



MetroHUB

Supporting metropolitan development

UN-HABITAT METROHUB INITIATIVE 2018

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MetroHUB

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Foreword

Metropolitan areas are a hub of economic, social, political and cultural activity, attracting people for the vast opportunities that they offer. On the other hand, metropolitan areas face a multitude of challenges, such as poverty, spatial inequality, inadequate or unequal provision of services, a lack of adequate and affordable housing, and environmental degradation. The negative impact of climate change is often also felt more profoundly in metropolitan areas due to the large number of people residing here. When we examine sustainable urbanization, we therefore have the dual mandate of continuing to increase opportunities for inhabitants and visitors, and simultaneously caring for the most vulnerable, for example by improving access to decent housing, urban and basic services, and providing the means for individuals to sustain their livelihoods in a dignified manner.

In 2016, United Nations Member States agreed to a new urban development framework – the New Urban Agenda – to create sustainable, equitable cities for all. Paragraph 90 of the New Urban Agenda specifically refers to “...strengthen[ing] the capacity of subnational and local governments to implement effective local and metropolitan multilevel governance, across administrative borders, and based on functional territories”. In facilitating the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, UN-Habitat engages with government at all levels, providing technical expertise on sustainable metropolitan development. Metropolitan areas have a key role to play in achieving the 2030 Agenda for



Sustainable Development and its seventeen Sustainable Development Goals. The fact that metropolitan regions are often the most populous, spatially spread and economically powerful regions in a country, means that they create heavier political and economic footprints. As hubs of innovation and prosperity, cities can contribute immensely to achieving the current global agendas. Simultaneously, innovative approaches and technologies can play an important role in enabling metropolitan decision makers to provide better services, and to ensure a safer and more secure living environment, contributing to making cities more inclusive, resilient and a better place to live.

Sustainable urban solutions for metropolitan areas need to be developed across administrative boundaries in a territorial manner, including in urban, peri-urban and rural areas. Metropolitan challenges can only be addressed through multi-sectoral approaches and with the support of all relevant actors. UN-Habitat's MetroHUB initiative strongly promotes inclusive

and integrated strategies that foster collaboration between different sectors and level of government, and includes relevant local stakeholders from civil society, public sector and academia. Sustainable urban development in metropolitan areas needs inclusive approaches. UN-Habitat and partners, within the MetroHUB initiative, provide a vital pool of resources, tools and expertise for developing

institutional and human capacity, directly contributing to our objective of leaving no-one and no place behind.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maimunah', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mrs Maimunah Mohd Sharif,
United Nations Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Director UN-Habitat

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Executive Summary



Quito metropolitan area © UN-Habitat

Metropolitan areas consist of several, more or less independent local government jurisdictions, that are spatially and functionally interlinked. They comprise one or more cities or municipalities and the surrounding peri-urban, rural and agricultural areas. Due to their complex governance structures they are

services, etc.), housing, inequality and spatial inequity, unemployment, security and safety, inadequate public space among many others.

To support metropolitan areas for developing sustainable strategies, UN-Habitat, in cooperation and collaboration with partners has conceptualized

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