

THE TRANSFORMATIVE COMMITMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

We make these three transformative commitments in the New Urban Agenda: leaving no one behind and fighting against poverty; urban prosperity and opportunities for all; and ecological and resilient cities and human settlements.

SUB-CHAPTER ON
**Leave No One Behind, Urban Equity And Poverty
Eradication**

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND, URBAN EQUITY AND POVERTY ERADICATION

20. We call attention on the growing inequality and the persistence of multiple forms of poverty, as well as social and spatial vulnerability and marginalization affecting both the Global North and South. We also call attention to the dramatic increase in displaced persons moving to urban areas, and underscore our commitment to support them and their host communities.
21. The success of the universal New Urban Agenda will depend on how we effectively promote urban equity, ensuring that no one is left behind from the equally-shared opportunities and benefits that urbanization can offer, enabling all inhabitants, with temporary or permanent status, whether living in formal or informal settlements, to lead decent, dignified, and rewarding lives and to achieve their full human potential.
22. Stressing that spatial organization, patterns and design of urban space together with development policies can promote or hinder social cohesion, equity, and inclusion, as well as the reduction of poverty and hunger. The New Urban Agenda promotes people-centred urban development and the realization of human rights of all, facilitating living together, combating discrimination in all its forms, and empowering all individuals and communities, while enabling their full and meaningful participation.
23. We recognize that international migration is a multidimensional reality of major relevance for the development of countries of origin, transit and destination and is a phenomenon that is transforming countries, cities and towns around the world. In this regard, we reiterate the need to strengthen synergies between international migration and development at all levels, including the global, regional, national and local levels.
24. Also we recognize that the influx of large numbers of displaced people into towns and cities poses a variety of challenges, yet the social, economic and cultural contribution of migrants to urban life remains unrecognized, often leaving them vulnerable and excluded.

Equitable access to physical and social infrastructure

25. We recognize that we must ensure equitable and affordable access to basic physical and social infrastructure for all, including affordable serviced land, housing, energy, water and sanitation, waste disposal, mobility, health, education, and information and communication technologies. We further recognize that provision must be sensitive to the rights and needs of women, children and youth, older persons and persons with disabilities, and other people in vulnerable situations such as refugees, migrants, and displaced persons, removing all legal, institutional, physical, and socio-economic barriers that prevent them from participating equally in urban life and the opportunities it offers.
26. We commit to adopt appropriate measures in cities that ensure equal access for all to the cities, in particular persons with disabilities, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas. These measures shall include the identification and elimination of obstacles and barriers to accessibility.

Adequate housing and shelter at the center of the New Urban Agenda

27. Housing is both inseparable from urbanization, and a socioeconomic development imperative. The expansion of adequate and affordable housing is central to achieving inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities in a world where rapid urbanization has exacerbated housing shortages. We call for housing to be elevated as one of the highest priorities for national governments, and we reaffirm the right to adequate housing for all as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living without discrimination of any kind.
28. Developing housing programs and their spatial relationship with the rest of the urban fabric and the surrounding functional areas impacts not only social inclusion, but also the economic well-being of the

inhabitants. We endorse the integration of housing policies and approaches across all sectors, and at all levels of government, to ensure the proximity of adequate basic infrastructure, as well as to counter segregation.

29. We emphasize that housing policies should promote equity with provisions that address discrimination, forced evictions, and the needs of the homeless and people in vulnerable situations, enabling participation and engagement of communities and stakeholders.
30. We commit to developing integrated housing approaches that incorporates the provision of adequate, affordable, safe, and well-located housing, with access to quality public space, basic infrastructure, and services like sanitation systems and public transport, as well as livelihood opportunities, combating spatial and socio-economic segregation, and improving the living conditions of the urban poor, including those in living slums and informal settlements.
31. Urban informality should be recognised as a result of lack of affordable housing, dysfunctional land markets and urban policies. We must redefine our relationships with informal settlements and slums, including the informal economy, in ways that leave no one behind, taking into account that those areas are also engines for economic growth, prosperity, and job creation.
32. We commit to promote national and local housing policies that stimulate the delivery of a variety of housing options at scale and diversified in size, standard, location and price to meet the needs of the population, and which are affordable and accessible for different groups of society.
33. We commit to promote increased security of tenure, recognizing the plurality of tenure types, and to develop fit-for-purpose gender-responsive solutions within the continuum of land rights. It is necessary to strengthen programs and institutions that have been successful in addressing security of tenure to foster housing improvement and planned urbanization, while innovating strategies to cater to groups that have lagged behind the most, with particular attention to women's tenure security as a cornerstone to their empowerment and gender equality and the realization of human rights. Such innovations should include logic of the proximity of services, adequate financing schemes, and technical, legal, and financial assistance to those who produce their own housing.
34. We stress the need to acknowledge and support the service provision of local governments and to generate investments in communities and places that are affected by recurrent and protracted humanitarian crises. We further stress the need to provide adequate services, accommodation, and opportunities for decent and productive work for crisis-affected persons in urban settings. It will also ensure that aid flows to host communities in order to prevent backsliding in their own development levels and to ensure the inclusion of refugees and displaced persons in urban formal and informal economies, enhancing their social capital as well as their ability to benefit from the opportunities that cities have to offer.

Public spaces as an enabler of the socio-economic function of the city

35. We reaffirm the central role of universally accessible, safe and quality public space in the New Urban Agenda. The accessibility of public space and its inherent communal character needs to be guaranteed and its privatization avoided. Its inclusive design, sufficient provision and adequate distribution across urban areas (formal and informal) will increase productivity and prosperity while reducing social exclusion.
36. Public spaces, which consist of open areas such as streets, sidewalks, squares, gardens and parks, must be seen as multi-functional areas for social interaction, economic exchange, and cultural expression among a wide diversity of people and should be designed and managed to ensure human development, building peaceful and democratic societies and promoting cultural diversity. Public spaces should be free-of-charge and free from physical, legal and architectural barriers that discourage the presence of people who are in vulnerable situations, homeless, poor and/or low-income dwellers, women, children and youth, older persons, and people with disabilities. Green public spaces have positive impacts on health and well-being, and they provide ecosystem services that range from climate change mitigation and adaptation to contributing to water and food security.

Recognize and leverage culture, diversity and safety in cities

37. Given the increasing diversity of ideas and cultures within urban settings, we commit to embrace diversity in cities, to strengthen social cohesion, gender equality, innovation, inclusion, identity and safety, as well as to foster livability and a vibrant urban economy. We recognize the need to adapt our

- local institutions to ensure the peaceful co-existence within increasingly heterogeneous and multi-cultural societies.
38. We commit to leverage culture and heritage in cities through integrated urban policies and to invest adequate budget shares, at both the local and national levels, to safeguard and promote cultural and natural heritage, cultural infrastructures and sites, museums, as well as traditional knowledge and the arts, highlighting the role that these play in the rehabilitation and revitalization of urban areas, as a way to strengthen social participation and the exercise of citizenship.
 39. We commit to a safe and secure environment in cities so that everyone can live, work, and participate in urban life without fear of violence and intimidation. Measures for urban safety and violence and crime prevention must be integrated into all urban planning efforts, including in informal areas, on resilience-building, disaster prevention and mitigation, safer public places and working places, and transportation while increasing community awareness around safety.
 40. Cities must be safe for everyone, particularly women and girls. To eliminate and prevent all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spaces, comprehensive multi-sectoral measures should be adopted to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in public and private spaces. We urge the investigation, prosecution, and punishment of the perpetrators of violence against women and girls, as well as the provision of universal access to comprehensive social, health, and legal services for all victims and survivors, to ensure their full recovery and reintegration into society. We also recognize that the treatment of women and girls can be a broader reflection of societal norms, and we commit to using education and public awareness campaigns as a further tool against abuse.
 41. Measure must be taken to counter prevailing negative anti-migrant sentiments, such as information campaigns, capacity building, promotion of diversity, and addressing the critical role that the media plays. These strategies must be supported by well-managed migration and integration policies that promote the positive contributions of migrants.

Enabling and strengthening participation

42. We commit to invest in sustainable mechanisms in cities and human settlements to broaden democratic platforms that allow participation in decision-making and planning processes, including gender-responsive approaches. We acknowledge that local governments have a key role in strengthening the interface among all actors, offering opportunities for dialogue with particular attention to the rights and needs of and potential contributions from all segments of society, including youth, children, men and women, persons with disabilities, elderly persons, indigenous peoples, and migrants, regardless of their migratory status.
43. We will seek to implement inclusive approaches through transparent and accountable institutions, in dealing with the organization and management of the city and its spaces, and reconfiguring the system that includes land and properties in a manner that maximizes use-value for all inhabitants.
44. Democratizing technical contents of political decisions is essential. We also commit to ensure that sound monitoring systems are put in place for a transparent and participatory data collection and management, as well as open access to data, which is critical for informed decision-making, including the appropriate allocation of opportunities and equal and fair distribution of resources.