GOVERNANCE ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

FOR METROPOLITAN, TERRITORIAL AND REGIONAL MANAGEMENT



GOVERNANCE SERIES | VOLUME 1

UN HABITAT FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

GOVERNANCE ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK: For metropolitan, territorial and regional management.

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FOR METROPOLITAN, TERRITORIAL AND **REGIONAL MANAGEMENT**







Message from the Executive Director



I am delighted to introduce this new governance tool entitled "Governance Assessment Framework: For metropolitan, territorial and regional management". The relevance of governance to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and implement the New Urban Agenda has been widely recognised in recent years. We at UN-Habitat believe that governance is catalytic for integrated territorial development and due to that we recently adopted it as one of the drivers of change for sustainable urbanisation. We promote urban governance as outcome-oriented to ensure that all urban residents reap the benefits and share the burdens of investing in sustainable urbanisation.

Governance is one of those human activities that becomes more apparent when it is not achieved. Weak governance frameworks lead to economies that do not thrive, marginal communities, unhealthy environments, inadequate infrastructure, Human Rights violations, and other conflicts caused by divergent interests. In short, inadequate governance reduces the quality of life for millions of people in ways that

could be avoided. Therefore, good, effective and inclusive governance frameworks are needed to properly manage our increasingly complex social urban landscapes.

In today's world, cities and their related territorial agglomeration are evolving rapidly. In the first 15 years of this century the land area that cities cover grew annually by 1.5 per cent. Between 2000 and 2020, 1.5 billion people became urbanised giving rise to more densely populated and geographically extensive metropolises. This is fast transforming the function of the metropolis and its relations to its interdependent territories. According to our most recent analysis, almost the 60 per cent of the urban population -a third of humanity-live in metropolitan spaces, meaning that the way in which they are governed will have a direct impact on the lives of much of the global population for many decades to come.

The Covid-19 pandemic has shown us that cities are in the front line of twenty-first century challenges and that overcoming those challenges requires new governance approaches based on cooperation, collective action and solidarity. The UN-Habitat Governance Assessment Framework and the two-step assessment tools introduced in this document present an analytical and practical vision of governance. They propose the understanding of governance as a complex process in which institutional solutions, decisionmaking and collective action must work together. Furthermore, the eight inspiring practices included illustrate how the framework can be used and, specifically, how governance

has been achieved in diverse metropolitan and regional realities. They serve as an invitation for other territories to move towards good, effective and inclusive governance systems.

As a former mayor and an urban planner, I believe that good governance is at the heart of well-managed cities. Equally important are the tools that enable us to understand the evolution of the cities we manage, the governance framework we need to strife for and the integrated planning we need at the territorial, metropolitan and neighbourhood level.

With this tool we hope to contribute to the ongoing debate on metropolitan and territorial subjects and complement the important work done by several international partners, academics and national, sub-national and local governments.

I invite you all to enjoy the read, share and improve metropolitan, territorial and regional governance for a better urban future!

Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif
Under-Secretary-General and Ex

Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

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