



## HABITAT III POLICY UNITS

### TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR EXPERTS

#### Organisational setting

Habitat III is the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development to take place in October 2016. In resolution 66/207 and in line with the bi-decennial cycle (1976, 1996 and 2016), the United Nations General Assembly decided to convene, the Habitat III Conference to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanization, to focus on the implementation of a “New Urban Agenda”, building on the Habitat Agenda of Istanbul in 1996.

The objective of the Conference is to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable urban development, assess accomplishments to date, address poverty and identify and address new and emerging challenges. The conference will result in a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented outcome document.

The Conference is addressed to all Member States and relevant stakeholders, including parliamentarians, civil society organizations, regional and local government and municipality representatives, professionals and researchers, academia, foundations, women and youth groups, trade unions, and the private sector, as well as organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations.

1

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Habitat III will be one of the first UN global summits after the adoption of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda. It offers a unique opportunity to discuss the important challenge of how cities, towns and villages are planned and managed, in order to fulfill their role as drivers of sustainable development, and hence shape the implementation of new global development and climate change goals.

#### Policy Units

As part of the preparatory process for Habitat III, several initiatives are being developed in order to serve as technical inputs for the preparation of the outcome document, including Policy Units. Each out of 10 policy units will be composed of 20 technical experts working in academia, government, civil society, regional and international bodies, but not limited to those only.

Policy Units are intended to identify challenges, policy priorities and critical issues as well as the development of action-oriented recommendations for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The issues discussed by each Policy Unit, and 10 Policy Papers prepared, will serve as technical inputs for Member States’ consideration in the preparation of the outcome document of the Conference.





The main objectives of the Policy Units are:

- // To bring together high-level expertise to explore state-of-the-art research and analysis on specific themes;
- // To identify good practices and lessons learned; and
- // To develop policy recommendations on particular issues regarding sustainable urban development.

The 10 Policy Units will focus respectively on the following 10 topics:

1. Right to the City, and Cities for All;
2. Socio-Cultural Urban Framework;
3. National Urban Policies;
4. Urban Governance, Capacity and Institutional Development;
5. Municipal Finance and Local Fiscal Systems;
6. Urban Spatial Strategy: Land Market and Segregation;
7. Urban Economic Development Strategy;
8. Urban Ecology and Resilience;
9. Urban Services and Technology; and
10. Housing Policies.

### **The Policy Unit co-leaders**

Each Policy Unit is co-led by 2 organizations appointed by the Secretary General of the Conference, upon selection by the Secretary General in close consultation with the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III.

In close collaboration with the Habitat III Secretariat, the Policy Units co-leaders:

- Coordinate contribution on substantive documents prepared by selected Policy Unit experts;
- Coordinate preparation of a detailed structure of the draft Policy Papers;
- Support analysis of the available data, including available statistics, information available in Habitat III Issue Papers, outcomes from official Regional and Thematic meetings, etc.
- Support presentation of the structure and the preliminary contents and messages of the Policy Papers at Expert Group Meetings;
- Coordinate meetings organized online; and
- Submit draft and final deliverables of respective Policy Units to the Secretary-General of Habitat III.





## The Habitat III Secretariat

The Habitat III Secretariat is the main focal point for the Policy Units experts and works closely with the Policy Units co-leaders in ensuring the coordination of the elaboration of the Policy Papers.

## The Policy Unit experts

Selected experts will be working home based.

**Starting date:** September 1, 2015

**Closing date:** February 28, 2016 (involvement until the end of the Habitat III process might be requested at the later stage)

### Duties and responsibilities:

- Contribute with reviewing substantive documents prepared for the process of the Post-2015, and other relevant intergovernmental conferences;
- Support conducting the analysis of the available data, including available statistics, information available in Habitat III Issue Papers, outcomes from official Regional and Thematic meetings, etc.;
- Support preparation of the structure and the preliminary contents and messages of the Policy Papers at the first and second expert group meeting (EGM1 and EGM2);
- Participate at the meeting organized online and other virtual exchanges;
- Advise on incorporating proposed changes into the draft Policy Papers, harmonize Policy Papers and submit it to the Habitat III Secretariat.

3

### Benefits and expenses:

The work of experts is on voluntarily basis. The Habitat III Trust Fund will cover travel expenses and associated daily allowances for the two planned expert group meetings.

Working language will be English.

### Calendar:

- September 2015: work of experts starts. Introduction, orientation kit, background documents, strategic framework for each Policy Unit, decisions on each group on calendar of expert group meetings, operational arrangements...
- October 2015: first expert group meeting
- November 2015: second expert group meeting
- December 2015: first draft of the ten Policy Papers (as established by PrepCom2)
- January 2016: written comments by Member States and stakeholders submission period





- February 2016: final presentation of the ten Policy Papers.
- Virtual meetings may take place within the period of work of the Policy Unit.

