



## Reaction of the Communitas Secretariat to the Zero Draft of the New Urban Agenda

What must be kept in future drafts	What can be improved or what is missing
<b>Drafting process</b>	
Reflection of regional and thematic meetings outcomes	Sound technical anchorage in Policy Units' findings
	More clarity regarding drafting process and methodology of work by the drafting group
<b>Overall structure</b>	
Comprehensive aspirational building blocks for sustainable urban development	Improved logical storyline from vision, aspirations and transformative commitments to specific guidelines for action and operationalization
	Enhanced internal coherence of the document, improved conciseness for the vision and prioritization action
<p><u>Suggestions for overall structure with additions in <i>italics</i> and deletions <del>barred</del></u></p> <p><b>Chapter 1: Quito Declaration on Cities for All.</b> With subchapters: <del>Preamble</del> - <b>a.</b> Chapeau introductory paragraphs: Current paras 1 to 4, plus bringing up here streamlined paras. 8 to 16 on call for adoption and implementation - <b>b.</b> Vision (streamlining the current "preamble" under vision) - <b>c.</b> Transformative commitments (streamlining here the declaratory language currently under "Quito Implementation Plan" - <b>d.</b> <del>Effective implementation</del>: Paradigm shift <i>and drivers of change</i> - <b>e.</b> <del>Call for adoption and implementation</del> <i>Enabling conditions</i> (suggesting to single out here what these are, since they are currently scattered through the document)</p> <p><b>Chapter 2: Quito Implementation Plan</b></p> <p><b>A.</b> Transformative commitments: principle-oriented narrative to be streamlined under Chapter 1. A section on transformative commitments within this Chapter 2 is only justified if it goes down to the level of specific guidance or mandates for implementation. In that case, the text could identify a limited number of specific objectives, concrete commitments and sectoral means of implementation for each transformative commitment; as well as the allocation of responsibilities within the UN system</p> <p><b>B. A Pathway for Effective Implementation:</b></p> <p>B1. <del>Building the urban structure: Establishing a</del> Supportive national, subnational and local <i>frameworks for implementation</i></p> <p>B.2 Planning and <i>Management of Urban Spatial Development</i></p> <p>B.3 <i>Key sectoral policies to develop the drivers of change</i></p> <p>B.4 <del>Enhancing Means of Implementation for the NUA: Financing and other tools of implementation</del></p> <p>B.4.1 <i>Financing and financial management</i> - including the current 'domestic resources', bringing here the 'financial management' section and adding a new section on '<i>financing NUA implementation mechanisms/initiatives</i>'</p> <p>B.4.2. International development cooperation</p> <p>B.4.3 Science, <i>education and knowledge</i>, technology, innovation and capacity development</p>	

<p>B.4.4 Data collection and analysis <i>and metrics</i>  B.5 UN-Habitat and UN system-wide responsibilities  B.6 Partnerships - as self-standing section under “Effective Implementation”, instead of as a subsection under MOI  C.Follow up and Review</p>	
Incorporation of both aspirational sections and action-oriented sections	Clear demarcation between document sections requiring declaratory language (vision, transformative commitments, paradigm shift) and those requiring narrowed-down action-oriented guidelines (Chapter 1), in continuity with the overall 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Climate Agreement, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>Interconnection with key elements of the global agenda</b>	
Recognition of cities as drivers for sustainable human development Decade for Cities	Spell out and single out the tangible “Quito mandates” which will set the implementation of the NUA into motion (e.g. the SDGs and the High-Level Political Forum were part of the Rio+20 mandate)
References to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs, as well as to the Paris Climate Agreement	<p>Coherence with the fact that the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs and the Paris Agreement constitute the overall framework for sustainable human development</p> <p>Specific identification of the connections to the SDGs (not only SDG11) and of mechanisms by which the NUA will support the implementation of all SDGs and climate action on the ground by all levels of government and stakeholders</p> <p>Enhanced emphasis on the climate benefits of specific sectoral policies for sustainable urban development such as mobility policy, for instance.</p> <p>Opportunity to build upon Local Agenda 21 achievements - and even to launch Local 2030 Agenda or even 2040!</p> <p>Linkages with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience</p> <p>Linkages to the urban track of the ongoing World Humanitarian Summit and to the commitments around the Global Alliance for Urban Crises</p>
<b>Cities for All</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Aspiration of Cities for All</li> <li>- Human rights-based NUA</li> <li>- Recognition that some countries encapsulate human rights standards in the city in the expression “right to the city”</li> <li>- Reaffirmation of the right to adequate housing for all as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living without discrimination of any kind (para 27) and recognition of the social function of land (para 5 under vision and para 105)</li> <li>- Recognition of alternative housing options and policies that support incremental housing and slum/informal settlements upgrading programs</li> </ul>	<p>Unequivocal commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant instruments as minimum human rights standards, in alignment with the 2030 Agenda</p> <p>Clearer commitment to the protection of the commons as part of the transformative commitment of leaving no one behind</p> <p>Recommend promoting a “balanced approach” to these alternative housing options rather than “shifting from predominantly private ownership” (para 110)</p>
Robust comprehensive vision	Enhanced incorporation of “safe and healthy urban environment with respect to planetary boundaries”; as a standalone item for the vision
Recognition of the crucial importance of public space (5e)	The vision should be for “safe and socially cohesive cities for all” with prioritization of public space, and not public space per se. Suggested rewording of para 5e - Ensuring safety and social

	cohesion for all inhabitants, with prioritization of quality and accessible public space and cultural diversity for embracing diversity and enhancing social interaction and political participation
Commitment to cities as places to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls Gender-responsive planning, policy-making, capacity building and government initiatives	Substantive proposal on how to actualize this, particularly by referencing permanent mechanisms for continuous engagement in policy and decision-making processes and monitoring and review mechanisms
<b>Paradigm shift - encompassing all sustainable development dimensions</b>	
Call for a paradigm shift	Clearer articulation of “planetary boundaries” as a reference to the biocapacity and environmental thresholds within which an urban economy must function to live true to the overarching aim of sustainable human development - Reference to the notion that the economy is a subset of society which is a subset of the environment and not the other way around - This can go under vision para 5f
<b>Decentralization and Subsidiarity</b>	
Recognition of the need for a “renewed local-national partnership” based on effective decentralization, respect for the “principles of subsidiarity and the recognition of local self-governance” as a driver of change to realize the transformative commitments (para. 7a)	Recognition of the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities (2007), access to basic services for all (2009), as well as urban and territorial planning (2009), as per resolutions 21/3 of 20 April 2007, 22/8 of 3 April 2009, and 25/6 of 23 April 2015 of the UN-Habitat Governing Council
Recognition of the leading role for local government in local economic development	
Calls for the creation and strengthening of regulatory frameworks at the national level and suitable institutions at the subnational and local level (paras. 85, 125, 139f, 151, 154)	Proposals from national governments on how they will engage with other levels of government to achieve a multi-level, holistic, and integrated approach to sustainability, given that local and subnational sustainability action enhances and complements multilateral and national efforts
<b>Integrated Territorial Development</b>	
A vision for cities and human settlements fulfilling their territorial functions beyond administrative boundaries, promoting urban-rural linkages, cross-sectoral management of resources, cooperation among different scales of cities (...) (para 5f)	
Recognition of strategic and integrated urban and territorial planning and management as a driver of change to realise the transformative commitments, strengthening of urban-rural and cross-sectoral linkages beyond the administrative borders across the urban-rural continuum, as one of the three drivers of change to realize the transformative commitments (paras 7b)	Coherence in addressing this across the document, particularly as regards particular sectors that contribute to operationalizing cross sectorial solutions that are conceived from the perspective of “functional territories”
Recognition that the urban economy does not function as an isolated system. It needs to operate in a territorial system that integrates urban and rural functions into the regional and national spatial framework and system of cities (para 5f) - Commitment to encouraging rural-urban interactions (para 54)	Consideration within the chapter of ecological and resilient cities
Commitment to developing national urban policies and territorial policies (paras 85, 86 and 87) and to strengthen capacity for metropolitan governance (para 90) - Support through urban and territorial plans including city-region and/or metropolitan plans (para. 98)	Operationalization of territorial approaches to food, energy, water, sewage and waste management and in general to provision of other basic services for all human settlements within a territory, since they can address the differentiated needs and gaps of each area. Add to paras 86 and 87 that National Urban Policies should provide guidelines to improve positive and robust urban-rural linkages in line with the transformative commitment and the call for metropolitan governance
Reference to vertical and horizontal models of distribution of financial resources to decrease inequalities between territories and urban and rural areas (para. 132)	Spell out linkages between spatial planning instruments, financial framework and infrastructure programmes.

	Opportunity to encourage urban-rural linkages partnerships and networks focused on knowledge exchange, peer learning and capacity building
<b>Financing</b>	
Specific section on financing – Recognition of the need for an "innovative and effective financing framework" to strengthen municipal finances and local tax powers as a driver of change to realize the transformative commitments (para 7b)	Mandate to establish an expert group under the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development which will, in light of the NUA, draw together experts from stakeholders, and the UN system to address the challenges of urban finance and report to the Financing for Development Forum
Adequate and predictable transfers matching the function and mandates of local governments, guaranteeing a minimum of at least 20% of national resources to local government and thereby contributing to minimizing the fiscal gap directly and by leveraging further resources (para 130)	Ambitious call to development banks to establish specific mechanisms/programmes to finance urban infrastructure and technical and social innovation in cities  Call for the establishment of sub-national development banks to help implement the NUA, the SDGs, the Paris Climate Agreement and the Sendai Framework
Call for a sub-national window in the Green Climate Fund	
	Development of green bonds for subnational and local governments through a pilot scheme which would draw on a mix of already existing initiatives from developing and developed countries, local and subnational governments, as well as on a group wishing to pioneer the initiative. The International Financial Institutions, including World Bank, should be approached to set up a green bond insurance scheme to support the pilots
<b>Science, education and knowledge, technology, innovation and capacity development</b>	
Capacity development at all levels and for multiple stakeholders both at the institutional and individual level - peer-to-peer learning - inter-municipal cooperation - role of local governments associations	Overcoming the omission of explicit reference to education and knowledge  Reference to geospatial information systems as crucial technology for territorial disaggregation of data
Detail on strengthening planning and (revenue) management capacities, as well as organizational and institutional governance capacities (para 151)	More detail on capacity building needs for vertical coordination between levels of government and horizontal coordination across sectors to achieve the commitment of integrated urban and territorial development  Recognition of capacity development needs for data collection, analysis and compilation and metrics
	Call for the establishment of a “Young Professionals” scheme: <b>Cities 2030 Young Professionals Program</b> - connected to the proposal for a Decade of Sustainable Urbanization - Attracting and retaining young talent into sustainable urban development disciplines - Joint initiative by UN Member States, UN-Habitat, local and subnational governments and relevant civil society, academia, philanthropy and private sector actors
<b>Partnerships</b>	
Recognition of importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships, involving both state and non-state actors at all levels, to support NUA implementation, its follow-up and review, to finance urbanization (paras. 92, 196, 143, 165)	Identification of what will be the hub/platform for their fruition, peer-learning as well as monitoring and review; of where will it be placed in the overall institutional architecture and how it will build upon already existing structures, particularly those being introduced around the 2030 Agenda and the High-Level Political Forum  Links with the High-Level Political Forum and the Partnerships Forum

<p>Commitment to ensure that multi-stakeholder partnerships contribute to the long-term success of sustainable urban development and are enabled to build effective links with national, regional and local policy initiatives and priorities</p>	
<p>Relevance of building strategic partnerships among governments at the global, regional, national, subnational and local levels to create strong national systems of cities and urban areas (preamble)</p>	
<p>Commitment to support partnerships through a well-resourced permanent mechanism (para 93)</p>	
<p>Call for new forms of civil society participation, particularly in the field of housing, land management, water management, and monitoring and review</p>	<p>Outline of criteria for partnerships, as well as a clear mandate to further elaborate guidelines for establishing and maintaining well-functioning partnerships, in line with what the UN is agreeing for partnerships for the SDGs; otherwise it will be superseded by what ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly will define on that front</p>
<p>Recognition of various formats for partnerships - public-private partnerships, peer-learning partnerships, people partnerships (paras 102, 120, 134)</p>	<p>Detail on inefficiencies around public-private partnerships (PPPs) that the NUA should help overcome - “Ex ante and ex post community based assessments” (para 94) on the environmental, economic, and social impacts of partnerships should be the starting point of any conversation on PPPs</p> <p>Encouragement of the development of principles for PPPs by the UN system in collaboration with UN Member states, local and national governments and all relevant stakeholders</p>
<p>Call for meaningful participation of stakeholders from planning to budgeting, implementation, and monitoring (para. 93)</p>	<p>Direct reference to Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS) in the process</p> <p>Identification of the long-term mechanisms, as well as the linkages with existing relevant structures/platforms for MGoS engagement - Explanation of the mandate and role of the World Urban Campaign to this regard</p>
<p>Parallel to the intergovernmental process that will conclude and adopt the New Urban Agenda as its outcome document, it will be crucial to capitalize on the momentum generated by the Conference in Quito – including the Stakeholder Forum that will be held back to back – in order to encourage commitments from all levels of government, civil society, academia, the private sector and the philanthropic community; as well as to capture them in a specific platform/place as to facilitate the follow-up tasks of curating and monitoring these commitments. Guidance from the Bureau to the Secretariat on how to achieve that objective during the high-level sessions of the Conference as well as during the Stakeholder Forum would be welcomed. Once more this should be articulated in connection with the UN High-Level Political Forum and the Partnerships Forum.</p>	
<p><b>UN-Habitat and UN System-Wide Responsibilities</b></p>	
<p>Recognition of expertise of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), and reaffirmation of its existing mandate and leading role in coordinating the UN system on urban development issues and in supporting governments at all levels to formulate and to implement policies for sustainable urban development to achieve the goals of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda (para 167)</p>	<p>Avoid the ‘confinement’ of the implementation of urban development as a driver for sustainable human development to one single UN entity</p> <p>Specific resources and financial figures required by UN-Habitat should be noted and specific actions and resources for the entire UN system to support the New Urban Agenda must be outlined (para 174)</p> <p>More detail and refined ideas on UN system-wide coordination and contribution to the implementation of the NUA, in continuity with the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Climate Agreement and the Sendai framework and under the oversight of ECOSOC in accordance with its role under the UN Charter (Habitat II para 219)</p>

	<p>Recognition that the UN Chief Executive Board, under the coordination of the UN Secretary General, can ensure effective coordination of the implementation of the NUA across the UN system</p> <p>Call for the establishment of an Inter-Agency network for Sustainable Urban Development - building on the model of UN Water which consists of all agencies and programmes involved with water, as well as stakeholders (who need to apply) and which elects a chair</p>
Intention to improve dialogue with local and subnational authorities by convening them through their associations and appropriate mechanisms such as UNACLA (para 169 under Follow-up and review)	Clear commitment beyond mere dialogue to include a role in policy definition and not only in follow-up and review. The call for the strong involvement of local and subnational governments in the implementation of the NUA must be reflected in the consultation and participation mechanisms open to them in the governing bodies of UN-Habitat. This should mean going beyond the "observer" status established by Rule 64 of the rules of procedure, to a special status for local authorities and subnational governments that will allow them to play their full role as active partners
<b>Follow-up and review</b>	
Specific section on follow-up and review - Recognition of the need for inclusive (para 166-168) follow-up and review for effective implementation and impact (para 164) at all levels (para 169)	Acknowledge that follow-up and review outcomes should also feed into decision and policy-making
Call for recognizing and strengthening existing platforms and processes to avoid duplication (para 165)	Clearer linkages with the High-Level Political Forum, the UN General Assembly and ECOSOC Linkages to UN-Habitat coordinated World Cities Report, UNEP's Science-Policy interface forum, the Global Sustainable Development Report, etc.
Request for periodic progress reports by UN-Habitat (para 168)	Encouragement of independent mid-term reviews besides the elaboration of progress reports by UN-Habitat, in continuity with the 2030 Agenda and High-Level Political Forum cycle
	Must provide a timeline to establish and implement a review framework and determine how often progress reports shall be issued
Recognition of the need for a multi-stakeholder panel/process to generate and broaden the evidence base on the urban dimension of the wider sustainable development agenda (para 171)	Mandate for setting in motion an independent high-level review body with a view to strengthening the science-policy interface and build the evidence base on the urban dimension of key sustainable development issues (inequality, climate, energy, ecology, economic productivity, etc.)
Alignment with SDG monitoring	Clearer linkages to the SDG indicators and their reporting cycle of the High-Level Political Forum

*This document presents the preliminary inputs of the Communitas Secretariat to the zero draft of the New Urban Agenda (NUA). It does not represent the individual views of any of the core partners or Advisory Committee members of the Communitas Coalition. It has been elaborated in coherence with the priority areas addressed in our work programme and has been nourished by the individual reactions to the zero draft produced by the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments, Cities Alliance, ICLEI, nrg4SD, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, the UN Major Group for Children and Youth, the Partnership on Sustainable Low Carbon Transport - SloCaT, Habitat for Humanity, and the General Assembly of Partners (GAP). In the months ahead, the Communitas Secretariat will further detail and continue evolving its inputs, in parallel to the deliberations of this Member State-driven intergovernmental process.*