverty related to informality of human settlements and housing, launched the Global Action Plan - Accelerating for Transforming Informal Settlements and Slums by 2030 ('GAP') in October 2022. The initiative applies multisector integrated approaches put housing and informal settlements at the core of the global 2030 Agenda. Slum transformation will implement multiple SDGs as it can establish spatial justice, social Inclusion (SDG 16), economic prosperity (SDG 8) and environmental protection (SDG 15), generating positive impacts on health (SDG 3), safety (SDG 11), and resilience (SDG 13) of all residents, empowering women (SDG 5) and improving the lives of children (SDGs 10 and 11).

In another front of housing crisis, 150 million people around the world are living in homelessness[1]. To address this growing issue, the UN General Assembly adopted in 2021 resolution 76/133 on "Inclusive policies and programmes to address homelessness, including in the aftermath of COVID-19". To implement the resolution, UN-Habitat and UNDESA are leading the preparation of a report on achieved progress and remaining challenges in addressing homelessness, such as through recommendations for possible indicators on social protection and access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing. The report is seeking to overcome the pressing need to identify a definition of homelessness that is inclusive and differentiates among degrees and types of homelessness. It will consolidate research on the existing policies, successful initiatives, provide policy recommendations and showcase experiences of homelessness, particularly where it intersects with gender, age, sexual orientation, migratory and indigenous experiences and disability.

UN-Habitat's flagship programme on 'Inclusive, Vibrant Neighbourhoods and Communities' has continued to guide urban regeneration as a process that can reduce spatial inequality and poverty by using integrated approaches to supporting well-planned, inclusive urbanization and territorial development. Urban regeneration initiatives address spatial and digital inclusion, community climate action, urban environmental health and preparedness, local cultural and financial diversity. Results include 30 cities that were supported in improving their public transport planning and mobility system, street design and non-motorized transport, electrification or digitalization of transport. This included implementation of pilot projects that impacting on 212,589 people. 170,000 people gained improved access to safe and inclusive public space through 14 public space interventions and site-specific assessment. 140 cities were supported in applying participatory planning methodologies and 33 partner cities were supported in implementing urban and territorial regeneration initiatives.

The flagship programme on 'People-Centred Smart Cities' has supported local governments in the development of framework for digital governance to guide cities towards adoption of inclusive and rights-based people centered digital development policies.

UN-Habitat continued to support field operations to tackle poverty in fragile and humanitarian contexts. For example, in Syria, UN-Habitat created safer access to houses by providing safer access to residential areas through rehabilitation of the area, enabling the

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[1] https://make-the-shift.org/homelessnessaction/

community to access their homes to assess the damage, undertake basic repairs and begin to rebuild their lives. By applying territorial, area-based approach, UN-Habitat ensured that wider basic service restoration needs were met in addition to crisis response needs. Interventions included clearing the streets, providing solar streetlights, restoring the sewage network, removing accumulated debris, and backfilling tunnels, which safeguarded the structural integrity of many homes.

F) Addressing Climate Change and the Intensification of Natural Hazards

UN-Habitat addresses climate-related poverty by developing tools to adapt communities and infrastructure to climate change. For example, in Malawi and Madagascar, UN-Habitat support helped restore mangroves, rehabilitate riverbeds, and stabilize slopes to increase the climate resilience of communities in informal settlements. Communities were part of developing local governance structures and increasing citizens awareness of nature restoration as a solution against the effects of climate change.

7. Modalities of Delivery:

A flagship programme of UN-Habitat, 'SDG Cities', provides cities and local governments with much-needed capacities to better evidence, analyse and respond to different forms of poverty and other challenges and thereby accelerate their implementation of SDGs. The SDG Cities applies four-tracked support sequence: data collection and analysis, strategic planning, the strengthening of local institutions, and the financing high-impact projects. The programme aims to support at least 1000 cities and bolster their local economic opportunities while improving environmental sustainability and reducing social inequality.