



# WORKING FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2018



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## Message from the Executive Director



I am pleased to present the 2018 Progress Report which marks the fifth year of monitoring and reporting on the progress we have made in implementing the 2014 - 2019 Strategic Plan. The year 2018 was very busy and exciting for UN-Habitat, with great strides made in the implementation of its strategic plan. This report provides an overview of achievements made at the institutional level and analyses progress made in the seven thematic areas.

The preparation and adoption of new governance structures, achieved after 14 years in December 2018, was a significant milestone. This is expected to strengthen oversight, heighten visibility of sustainable urbanization issues and increase support for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. With improved transparency and accountability, UN-Habitat hopes to win over the trust and further support from Member States, development partners and clients.

In February 2018, we embarked on a bold and ambitious internal change process to transform UN-Habitat into an agency that operates efficiently, effectively and collaboratively. Aligned to the Secretary General's United Nation's system-wide reforms, the team is repositioning UN-Habitat making it fit for purpose and valued. This process is highly consultative involving both internal and external stakeholders.

In May 2018, as the current strategic plan was coming to an end, UN-Habitat started the process of developing a new strategic plan for 2020 - 2025. This will also be aligned to the change process. Lessons learned from through various assessments and evaluations directly related to the current Strategic Plan have also informed the making of the 2020 Strategic Plan, which also incorporated the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda and other relevant global agendas. The 2020 Strategic Plan aims to refocus and sharpen the strategic direction of the agency. The draft plan was endorsed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives in December 2018 and is awaiting adoption by the UN-Habitat Assembly in May 2019.

In 2018, we were able to deliver our programme of work meeting most of our planned targets. Through our interventions, there were many transformational results that demonstrate UN-Habitat's expertise and leadership role in sustainable urbanization. I will mention just a few of our normative and operational achievements. As part of our global advocacy and partnership work, we organized the Ninth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF), the largest meeting on sustainable urbanization and human settlements. WUF 9 was attended by about 24,000 participants, representing national, regional and local governments and a wide range of stakeholders. The outcome document, the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Cities 2030, draws attention to persistent challenges faced by cities, urges urgent action, highlights the transformative power of cities and the imperative to leave no one behind.

We celebrated Urban October with 320 events in 82 cities in 51 countries, starting with World Habitat Day with the theme **“Municipal Solid Waste Management”** that was co-hosted in Kenya. The World Cities Day global observance was celebrated in Liverpool, United Kingdom with the theme **“Building Sustainable and Resilient Cities”**.

Through our normative and operational work, we supported cities and countries to improve their urban legislation to achieve sustainable urbanization. We strengthened capacities and used our normative tools to increase tenure security by helping cities survey, register, map and identify properties in dispute, especially in post conflict countries. UN-Habitat assisted the poor and vulnerable people, including women, to secure documents that give them the right to land, property or housing ownership or occupancy. For example, 18,272 households gained improved access to land tenure in Sri Lanka; 82,500 beneficiaries got collective tenure in Sudan; 1312 certificates of occupation were issued to household in Iraq.

Through the planning and design work of UN-Habitat and partners, 500,000 people benefitted from 6 public designs implemented in several countries. In Gaza alone, 100,000 gained much needed public space while in Dhaka, Bangladesh, girls and women can now use historically “men only” space. UN-Habitat also produced its first Global State of National Urban Policies Report.

Throughout 2018, UN-Habitat and partners continued to support cities that were previously dependent on revenue from the central government to generate and collect their own revenue, enabling them to improve urban basic services and infrastructure. 17 cities in Somalia (Somaliland and Puntland) and 8 cities in Afghanistan demonstrate improved revenue collections and services.

With the support of the Global Sanitation Fund, UN-Habitat was able to increase access to urban basic services for an additional 1.2 million people. In 2018, they gained improved access to water and sanitation. Ghana accounts for 270,000 and Nepal 500,000 of that number. In the same year, through the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme, four

countries adopted improved slum upgrading and prevention policies and strategies. The Kenya Slum Upgrading and Prevention Policy was adopted by the National Assembly, prioritizing slum prevention and upgrading as national policy. Through the agency’s risk reduction, rehabilitation and resilience work, 35,200 school children from four flood-prone provinces in Mozambique benefitted from the resilient reconstruction and rehabilitation of 450 school classrooms and water and sanitation facilities damaged by floods.

In terms of our lead role in sustainable urban development, 2018 was significant. UN-Habitat prepared the first of five Quadrennial reports on the progress made in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, in close collaboration with 23 United Nations entities, 5 regional commissions and 30 partners. UN-Habitat also led the preparation of a report entitled “Tracking Progress Towards Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements: SDG Synthesis Report – High Level Political Forum 2018” which was the basis of discussions by the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development that was reviewing SDG 11.

The UN Habitat team is looking forward to building on the foundations laid during the last five years. As the 2014 - 2019 Strategic Plan comes to a close, we look forward to expanding the participation and support of member states, our development and private sector partners to help deliver our mandate - SDG 11, Sustainable Urbanisation - so that no one and no place is left behind.



**Maimunah Mohd. Sharif**  
Executive Director, UN-Habitat

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01

# Executive Summary

This is the fifth Annual Performance Report on progress made in the implementation of the six-year strategic plan (2014-2019) and delivery of the biennial work programme for 2018-2019. The strategic plan is being implemented through three consecutive biennial work programmes and budgets and this is the final phase. The 2018 Annual Performance Report has been prepared in accordance with Governing Council resolution 26/3 of May 2017. In line with the request of Member States, the report presents progress made towards planned results (expected accomplishments), measured against their indicator targets for 2018/2019. In addition, the report describes results or changes realized in 2018 at local, national, regional and global levels with the contribution of UN-Habitat and partners. Some of the transformations taking place with UN-Habitat support are demonstrated through impact stories presented in each subprogramme. The report integrates result of inputs from the four Regional Offices, the countries they cover, as well as from the seven thematic branches.

The report contains four sections. Section 1 presents the Executive Summary which includes, institutional highlights of 2018; financial performance highlights, programmatic highlights and summary of cross cutting, advocacy and partnerships, evaluation and audit. We have also included a timeline of key events for the year 2018. Section 2 presents detailed analytical briefs on the performance of each of the seven subprogrammes. Section 3 presents Regional highlights and Section 4 presents an analysis in the areas of advocacy and partnerships, cross-cutting issues, financial performance, evaluations as well as audit.



UN-Habitat Executive Director Ms. Maimunah Mohd participating in the first ever monthly clean up with Kibera green youth group in Nairobi, Kenya 2019

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