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### **Policy paper 2: Sociocultural urban frameworks\***

#### **Note by the secretariat**

The secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) hereby transmits a policy paper entitled “Sociocultural urban frameworks”, prepared by the members of Policy Unit 2.

Habitat III policy units are co-led by two international organizations and composed of a maximum of 20 experts each, bringing together individual experts from a variety of fields, including academia, government, civil society and other regional and international bodies.

The composition of Policy Unit 2 and its policy paper framework can be consulted at [www.habitat3.org](http://www.habitat3.org).

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\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



## Policy paper 2: Sociocultural urban frameworks

### Executive summary

We live in a world today that is increasingly urbanized and disrupted by political and economic conflicts and climate change-related impacts. As the New Urban Agenda looks to the future to guide the shape of cities for the next 20 years, this Policy Unit looks at ways to humanize the New Urban Agenda. The present paper is in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which recognizes the need to “strengthen the efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage” as a dedicated target of Sustainable Development Goal 11 (target 11.4). We focus at once on urban development that is socially and culturally inclusive of all urban dwellers, as well as the potential of social forms and cultural assets and identities to propel urban development that is more sustainable and resilient socially, economically, and environmentally.

**Vision.** We envision cities where the social and cultural aspects of urban life can contribute to inclusion and resilience, as well as cities that are more people-centred and liveable. If urban areas are to truly serve as “engines of growth”, reducing poverty and including all urban dwellers in the processes and benefits of development are essential to making cities better for all. The New Urban Agenda must promote inclusion of all urban dwellers, regardless of citizenship, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, social or economic status, or ethnic origin. This is particularly important for marginalized and vulnerable groups, including refugees and migrants, who often feel excluded from urban life. Our vision is that of cities and towns as safe for all their residents and where culture forms and activities thrive and cultural diversity fosters peace and social cohesion. Cities must integrate tangible and intangible cultural heritage and creative practices with urban development built on the collective intelligence of people recognizing and valuing the need for cultural actors (artists, historians, heritage experts, cultural producers and managers, as well as the media) to be involved in urban processes. Contrary to current modes of urban development premised on homogenized and universalized models of efficiency and economic rationality, the New Urban Agenda must emphasize place-based urban development that is rooted in and shaped by the people and communities that inhabit it. Spatial organization, patterns and design of urban space can promote or hinder social cohesion, equity and inclusion. Social and cultural infrastructure is as fundamental to making cities liveable as basic infrastructure.

**Policy challenges.** The challenges to achieving such an urban vision are in several dimensions. First, the benefits of urbanization are very unequally shared and, in many contexts, a substantial proportion of urban dwellers are not able to access them. Second, globalized and homogenized urban development have diminished and threatened a plethora of diverse tangible and intangible heritage in many cities around the world. Cultural diversity, including a range of institutions, practices, world views, people, forms, experiences, languages and knowledge systems, is being eroded or deliberately erased as communities are assumed to be homogeneous and monolithic. Third, social exclusion is reinforced by built environments that do not facilitate gatherings of people, collective uses and the practice of different cultures within them. Informal livelihood practices such as street vendors are penalized and criminalized while segregation and social tensions

increase through the development of gated communities. Finally, migration and the sudden influx of large numbers of displaced people into towns and cities pose a variety of challenges, but are also enormous contributions to urban areas economically, socially, and culturally. Migration is a global phenomenon that is transforming countries, cities and towns around the world including transnational migration, refugees fleeing conflicts and violence, or those internally displaced by disasters and climate change. The contributions of migrants to urban life often remain illegal and unrecognized, leaving them vulnerable and excluded.

**Priority actions, policy design, implementation, monitoring and key actors.** The priority actions for the New Urban Agenda identified by the Policy Unit integrate culture and cultural heritage into urban development, safeguarding cultural assets, and promoting cultural diversity; addressing migration of all types from internal to international, voluntary to forced, and developing strategies for including migrants in contributing to and benefiting from cities; reducing urban violence and enhancing safety for all; planning and designing the built environment and social infrastructure to mitigate segregation and exclusion and enhance diversity in social, cultural, and economic activities. Towards this end we see participatory processes of design, planning, and policymaking as a critical transformative action that needs to be institutionalized in the New Urban Agenda at all stages from problem identification to implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Education, capacity-building, and awareness for all stakeholders are essential to enable robust participatory processes. Diversity and inclusiveness in media and information and communications technology (ICT) is also necessary to support engagement, information, and dialogue. The priority actions we suggest can only be taken forward successfully by the engagement of all key actors from public authorities at various levels of government, and large scale industries to small businesses, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and communities. Based on these priorities, we have proposed illustrative policy designs with indicators and monitoring mechanisms for community participation; city liveability; culture and cultural heritage in urban development; education and capacity-building; media and technology; migration and refugees; safety and violence; and finance, business, and real estate.

**Conclusion.** We see the New Urban Agenda as an opportunity to consistently and systematically put in place planning, design, and policymaking processes that will lead to inclusive, people-centred and culturally sensitive urban development paradigms. Therefore, the planning and design of cities and their urban policies must empower and enable different social groups to overcome systemic and institutional inequalities and vulnerabilities to make all urban dwellers active agents in making and benefiting from their cities. Safeguarding tangible and intangible cultural heritage, promoting cultural diversity and integrating culture with urban development contributes towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals of poverty alleviation, gender equality, and cities that are safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable. Culture contributes to making cities sustainable as a driver of inclusive economic development; an enabler for peace, social cohesion, inclusion and equity; and in promoting the liveability and sustainability of urban areas. Through socially inclusive, participatory, and culture-sensitive approaches to city design, planning and policies, the New Urban Agenda must help to make the vision of sustainable cities a reality.

## **I. Vision and framework of the policy paper's contribution to the New Urban Agenda**

1. How can the New Urban Agenda include sociocultural frameworks? What are the key characteristics of such a perspective? How can a focus on the social and cultural elements of urban life help to address the future challenges of towns and cities, with special attention to the issues of safety, migration, equity and equality?
2. Today's towns and cities face challenges of social, cultural and spatial exclusion, violence, uneven investment, destruction, and loss of tangible and intangible cultural assets, in addition to broader threats related to climate change and large-scale migration. These challenges are only set to increase in severity.
3. The New Urban Agenda therefore presents an opportunity to drive forward a vision of cities that are people-centred, inclusive, resilient and safe; where cultural diversity is not only respected but promoted as a foundation for the stability and sustainability of urban societies. This is a vision of towns and cities as safe havens where all residents, regardless of citizenship, social or economic status, are able to benefit from urban life; where those who strive to contribute socially, economically and culturally to their neighbourhood, town or city are able to do so; and for those who seek sanctuary, can live in dignity, safety and with self-reliance, until they are able to return home or another permanent solution is found. It defines a city that integrates cultural heritage and creative practices into urban development, built on the collective intelligence of people, and where culture and cultural heritage foster peace and social cohesion, and inclusive societies, while helping to counter urban violence.
4. This paper provides policy guidance on how attention to the social and cultural aspects of urban life can contribute to inclusion and resilience as well as cities that are more people-centred and simply more liveable.

### **A. Towards people-centred cities**

5. There is no one model that can be promoted for urban areas, but there is an "essence" to urban life. It is made up of a variety of elements, including:
  - (a) Recognition of and respect for a diversity of cultural forms, knowledge, and practices;
  - (b) Conviviality among people of different ethnic, social and income backgrounds;
  - (c) Diversity of the built environment and layering of the old and the new;
  - (d) Understanding of the dynamic and evolving nature of economies, societies and the fabric of towns and cities;
  - (e) Opportunities for positive human interaction — with urban forms and spaces as well as with other people.
6. These could be considered "urban sensibilities". They can serve to "(re)humanize" the city and act as a counterweight to homogenization, exclusion and violence.

7. Urban sensibilities and everyday practices must be given due consideration in the New Urban Agenda, as they contribute to making cities liveable and productive. A focus on everyday practices and an understanding of urban life can help to place people, rather than mere economic development, at the centre of public policy and planning processes. Inclusion can also be promoted through equitable investment in social infrastructure across cities and towns.

8. Urban areas are often described as “engines of growth” but the promise of poverty reduction and development will not be realized if the focus remains purely on the economy and on returns on investment. The social and cultural aspects of urban life — the way in which different groups in society are able to engage with, contribute to and benefit from what towns and cities have to offer — is equally important. This “use value” of towns and cities must be recognized, protected and nurtured — as a contribution not only to the fundamental well-being of urban dwellers in its own right, but to productive and liveable urban societies.

## **B. Place-based urban identities**

9. The New Urban Agenda can help to avoid the continuation of the trend towards homogenization — where patterns of investment render towns, and particularly larger cities, without a grounding in time or place and serving as mere receptacles for capital investments. In many cities around the world today, residential property is seen as a safety deposit box, rather than homes for productive members of society embedded in a social and cultural context. Sometimes this approach has resulted in neighbourhoods of luxury buildings that are left largely uninhabited. Similarly, gated communities limit interaction between people from different walks of life. The stripping away of place-based identity and the spatial segregation generated by these types of investments can generate a sense of disenfranchisement from the city and urban society. By contrast, building on the diversity of culture and heritage can help foster peaceful and cohesive societies that serve to counter urban violence.

## **C. Inclusive, safe and human-scale built environments**

10. Urban cultural practices and sensibilities are thus intimately connected with the built environment and how it promotes social interaction and provides opportunity for different ways of living. There are built environments that give room for culture to develop, and others that asphyxiate cultural diversity and inclusion. The way in which we design, invest in and use our built environment — the assets, systems, services, spatial forms, patterns and designs that make up the city — can promote or hinder social cohesion, equality and inclusion and, in turn, determine how urban sensibilities and everyday practices are destroyed, preserved or generated.

11. The built environment is also critical for ensuring safety and security, through public spaces that support formal and informal cultural, social and economic activities, protect from environmental threats, and provide safety from crime and violence.

## **D. Cities conducive to social cohesion and respect for diversity**

12. The built environment can facilitate the gathering of people and encourage collective uses and the practice of different cultures. Fostering social interaction and recognition of the diverse cultural practices within cities enable mutual understanding and respect. Social encounter in public space and the experience of sharing the same urban condition, as users of the built environment, reinforces the feeling of safety and community. All of these contribute to greater social cohesion. The New Urban Agenda must promote inclusion of all urban dwellers, regardless of citizenship, social or economic status, or ethnic origin. This is particularly important for refugees and migrants, who are often among the most vulnerable. Combatting xenophobia and stigma is critical, as is recognizing that towns and cities have been built, not only on the labour of migrants, but also on their social and cultural contributions. Migration flows have — and will continue to — render urban areas dynamic, constantly evolving, and centres of cultural diversity.

13. The New Urban Agenda must recognize the different ways in which people inhabit and use the city, and demonstrate an appreciation that towns and cities can reduce economic inequalities while enabling greater inclusivity to the rewards and benefits of growth. Promoting urban everyday practices and cultural diversity can therefore be seen as a counterweight to the homogenization of the urban environment, and a way to combat stigma, social exclusion and violence.

## **E. Culture-based urban development**

14. Participative urban governance with respect to cultural producers is paramount. The sociocultural urban framework is incomplete unless cities and towns are able to promote concrete partnerships among the public (mainly, the local governments) and cultural actors (artists, historians, heritage experts, cultural producers and managers, as well as the media). Cultural actors need to be recognized, valued and involved in all processes related to sustainable urban development.

15. Tangible and intangible cultural assets and creative practices must be integrated into urban development processes from inception to implementation. Well-planned cities would have integrated cultural heritage and activities in their master plans and strategic plans so that the disruptive impact of development on heritage would have been mitigated and the positive impacts enhanced.

16. When planned by its users, an urban environment takes into account spatial practices and promotes safety, security and access to housing and basic services. This should be facilitated by responsive urban government, working in partnership with local populations.

## **II. Policy challenges**

### **A. Persistent urban inequalities contribute to social and spatial fragmentation**

17. Inequality remains an enduring challenge for towns and cities in the twenty-first century. The benefits of urbanization are unequally shared and, in many contexts, a substantial proportion of urban dwellers are not able to access them. Privatization of public space, uneven investment in assets and services, and gentrification can lead to displacement and exclude whole groups of citizens. Those particularly affected are ethnic minorities, lower income communities, refugees and migrants. Among these groups, youth, women and elderly people can be doubly disadvantaged. The main challenge for twenty-first century cities is the equitable provision of urban (economic and social) services such as transport, energy, water and sanitation, housing, and solid waste management. At present, in many instances, the social structures and spatial logic of urban areas are treated in isolation of one another. To advance equity, inclusion, and safety in the city, the New Urban Agenda must address the social fabric of the city alongside its infrastructure, design and assets. Also, access to culture (libraries, heritage, creativity, new media) should be given equal consideration if sustainable transformation is to be taken seriously. Through a holistic approach, it will be possible to make concrete progress towards equity, belonging and safety in urban areas.

### **B. Increasing threats to urban heritage and cultural diversity undermine social cohesion and urban resilience**

18. Given the link between culture, identity, and place making, another challenge is to promote built environments that reinforce cultural diversity, inclusion, equity, safety and social cohesion. Cultural heritage must be taken into account if we want built environments that allow cultures to thrive. In many cities around the world, the built cultural heritage is threatened or neglected, and in danger of destruction. There is a lack of inventories of cultural heritage and cultural producers, and a monopolized mass media, which promotes a homogeneous image of towns and cities. Cultural heritage is very narrowly defined in policies and implementation and as a result, development projects are frequently pitted in opposition to its preservation and to creative practices. While some elite or classical performance and visual arts are supported in many countries, countless other forms are being lost every day. In order to counter this, educational programmes for arts and culture that address cultural diversity should be developed.

19. Environmental degradation and natural hazards, as well as political and economic conflicts, also contribute to the loss and destruction of the lived heritage of cities and of cultural knowledge. The crucial importance of cultural resilience in the face of disasters is largely overlooked in disaster risk reduction and management.

### **C. Homogenization of urban environments threatens cultural diversity and promotes social exclusion**

20. In a different vein, globalization and homogenization are not only resulting in the standardization of built environments but also in cultural identities and expressions being increasingly homogenized or being denigrated as inferior. This is particularly the case of marginalized groups, including refugees and migrants. Culture is by very nature contextual and varies from people to people and from place to place. The challenge is to strengthen diversity against tendencies to globalize or to reduce cultural expressions to marketing products. Cultural diversity, including a range of institutions, practices, world views, people, forms, experiences, languages and knowledge systems, is being eroded or deliberately erased as communities are assumed to be homogeneous and monolithic.

21. Similarly, social exclusion is reinforced by built environments which do not facilitate gatherings of people, collective uses and the practice of different cultures within them. Trends such as defensive architecture or the privatization of public spaces must be rejected. Instead, mixed-use zones for people of diverse origins and use of public spaces that are accessible to all, as settings for livelihoods, especially for the working poor, should be considered.

### **D. Lack of coherence between cultural and urban policies threatens urban sustainability**

22. In most cities around the world, laws and policies around the safeguarding and management of cultural heritage and creative production are separate from those focused on urban development. This divergence is detrimental to both the cultural assets and to sustainable urban development.

### **E. Cultural rights remain overlooked or insufficiently respected**

23. Human-rights based approaches to protecting and enjoying cultural heritage and cultural and creative expressions are frequently overlooked. In addition, cultural rights are poorly understood. On the one hand, some abuses have led to the instrumentalization of culture in an attempt to justify the violation of human rights. On the other hand, some approaches aiming to defend human rights may be imposed without taking into account cultural specificities. In accordance with the advance version of the report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights (February 2016), “the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (art. 4), further stresses that no one may invoke cultural diversity to infringe upon human rights guaranteed by international law, nor to limit their scope”. Cultural rights “are firmly embedded in the universal human rights framework. Hence, the implementation of human rights must take into consideration respect for cultural rights, even as cultural rights themselves must take into consideration respect for other universal human rights norms.”



## **F. Communities should be strongly supported to contribute to urban planning and management**

24. On this issue, a further challenge is to ensure that communities engage with and work alongside local authorities. To achieve this, people's capacity to contribute to the planning and management of towns and cities must be enhanced through education focused on participation. Government capacity for communication must also be increased, and technical jargon removed from these processes. A core issue to be addressed is to broaden the scope of citizen participation processes. Urban dwellers must play a part in the decisions that relate to the ecological, social, economic, political and cultural environment. Currently, the most excluded from these processes are those with high levels of vulnerability, including women and children, older people and people with disabilities. This results in disregard for their needs in urban policies.

## **G. The built environment should be designed in ways that ensure security and foster inclusion**

25. A further challenge for today's towns and cities is to ensure that built environments address safety in all its dimensions. This includes safety from crime and violence, as well as protection from natural disasters and environmental hazards caused by air and water pollution, lack of sanitation and industrial accidents. An additional aspect of safety and security in urban areas is related to the urban informal economy, without which large swathes of the population would be even more vulnerable. As such, steps must be taken to enhance and embrace the livelihood practices of informal workers, rather than penalizing or criminalizing informal workers and undermining or destroying their activities. In cities around the world, street vendors have carved out space in what the Self-Employed Women Association (SEWA) calls "natural markets" — near transport hubs or public institutions — to sell goods to passers-by. When these natural markets are destroyed and vendors are evicted, economic diversity can also be severely affected. In the long run, this can lead to greater insecurity in cities, since street vendors and informal recyclers contribute to safety in public spaces. In sum, the challenge is to overcome insecurity and violence in cities that result from social exclusion, environmental hazards, and economic, social and political inequality.

## **H. Building local capacities and harnessing human capital is a key challenge for cities**

26. Many of today's towns and cities also face the maximum brunt of the negative impacts of globalization because of a web of issues related to limited financing, limited government capacity, lack of data, lack of integrated urban planning, unarticulated governance, including high levels of corruption, and absence of necessary legal frameworks for supporting cultural diversity. The role of municipalities should be encouraged and strengthened by improving the human capital through diverse technical staff that includes different expertise and professional training. Local governments are the ones closer to people's everyday life challenges and aware of the cultural differences within their jurisdictions. They should be empowered in order to ensure equal access to culture, education and

health-care services and social infrastructure for all citizens, provide job opportunities and a diverse economic environment, and make diverse cultural practices possible.

**I. Access to cultural and communication resources remains insufficient**

27. Promoting local media content provides a platform for sharing and expressing local knowledge and experience, opening up avenues for new creative expressions, exchange, interaction and understanding. In taking a people-centred approach to urban development, the role of the cultural and creative industries is of crucial importance, determining not only how content is created, but how it is produced, distributed and used. All inhabitants of cities should have access to the means of expression and dissemination as guarantees of their cultural diversity.

28. Many States have adopted laws on commercial advertising and marketing, but they remain mostly self-regulated. These practices have an increasing bearing on the cultural and symbolic communication within cities and more broadly on the cultural diversity of its inhabitants.

29. Audiovisual and communication outlets should be accessed and owned by those who generate its content. Cities are faced with challenges when they do not host or own such outlets and are thus unable to produce their own cultural content and guarantee its dissemination. Furthermore, while technology has generated new ways of bringing people together and have opened up new development pathways for creative expression, limits of access to these resources can create or compound existing societal fragmentation and exclusion, in particular for marginalized or vulnerable groups and individuals. The challenge is to build the necessary conditions and mechanisms whereby access and participation in the media, cultural and creative industries is not only broadened but ensured at the local level.

**J. The potential of migrations for urban development should be further recognized and enhanced**

30. The challenge related to migration and displacement today is to make towns and cities a place where new arrivals of people can contribute, with their labour and culture, to urban development. Migration is a global phenomenon that is transforming countries, cities and towns around the world. While research demonstrates the positive contributions that migrants can make to their host and home economies if their energies and ambitions are tapped in positive ways, the contributions of international migrants are often only measured in terms of the remittances they send to their home countries. Migrants may not be integrated into the formal economy, or perform jobs below their skill level. This is a particular concern for female migrants, whose social and economic contributions are often undervalued, and whose work may not be legally recognized.

31. Alongside the demographic shifts brought about by national, regional and international labour migration, the world is also currently experiencing a crisis of forced displacement, which is predominantly urban in nature. More than half of all refugees and internally displaced people have sought sanctuary in towns and cities.

Forced displacement flows include refugees fleeing conflict; refugees who have already sought asylum in one country but have decided to seek a better future in another; internally displaced people who have been forced to move because of conflict and violence; and those who have moved internally or across borders because of “natural” disasters and other climate-related events. Recurrent events such as floods, droughts, cyclones and changes in temperature and precipitation patterns can have a huge impact on rural areas, where individuals and families are eventually obliged to move in order to survive climate change-induced migration can be perceived as both “slow onset, disaster-induced” and economic migration. What links all these populations is the fact that the majority of them will end up in urban areas — in developed and developing countries alike.

32. Over the years urban areas have absorbed migrants and other displaced people, which has allowed them to be dynamic, constantly evolving and, in many parts of the world, centres of diversity. As well as places of potential opportunity, towns and cities should turn into places of sanctuary for those fleeing violence, conflict and persecution. The Sustainable Development Goals make specific reference to migrant and refugee populations and they must be part of all efforts to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, governed by non-discriminatory laws and policies that promote sustainable development. Migrants and refugees often find themselves the object of stigma, racism and xenophobic violence. Where they are segregated from other urban populations and without basic rights and entitlements, migrant and displaced communities may resort to precarious or illegal livelihood options and housing solutions. These vulnerabilities may be exacerbated by language barriers, lack of familiarity with local norms and customs, social isolation and limited awareness of their rights, entitlements or where to seek help.

33. Moreover, the vast majority of refugees worldwide seek safety in the region neighbouring their place of origin, where hosting municipalities may lack the means and capacities to respond adequately to migrants’ needs and deal with massive pressure on urban services that are used and relied upon by refugees and host communities alike. For example, short-term camp-based solutions can cause long-term problems: camps become permanent, with very poor standards of living, disconnected from vital city systems. However, outside of camps, the principal alternative for refugees and internally displaced people who arrive without assets (or once these are depleted) is to move to informal areas of the city where they are exposed to natural and other hazards, including environmental contamination. In situations where disasters displace people from one part of the city to another, new informal settlements may be spontaneously created without the assistance that could reduce risk in the event of future disasters, or facilitate the eventual provision of basic services to the area. For these reasons, towns and cities need to be better prepared to absorb migrant and displaced populations in ways that are safe and dignified. This should be incorporated into urban planning frameworks and processes. The goal of inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable towns and cities must encompass all urban residents, whether legally “citizens” or not.

### **III. Prioritizing policy options: transformative actions for the New Urban Agenda**

34. The challenges of systemic social exclusion, violence and uneven investment in urban areas, persistent poverty, the escalating frequency of prolonged conflicts at the regional and local levels, as well as emerging “disruptive” factors relating to climate change and large-scale migration, demand that cities and towns integrate the social and cultural aspects of urban life into local and national policy frameworks and actions. The policy recommendations below will provide national, regional, and local authorities with strategic guidance on priorities and policies to promote cultural diversity and creativity, cohesive community identity, and ensure safe, vibrant, inclusive and resilient built environments, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which recognizes the need to “strengthen the efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage” as a dedicated target of Sustainable Development Goal 11.

#### **A. Prioritize participatory and people-centred policymaking processes**

- Institutionalize citizen participation in urban development, regeneration, and adaptive reuse decision-making processes to ensure the integration of local knowledge and expertise, the safeguarding of historic landscapes and a range of cultural landmarks (including grand monuments and ordinary places that are culturally significant to local communities), and an increase in policy ownership and effectiveness. This should also include establishing participatory budgeting processes.
- Invest in a wide range of social infrastructure services, including formal and informal public spaces, liveable streets, transportation and food systems infrastructure and networks, to promote social connections and community networks, enhance public safety, and retain cultural heritage values, practices and assets.
- Evaluate and promote traditions and practices related to solidarity systems, sharing of common land and goods, non-monetary exchange systems, and ecological and resource-conserving practices (locally produced foods, local materials and skills in construction, waste recycling and reuse practices, water conserving practices, etc.).

#### **B. Foster place-based and culturally sensitive urban governance**

- Strengthen links between local urban contexts and priorities, national frameworks, legislation and approaches to ensure that the diversity of cultural heritage and on-the-ground realities are appropriately prioritized in national and regional policies.
- Ensure that basic infrastructure designs prioritize the local context, cultural heritage, and diversity of lived uses to retain a sense of place and the cultural identity of cities and towns.

- Promote partnerships between public, private, civil-society and academic stakeholders to catalyse innovative cooperation, knowledge exchanges, and inclusive decision-making mechanisms.
- Guarantee transparent and accountable governance for cultural infrastructure, particularly publicly funded infrastructure, including the participation of civil society in governance bodies.

### **C. Incorporate culture and creativity in planning instruments and strategies**

- Incorporate cultural heritage considerations in planning instruments, including master plans, zoning guidelines, and strategic growth policies, so as to safeguard a diverse range of tangible and intangible cultural assets and landscapes.
- Include an “urban culture and heritage” priority policy or action in urban strategies, particularly in all area-based urban regeneration and development strategies (city centres, informal settlements, deprived neighbourhoods), to ensure a sense of community identity and promote social connections and better living standards of people living in those areas.
- Guarantee that all local governments develop a long-term local cultural plan with open participatory processes which is closely and operationally linked to the long-term urban strategy.
- Incorporate culture in disaster risk reduction and climate change resilience plans, notably local knowledge, traditions, and priorities to safeguard the living heritage of neighbourhoods (built context) and community identity (social context).
- Prioritize urban policies that accommodate and promote open, flexible, and safe public spaces that catalyse innovation and experimentation in all urban districts and neighbourhoods.

### **D. Promote access to culture and respect for cultural rights of all**

- Recognize and guarantee access to cultural services as a basic urban service (museums, art schools, libraries, theatres and monuments) through adequate policies and institutional frameworks, so as to facilitate social interactions and relationships, empower people and allow for the expression of their cultural identities and the enhancement of the community’s capacity to absorb, adapt and recover from a wide range of climate, economic, political, and social impacts.
- Implement a long-term programme for contemporary art, innovation and experimentation, with adequate working spaces and community projects in all urban districts and neighbourhoods, including public art.
- Promote in all cities and towns access to cultural rights and “the right of all to participate in cultural life”, with a particular focus on freedom of speech, the diversity of creative expressions and heritage.

- Address the tenure rights of indigenous peoples to ensure their rights and promote diverse and inclusive economic development.
- Emphasize gender equality in cultural policies and programmes with a view to recognizing, promoting and increasing the visibility and status of women's contributions to cultural activities.

**E. Strengthen cultural components in education and capacity-building programmes and strategies**

- Develop cultural educational programmes that account for a variety of cultural and creative expressions, including heritage, and promote visibility of cultural activities of historically marginalized and vulnerable populations.
- Increase expertise in and awareness of sociocultural practices and principles among local and national authorities to ensure that policies safeguard and promote living cultural practices and heritage.

**F. Broaden awareness and foster recognition of cultural diversity through media and technology**

- Invest in basic telecommunication infrastructure to enable local media and community commentators to share local cultural heritage and community identity stories via multiple platforms, including TV, radio, print and Internet to help create a sense of community and engage a wide range of urban dwellers.
- Ensure diverse local media, including private and public broadcasters of all sizes, to promote the integration of cultural diversity and public opinion into local decision-making processes.
- Use social media to raise awareness of acute urban sociocultural issues and initiate discussions on culture-related projects and programmes, including plans for the rehabilitation/renovation of particular sites, neighbourhoods, public open spaces and cultural landscapes.
- Make ICT and digital communication accessible to artists and cultural producers, especially women, marginalized and vulnerable persons.

**G. Recognize and foster the potential of migration for urban development**

- Acknowledge that migration is an inevitable phenomenon, be it international, internal, voluntary or forced, and ensure that towns and cities are able to absorb additional populations in ways that are dignified and contribute to longer-term sustainable urban development.
- Ensure that towns and cities can provide a safe haven for refugees and other forcibly displaced people by providing assistance and advice to new arrivals, promoting their self-reliance and encouraging their incorporation into the community. It further requires city-level public campaigns to change negative perceptions of migrants and displaced people.

- Ensure that urban planning processes respond to changing migration patterns and take into consideration their impact on local sustainable urban development. Planning processes should also ensure that small and medium-sized urban centres are able to absorb additional migrant and displaced populations, so as to reduce the pressure on densely populated capitals and other large cities. Similarly, emergency response to large-scale migration movements should be informed by longer-term planning and sustainable development concerns.
- Enable the contribution of displaced people to local and national economies by supporting their integration into the formal labour market.
- Facilitate forcibly displaced people's access to services and legal support through national and local policies, in collaboration with international actors where appropriate (particularly with regards to tenure and rental agreements), and provide information on rights, entitlements and available services in ways that are accessible to people from different backgrounds and languages.
- Ensure sufficient support to cities and municipalities that host forcibly displaced people (refugees, internally displaced people) by providing financial transfers that enable them to deal with additional pressure on urban services, building their capacity to respond to displacement crises and engaging them in the formulation and implementation of migration and refugee policies.
- Introduce concepts of migration and displacement into related university curricula, such as urban planning.

#### **H. Ensure security and counter urban violence through urban policies**

- Contribute to safer cities and the right to the city by improving police and security services with a view to protecting vulnerable populations, including migrants and refugees, from violence and persecution.
- Recognize the contribution to local economy and public safety of street vendors and others whose livelihoods depend on access to public space and ensure that they are able to pursue their livelihoods without harassment.
- Create or strengthen social capital through the promotion of alternative business models such as cooperatives based on solidarity and collaboration.

### **IV. Key actors for action: enabling institutions**

35. The implementation of the proposed policy recommendations not only requires the involvement of a wide range of actors but is also contingent upon the effective coordination of these actors and alignment of the work carried out at the national and local levels.

### **A. Central government/national authorities**

- Ensure that legal frameworks are established to facilitate citizen participation and which are reflected in national and local budgets.
- Invest in towns and cities to ensure social infrastructure and cultural heritage for all.
- Establish spaces for dialogue to promote national policies, and to ensure that local governments' perspectives are heard.

### **B. Local government/authorities**

- Strengthen the involvement of different actors in participatory processes at the local level.
- Promote safety and inclusion in towns and cities through legal frameworks that foster cultural diversity, different work practices and uses of public spaces, particularly for marginalized and vulnerable groups, such as women, migrants and refugees.
- Reinforce local responsibility for planning, zoning and master plans, and investment in cities.
- Strengthen alignment between local and national frameworks. This should be carried out through integrating urban design work, social and cultural programmes and initiatives within national frameworks, and ensuring that decisions on services and infrastructure at the national level are adapted to local needs and demands.
- Ensure that local government staff promote the diversity of the urban area, building on their understanding of the social dynamics, cultural heritage and creative assets of their towns and cities to support the integration social and cultural factors into planning and public life.

### **C. Civil society**

- Relevant civil society actors and groups (NGOs, grass-roots organizations, neighbourhood groups, volunteers, faith-based organizations, community leaders, advocacy groups, unions and relevant professional associations, among others) should lead participatory processes and demand space for dialogue with local and central governments.
- Strengthen engagement with communities, develop demands, visions and proposals for the built environment, and support urban practices, inclusion, capacity-building and the safeguarding of tangible and intangible cultural heritage.
- Recognize and foster the role of local community groups in creating, activating and implementing social and cultural priorities in towns and cities. Community actors also play an active role as local mediators and to bridge gaps between local people and formal institutions and authorities.
- Drive communication on disaster risks and safety issues in towns and cities.



## **D. Academia**

- Support the promotion of and transmission of cultural practices.
- Engage in policy design and implementation through schools of urban planning, human geography, and sociology, among others.
- Support evidence-based decision-making by providing analyses based on research and systematic studies/surveys of sociocultural processes that take place in urban areas.

## **E. Media**

- Promote cultural heritage and the diversity of cultural expressions.
- Leverage technology as a tool to support local communities and diverse cultural groups.
- Participate in agreements to promote diverse contents and ways of designing and using public spaces.

## **F. International organizations**

- Strengthen policy actions for conserving cultural heritage, diversity of cultural expressions and promoting towns and cities for all (UN-Habitat, UNESCO and ILO and urban observatories).
- Ensure that work in migration and displacement is adapted to the urban context and undertaken in collaboration with local governments and civil society (UNHCR, IOM and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat).
- Support investments in cultural heritage and creative expressions (IDB, World Bank, and regional banks such as CAF-Development Bank of Latin America, among others).

## **G. Private sector**

- Adhere to established legal frameworks for actions in towns and cities, and develop initiatives through public-private partnerships or other forms of collaboration.

## **V. Policy design, implementation and monitoring**

36. The priority actions identified for the New Urban Agenda seek to integrate culture and cultural heritage with urban development, safeguard cultural assets, and promote cultural diversity, together with addressing voluntary and forced migration and developing strategies for their inclusion, reducing urban violence and enhancing safety for all. These actions should not only be taken forward through multi-stakeholder engagement, but also through participatory processes of design, planning, and policymaking. These are critical transformative actions that need to be

institutionalized at all stages from problem identification to implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and supported through education, capacity-building, and awareness-raising.

37. National and local governments should draft policy guidelines that incorporate ways to introduce and strengthen citizen participation. These processes and mechanisms (including councils, committees, forums, etc.) should be implemented and opportunities to engage should be made public. Citizenship education programmes are crucial to these efforts.

38. Effective planning and design of the built environment and social infrastructure will be crucial to mitigate segregation and exclusion and to enhance diversity in social, cultural, and economic activities. Similarly, diversity and inclusiveness in media and ICT will serve as key constituents in supporting engagement, information and dialogue.

39. Participatory monitoring mechanisms should include diverse stakeholders (including women, local minorities, marginalized groups, etc.). Progress reports should be made available to all citizens on a regular basis.

40. Nationwide implementation and systematic maintenance of “urban indicators” (such as a city liveability index) should be established, with a special focus on measures to respect cultural diversity and diverse social groups, to achieve gender equality, safer cities, and promote and safeguard culture, and the inclusion of migrants and refugees. “Urban indicators” (see Urban Indicators Guidelines; Monitoring the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals, 2004) should include:

- (a) Percentage of gender representation in all participatory mechanisms;
- (b) Increase/decrease of safety in cities;
- (c) Number and type of heritage (material and non-material conservation actions undertaken);
- (d) Indicators to assess increase of inclusive educational programmes focusing on culture, social innovation, safer cities, newcomers, migrants, refugees, and in general underprivileged groups in society;
- (e) Number, type and quality of actions undertaken to assist migrants and refugees.

41. A broad range of social, economic, political, environmental, cultural and physical considerations must be taken into account to realize the vision of liveable cities and towns for all. The prioritizing of policy options in section III put forth principles, frameworks, and actions that promote: rigorous involvement of stakeholders in decision-making processes, integration of cultural education and cultural heritage capacity-building programmes, protection of open media, communication, and development of urban design and land use policies that include migrants, refugees and ensure open, green, flexible, safe and resilient built environments.

42. Achieving such a vision must be supported by establishing clear policy recommendations and guidelines for policy design, monitoring and evaluation. This implies a set of indicators. These indicators should aim at measuring: the

management of programme and policy implementations; the identification of good practices and shared knowledge; and transparency, accountability and innovation.

43. In accordance with these priorities, the following proposed policy designs, indicators and monitoring mechanisms serve to strengthen: community participation; planning and policymaking; culture and cultural heritage policy design; media and technology; migration and disadvantaged groups; safety and counter-violence measures; policy design and financing and implementation. The table below provides guidelines for policy design and monitoring with suggested indicators (process and structural indicators).

<i>Category</i>	<i>Design</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Monitoring</i>
Community participation	National, regional and local authorities create policy guidelines and metrics to introduce, integrate and strengthen community participation in urban public policy development, design and implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Number of community participatory mechanisms and decision-making bodies, such as councils, committees, commissions, boards and coalitions developed and supported by authorities annually</li> <li>– Number of women, low-income community members, populations with disabilities and other vulnerable groups represented in participatory mechanisms and decision-making bodies</li> <li>– Number of public meetings, charrettes and open houses held during policy design and implementation processes</li> <li>– Number of community-driven collaborative processes supported by national, regional and local authorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Quarterly reporting on the indicators to measure progress of participatory mechanisms</li> <li>– Annual reports on the results yielded by indicators to ensure proper documentation and transparency</li> <li>– Update indicators annually to ensure relevance and consistency with community values</li> </ul>
Planning and policymaking	Creation of urban and social indicators based on a city liveability index (inclusive of gender equality and safety in cities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Number of urban liveability indices created, tailored to the local context and adopted locally by cities and towns</li> <li>– Number of inclusive educational programmes focusing on culture, social innovation, safer cities, newcomers, migrants, refugees and underprivileged groups as a whole</li> </ul>	Quarterly reporting on cities and towns that have adopted a liveability index

<i>Category</i>	<i>Design</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Monitoring</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Number, type and quality of actions undertaken to assist migrant and refugee integration in cities and towns</li> <li>– Number of social indicators, such as health, education, crime and physical environment integrated into urban policies</li> </ul>	
Culture and cultural heritage policy design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Detailed, comprehensive inventories and mappings of cultural heritage to be undertaken with the participation of local communities to identify diverse, meaningful sites beyond buildings and protected landscapes typically listed by national and state agencies</li> <li>– Detailed, comprehensive inventories and mapping of intangible heritage to be undertaken with the participation of local communities to identify a diversity of practices and knowledge, and include these in all development plans for sustainable towns and cities</li> <li>– Increase citizen awareness (particularly youth and newcomers) and appreciation of the cultural heritage of their towns, cities and regions</li> <li>– Local knowledge, tangible and intangible heritage, and measures to promote creativity are to be included in all urban development plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Number of cultural heritage education and capacity-building programmes developed and implemented</li> <li>– Regular participatory inventories and mappings of cultural heritage in cities and towns</li> <li>– Number of informal and formal public spaces in cities and towns</li> <li>– Inventories of tangible and intangible cultural heritage published and widely distributed</li> <li>– Number of violations concerning the destruction of cultural heritage</li> <li>– Number of inclusive educational programmes focusing on culture, social innovation, safer cities, newcomers, migrants, refugees and underprivileged groups as a whole</li> <li>– Heritage and cultural impact assessments, routinely carried out for development proposals</li> <li>– Access to all types of cultural activities (such as museums, theatre, festivals) is to be improved by drastically reducing the price of events (certainly those subsidized by public funding), so as to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Annual land-use and development report to include the growth or decline of cultural heritage sites</li> <li>– Inventories are to be regularly updated and their distribution evaluated</li> <li>– Monitor increase in percentage of low/no income groups that participate in cultural activities</li> <li>– Monitor the impact of tourism on cultural heritage in order to ensure its sustainability by preventing the destruction of the cultural assets of towns and cities through their excessive use or commodification</li> </ul>

<i>Category</i>	<i>Design</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Monitoring</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Enforce legislation and define substantial punitive measures to stop the wilful destruction of cultural heritage and places of cultural value, including landscapes, green areas, regardless of whether they are privately or publicly managed</li> <li>– Develop master/strategic urban development plans, which clearly indicate all cultural assets, including buildings, sites and landscapes, and clarify indigenous peoples’ tenure rights, claims to traditionally common rights of access, etc. and enforce the protection, respect for and preservation of such cultural valuables</li> <li>– Evaluate accessible, decentralized and well-resourced cultural infrastructures, including museums and monuments, but also art schools, libraries, theatres and occasional sociocultural activities, such as festivals at the city and neighbourhood levels</li> <li>– Establish training programmes for public school teachers and community leaders to apply the plans</li> <li>– Establish programmes for post-disaster reconstruction that capitalize on and reinforce local practices</li> <li>– Stimulate public educational institutions to establish “arts and culture”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>encourage participation among low/no income groups</li> <li>– Number of development projects designed to enhance the cultural life of the city</li> </ul>	

<i>Category</i>	<i>Design</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Monitoring</i>
	<p>education programmes. These programmes are ideally negotiated between the local communities (people, local government and civil society) and the educational authorities (local and national)</p>		
Media and technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Support the promotion of local media (TV stations, community radio, local press, Internet), which create a real “local meaning” for citizens</li> <li>– Stimulate the openness and independency of local media so as to maintain a diversity of sources of information and opinions</li> <li>– Establish control measures to guarantee that such local media reflect and analyse urban processes in a professional and relevant manner</li> <li>– Encouragement of diversity by local governments through private and public broadcasters, while ensuring that the voice of small broadcasters reaches all citizens</li> <li>– These plans are to be developed for short-term decisions as well as for long-term planning. Moreover, such plans include a long-term programme for contemporary art, innovation and experimentation, with adequate spaces/antennas in all urban districts and neighbourhoods. In addition, it will include</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Annually reported and recorded access to and increased use of social media, particularly by underprivileged groups</li> <li>– Number and diversity of active local community media outlets</li> <li>– Assess the accessibility of social media, and innovative technologies in libraries, community centres, social restaurants in particular</li> <li>– Assess the increase of social innovation activities, particularly those accessible to young people, small enterprises, artists and underprivileged groups</li> <li>– Distribution of resilience and preventive plans and dissemination of information on such plans through various media</li> <li>– Increase in the number of training programmes and learning processes, and updating of information</li> <li>– Number of schools, households, etc. that have been actively informed of such plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Assess participation of local media in development of benchmarks and indicators of cultural heritage and knowledge-sharing policies on annual basis</li> <li>– Local governments have published plans with clear urban cultural dimensions (detailing support to arts, to heritage and to various cultural activities) integrated in overall development plans. The plans will include how local media are proactive and employ new technologies to embrace and propel local cultures into the public sphere of a city and to reach and engage with a wide variety of citizens. Regularly monitor the increased use and access, particularly by elderly people, disadvantaged groups, newcomers and otherwise often “forgotten” social groups</li> <li>– Independent local media, not controlled by governments</li> <li>– Monitor freedom of expression and press, and</li> </ul>

<i>Category</i>	<i>Design</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Monitoring</i>
	<p>open source and Internet provided by local governments</p> <p>– Freedom of expression, of press and access to information of public decisions are to be legally enforced</p>		<p>access to public decision-making information</p> <p>– Establish ombudsman/mediating service if violations or monitoring do not yield sufficient results</p>
Migrants, refugees, displaced persons and disadvantaged groups	Preparation of legal framework, institutional set-up and guidelines by countries and local governments/municipalities for improved assistance to migrants, refugees/displaced persons and disadvantaged groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Number of legal frameworks/institutional frameworks and guidelines in place and operational</li> <li>– Publish budget and other assistance for the hosting of internally displaced people/refugees that municipalities receive (financial support and necessary facilities) from the State</li> <li>– Publish institutional set-up and support programmes for migrants and refugees annually, and show the percentage increase</li> <li>– Publish percentage of migrant and refugee unemployment and compare it to the total average in the town and city</li> <li>– Assess number of refugees/migrants living in informal areas/structures</li> <li>– Evaluate access to utility provisions: drinking water, sewer system, gas/heating, electricity, etc. of the migrant/refugee population</li> <li>– Measure percentage of refugees/migrants with access to accessible education and health-care facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Assess and monitor cultural policies and programmes for their inclusiveness, taking into account the promotion of gender equality</li> <li>– Prioritize strategies to place the issue of gender equality at the centre of cultural policies, with a view to recognizing, promoting and increasing the visibility and status of women's contributions to cultural activities. Monitor the number of youth and disadvantaged groups that take part in cultural activities and develop measures to improve their participation</li> <li>– Refugees and migrants enjoy the same rights of employment and income as the average mainstream population</li> <li>– Refugees and migrants live in acceptable conditions, not separated/isolated from the main population, have sufficient utilities, basic social services</li> </ul>

<i>Category</i>	<i>Design</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Monitoring</i>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Update educational programmes at all levels to include issues on migration, displacement, refugees, etc. in curricula, and increase such issues particularly for all civil servants, academics, professionals and practitioners likely to have to deal with these groups</li> </ul>
Safety and violence prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Prepare resilience and preventive plans to cope with natural and man-made disasters</li> <li>– Establish programmes post-disaster reconstruction practices that capitalize on and reinforce local practices (traditional and newly locally developed)</li> <li>– Safer cities measures are adopted and integrated in all future urban planning efforts. These include resilience, disaster prevention and mitigation, safer public places, police and community vigilance, promoting reporting on violence, particularly as related to women, children and in general to underprivileged groups</li> <li>– Establishment of accurate database on various types of crimes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Distribution of resilience and preventive plans and dissemination of information on such plans through various media</li> <li>– Number of training programmes and learning processes specifically on resilience and disaster prevention</li> <li>– Type and places of crimes are recorded and regularly published</li> <li>– Percentage of the police and security force trained in human rights showing year-to-year improvements</li> <li>– Human rights section included in code of conducts of policy and security forces</li> <li>– Percentage reduction in reports on violence and/or deaths showing year-to-year improvements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Monitor application and updating of all resilience and disaster prevention plans</li> <li>– Monitor creation of human rights chapters; number of reported torture and/or deaths and number of training courses implemented at police and military academies</li> <li>– Make reporting of crimes an easy and accessible tool to monitor evolution</li> </ul>
Policy design, financing and implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Local governments to include minimum 3 per cent of budget to arts and cultural activities, with publicly clear and transparent information, and accountable monitoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Publish public budget spent on arts, creative activities, etc. and the methods of distribution</li> <li>– Include efforts to annually increase budget for social and culture-related activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Monitor all public tendering to include all the above as stringent assessment criteria</li> <li>– Monitor efficiency of (micro)financing</li> </ul>



<i>Category</i>	<i>Design</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Monitoring</i>
	<p>undertaken by non-political and independent assessments within local civil society</p> <p>– Inclusion of stringent measures to respect and protect cultural heritage by all public tendering and disbursement of public funds</p> <p>– Land speculation by public authorities and private developers is discouraged so as to control prices of land and rent, with a view to increasing accessibility to basic infrastructure and services for underprivileged people in urban areas</p> <p>– Highly encourage corporate social responsibility and promote various types of social innovation, particularly focusing on initiatives by starters, by not-exclusively-for-profit enterprises, by newcomers, and by more sustainable resource-conserving modes of production/distribution/reuse</p> <p>– Provide financial support to towns and cities that welcome refugees and internally displaced people with additional basic services</p> <p>– Solicit sponsorship and assistance from the private business community to support programmes for refugees and internally displaced people</p>	<p>– Publish private contribution and sponsoring on arts and creative activities, and their yearly increase</p> <p>– Take stock of and widely publish the variety of new socioeconomic initiatives (month-by-month inventory)</p> <p>– Rent and sales are regularly checked for whether they match with inflation, and excessive increases are indicated and questioned/ investigated</p> <p>– Land prices, prices of property sales and rent are regularly published</p> <p>– Publish budgets specifically allocated to host refugees and internally displaced people</p>	<p>– Control all public spending so as to guarantee the effective increase and outreach of social and cultural activities, both formal and informal. Such effectiveness is not to be based primarily on economic efficiency but rather on creativity, multiplication effect and outreach to disadvantaged groups</p> <p>– Monitor the number of refugees and internally displaced people, and the budget spent on welcoming the groups and monitor changes</p> <p>– In numbers and in basic services provided</p>

## VI. Conclusions

44. The New Urban Agenda is an opportunity to shape socially, culturally, economically and politically inclusive cities. Moving forward from past views of cities as problems, cities should be considered as dynamic spatial configurations that provide opportunities for everyone to engage in shaping them and in achieving their aspirations. We emphasize the need to recognize both tangible and intangible heritage as part of the “layering” of cities and urban forms, meanings, and identities. At the same time, contemporary, creative and forward-looking, innovative approaches are necessary to better integrate culture with sustainable development. The New Urban Agenda presents an opportunity to consistently and systematically develop planning, design, and policymaking processes that will lead to inclusive, people-centred and culturally sensitive urban development paradigms.

45. Therefore, the planning and design of cities and their urban policies must:

(a) Promote people-centred cities:

(i) Empower and enable different social groups to overcome systemic and institutional inequalities and vulnerabilities to render all citizens active agents and participants of urban life;

(ii) Catalyse culture-based activities and cultural diversity to boost social interaction and community engagement in place making;

(iii) Humanize cities through culture to enhance their liveability and empower people to connect with their communities and shape their urban environments;

(iv) Foster cultural liveliness, which makes cities and urban spaces meaningful to people, enhancing social interaction and liveability. In turn, cities that are rich in social infrastructure and public spaces nourish cultural production and consumption;

(b) Target poverty alleviation:

(i) Safeguard and nurture culture-based livelihoods both traditional and contemporary;

(ii) Help alleviate poverty and managing economic transitions by enhancing the cultural assets and human potential of cities;

(iii) Support the diversity of formal and informal economic activities, social interactions, cultural forms and practices, governance mechanisms, spatial arrangements, housing solutions, and infrastructural services;

(c) Foster safe and inclusive cities:

(i) Ensure safe and secure environment in cities so that everyone, including women, marginalized, vulnerable, and displaced people, can live, work, and participate in the urban life of cities without fear of violence and intimidation;

(ii) Build on the diversity of culture and heritage to foster peace and intercultural dialogue, and counter urban violence;

(d) Develop sustainable built environments:

- (i) Nurture and promote cultural diversity and creativity in identity, expressions, built environment, urban development, regeneration, and adaptive reuse;
- (ii) Ensure access to basic infrastructure and affordable housing for all urban dwellers, including the poor, women, youth, elderly, the disabled, marginalized and vulnerable communities such as migrants, in order to enable cultural diversity so people can be active cultural producers and consumers;
- (iii) Help create mixed-use inclusive public spaces, both formally designated and designed as well as those that become informal public spaces that provide necessary opportunities for social integration and culture-based activities. A variety of public places are necessary in cities to enhance liveability and to leverage culture and creativity to foster social cohesion and participation in urban decision-making;
- (e) Encourage inclusive policies and urban governance:
  - (i) Ensure that statutory and legal provisions are introduced and implemented on a human rights-based approach to enable socially inclusive and culturally vibrant cities;
  - (ii) Strengthen commitment to relevant United Nations resolutions;
  - (iii) Improve urban governance by enabling and strengthening participation and engagement of all groups of residents in decision-making processes, from identifying challenges and potentials to evaluating and monitoring interventions;
  - (iv) Promote investment in social and cultural infrastructure at various scales that promote social interactions and safeguards tangible and intangible cultural heritage and creative practices.

46. In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in particular Goal 11 on sustainable cities and target 11.4, the New Urban Agenda should integrate the aforementioned policy recommendations to harness the power of sociocultural frameworks for inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities.

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