Regional Action Plan
for the implementation of the
New Urban Agenda
in Latin America and the Caribbean

2016-2036

UNITED NATIONS

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IMPLEMENTING THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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Acknowledgements

Contents

Foreword

The Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean (RAP) seeks to be the regional expression of the New Urban Agenda (NUA). It promotes evidence-based policy making, setting out potential actions and interventions as well as relevant and priority policy guidance for all Latin American and Caribbean countries towards the achievement of sustainable urban development. The RAP supports a shift towards a new urban paradigm that recognizes the city as a macro-level public good, where the economic, social, cultural and environmental rights of all are guaranteed.

The implementation of the NUA in Latin America and the Caribbean is fundamental for the development of all countries and cities in the region, and to ensuring their sustainable future. The demographic, economic, social and political characteristics and conditions of Latin American and Caribbean cities position them as determinants of sustainable development. Urbanization and urban development are now clearly challenges that national and subnational governments alike need to effectively address.

The Latin American and the Caribbean population is increasingly urban, which brings with it many new challenges and implications. The consequences of uncontrolled urban growth, changes in family patterns, increasing numbers of urban residents living in slums, along with persistent challenges relating to exclusion and inequality and growing insecurity face the region. Additionally, there are significant challenges arising from increased international migration and the intensification of climate change related disasters. These factors make it necessary to leverage the opportunities of urbanization as an engine for sustained and inclusive economic growth, social and cultural development, and environmental protection, towards achieving sustainable development for all.

For the large part, current policies in the region have fallen short of substantially addressing unsustainable urban trends. Structural changes are necessary that put sustainability and equality at the centre of urbanization processes. The RAP recognizes the need for major changes in many areas of urban and territorial planning and management and other relevant sectors that impact territories, and seeks to highlight critical elements for this transformative process.

The RAP provides a roadmap for widespread action that supports sustainable urban and territorial development and the establishment of a new, more equitable urban paradigm in Latin America and the Caribbean. It is intended as a regional guide, both adaptable to local conditions and needs, and capable of building synergies with existing global agreements and agendas beyond the NUA, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction, the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and the Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway for Small Island Developing States.

Introduction

A. Habitat I y II

In 1976, the United Nations General Assembly convened the first United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Habitat I in Vancouver. The conference responded to recent shifts in global demographic patterns, drew attention to the emerging consequences of a rapid urbanization especially in developing countries, and established the need to foster, promote and create sustainable human settlements. At the time, urbanization and its impacts were not a focus of the international community. However, the world was about to witness the largest and most rapid rural-urban migration in history, along with the natural growth of the urban population because of advances in medicine.

Twenty years later, the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Habitat II took place in Istanbul in 1996, where the priorities and commitments set out for sustainable urban development in the previous conference were reaffirmed. The "Habitat Agenda" was adopted as a global action plan to ensure adequate housing for all and to recognize the key role of sustainable human settlements in the development of an increasingly urbanized world.

Despite important initiatives and progress made within the framework of the previous two Habitat conferences, the current urban development model has not been able to sufficiently respond to such critical issues as urban poverty, social exclusion and other international and regional priorities. Recognizing these challenging conditions and the significant concentration of the world population in cities (more than 50%) with projections of an increase of up to two-thirds by 2050, Habitat III and the New Urban Agenda (NUA) affirm the new leading role of cities and urban development for the achievement of sustainable development at a global scale.

B. Habitat III and the New Urban Agenda

The United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Habitat III, took place in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016. The third in the Habitat series, the United Nations General Assembly convened the conference (Resolution 66/2017) to strengthen global commitments for sustainable urbanization and urban development, focusing on the implementation of a new urban agenda (United Nations, 2011).

The main outcome of Habitat III was the adoption of the final New Urban Agenda (NUA) document as the new mandate for the development of cities and human settlements during the next 20 years. Comprised of 175 paragraphs, the NUA is an action-based strategic proposal intended to guide sustainable urban development over the next 20 years and seeks to create an urban paradigm shift. It establishes "a shared vision for a better and more sustainable future —one in which all people have equal rights and access to the benefits and opportunities that cities can offer, and in which the international community reconsiders the urban systems and physical form of our urban spaces to achieve this" (United Nations, 2016a). The NUA is presented as a road map for the creation of cities that are places for prosperity, culture, social welfare and environmental protection.

Habitat III took place at a defining moment in the international development agendas. Between 2014 and 2016, the global agreements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, recognized the need for a sustainable development which balances and integrates its economic, social and environmental dimensions, while at the same time referencing the importance of urbanization processes and the way in which our cities and human settlements are planned, managed and built. In 2012, former Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon highlighted that the battle for sustainable development will be won or lost in cities. His High-Level Panel of eminent persons reiterated this message in following years (United Nations, 2012a; 2013; and 2015a).

The 2030 Agenda presents the urban sphere as a transversal issue for sustainable development, marking a profound change from the sectorial approach of the Millennium Development Goals. The incorporation of Objective 11, "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable", in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) was decisive, as it located urbanization and urban and territorial development at the heart of sustainable development, recognizing its importance for the wellbeing of the population and for social, environmental and economic development. As stated in the NUA, "we have reached a critical point in understanding that cities can be the source of solutions to, rather than the cause of the challenges that our world is facing today. If well-planned and well-managed, urbanization can be a powerful tool for sustainable development for both developing and developed countries" (United Nations, 2016a, p. iv).

The NUA was developed through an extensive preparatory process that included the participation of multiple actors, in which the Latin American and Caribbean region had an active role. Among the preparatory activities carried out in the region, the following reports should be highlighted:

- The Forum of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Housing and Urban Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI) Regional Report, titled "*Latin America and the Caribbean: Challenges, dilemmas and commitments toward a common urban agenda*" (2016) prepared by MINURVI in collaboration with Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) of UN-Habitat (MINURVI, ECLAC and UN-Habitat, 2016);

- ECLAC and UN-Habitat's Regional Report titled, *Sustainable Cities with Equality,* prepared in collaboration with various experts representing civil society, ministries, local governments, academia, the private sector and the United Nations, for presentation and discussion in Habitat III (ECLAC and UN-Habitat, 2016a);

- The national reports prepared by many of the region's countries to evaluate the changes and advances in urban development in the period since 1996 to analyse the results of the implementation of the Habitat II Agenda. These documents served to inform the NUA and provide an important baseline for the implementation phase of the NUA in the region.

C. Regional opportunities and challenges

At Habitat III, ECLAC and UN-Habitat presented a document (2016b) that highlighted six key messages that emerged from the analysis of their regional report (2016a) regarding regional opportunities and challenges. These key messages are presented below:

1. **A new urban agenda for sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean is fundamental for the national development of its countries and for the sustainable future of the region.**

The Latin America and the Caribbean region is characterized by a consolidated phase of urbanization, with an estimated 81% of its population living in urban areas in 2018 (ECLAC, 2017a). The central challenge of urban management in the region is no longer to address the problems associated with rapid rural-urban transition, but rather focuses on improving quality of life in cities, closing inequality gaps and achieving sustainable outcomes in cities. The high economic and demographic importance of cities, associated with consolidated urbanization has two fundamental implications:

a) Urbanization and urban development have positive correlation with economic development and improvements to living conditions; as a result, they are central issues of national development agendas in all countries;
b) Sustainable urban development and urban policies are capable of leveraging the benefits of urbanization and are decisive for the sustainable future of the region.

2. **Latin America and the Caribbean and the double urban-demographic transition**

Today a double transition characterizes the region: an urban transition (a decrease in the rate of rural-urban migration) and a demographic transition (decreasing rates of population growth and the process of population ageing). There is also a high concentration of economic, demographic and administrative activities in a small number of large metropolitan areas. Additionally, the demographic and economic importance of intermediate cities is on the rise, showing signs of deconcentration that distinguishes Latin America and the Caribbean from other developing regions. This situation signals:

a) Diminishing positive externalities associated with concentration and agglomeration and increasing negative externalities (mainly environmental) in large urban centres. These affect economic growth, productivity and quality of life;
b) A new institutional and legal architecture that consider city systems and the interaction between cities of various sizes, especially in economic terms and with regards to inter-urban migration, in order to strengthen the region's development.

The urban areas of Latin America and the Caribbean have been growing with a medium density pattern, resulting in environmental and economic challenges, in addition to the rising cost of managing and providing inclusive access to urban services and goods. At the regional level, land consumption per capita dropped during 1990-2015. However, land consumption per capita and urban sprawl in many large cities continues to grow, having reached 214,867 hectares in the City of Mexico and 196,446 hectares in Buenos Aires (Angel et al., 2016). The growing territorial and population growth of urban peripheries in many cases is associated with population loss in central areas of cities. However, there are exceptions to this pattern, with processes of repopulation, regeneration and densification in the urban core. The island States of the Caribbean present a pattern of low-density development, characterized by urban areas continuously interspersed with rural areas.

3. **New patterns of production, distribution and consumption but old structural challenges in urban economies hinder economic inclusion and universal access to the benefits of urban development.**

In the regional context, GDP generation is predominately produced by activities associated with the extraction and exportation of primary materials (tourism in the case of the Caribbean); the contribution of cities to the regional GDP is significant. This is characterized by the major contribution of the service sector, which employs on average 35% of the Latin American and the Caribbean population, which is concentrated in urban and metropolitan areas (ITO, 2016). The state of São Paulo, the state and City of Mexico, and the Province and City of Buenos Aires, contributed almost 25% of the regional GDP in 2010 (ECLAC, 2015). Nonetheless, the negative externalities associated with urban growth that is guided by weak planning, in addition to the traditional structural challenges of the region (low productivity, informality, lack of investment in infrastructure and knowledge economies), limit the benefits that cities can offer towards promoting development (agglomeration economies and of scale, the proximity of the factors of production, the exchange of ideas and innovation), these gaps are particularly important with regard to quality employment for the young population and women.

Some of the region´s countries and cities have implemented instruments to capture and distribute the value generated by changes in urban land value; however, the region still faces a highly unequal distribution of the value created by urbanization.

4. **Important achievements with regards to poverty reduction and housing access but inequality, socio-spatial segregation and security remain central issues of the regional agenda.**

Despite considerable efforts and partial achievements of governments with regards to poverty reduction, and to a lesser extent of inequality, the countries and cities of Latin America and the Caribbean remain among the most unequal in the world. Inequality manifests in diverse forms, among other factors, in the socio-demographic shifts experienced in the 21st century:

a) The process of population ageing;
b) The vulnerability of young people;
c) Persistent challenges with regards to gender equality;
d) Intraregional migration and a growing recognition of the intersection of ethnic diversity and inequality.

The countries of the region have achieved important advances in reducing the quantitative housing deficit and urban informality. The percentage of the population living in slums dropped from 25.5% to 21.1% from 2005 to 2014 (UN-Habitat, 2014a). The policy focus on homeownership, has not always considered the connectivity of housing with infrastructure and urban services. Socio-economic residential segregation and unequal access to housing and urban land persist as spatial expressions of inequality. This is associated with high rates of urban violence. The homicide rate in Latin America and the Caribbean rose 11% between 2000 and 2010, where in other regions in the world this rate stabilized or even dropped (ECLAC, 2014a). Increasing and improving inclusion in urban areas is one of the main challenges facing Latin America and the Caribbean.

5. **Vulnerability to the effects of climate change is on the rise with unequal socio-territorial impacts and the pressures of consumption patterns increasingly drive urban ecological footprints.**

Urban growth in Latin America and the Caribbean has created environmental pressures on cities and their ecological surroundings, generating vulnerabilities that are unequally distributed in urban areas. The high increase in private consumption has intensified levels of pollution and inefficiencies, among several reasons, due to the growth in private vehicle ownership. For example, during 2003 to 2010 the

number of automobiles in Mexico rose from 203 to 275 per 1000 inhabitants and from 164 to 2009 per 1000 inhabitants in Brazil (ECLAC, 2014b). Far from being incompatible with environmental sustainability, well-managed urban development represents a key opportunity to resolve the environmental challenges in the region.

The region is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, in particular, Central America and the small island developing states (SIDS) of the Caribbean, where half the population lives within 1.5km of the coast. Extreme climate events in Latin America and the Caribbean, in addition to threatening lives and the wellbeing of the population, have direct effects on economies, infrastructure, and social development, intensifying the urgent need for policies and measures for climate change adaptation, disaster risk management and urban climate financing at different levels: international, national and local.

6. **Important progress in recognizing the city as a macro-level public good has been achieved; however, institutional weaknesses persist with regards to managing sustainable urban development and the materialization of the right to the city.**

The rapid expansion of large urban areas has resulted in a complex governance situation, where the urban fabric and public services needs do not always coincide with administrative demarcations, and in many cases, involve several levels of government. This context gives rise to a challenging situation of coordination and assignation of responsibilities. Moreover, there are considerable asymmetries in the management capacity and data collection capacities between cities of different sizes, with smaller cities having fewer economic and human resources available. One of the most important contributions of Latin America and the Caribbean to the global debate on inclusive urban development is the promotion of the right to the city, a collective right based on the democratic control of the processes of urban development. This has materialized in the region as:

a) Public participation with important implications for promoting transparency and accountability;
b) Urban legislation and jurisprudence that enable the application of inclusive urban development instruments.

The strengthening of urban financing is a key element for enabling sustainable urban development and is fundamental for the region in the context of addressing the structural challenges of low tax revenues and scarce investment in infrastructure. Urban financing has two main sources:

a) Self-financing: increasing fiscal authority and instruments that allow the capture of the value generated by urban development;
b) External sources: public private partnerships, regulatory asset base models, private investment, international cooperation, and increasingly diversifying sources for climate finance. (ECLAC & UN-Habitat, 2016b).

In support of the commitments made in Habitat III, ECLAC, UN-Habitat and MINURVI, in collaboration with more than 125 regional experts associated with various stakeholder groups (national government, subnational and local governments, academia, NGOs, development banks and the private sector) have developed this Regional Action Plan (RAP) to guide the implementation of the NUA in the region.

I. Regional Action Plan for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean 2016-2036

A. Background

MINURVI recognized the need for a regional action plan for the implementation of the NUA in Latin America and the Caribbean and the "the exchange of knowledge and experiences for the strengthening of national policies" in the Asunción Declaration (2016) endorsed at the XXV General Assembly of MINURVI; as well as in Habitat III with the presentation of the Regional Report (MINURVI, ECLAC and UN-Habitat 2016). The Regional Report, entitled "Latin America and the Caribbean: Challenges, dilemmas and commitments towards an agenda for urban development," was prepared by MINURVI with the collaboration of ECLAC, and UN-HABITAT and with the support of the French Regional Cooperation. In order to facilitate the development of the RAP and the establishment of a regional observatory to track its implementation, a strategic partnership was established between ECLAC, UN-Habitat and MINURVI.

During Habitat III, Alicia Bárcena, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC made explicit the Regional Commission's commitment to support MINURVI in the implementation and monitoring of the NUA in the region and specifically in the creation of a regional observatory for follow up and review (ECLAC, 2016a). ECLAC occupies a strategic position to facilitate regional commitments by Member States, subnational governments and other relevant actors to enable the development of a regional action plan and foster subregional, national and subnational action. Furthermore, in collaboration with other agencies it can strengthen the coordination of urban and territorial development strategies and programmes supporting an integrated regional approach to sustainable urbanization and the widespread implementation of the NUA.

The NUA highlights the role of UN-Habitat as the focal point for urbanization and sustainable human settlements, and particularly, for the implementation, follow up and review of the NUA, in collaboration with other entities within the United Nations system. Furthermore, the NUA calls upon other United Nations organisms and programmes and other stakeholders to guide the empirical and practical implementation of the NUA and the urban dimension of the SDGs, in close collaboration with the Member States, local authorities, major groups and other interested parties, by the mobilization of experts.

B. Objectives

The RAP seeks to be the key strategic framework and regional reference for Latin American and Caribbean cities and human settlements. It has been designed as a tool for promoting the implementation of the NUA in Latin America and the Caribbean, steering sustainable national and sub-national development. It is intended as a regional guide, both adaptable to local conditions and needs, and capable of building synergies with existing global agreements and agendas.

Among its general objectives, the RAP seeks to support the consolidation of "cities and human settlements where all people can fully exercise all rights and freedoms, an indispensable condition to reduce structural gaps that plague the population of our countries and cities, such as poverty, insecurity and violence, social and territorial inequity, and vulnerability to the effects of climate change" as recognized in the Toluca Declaration, signed during the regional preparatory meeting for Habitat III.

As a strategic regional proposal, the RAP serves to orient and adapt the NUA to the reality and conditions of Latin America and the Caribbean. It considers the regional opportunities and challenges that emanate from the global agenda. The RAP establishes the NUA's global commitments as a platform that enables countries in the region to develop responses and implement concrete actions aligned with and congruent to NUA commitments. The RAP articulates regional priorities for inclusive, prosperous and sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region, reflecting both the regional challenges and opportunities associated with urbanization processes.

Just as the NUA promotes a paradigm shift, the RAP's fundamental objective is to produce structural changes for sustainable development and equality within urbanization processes. The RAP recognizes the need for major changes in many areas of urban planning and management and other relevant sectors that impact territories in order to achieve sustainable urban development and seeks to highlight the critical elements for such a transformative process. Today, more than ever, the region needs roadmaps, strategies and tools to guide urbanization towards sustainable, safe, resilient and inclusive human settlements and cities. The RAP seeks to be an effective tool for leading the implementation of the NUA and achieving sustainable cities in the region.

It should be noted that the RAP has been designed as a holistic and transversal document suitable for the whole region. Its proposals for achieving sustainable urban development are integral and comprehensive. As such, it does not seek to prioritize subregional, national and local actions and needs. These should be evaluated through collective and participatory processes at the appropriate national and subnational levels, using the strategic framework and the action areas of the RAP as a base.

C. Methodology

1. Initial document development

The development of the RAP began in October 2016, under the coordination of ECLAC, UN-Habitat and MINURVI. The initial proposal was prepared based on an analysis of the following key documents along with an extensive literature review:

- *The New Urban Agenda* (United Nations, 2016a);

- *The Action Framework for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda* (UN-Habitat, 2017);

- The documents prepared as part of the Habitat III preparatory process including: *policy documents*, *thematic documents*, *urban dialogues*, the document resulting from the

Regional Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean Habitat III, in Toluca, Mexico, and the *statements* of thematic meetings;

- The Regional Report of MINURVI, entitled "*Latin America and the Caribbean: Challenges, dilemmas and commitments toward a common urban agenda*", prepared by MINURVI with the collaboration of ECLAC, UN-HABITAT and the support of the French Regional Cooperation (MINURVI, ECLAC & UN-Habitat, 2016);

- The Regional Report for Habitat III of ECLAC and UN-Habitat (2016a) entitled *Sustainable Cities with Equality*;

- *Transforming our world: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (United Nations, 2015b);

- *2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: an opportunity for Latin America and the Caribbean* (ECLAC, 2017a);

- *Horizons 2030: Equality at the centre of development* (ECLAC, 2016);

- *The Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development* (United Nations, 2015e);

- *The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030* (UNSIDR, 2015; United Nations, 2012c); and

- *The Paris Agreement on Climate Change* (UNFCCC, 2015).

2. Expert groups

ECLAC, UN-Habitat and MINURVI convened an Expert Group in March 2017, who participated in a series of group and bilateral meetings between April and August of 2017. Experts had the opportunity to provide both dialogued input during the meetings and written comments. Such a collaborative approach allowed for critical discussions, exchange and feedback on the document. The process permitted the incorporation of inputs and comments from a diverse range of regional and international experts, as well as ensuring the broad participation of actors in its development.

More than 125 experts from 15 countries and multiple stakeholder groups in the region participated in the expert group meetings. These included ministries of housing, urban development, planning and public works from the region, subnational and local governments, municipal confederations, NGOs, research institutes and universities, development banks, and the private sector, together with ECLAC and UN-Habitat experts.

The overarching message that emerged from the expert meetings was the need to develop an action plan that responds to regional opportunities and challenges, and that strongly supports the appropriation of the strategic framework and its actions by national and subnational actors in their local agendas. Also, the importance of having a RAP that facilitates the consolidation of the strategic actions necessary to jointly advance in the fulfilment of all the relevant global agendas was highlighted.

3. Cities Conference

The Cities Conference was held at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile, from October 2 to 6, 2017 and offered a significant opportunity to strengthen and enrich this important regional document with inputs and reflections from a diverse group of regional and international actors. One year on from Habitat III, the conference focused on the discussion and reflection on the strategic aspects and mechanisms of implementation of the NUA in Latin America and the Caribbean, paying particular attention to the RAP.

Among its main objectives, the conference sought to bring together stakeholders involved in urban planning and management and urban and territorial development to discuss the benefits of, and commitments for the implementation and monitoring of the RAP and the NUA in the region. The conference thus constituted a strategic platform for dialogue on the implementation of NUA in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to contribute to the achievement of the urban dimension of the SDGs, in particular SDG 11.

The presentations and recordings of the conference are available at the following link http://conferencias.cepal.org/ciudades2017/Index.htm.

4. Public Consultation

A 3-week public consultation period was held during October and November of 2017, which concluded the document´s collaborative development process. The public consultation allowed for input and comments from a broad range of interested parties and sought to ensure that the document effectively addressed regional opportunities and challenges.

II. Strategic framework

A. Global agreements and relevant international agendas

The implementation of the RAP and the NUA in Latin America and the Caribbean will have a positive impact on a wide range of global agendas and has the potential to facilitate their integration and simultaneous achievement in the region. Importantly, the implementation of the NUA will contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated manner, strengthening the fulfilment of the SDGs, especially Goal 11 on inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable human settlements and cities, but also advancing the achievement of other goals, targets and indicators in urban areas. The NUA deepens the scope for certain topics relevant to Goal 11. For example, transport and urban basic services are addressed more comprehensively in the NUA, which allows for better overall results (UN-Habitat, 2016a). Additionally, the NUA outlines key means of implementation with regard to spatial frameworks and governance structures (i.e. national urban policies, legal frameworks, urban and spatial planning, and urban financing) that are necessary for the implementation of many of the SDGs in urban areas, not just Goal 11 (UN-Habitat, 2016a).

The urban dimension of the SDGs beyond Goal 11 is widely recognized, and a number of studies have demonstrated the connections and interlinkages between the objectives and targets, as well as the potential impacts associated with their implementation (see LeBlanc, 2015; Boas et al., 2016; Coopman et al., 2016; Misselwitz and Villanueva 2015; Nilsson et al., 2016a; y Nilsson et al., 2016b, among others). These studies highlight the need to address the SDGs and the multiple challenges associated with their fulfilment in an integrated and effective way, rather than goal-by-goal. Furthermore, they highlight the importance of their implementation at the local level. Misselwitz and Villanueva (2015, p. 13) estimate that up to 65% of the targets are at risk of not being fulfilled if local actors are not given a clear mandate and a leading role in implementation processes. The NUA addresses this gap, placing an emphasis on local implementation, the role of local actors and the need to strengthen local implementation capacities (UN-Habitat, 2016a). In the same line, the RAP directly responds to the role of local actors in its implementation, particularly in the fifth action area, which focuses specifically on local implementation.

Section III of this document includes an analysis that demonstrates the links and alignment of the RAP recommendations with the SDG targets. The analysis takes a comprehensive approach,

considering together the direct and indirect effects. It seeks to support policy formulation and planning solutions that address multiple, connected problems in an integrated and effective way, enhancing vertical and horizontal policy coherence. The analysis demonstrates that the RAP is highly aligned with the 2030 Agenda: at the goal level there is alignment with all the SDGs and at the target level, 98.3% of the targets have been identified to have links with the RAP recommendations. It should be emphasized that the relationship between the targets and the RAP recommendations is contingent on how the strategies are applied both within and across sectors. In this sense, in order to achieve the potential impact that this process offers, the RAP recommendations need to be read from sectoral perspectives that consider the different issues relevant to sustainable development. As the AFINUA points out (UN-Habitat, 2017), despite the fact that urbanization is intrinsically linked to sustainable development, it is not automatically a driver for sustainable transformation: "good urbanization does not happen by chance, but rather by design". In the same way, in order to approach the multiple challenges facing the region, it is necessary to address them as central aspects of the means of implementation. The implementation of the RAP has great capacity to strengthen the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda, and together with NUA, it will play a key role in the regional advancement of the SDGs and in the establishment of the enabling conditions necessary for national and local action towards sustainable development.

In addition, the implementation of the RAP and the NUA in the region establishes synergies with other global agendas such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction, the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and the Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway for Small Island Developing States. The comprehensive nature of these documents, in which they share many common goals, ensure that they address urban and climate resilience goals, strengthen response to the threat of climate change, strengthen frameworks for financing sustainable development, and consider the specific needs of Small Island Developing States, in the path towards sustainable urban development in the region. In short, the RAP seeks to be a regional reference, adaptable to local conditions and needs, while supporting the progress on global development agendas relevant to the region.

B. Vision and mission for sustainable development in the region

1. Regional vision for cities and human settlements

The regional vision[1] seeks to express how we envision cities and human settlements in Latin America and the Caribbean in the year 2036. We imagine:

> *"Inclusive, safe, resilient, sustainable cities and human settlements of Latin America and the Caribbean, that are recognized as macro-level public goods, created for and by their inhabitants, ensuring equal rights, opportunities, socioeconomic and cultural diversity, prosperity and quality of life for all, while maintaining a sustainable relationship with their environment and cultural and natural heritage."*

2. Regional mission

On October 20, 2016, Habitat III concluded with the adoption of the NUA. In accordance with the commitments on the sustainable development of cities and human settlements within the NUA assumed by the countries of the region, the implementation of the NUA becomes the regional, national and

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[1]   The regional vision was developed by the ECLAC team based on inputs and suggestions from the group of experts through the collaborative process that was carried out to develop the RAP and has incorporated the opinions, ideas and objectives of a wide range of multi-sector and multi-level actors across the region.

subnational mission. Likewise, the responsibilities assumed in the Declaration of Toluca, the document resulting from the Regional Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean in preparation for Habitat III, together with the commitments of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, particularly those associated with the achievement of safe, inclusive and resilient cities and human settlements are key parts of this mission.

The RAP has been developed as a strategic framework and regional reference for the implementation of the NUA in the cities and human settlements of Latin America and the Caribbean and seeks to be a tool to support the achievement of the regional mission.

C. City functions

The NUA establishes a shared vision of cities for all, where all people can enjoy equal rights and opportunities in line with international human rights standards, including the equal use and enjoyment of cities and human settlements (United Nations 2016, pp. 5-6). As part of this, the NUA envisages cities and human settlements that fulfil eight key functions. These functions go beyond the three pillars of sustainable development related to an *economic function* that takes advantage of opportunities for sustained, inclusive and sustainable growth; a *social function* that reinforces the right to an adequate standard of living, guaranteeing equal access to public goods and services; and an *environmental function* where ecosystems are protected, conserved, restored and promoted; and recognizes the following functions as key components of cities: a *territorial function* that goes beyond the administrative limits to promote a balanced and integrated development at all levels, a *civic function* that generates a sense of belonging and property, fostering social cohesion, inclusion and the security of its inhabitants, a *gender equality function* that is responsible for empowering women and girls, ensuring their equal rights and ensuring their full participation, an *urban mobility function* that guarantees sustainable, safe and accessible transport for all, efficient in its use of resources, and a *resilience function* that fosters adaptation to climate change by decreasing the risk of disasters and thus reducing the vulnerability of its inhabitants (United Nations 2016a, pp. 5-6). The RAP regards these city functions as fundamental to the achievement of the regional vision, and as a result they have been integrated into the principles and strategic outcomes that guide this document.

D. Cross cutting perspectives, guiding principles and key strategic outcomes

1. Cross cutting perspectives

The RAP places regional progress towards greater equality in its multiple dimensions and citizens' rights at the centre of sustainable urban development. Equal rights represent the most fundamental element of equality and refer to the fulfilment of economic, social and cultural rights, in addition to environmental rights, for all people, and without distinction of gender, race, ethnicity, religion, age, disability, sexual diversity, socio-economic situation or other conditions. It also promotes the inclusion of all citizens in urban and territorial development processes, which in turn implies effective participation in society and the full exercise of citizenship.

The RAP assumes a human rights approach (ECLAC and OHCHR, 2016) as the fundamental and cross cutting basis for urban and territorial planning and management, and for the implementation of the RAP across the cities and territories of the region. All actions and interventions should include measures that ensure they are inclusive to all urban residents without distinction. Any reading of the RAP must therefore be carried out with this perspective in mind. This human rights approach is cross

cutting to all the RAP´s guiding principles, strategic results and the processes inherent to the implementation of its six action areas.

2. Guiding principles and strategic objectives (2016-2036)

The RAP is oriented by four guiding principles that guide and apply to all aspects of the Plan. The first three were adopted from the NUA and have been adjusted to reflect the specific conditions and objectives of the region. The fourth principle, effective and democratic governance, is added as a fundamental pillar for the achievement of sustainable urban development in the region.

Principle 1

Inclusive cities: Cities and human settlements free of poverty and inequality in all its forms and dimensions, that eliminate socio-spatial segregation and exclusion and that guarantee equality of rights, opportunities, and safe and inclusive access to the city and to its productive fabric.

Strategic outcomes

- Eradication of poverty and inequality in all its forms and dimensions.

- Elimination of violence and discrimination in all its forms, guaranteeing security, peace, equal rights, opportunities, and access to goods and services in the city.

- Meeting the needs of all people, recognizing the specific and different needs of people in vulnerable situations, eliminating inequalities associated with gender, race, ethnicity, religion, age, disability, sexual diversity, socio-economic situation or other conditions.

- Urban land and property that fulfils its social and ecological function and contributes to sustainable development, with costs and benefits equitably shared by the city and its inhabitants.

- Fulfilment of the right to adequate housing and the improvement of informal and precarious settlements and their integration within the city.

- Universal and equitable access to quality and affordable physical and social infrastructure and urban services.

- Safe, inclusive, accessible, ecological, and high-quality public spaces and urban interventions that promote and protect health and quality of urban life.

- Promotion of security, socio-spatial inclusion and integration, social cohesion, social and inter-generational interactions, a sense of belonging and identity, and an improved urban quality of life through public space and urban design.

- Urban form and compact spatial configurations, facilitating connectivity and sustainable urban mobility, universal accessibility and positive urban health, as well as promoting socio-spatial integration, mixed use urban space, and efficient resource use.

- Protection of heritage and expressions and cultural diversity in urban planning and development processes.

Principle 2

Sustainable and inclusive urban economies: Well-planned and financed urbanization processes that ensure equitable access to opportunities and resources for all inhabitants, the improvement of urban productivity, and the positive contribution of urban economies to national development.

Strategic outcomes

- Encouragement of full and productive employment and decent work,[2] promoting equal pay without gender discrimination.

- Integration of formal and informal economic activities, extending the conditions of decent employment to all members of the local economy.

- Equitable access to the city's resources, services, and economic opportunities.

- Integration of urban planning with long-term national and regional planning, ensuring and promoting urban value creation and national development.

- Efficient management of financing and investment in urban systems for well-planned cities and human settlements that mitigate negative social, environmental, and economic externalities.

- Local economies that manage and maximize the potential of investment of public resources in urban production through value capture and other fiscal and financial instruments.

- Effective regulation of urban land, using instruments and mechanisms that prevent land speculation and guarantee the social and economic function of land, and tenure security.

- Balanced management between economic and territorial development and urban systems, promoting physical and virtual connectivity.

- Benefits of urbanization enhanced and leveraged through public and private investment in social and economic infrastructure, agglomeration and scale economies, the proximity of production factors and networks for innovation, while attending impacts on local communities.

- Creation, transmission and adoption of technology and investment in human capital and infrastructure, institutions and mechanisms for integration to improve productivity in cities and urban areas.

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[2] Decent work synthesizes the aspirations of people during their working lives and means having opportunities for work that is productive and that produces a decent income, workplace safety and social protection for families.

Principle 3

Urban environmental sustainability: Planning processes, urban development patterns and strong public participation that promote the protection and efficient and sustainable use of natural resources, ecosystems and their services, increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change and disasters.

Strategic outcomes

- Regulation of land use and urban form to ensure sustainable use and recovery of ecosystems and environmental services.

- Recognition of the dynamics of interdependence between urban and rural territories and their integration within planning processes.

- Efficient use of natural resources and promotion of responsible production, distribution and consumption patterns.

- Preservation, conservation, and restoration of natural systems and biodiversity in urban ecosystems and their hinterlands.

- Evaluation of the functions and services provided by natural systems and the impacts of human activity on these systems; the integration of both factors in urban and territorial planning.

- Regulations and programs to avoid construction and human settlements in high-risk areas, identifying and addressing the impacts of climate change and natural disasters.

- Policies and projects for mitigation and sequestration of greenhouse gas emissions by all sectors.

- Resilience to climate change and natural disasters, minimizing risks and impacts.

- Mixed use of urban land for a more compact and efficient urbanization.

- Safe, affordable and sustainable urban mobility with quality public transport systems, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and networks, promoting better health and environmental outcomes.

Principle 4

Effective and democratic governance: Inclusive and transparent decision-making processes and public policies, capable of responding to the challenges faced by cities and territories and of guaranteeing the fulfilment of the rights of all in the city.

Strategic outcomes

- Robust and flexible governance structures and mechanisms that support public participation and civic action.

- Multilevel, multi-sector and multi-actor governance structures that facilitate negotiation and collaboration between different scales and governmental sectors, and among different urban actors.

- Coordinated instruments and mechanisms for planning, design, implementation, monitoring, and control.

- Inclusive, collaborative, participatory and transparent policy-making and decision-making processes, framed within a shared and long-term vision for the city and territory.

- Democratic governance that achieves increased sense of belonging and civic responsibility.

- Institutional frameworks that prevent segregation and inequality.

- Participation and leadership that represents the diverse actors and perspectives present in the territory.

- Fulfilment of the long-term vision for the city and territory by integrated and coordinated planning, investment, and development processes across sectors to improve efficiency, effectiveness, and quality of services.

- Public institutions, policies, plans, and programs that guarantee the fulfilment of the rights and duties of all in the city.

- Development of technical and professional capacities for integrated, inclusive, and sustainable planning and implementation at the national and sub-national levels.

- Ability to review and continually improve sustainable urban development programs and projects.

- Strengthening of institutional tools, resources, and capacities to address and eliminate inequalities associated with gender, ethnicity, race, religion, disability, age, and sexual diversity.

III. Action areas

The RAP adopts its first five action areas from UN-HABITAT's Action Framework for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda (AFINUA) (2017). A strategic objective and a set of critical components related to each area have been developed to adapt the scope of this global document to the regional realities and development goals. The RAP incorporates a sixth area which addresses the need for improved for monitoring and evaluation, a priority challenge for the region and a fundamental part of achieving sustainable urban development.

One of the primary objectives of the RAP is to outline the fundamental elements necessary to bring about the structural changes required to achieve sustainable urban development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The six action areas and strategic objectives presented in this section represent the key components necessary for implementing the NUA in Latin America and the Caribbean, and for achieving inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements. In turn the specific objectives and key components proposed for each action area are regarded as the essential elements for achieving the strategic objectives and as such the effective implementation of the NUA in the region.

It is important to clarify that the action areas do not have a structural hierarchy, but rather, are interdependent and closely interconnected. Simultaneous progress in all six-action areas is imperative to the NUA's successful implementation. For example, the quality and efficiency of the first four action areas (national urban policies, urban legal frameworks, urban and territorial planning and design, and financing urbanization) affect how the NUA can be implemented at the local level. These first four action areas provide the enabling conditions for the local-level implementation of new strategies for sustainable urban development. Furthermore, urban legal frameworks and urban and territorial planning and design have an entirely interdependent relationship; regulatory or statutory frameworks establish the characteristics and scope of planning processes and therefore are fundamental for providing the sufficient tools for adequate and sustainable land use planning. Additionally, achieving sustainable urbanization depends on adequate funding at all stages and scales, making it a vital factor to each of the six action areas.

Lastly, the monitoring of urban development processes is fundamental to evaluating and improving the results of both national urban policies and urban and territorial planning and design instruments. Likewise, robust and transparent monitoring and evaluation systems are required to ensure the strengthening of governance and management and thereby to increase the capacity of these systems to adapt and improve.

As stressed in the strategic framework, the objectives and key components of the action areas must be read from a human rights perspective. The integrated implementation of the six action areas must address the need for the inclusion of all citizens in urban and territorial development processes and for the effective participation of society and the full enjoyment of citizenship, without discrimination based on gender, race, ethnicity, religion, age, disability, sexual diversity, socio-economic situation or other conditions.

Although Latin American and Caribbean cities and countries present great heterogeneity in terms of their sizes, functions, and capacities, the RAP recommendations are intended as guidelines for the entire region. As a result, effectively implementing the RAP will require further revision and assessment at the national and sub-national government level that prioritizes the proposed objectives and their components based on the needs and capabilities specific to local contexts. These aspects should be established through collective and participatory processes and should be periodically reviewed and evaluated. Knowledge exchange platforms for cities and countries, such as what is proposed for the Latin American and Caribbean Cities and Urban Platform (see page 59) will be important for these processes.

The Subregional Action Plan for the implementation of the NUA in the Caribbean is the first subregional action plan to have been developed. It presents a model that can be used to adapt the RAP contents to the subregional level, establishing specific objectives and key components, and prioritizing areas for intervention. Subregional approaches and their application in national contexts with shared challenges and priorities have the potential to facilitate and strengthen the implementation process of the NUA in the region.

A. Action Area 1: National Urban Policies

UN-Habitat (2014) defines a national urban policy (NUP) as "a coherent set of decisions derived through a deliberate government-led process of coordinating and brings together the diverse actors for a common vision and goal that will promote more transformative, productive, inclusive and resilient urban development in the long term". NUPs should be understood as processes as well as outcomes that maximize the potential of cities and urbanization. NUPs seek "to structure a more integrated framework through holistic systems that create an enabling environment for the establishment, institutionalization and improvement of urban development and its corresponding country agenda" (United Nations, 2016b). NUPs are both technical and political processes, which in order to be successful and transformative, demand not just technical quality but also sustained political support and commitment from stakeholders (United Nations, 2016b).

The promotion of NUPs as national strategies for sustainable development is an innovative approach. In much of the region, as in the world, policy responses to urbanization processes have generally been coordinated at the urban scale (ECn and UN-Habitat, 2016a). It should be highlighted that NUPs do not replace local urban policies, but rather complement and reinforce them in order to facilitate the enabling conditions necessary for sustainable urban development, maximizing the benefits of urbanization, mitigating inequalities and potential negative externalities (OECD, 2017, United Nations, 2016b). In addition, NUPs provide an opportunity to align national and local actions with global priorities, especially with the NUA and the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. UN-Habitat has widely acknowledged the capacity of NUPs to address all aspects of the NUA.

As a key strategy of the NUA, they offer opportunities to improve and strengthen linkages between urbanization dynamics and comprehensive national development processes over the next 20 years. While Latin America and the Caribbean is recognized for many of its innovative urban policies and initiatives, it faces major challenges in terms of multi-sector and multi-actor coordination in urban development (Quean and Velut 2014, p. 21). Persistent policy silos in areas that impact cities and territories are also a common challenge. NUPs have the capacity to act as powerful tools for enhancing multi-sector and multi-level coordination and policy coherence, and to address related issues. They provide important coordination

frameworks that foster the alignment of public interventions in urban areas, including by sectoral ministries and service providers (UN-Habitat, 2012).

The establishment of an appropriate multi-level and multi stakeholder institutional framework is crucial to all stages of the NUP diagnosis, formation, and implementation and monitoring. Such a framework should be designed to foster dialogue and collaboration and participation of different levels of government and stakeholders. Such processes encourage the appropriation of the NUP objectives across government and urban stakeholders. This is particularly important for the empowerment of subnational governments, and to enable them with the necessary resources and capacities to be key partners in the development and implementation of NUPs (United Nations, 2016b).

Considered collectively at the global scale, existing NUPs do not have a predominant approach and are instead diverse and derive from multiple origins (UN-Habitat & Cities Alliance, 2014). Since cities and human settlements vary so much in their roles, sizes, geographies, stakeholder groups, functions and other particularities, the formulation processes associated with NUPs must be designed for this diversity and respond to the needs and conditions of national contexts. NUP processes are driven by multiple sources and can take an infinite number of forms, which is necessary to ensure their applicability in diverse national contexts (United Nations, 2016b). Cultural aspects also play a fundamental role as they set the context and dictate the effectiveness and sustainability of implementation. Social and cultural changes associated with the NUPs "can be triggered from within or from without as complementary forces driven by a series of advocates, whose groups vary considerably from one country to another" (United Nations, 2016b).

OECD and UN-Habitat (OECD, 2017; OECD and UN-Habitat*, 2017) highlight the importance of considerations for: economic development, spatial structure, human development, environmental sustainability, and climate resilience in the NUP. Their evaluations of existing NUPs are based on the following key criteria for guiding sustainable urban development:

- Responsiveness to demographic dynamics;

- Promotion of a territorial approach (urban-rural links);

- Addressing urban systems (for large, medium and small cities) and connectivity between cities;

- Preparing cities with infrastructure and services (includes public space);

- Promotion of efficient urban land use;

- Fostering environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change;

- Developing urban governance systems (horizontal coordination and vertical alignment);

- Supporting partnerships and cooperation between urban actors;

- Safeguarding inclusion and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, security, etc.); and

- Ensuring robust and comparable urban data (OECD, 2017).

UN-Habitat and OECD (OECD, 2017) use two classifications for existing NUPs: explicit (a policy with the title National Urban Policy, or National Policy for Urbanization / Urban Development or a National Urban Strategy) and partial (containing many elements of a NUP but not integrated as a formal policy). A number of explicit NUPs have been developed within the region notably in Chile, Mexico, Colombia and Brazil (ECLAC and UN-Habitat, 2016a; OECD, 2017). In other countries within the region partial policies exist: such as in El Salvador, where housing policy has progressed to incorporate an integrated urban perspective. National Development Plans in some cases include elements of NUPs, such as in Guatemala, the Dominican Republic or Argentina (ECLAC and UN-Habitat, 2016a). These developments demonstrate a trend towards higher quality urban policies in the region, which recognize the urgent need for greater urban integration (UN-Habitat and Cities Alliance 2014, p. 45).

Although there is no standard model for these policies in the region, they do share a number of common characteristics, such as (UN-Habitat, 2016 in ECLAC, 2016, p. 22):

(i) Institutional developments at the national level that recognise the importance of sustainable urban development and at the same time assign a key role to the national government with regard to urban development. Additionally, there is awareness of the need for coordination among different levels of government, in some cases, with recognition of the role of the city system (Colombia), and in others, putting greater emphasis on the importance of urban policy in reducing poverty and increasing basic needs (El Salvador).

(ii) An awareness of the need for legal, financial and spatial planning instruments related to the social function of property and the importance of the private sector in the processes of financing sustainable urban development.

(iii) Decentralization has been a key focus in the region, which also affects NUPs, "in some cases the management and control of land is linked to fiscal decentralization, the development of autonomy and land use planning processes." Ecuador offers an example, and up to a certain extent, Bolivia.

(iv) A shift towards more compact and inclusive urban growth, rather than peripheral expansion. The recent instruments applied in Mexican housing policies are an example of this.

(v) National development that recognizes the importance of consolidating the system of cities, highlighting the cases of Guatemala, Argentina and the Dominican Republic, which demonstrate "the perspective of territorial connectivity and urban-rural integration".

(vi) The permanence and prevalence of informal settlements in the region, and their official recognition. For example, Brazil has aimed to address the issue of favelas, recognizing their existence and working to integrate them in situ. There are also recent advances in Colombia and Ecuador, which suggest a development in the same direction.

While these shared characteristics demonstrate important advances, these results are not uniform across the region, and most countries will need ongoing and targeted action to link NUPs with the goals established in the NUA and the RAP. Designing and implementing solid, consensual and results-based NUPs have the capacity to strengthen multi sector and multi-level coordination and enhance policy coherence across the region, and as such should be regarded with the highest priority for national development. The following objectives and their key components seek to advance the necessary conditions and improve the quality of the NUPs in the region.

Action area 1: National urban policies	
Strategic objective	*Design and implement solid, consensual and results-based national urban policies that strengthen multi sector and multi-scale coordination.*
SDG alignment	

		Objectives	Key components	
Enabling conditions	1.1	**Develop integrated medium and long-term projections** based on urban and climatic trends with geographic disaggregation to inform NUP development	1.1.1	Adequate capacities and tools to collect, process, and analyse current and past data, and to develop reliable medium and long-term projections with geographical disaggregation on all levels, that includes strengthened information systems for informal and precarious settlements.
			1.1.2	Comprehensive approach and analysis for projections that consider demographic dynamics, along with social, economic, environmental, spatial and territorial patterns at all geographic levels.
			1.1.3	Permanent and periodically updated national information systems for urban data.
			1.1.4	Open access to information, with periodic instances established for the presentation of results to the public.
		1.1 SDG target alignment	*1.4; 11.1; 11.a; 16.7; 16.10; 17.9; 17.18; 17.19*	
	1.2	Strengthen the **institutional framework** for leading and coordinating the NUP	1.2.1	Political and institutional will at all levels to develop and implement the NUP as supported by an institutional mechanism to ensure sustained commitment.

		1.2.2	Functions, responsibilities and resources explicitly defined at the appropriate levels for urban development and the development and implementation of the NUP.
		1.2.3	Specialized agency or supervision through a relevant agency at the national level with knowledge and technical and political capacity for the development and implementation of the NUP and the coordination of relevant government sectors and levels.
		1.2.4	Mechanisms and platforms for integrated governance between levels and sectors, led by national institutions that apply a cross-sectorial, multi-scale, inclusive and participatory approach.
		1.2.5	Technical and institutional capacity for the development and evaluation of national urban policies and urban policies at all levels.
Enabling conditions	*1.2 SDG target alignment*		*5.5; 10.3; 10.6; 11.3; 11.a; 16.3; 16.6; 16.7; 16.8; 16.10; 17.4; 17.9*
	1.3 Establish or strengthen **national urban legal frameworks** for sustainable urban development	1.3.1	Flexible, inclusive, efficient, transparent and accountable regulatory and normative frameworks and processes.
		1.3.2	National urban legal frameworks aligned with NUP objectives and with a strategic vision for national development.
		1.3.3	Legal frameworks aimed at achieving objectives with measurable and user-focused indicators, established within the legislation that guarantees their revision and continuous evaluation.
		1.3.4	Legal and normative framework which facilitates broad participation in decision-making.
		1.3.5	Training and awareness-raising of relevant stakeholders in urban legal frameworks, targeting both inhabitants and organizations.
		1.3.6	National standards capable of identifying and resolving the negative externalities of urbanization (adaptation of land for urbanization, adequate provision of land for urban growth, environmental protection, protection and conservation of cultural heritage, urban and climate resilience, equitable distribution and accessibility to the benefits of urbanization).
	1.3 SDG target alignment		*4.7; 5.1; 5.5; 5.a; 5.c; 10.3; 11.1; 11.3; 11.4; 11.5; 11.6; 11.7; 11.a; 11.b; 12.4; 12.5; 12.7; 12.b; 13.1; 13.3; 13.b; 14.1; 15.1; 15.3; 15.5; 16.3; 16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.8; 16.10; 16.b*
Essential elements of a solid and results-oriented national urban policy	1.4 Establish **specific goals and prioritize action** for sustainable urban development in response to local needs	1.4.1	Long-term national action framework that allows for adaptation and adjustment to changing local conditions in the medium-term.
		1.4.2	Alignment of the dynamics of urbanization and urban development with national development processes.
		1.4.3	Alignment with global agendas and international agreements for sustainable development.
		1.4.4	Strengthening the technical and financial capacities of local or subnational governments with tools to enable the establishment and implementation of local, national and global agendas.
		1.4.5	Concrete agendas for institutional change and required capacities.
		1.4.6	Agendas that set specific, sector targets for responding in an integrated manner to the challenges related to housing, land management, transportation and mobility, infrastructure, public spaces and urban parks, energy, water, sanitation, waste management, economic development, environmental sustainability, health, education, urban security, food security etc.
	1.4 SDG target alignment		*1-all; 2-all; 3-all; 4-all; 5-all; 6-all; 7-all; 8-all; 9-all; 10-all; 11-all; 12-all; 13-all; 14-all; 15-all; 16 all; 17.4; 17.14; 17.15; 17.19*
	1.5 Optimize **multi-sector and multi-level coordination and coherence** within a national spatial framework for sustainable urban development	1.5.1	Well-articulated key actors, institutions, roles, jurisdictional responsibilities and resources between government sectors and at all levels, within a national spatial framework.
		1.5.2	Alignment with sector development plans and policies (housing, land management, natural and cultural heritage, transport and mobility, infrastructure, public spaces and urban parks, urban security, energy, water, sanitation, waste management, disaster risk management, adaptation and mitigation of climate change economic development, environmental sustainability, health, social development, education and care facilities, tourism, telecommunications) at all territorial levels.
		1.5.3	Coordination and jurisdictional consistency in the management, provision and maintenance of basic services and infrastructure according to established standards.
		1.5.4	National coordination for the design, implementation and financing of long-term infrastructure policies.

		1.5.5	Coordination mechanisms that promote new alliances and cooperation between actors.
	1.5 SDG target alignment		*1.4; 1.5; 2.4; 2.a; 3.7; 3.8; 4.a; 5.4; 5.a; 2.3; 6.1; 6.2; 6.3; 6.4; 6.5; 6.6; ;7.1 ;7.b; 8.5; 9.1; 9.2; 9.4; 9.c ; 10.7; 11-all; 12.2; 12.4; 12.5; 13.1; 13.2; 13.3; 13.b; 14.1; 14.2; 14.5; 14.7; 14.c; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4; 15.5; 15.7; 15.8; 15.9; 15.a; 15.b; 16.1; 16.3; 16.4; 16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.10; 16.a; 17.9; 17.14; 17.17*
1.6	**Reduce urban and territorial disparities** within cities, between rural and urban areas, and between cities	1.6.1	Territorial processes and plans and democratic multilevel governance structures.
		1.6.2	Urban and territorial planning and management instruments that establish priorities and identify drivers for reducing disparities in cities and their territories, ensuring the right to the city and equitable access to urban land (i.e., sustainable management of natural resources and agricultural land, infrastructure and basic services, equality and social inclusion, violence and insecurity, environmental protection and flows of capital, goods and people).
		1.6.3	Policies, programs, and plans that reduce and prevent urban and territorial socio-spatial segregation and inequality in all its dimensions.
		1.6.4	Public policies, programs and plans to reduce informal and precarious settlements, especially those which are located in areas of non-mitigated risk.
		1.6.5	Sector integration for sustainable urban development from a territorial perspective (housing, land management, transport and mobility, infrastructure, public spaces and urban parks, energy, water, sanitation, waste management, economic development, environmental sustainability, health, education, urban security).
		1.6.6	Policies, programs, and plans that take advantage of urban-rural linkages and the economic, social and environmental potential of these relationships.
		1.6.7	Policies that promote the development of compact cities and Transit Oriented Development (TOD).
		1.6.8	Virtual and physical connectivity within cities, between rural and urban areas, and between cities.
	1.6 SDG target alignment		*1.4; 1.5; 2.3; 2.4; 2.a; 3.7; 3.8; 4.1; 4.2; 4.3; 4.4; 4.5; 4.6; 4.a; 4.c; 5-all; 6-all; 7.1; 7.b; 8-all; 9-all; 10-all; 11-all; 12.1; 12.2; 12.4; 12.6; 12.8; 12.a; 12.b; 12.c; 13-all; 14-all; 15-all; 16-all; 17.1; 17.4; 17.5; 17.9; 17.13; 17.14; 17.17*
1.7	Strengthen **democratic governance and the role of citizens as protagonists** in decision-making for inclusive urban development	1.7.1.	A shared vision for sustainable urban development that responds to the socio-economic and environmental context.
		1.7.2.	Inclusive and transparent decision-making processes and public policies.
		1.7.3.	Measures to achieve an equitable distribution of public participation at the local level in cities, for more just and beneficial decisions for all, especially for the most vulnerable.
		1.7.4.	Platforms and mechanisms that facilitate dialogue and broad stakeholder participation enhancing the use of information and communication technologies (ICT)
		1.7.5.	Training and systems to raise urban actors' awareness of surrounding urban development processes, and these actors' roles, responsibilities and rights.
	1.7 SDG target alignment		*1.4; 4.6; 4.7; 5.5; 5.a; 5.b; 5.c; 6.b; 10.2; 10.3; 11.3; 11.a; 11.b; 13.3; 16.3; 16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.9; 16.a; 16.b; 17.8; 17.14*
1.8	Establish mechanisms for **monitoring, reporting, review and accountability**	1.8.1.	Technical capacity and instruments for monitoring, follow-up, and accountability at all levels in line with the monitoring framework for SDG 11, and especially Goal 11.A, and its corresponding indicator for NUPs (11.A.1).
		1.8.2.	Well-articulated roles and responsibilities for monitoring, follow-up and accountability at all levels.
		1.8.3.	Autonomous and participatory system for monitoring, evaluation, and accountability throughout NUP implementation.
		1.8.4.	Periodic accountability processes and presentation of results in simple and understandable language for all involved.
		1.8.5.	Mechanisms for the exchange and transfer of knowledge between countries and between cities.
	1.8 SDG target alignment		*12.b; 16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.10; 17.16; 17.18; 17.19*

Essential elements of a solid and results-oriented national urban policy

B. Action Area 2: Urban legal frameworks

Urban legal frameworks include all legislation and regulations related to the management and development of the urban environment. Despite some progress, the main elements of urban legislation in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as at the global level, have not undergone significant changes over the last 20 years and in some cases in the last 40 years (UN-Habitat, 2016b). These circumstances have implications which limit access to the right to housing, affect the social function of land and the recognition of diversity in forms of production of the city, among others. An example of this is the limited number of legal initiatives aimed at promoting innovative and locally relevant urban legal frameworks in areas such as physical planning and urban development control, particularly in contexts with weak institutional structures and limited financial resources.

The development of urban legislation and regulations in Latin America and the Caribbean has been highly complex, with limited public participation, and based on a technical segmentation that has seen the technical objectives of certain fields considered in isolation of other relevant objectives. As a result, it has produced urban legislation that is disconnected with local territorial contexts and realities. Additionally, while academic perspectives on legislation and urban development have evolved since Habitat II, their incorporation into existing legislation is almost null (United Nations, 2015c). Lastly, highly cumbersome and rigid urban legislation processes are common in developing and transition countries, which result in non-compliance (UN-Habitat, 2016b).

The rapid urbanization of Latin America and the Caribbean in the last 50 years has completely surpassed regional urban planning and management systems and their capacity to react to the problems arising from this rapid growth. This has resulted in land speculation and elevated prices for urban land, urban informality, socio-spatial segregation, environmental degradation, and inadequate urban infrastructure and services (Fernandes and Maldonado Coppelo, 2009, p. 513). The persistence of informal and precarious settlements, a situation in which nearly one in four residents of Latin American cities live, is one of the most serious manifestations of the convergence of unregulated urbanization processes, socioeconomic inequality and multiple forms of poverty in the region. In many cities in the region, current urban legal frameworks are "significantly obsolete and inconsistent, generating widespread non-compliance and a growing disconnect between the legal city and the real city" (Fernandes and Maldonado Coppelo 2009, p. 514). In general, legal principles are determined politically and assimilated into the local culture, particularly with respect to land development rights and real estate development, tending to result in complex and contradictory urban legal systems (Fernandes and Maldonado Coppelo, 2009, p. 514).

In their current state, the urban legal frameworks in the region do not adequately address the main regional urbanization challenges, such as socio-spatial segregation and high levels of urban informality. These frameworks are characterized by an individualist approach to how property rights and land rights are understood, which produces elitist urban planning regulations and exclusive urban management processes that do not reflect the socioeconomic realities of urban areas in Latin America and the Caribbean (Fernandes and Maldonado Coppelo, 2009, p. 513). The high proportion of the population living in informal and precarious settlements attests to a regional reality that has forced more and more people to face legal regulations that have hindered their formal access to the right to urban land and housing.

In many parts of the region, efforts have been made to implement complex urban regulations, such as zoning codes and master plans. These initiatives have been shown to reflect "a bureaucratic planning tradition that internalizes a misunderstanding of how urban and environmental regulations affect the formulation and movement of land prices" (Fernandes and Maldonado Coppelo, 2009, p. 516). In most parts of the region, except in the consolidated experiences of Brazil and Colombia, and the innovative approaches employed in Argentina and Uruguay and more recently in Ecuador, governments to do not have effective legal mechanisms in place that capture the increases in land and property value that are produced by public works and services and/or regulatory changes. In the same way, in some

cases such urban regulations may exist but have not been properly implemented, due to government's limited compliance capacity (Fernandes and Maldonado Coppelo, 2009, p. 516).

As part of the democratization of the region, several urban reform movements have been in place since the 1980s, which have emphasized legal urban regulations as an engine to promote a new legal paradigm (Fernandes and Maldonado Coppelo, 2009). These movements have made significant progress in the last 20 years: for example, in Colombia (Law 388 in 1997), Brazil (Federal Law No. 10,257 called "Statute of the City" in 2001), and more recently in Ecuador (Zoning, Land Use and Management, 2016). This legislation recognizes the social function of property and land, and understands the city as a product of collective processes, where a just distribution of the the costs and benefits of urban development should occur. These movements have raised awareness of the central role that legal frameworks play in achieving a fairer and more inclusive spatial and territorial organization. Furthermore, they have demonstrated and put on the policy agenda the negative consequences of existing urban legislation, which causes the reproduction of socio-spatial segregation and informality.

The international movement for the Right to the City has sought recognition of the collective rights to the city, a concept that has emerged in the last decades as a key part of the debate on sustainable urban development (ECLAC and UN-Habitat, 2016). Regional social movements have greatly influenced the demand for policies for urban inclusion, public participation and transparency at the regional level (Salue and Uzzo, 2010 in ECLAC and UN-Habitat, 2016a) and at the international level, through their participation in the elaboration and promotion of the World Charter for the Right to the City (Fernandes 2007; HIC, 2010 in ECLAC and UN-Habitat, 2016a). The right to the city has been legally incorporated through constitutional changes in Brazil and Ecuador, and at the local level in Mexico City. Several cities in the region have contributed important initiatives such as participatory budgets, new legislation to access public information, programs that support the social production of habitat, recognition for the right of inhabitants to remain on the land where they live, the need for open government, and urban regulations for social and urban inclusion (ECLAC and UN-Habitat 2016).

With the return of democracy in the region, new organizations and social movements emerged which have generated an increasingly organized, informed and influential civil society, capable not only of defending their rights but also positioning themselves as legitimate counterparts in the development and formulation of public policies (PNU 2004; OAS and UNDP, 2009 in ECLAC and UN-Habitat, 2016a). The new demands and needs of civil society in the region relating to transparency, access to public information and public participation, represent great opportunities to support the achievement of substantive changes in legal frameworks. Many countries have enacted legislation in these areas, but their implementation and enforcement remain weak, thus constituting a crosscutting challenge throughout the region (OECD, 2014, p. 30). An additional challenge is the importance of mechanisms for training and knowledge transfer from national governments to subnational and local governments, and vice versa. It is important to recognise that subnational governments are the State's gateway to citizens (OECD, 2014, p. 30).

The following objectives and their key components seek to strengthen the conditions necessary for sustainable urban development through the establishment of efficient, modern and inclusive urban legal frameworks.

Action area 2: Urban legal frameworks	
Strategic objective	*Establish robust and transparent urban legal frameworks with efficient instruments and mechanisms that guarantee compliance and enforcement capacity, accountability, and public participation in urban planning and development.*
SDG alignment	

	Objectives	Key components	
Enabling conditions	2.1 Introduce or strengthen a legal framework for **the right to the city**	2.1.1	Definition and instrumentation of the right to the city.
		2.1.2	Establishment of the right to the city as a fundamental constitutional right.
		2.1.3	Training and raising awareness on urban legal frameworks and the right to the city, for both inhabitants and organizations.
		2.1.4	Legal basis for urban planning and cross-sectorial, comprehensive and national legislation that develops, guarantees, and establishes the right to the city.
		2.1.5	Legally binding instruments and mechanisms that recognize, develop, and guarantee the right to the city throughout urban and territorial planning and management and urban development.
		2.1.6	Multi-sectorial and multi-level strategic alliances for sector coordination and multilevel concordance.
		2.1.7	Institutionalism that guarantees compliance and control.
	2.1 SDG target alignment		*1.4; 4.7; 5.1; 5.5; 5.a; 5.c; 10.2; 10.3; 11-all; 16.7; 17.17*
	2.2 Establish a legal framework to guarantee **participatory, transparent and accountable governance**, with binding instruments and mechanisms for the urban sector	2.2.1	Effective inclusion of legal mechanisms and instruments for public participation in all stages of public policy processes, and urban and territorial planning at all levels.
		2.2.2	Mechanisms to ensure access to legal representation for administrative or judicial claims.
		2.2.3	A minimum standard of transparency for urban and territorial planning and management mechanisms and instruments.
		2.2.4	Mechanisms that guarantee the fulfilment of the right to access public information related to urban and territorial planning and management instruments and processes.
		2.2.5	Effective platforms and mechanisms to ensure accountability for the use of public resources for urban development.
		2.2.6	Platforms and spaces for collaboration between the public and private sectors and various civil society actors.
		2.2.7	Institutionalism to ensure compliance with and control of urban legislation.
	2.2 SDG target alignment		*5.5; 5.c; 6.b; 10.2; 10.3; 11.3; 16.3; 16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.10; 16.b; 17.17; 17.18; 17.19*
	2.3 Adopt effective legal frameworks that **strengthen government capacities** at all levels, with **fiscal, political, and administrative decentralization**	2.3.1	Legislation that assigns functions between different levels of government in urban and territorial planning and urban development, as well as cross-sectorial and multi-level cooperation and articulation.
		2.3.2	National training programs (for subnational governments) on the correct application of urban regulations and the development of local regulations adapted to local conditions and characteristics, including opportunities for technical assistance with international cooperation agencies.
		2.3.3	Mechanisms that strengthen the capacity of subnational and local governments to implement effective metropolitan, local and/or multi-level governance.
		2.3.4	Measures and mechanisms for the transfer of power to sub-national and local governments to ensure necessary local authority and autonomy, including adequate administrative, fiscal and managerial structures and capacities.
		2.3.5	Training of sub-national governments in human capital management, fiscal decentralization and accountability structures.
		2.3.6	Analysis of the effects of decentralization processes on urban inhabitants, urban areas and surrounding territories.

		2.3.7	Legislative tools for municipal financing and intergovernmental transfers from national government, including an adequate institutional framework and articulation with urban policy objectives.
	2.3 SDG target alignment		*10.4; 11.3; 11.a; 16.3; 16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.8; 16.10; 16.a; 17.1; 17.9; 17.15; 17.16; 17.17; 17.18; 17.19*
	2.4 Adopt a **legal framework** with clearly established definitions **for the use and development of urban and non-urban or rural land,** and associated rights and responsibilities	2.4.1	Incorporation of a legal definition of urban and non-urban land, as well as land-use planning law (i.e. zoning).
		2.4.2	Establishment of rights and duties for the use of urban and non-urban or rural land, including criteria for its sustainable use.
		2.4.3	Environmental regulations for urban and non-urban or rural land (natural resource management, agricultural management, biodiversity conservation, emissions and air quality, water quality, noise and light pollution etc.).
		2.4.4	Regulatory changes in the use of urban and non-urban land to strengthen environmental protection, biodiversity, forest resources, marine and freshwater areas, agricultural land and risk reduction.
		2.4.5	Capacity of sub-national governments and local multi-sectorial authorities to inform and train residents and owners in the rights and duties associated with urban and non-urban land.
		2.4.6	Capacity of sub-national governments and local multi-sectorial authorities to manage public participation, evaluate proposals and carry out transparent decision-making in urban and territorial planning processes in accordance with the existing legal framework.
		2.4.7	Capacity of sub-national governments and local multi-sectorial authorities to control and ensure compliance in urban and territorial planning processes, with enforcement capacity and resources.
		2.4.8	Training for inhabitants and owners to increase awareness and understanding of their rights and duties associated with the use and development of urban and non-urban land.
		2.4.9	Transparent and accountable processes in accordance with current regulations for land use changes (non-urban to urban) that include strategic planning criteria for linking urban and non-urban areas.
		2.4.10	Independent institutions to manage disputes, mediation and decision-making when required (i.e. courts and tribunals).
	2.4 SDG target alignment		*1.4; 2.3; 2.4; 3.9; 4.7; 5.5; 5.a; 6.3; 6.4; 6.5; 6.6; 6.b; 10.2; 11.3; 11.4; 11.6; 11.7; 11.a; 11.b; 12.2; 12.4; 12.8; 13.1; 13.2; 13.3; 13.b; 14.1; 14.2; 14.c; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4; 15.5; 15.8; 15.9; 16.3; 16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.10; 16.b; 17.14.*
	2.5 Establish or strengthen the **legal foundation of statutory and strategic planning instruments and mechanisms**	2.5.1	Conceptual precision of legal terms and rights to promote their effective compliance.
		2.5.2	Regulations that distinguish between public space and buildable land within urban areas and that establish effective regulatory mechanisms, including zoning instruments that define a series of provisions regarding land use (nature of construction) and development.
		2.5.3	Institutions that guarantee the effective conservation of protected environmental, cultural and indigenous heritage areas.
		2.5.4	Regulation that establishes areas and sites of environmental, cultural and indigenous heritage protection and conservation.
		2.5.5	Legal requirements for public participation in urban and territorial planning processes (i.e. clear public consultation and submission periods).
		2.5.6	Regulations that establish property market control in urban and rural areas, with solid institutions that guarantee compliance.
		2.5.7	Regulatory mechanisms that distributes the benefits of urban development between all inhabitants.
		2.5.8	Regulatory framework for urban development that prevents socio-spatial segregation in urban development, using administrative tools that include effective mechanisms to eradicate segregation, as well as the provision of urban infrastructure and services.
		2.5.9	Obligatory training for public servants involved in urban development about relevant areas of urban, territorial and strategic planning (this includes training on natural and climatic risks).

Essential elements of a robust and transparent urban legal framework

	2.5 SDG target alignment		*2.3; 5.5; 5.a; 5.c; 6.6; 6.b; 8.3; 8.4; 9.1; 9.4; 10.2; 10.3; 11-all; 12.2; 12.4; 12.5; 13.1; 13.2; 13.3; 14.1; 14.2; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4; 15.5; 15.9; 16.3; 16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.10; 16.b; 17.14*
2.6	Strengthen **regulatory housing instruments** and their respective processes for urban and territorial planning and management	2.6.1.	Incorporation of the right to adequate housing and other housing rights as essential elements of all urban policies, regulations and programs.
		2.6.2.	Clear and transparent regulatory instruments and processes for the creation and improvement of land-use ordinances and for the review and approval of building permits, within reasonable timeframes that support the development of dynamic housing markets.
		2.6.3.	Regulations that respond to equal access to adequate, affordable and well-located housing and adequate connection to employment and services (education, health, recreation, commerce, transportation, inclusive quality public space, etc.).
		2.6.4.	Regulation that supports inclusive, adequate, affordable and safe housing and construction that incorporates criteria for urban and climate resilience, provisions for resource efficiency and the use of locally appropriate materials and design.
		2.6.5.	Regulation that addresses informality and homelessness in the land-use and housing sectors, with programs for *in-situ* improvement and land titling in low-risk areas, and resettlements where necessary in higher risk areas.
		2.6.6.	Regulatory mechanisms that promote diversity of affordable housing and tenure options.
		2.6.7.	Regulatory mechanisms for the access, provision and financing of quality social housing.
		2.6.8.	Regulatory mechanisms that comply with international standards to manage displacement, involuntary resettlements and forced evictions, and protect human rights.
		2.6.9.	Regulatory mechanisms that prevent the speculative use of land and housing and guarantee their social function, as well as encouraging the occupancy of vacant properties.
		2.6.10.	Regulatory instruments that promote urban regeneration, neighbourhood improvements and heritage protection.
		2.6.11.	Institutions with enforcement capacity and resources.
	2.6 SDG target alignment		*1.4; 1.5; 1.b; 2.3; 4.a; 5.a; 5.c; 6.1; 6.2; 7.1; 8.3; 8.10; 9.1; 9.c; 10.2; 10.3; 10.4; 10.5; 10.7; 11.1; 11.2; 11.3; 11.4; 11.5; 11.7; 11.a; 11.b; 11.c; 13.1; 13.2; 13.b; 16.3; 16.6; 16.7; 16.10; 16.b; 17.14; 17.17*
2.7	Design and enact effective **national and local laws to establish and protect public space** (including green spaces and parks, roads, streets and intersections, transport corridors)	2.7.1	Legally define a minimum of public space per capita in the city.
		2.7.2	Urban design standards for quality, inclusive and resilient public space that is safe and accessible for all.
		2.7.3	Urban regulations that guarantee the provision of quality public space and ensure the protection of existing public space.
		2.7.4	Regulation that assigns responsibility for the management and maintenance of public space, and institutions that guarantees these processes.
		2.7.5	Regulations for the expropriation of private land that limit expropriator power and ensure due process and opportunity for appeal.
		2.7.6	Regulations that facilitate the adequate designation of public land for quality public space and urban amenities.
	2.7 SDG target alignment		*1.4; 5.1; 5.2; 5.c; 8.4; 9.1; 10.3; 11.1; 11.2; 11.3; 11.7; 11.a; 13.2; 16.3; 16.6; 16.7; 16.10; 16.b*
2.8	Establish **minimum national standards for universal access** to **quality basic services, urban and social infrastructure and urban amenities.**	2.8.1.	Legally established minimum national standards based on the principle of equitable access and aligned with international standards and rights (water, energy, health, public space, road safety, public transport and mobility, urban and social infrastructure, urban amenities, waste management, emergency services, ICT).
		2.8.2.	Adoption of sustainable practices for the provision and management of services to minimize environmental costs. This includes the promotion of the use of renewable energy.
		2.8.3.	Efficient provision and management of services to minimize economic costs.
		2.8.4.	Compulsory agreements between the government and property developers to provide minimum conditions for the provision of

			services in new projects, as well as the incorporation of new land or changes in land use.
2.8 SDG target alignment			*1.4; 3.7; 3.8; 4.1; 4.2; 4.3. 4.5; 4.a; 5.a; 5.b; 5.c; 6.1; 6.2; 6.4; 6.b; 7.1; 7.2; 7.3; 7.b; 8.8; 9.1; 9.4; 9.c; 10.3; 10.7; 11.1; 11.2; 11.3; 11.4; 11.6; 11.7; 11.a; 11.b; 12.2; 12.4; 12.5; 13.1; 13.2; 14.1; 16.3; 16.7; 16.10; 16.b; 17.8*
2.9	Develop and strengthen **legal instruments and institutional** frameworks that **enable the recovery of gains** resulting from public investment	2.9.1	Explicit regulation for the recovery of gains resulting from increased land and property values as a result of public investment; and their reinvestment in projects for public benefit.
		2.9.2	Instruments and other regulatory mechanisms to regulate land and property value.
		2.9.3	Accurate and up-to-date land ownership and land use records.
		2.9.4	Technical knowledge and capacity to effectively manage land and property markets to manage their implementation and control at all levels of government.
		2.9.5	Awareness-raising programs on the benefits of capturing the increase in land value for local governments, inhabitants and owners.
		2.9.6	Transparent and responsible public spending of such revenues for public benefit.
2.9 SDG target alignment			*4.7; 5.a; 9.1; 9.4; 10.3; 11.3; 11.b; 12.7; 16.3; 16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.10; 17.1; 17.9; 17.14; 17.17; 17.18; 17.19*

C. Action Area 3: Urban and territorial planning and design

During the 1990s, a deregulation process took place in Latin America and the Caribbean where the state lost relative power and the market gained greater influence over urban development (ECLAC and UN-Habitat, 2016a). As a management mechanism, urban and territorial planning decreased, along with the capacity for State intervention (ECLAC and UN-Habitat, 2016a). The results of urbanization without proper planning have produced a series of negative externalities both in the cities themselves and in their institutional frameworks and governance structures. The urban governance of cities and metropolitan systems in the region has been among the main challenges of the last decades. Weak urban governance has weakened the scope of urban planning in the region, as implementation depends on the effectiveness of institutional frameworks. Today, there is a need for complex governance and urban and territorial planning tools "capable of coordinating the different levels of government of the territories that make up large cities and their relationship with civil society and the private sector" (ECLAC and UN- Habitat, 2016).

The region also faces major problems in the implementation of urban policies due to cross-sectorial coordination, where many of the sectors operate as silos, which has resulted in duplication of efforts, as well as loss of resources (ECLAC and UN-Habitat, 2016a). Likewise, problems related to institutional inefficiency and persistent informality have delayed advances in urban land (ECLAC and UN-Habitat, 2016a). Additionally, cumbersome administrative and political processes are required for the approval and modification of urban and territorial planning and land management instruments which negatively affects the relevance of these tools. Existing planning instruments and mechanisms are often incomplete or outdated, with tardy processes leaving many instruments obsolete on approval.

The region´s recent history in strategic urban planning has had mixed success. This has been caused primarily by institutional and governance challenges (i.e. lack of continuity with changes in administrations), and persistent problems due to lack of technical capacity. At the local level in some of the region's countries, legislation is in place which obliges the development of local strategic planning instruments, for example Chile with their Municipal Development Plans (PLADECO). However, long bureaucratic processes, lack of resources and capacity, mean that most of the country's municipalities do not have such plans. Furthermore, for those municipalities who have PLADECO's, a lack of monitoring and follow up, along with the fact that these documents are non-binding, means their influence over local urban development is limited. There is a recognised regional need for binding strategic plans that guide and coordinate the diverse initiatives and instruments that impact over cities and their territories and the path to sustainable urban development.

The scarcity of urban data in the region has also been a barrier to the design and development of quality urban policies and urban planning instruments due to the limited capacity to analyse the challenges of urban systems based on reliable evidence (ECLAC and UN-Habitat 2016). This has been intensified by the lack of information about the social and housing conditions of the population living in poverty and/or informal and precarious settlements. As a result, this lack of analytical capacity and understanding of the urban challenges has complicated the implementation of appropriate public policies.

Solid analytical frameworks and systems for the analysis of current and past urban phenomenon and trends and the capacity to develop projections based on this information are fundamental both for the development of strategic and urban plans for cities and local governments as well as to ensure that planning and design instruments and mechanisms have the desired effect in the urban system. Overall, it can be concluded that urban planning in Latin America and the Caribbean has not been carried out based on research and data analysis (ECLAC and UN-HABITAT 2016).

Urban inequality, in all its forms and dimensions, is at the forefront of the urban challenges facing the region. It requires comprehensive solutions to overcome it, which engage multiple sectors and different levels of government effectively. Housing and land use policies have contributed significantly to the sprawling and segregated configuration of the region's cities, as well as to many other relevant negative social and urban indicators. This is particularly apparent because of widespread investment in housing developments on the urban periphery without adequate consideration or provision for the urban amenities and public spaces necessary to contribute to a sustainable urban development and a compact and quality urban form.

As mentioned earlier, positive and important advances have been made in this area in recent years with the creation of strategies that go beyond the provision of housing or infrastructure and that are based on urban norms that recognize the social function of property. Examples from Brazil, Colombia, and Ecuador have demonstrated their application in urban planning and land management tools to promote urban inclusion. Three main lines of action have been addressed: (1) generation of urbanized land for precarious settlements, (2) control of speculative practices and (3) social real estate development.

A lack of legislation and strategic instruments specific to urban design in the region has also had negative consequences over the built environment and consequently over urban quality of life. In most of the region, there are no legal frameworks or urban design guidelines to orientate design outcomes in cities. These decisions are generally taken in an ad hoc way by local governments and the private sector, with an evident inequality in the quality of results across the city, in part due to the socio-economic level of the area and the municipal resources designated to urban design. Additionally, effective public participation in urban design decisions is not obligatory and rarely takes place, resulting in design outcomes that are mismatched in scale and are culturally incompatible to the daily needs of the city's inhabitants and users of the urban space (CYTED, 2004).

For example, in Chile the legislation relevant to public participation in urban planning which creates instances of participation in the design, development, implementation and monitoring of urban policies, does not apply to urban design (Fernández, 2012). In cases where consultation processes do take place in urban design decision making, these rarely incorporate the effective tools that constitute a participatory design process. These points demonstrate the need for a greater focus on urban design as an integral and integrated part of planning in our cities.

Furthermore, as a profession it is underdeveloped in the region, while postgraduate programs are available in urban design, professional opportunities are scarce. This is due, in part, to the lack of specific frameworks that promote high quality interventions and initiatives in public space and the overall built environment. Lastly, there is a notable lack of research into urban design and its importance in the region as a key promoter of sustainable cities and human settlements.

The following objectives and their key components seek to improve the quality and scope of the planning and urban design instruments to achieve sustainable development of urban and territorial systems.

Action area 3: Urban and territorial planning and design

Strategic objective	*Integrate forward-thinking urban and territorial planning and design with participative instruments and mechanisms capable of addressing the challenges of current and future urban systems.*
SDG alignment	

Objectives		Key components	
3.1	**Develop evidence-based, strategic urban plans at all levels:** territorial, metropolitan, city, local, to guide sustainable urban development	3.1.1	Adequate local capacities and tools to collect, process, and analyse current and past data and to develop reliable medium- and long-term projections at the city level and with geographical disaggregation at all levels. This includes improved information systems for data collection in informal and precarious settlements.
		3.1.2	Projections that comprehensively analyse demographic composition and distribution along with social, economic, environmental, spatial and territorial patterns.
		3.1.3	A long-term urban development perspective with links to national development, economic growth and job creation, investment plans, and NUP objectives, outlining goals, targets, guidelines and required actions for achieving the city or local vision.
		3.1.4	A spatial approach that identifies strategic areas for infill development, urban regeneration, the protection of farming land, and new urbanization or the incorporation of rural land to urban.
		3.1.5	Promotion of a territorial approach (particularly urban-rural linkages), recognizing urban and natural systems and connectivity within and between cities. Consideration should be given to geographical location, the preservation of natural spaces of ecosystemic importance and urban cohesion (metropolitan areas, con-urbanizations in frontier zones, sprawling cities, etc.).
		3.1.6	Collaborative and participatory strategic planning processes that guarantee wide participation.
		3.1.7	Linkages between plans across all governance levels to improve coherence and coordination.
		3.1.8	Strategic planning instruments with binding mechanisms at all levels.
3.1 SDG target alignment		*2.4; 4.7; 8.2; 8.3; 8.4; 8.5; 10.3; 11.3; 11.4; 11.a; 11.b; 13.2; 13.3; 15.9; 16.3; 16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.10; 16.b; 17.13; 17.14; 17.17; 17.18; 17.19*	
3.2	Construct **integrated urban and territorial planning and design tools and mechanisms**	3.2.1	Clear identification of responsibilities for design, implementation and regulation.
		3.2.2	Multi-sectorial collaboration (between governments, multi-sectorial local authorities, the academic sector, NGOs, community organizations, and the private sector) to study the challenges faced by urban systems and identify potential solutions that inform design and support the implementation of the planning instruments and mechanisms.
		3.2.3	A current and accurate georeferenced-mapping base at all scales (territorial, metropolitan, city, local).
		3.2.4	Mechanisms for territorial and sectorial integration of decision-making in urban planning and management.
		3.2.5	Institutional and administrative competencies at all scales.
		3.2.6	Monitoring and evaluation systems that employ qualitative and quantitative methodological analysis, which feed back into planning and design instruments.
		3.2.7	Timely updates to instruments and mechanisms and ongoing technical and administrative training of human capital in urban management, at all scales.
		3.2.8	Knowledge exchange mechanisms between countries, cities and municipalities.
3.2 SDG target alignment		*10.6; 11.1; 11.2; 11.3; 11.4; 11.5; 11.6; 11.7; 11.a; 11.b; 12.2; 12.5; 12.8; 13.2; 13.3; 13.b; 14.2; 15.9; 16.6; 16.7; 16.8; 16.10; 16.b; 17.6; 17.7; 17.9; 17.14; 17.15; 17.16; 17.18; 17.19*	

3.3	Ensure **inclusive, transparent, collaborative and participatory urban planning and design processes and policy making**	3.3.1	Clear definitions for public participation and binding mechanisms in urban planning and urban design.
		3.3.2	Decentralized, democratic and participatory planning and decision-making processes.
		3.3.3	Platforms and spaces for collaboration between the public and private sectors and civil society actors.
		3.3.4	Transparent processes and access to information.
		3.3.5	Leverage the use of ICTs for innovative participation methods.
		3.3.6	Transparent tendering processes, including in pre-project tenders that raise design standards and increase the participation of the public and the construction sector.
3.3 SDG target alignment			*4.7; 5.5; 5.a; 5.b; 6.b; 9.c; 10.2; 10.3; 11.3; 11.a; 11.b; 12.7; 12.8; 13.3; 16.3; 16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.10; 16.b; 17.8; 17.14; 17.17*
3.4	Protect and conserve **natural ecosystems and cultural heritage** through urban and territorial planning and design processes	3.4.1	Zoning and protection measures that recognize sites of environmental, indigenous, and heritage importance and their surrounding areas.
		3.4.2	Integration of environmental, indigenous and heritage assessments in urban planning and design processes (i.e. strict application and approval processes for planning/building permits for sites of environmental importance or heritage value and surrounding areas).
		3.4.3	Programs and interventions that protect and enhance natural ecosystems and green spaces.
		3.4.4	Environmental, indigenous and heritage institutions with capacity and resources for inspection and enforcement, integrated within urban and territorial planning and management processes.
		3.4.5	Mechanisms that reduce exposure and vulnerability, and mitigate environmental damage and pollution resulting from anthropogenic activities.
		3.4.6	Mechanisms that prioritize renewable energy over conventional energy sources.
		3.4.7	Adoption of energy efficiency measures and standards and the efficient use of resources.
		3.4.8	Mechanisms and financing that protect cultural heritage in urban development, including traditional building materials and methods.
		3.4.9	Plans, programs, financing and activities for the protection, conservation and restoration of cultural heritage buildings and sites.
		3.4.10	Strategies and initiatives that promote cultural expression, identity and sense of belonging in the city.
3.4 SDG target alignment			*1.5; 2.4; 4.7; 5.5; 6.3; 6.4; 6.6; 6.a; 7-all; 8.4; 9.1; 9.4; 11.3; 11.4; 11.5; 11.6; 11.a; 11.b; 11.c; 12.2; 12.4;12.5; 13.1; 13.2; 13.3; 13.b; 14.1; 14.2; 14.5; 14.7; 14.c; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4; 15.5; 15.7; 15.8; 15.9; 16.6; 16.7; 16.10; 16.b*
3.5	Achieve a **compact, connected, integrated, safe and inclusive urban form** through urban and territorial planning and design tools and instruments	3.5.1	Urban design frameworks that establish clear and appropriate principles and strategies for the development of public and private space.
		3.5.2	Tools for infill development and urban renewal that promote economic development, social integration and efficient resource use.
		3.5.3	Mechanisms that promote local economic development and job creation and address spatial disadvantage.
		3.5.4	Mechanisms that prevent urban expansion and require the incorporation of unurbanized land in a planned and connected way, considering the coherent distribution of land use and activities.
		3.5.5	Mechanisms that promote sustainable density and mixed land use.
		3.5.6	Urban strategies and interventions that promote the socio-spatial integration of the existing and future urban fabric at all scales and within a holistic framework of social inclusion.
		3.5.7	Urban strategies and interventions that link inclusive and sustainable urban mobility with the spatial urban and territorial form.
		3.5.8	Urban strategies and interventions that address insecurity and violence within a framework of social and economic inclusion.
		3.5.9	Mechanisms that allocate well-located land suitable for economic activities of all types in strategic areas of the city and/or metropolitan area (promotion of poli-centres where appropriate).
3.5 SDG target alignment			*3.6; 5.2; 8.2; 8.3; 8.4; 8.5; 10.2; 10.3; 11.2; 11.3; 11.7; 11.a; 12.2; 12.8; 12.a; 16.1; 16.2; 16.3; 16.4; 16.a; 16.b*

3.6	Ensure equitable access to **quality basic services**, **urban and social infrastructure and urban amenities** through coherent and coordinated urban and territorial management	3.6.1	Institutional re-design to ensure a territorial (as opposed to sectorial) approach.
		3.6.2	Effective inter-sectorial and inter-institutional collaboration and coordination mechanisms.
		3.6.3	Application of minimum standards.
		3.6.4	Programs to improve basic services and urban infrastructure delivery and quality, particularly for informal settlements.
		3.6.5	Urban strategies linked with social programs that promote access to social infrastructure (health, social and cultural services, education and care facilities, civic and utilities, transport amenities etc.) and urban amenities, and address spatial disadvantage.
		3.6.6	Urban strategies and interventions that promote socio-spatial integration of the existing and future urban fabric at all scales.
		3.6.7	Urban strategies and programs that increase local economic development and employment opportunities across the city and address spatial disadvantage.
		3.6.8	Urban strategies and programs that integrate public space networks with diverse mobility options to promote urban integration and a quality public realm.
	3.6 SDG target alignment		*1.4; 3.7; 3.8; 3.9; 4.1; 4.2; 4.3; 4.4; 4.5; 4.6; 4.7; 4.a; 5.2; 5.4; 5.5; 5.6; 5.a; 5.c; 6.1; 6.2; 6.3;6.4; 6.5; 6.b; 7.1; 8.2; 8.3; 8.5; 8.8; 9.1; 9.2; 9.4; 9.a; 9.c; 10.2; 10.3; 11-all; 12.2; 12.4; 12.5; 12.7; 16.7*
3.7	Promote **adequate and affordable housing** as a fundamental element of urban planning and design	3.7.1	Housing strategies and interventions with diverse tenure options (renters' rights).
		3.7.2	Mechanisms for inclusive land use that support socio-economic integration.
		3.7.3	Investments in infrastructure that ensure proximity and equitable access to employment, urban amenities, transportation, basic services, health, education and other social infrastructure.
		3.7.4	Housing programs coordinated with urban planning to promote and support infill development, urban regeneration and the improvement of precarious and informal settlements.
		3.7.5	Mechanisms and programs that address the qualitative housing deficit and promote the provision of new, adequate, and well-located housing that comply with regulations and meet the needs of the population.
		3.7.6	Urban strategies and interventions that improve housing quality and integrate informal and precarious settlements both internally and within wider urban contexts.
		3.7.7	Land use, fiscal, and urban planning mechanisms that increase the supply of affordable housing.
	3.7 SDG target alignment		*1.3; 1.4; 1.5; 3.7; 3.8; 4.a; 5.a; 5.c; 6.1; 6.2; 7.1; 9.1; 9.4; 9.a; 9.c; 10.2; 10.3; 10.7; 11.1; 11.2; 11.3; 11.5; 11.7; 11.a; 11.b; 12.5; 13.2; 13.3; 13.b; 16.3; 16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.10; 16.b*
3.8	Develop strategies and urban interventions that **improve and integrate informal and precarious settlements**, internally and within their wider context	3.8.1	Policies directed at reducing social, cultural and ethnic exclusion and marginalization, among others.
		3.8.2	Data collection and analysis strategies for informal and precarious settlements.
		3.8.3	Integrated upgrading programs.
		3.8.4	Programs and interventions that improve connectivity to employment opportunities, social infrastructure, urban amenities, and basic services.
		3.8.5	Programs and interventions that enhance the quality and safety of public and green space.
		3.8.6	Public participation processes, participatory design, and community development initiatives in all interventions.
		3.8.7	Mechanisms that promote tenancy security, a core component of the right to adequate housing.
	3.8 SDG target alignment		*1.4; 1.b; 4.6; 4.a; 5.5; 5.a; 5.c; 6.1; 6.2; 6.b; 7.1; 8.3: 8.5; 8.6; 9.1; 9.a; 9.c; 10.2; 10.3; 10.7; 11.1; 11.2; 11.3; 11.5; 11.7; 11.b; 11.c; 12.5; 13.1; 13.2; 13.3; 13.b; 16.1; 16.2; 16.3 ;16.4; 16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.9; 16.10; 16.a; 16.b; 17.9; 17.16; 17.17; 17.18; 17.19*
3.9	Develop urban strategies and interventions that promote **safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable urban mobility and transport systems for all**	3.9.1	Mechanisms to promote coordination and coherence between actors and levels of government with respect to urban transport and mobility.
		3.9.2	Public policies and spatial urban planning strategies that reduce the demand for passenger and cargo transport and improve the efficiency of resource use.

	3.9.3	Urban mobility strategies like TOD that address urban sprawl through multimodal transport at different scales, coupled with mechanisms that de-incentivize private automobile use, towards low carbon urban development.
	3.9.4	Urban design and planning interventions that stimulate active modes of transport to promote health and wellbeing, like walking and cycling.
	3.9.5	Prioritization of modes of transport that use space efficiently, have low carbon emissions, mitigating traffic congestion, air pollution, and unsustainable patterns of consumption related to mobility.
	3.9.6	Interventions that improve traffic and road security, reducing traffic related mortalities and injuries (in motorized vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians).
	3.9.7	Mechanisms and institutions that guarantee accessibility to urban opportunities for all, improving urban productivity and the quality of the urban experience, efficiently linking people, places, goods, services and economic, social and cultural opportunities, and maximizing the use of ICTs.
	3.9.8	National and local mechanisms that favour more efficient investment in safe, affordable and accessible transport for all, paying attention to the needs of people in vulnerable situations.
3.9 SDG target alignment		*1.4; 3.6; 3.9; 5.2; 7.2; 7.3; 7.a; 7.b; 8.4; 9.1; 9.4; 9.a; 9.c; 11.2; 11.3; 11.6; 11.7; 11.a; 11.b; 12.2; 12.4; 16.7; 16.b; 17.8; 17.14*
3.10 Plan for **urban and climate resilience** within urban and territorial planning and design (achieve/ through)	3.10.1	Development of a comprehensive set of criteria for the assessment of urban and climate resilience based on an understanding of climate change and disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and goods, hazard characteristics and the environment, relevant to local geographical and social scales.
	3.10.2	Enhanced systems for early warning and preparedness to ensure sufficient capacity for effective response and recovery at all levels.
	3.10.3	Georeferenced risk mapping base which informs land use and management plans and adaptation and mitigation strategies
	3.10.4	Participatory, prepared, effective and efficient governance for risk management and climate change at all levels.
	3.10.5	Urban policies, practices, plans and programs for urban and climate resilience and risk management that integrate strategies for adaptation and mitigation within urban and territorial planning and development, and incorporate resilience principles and strategies in urban design, including the promotion of a focus on green and blue infrastructure.
	3.10.6	Programs and training that enhance resilience in communities, particularly in informal and precarious settlements and high-risk zones.
	3.10.7	Support strategies for rehabilitation, reconstruction and relocation and crisis mediation for communities and cities affected by war, armed conflict, post conflict, forced migration and other manmade and natural disasters.
	3.10.8	Enhanced multi-sector collaboration and public and private investment in urban areas and surrounding territories for the prevention and reduction of disaster risk and the effects of climate change.
	3.10.9	Timely updates to resilience criteria sets and strategies to ensure they respond to local demands and needs.
3.10 SDG target alignment		*1.5; 5.5; 2.4; 11.1; 11.2; 11.3; 11.5; 11.6; 11.7; 11.a; 11.b; 11.c; 12.8; 13-all; 14.2; 14.3; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4; 15.5; 15.8; 15.9; 15.a; 15.b; 16.1; 16.2; 16.3; 16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.8; 16.10; 17.5; 17.6; 17.7; 17.8; 17.9; 17.14; 17.16; 17.17; 17.18; 17.19*

D. Action Area 4: Urban economy and municipal finances

Cities finance their development through a combination of own revenues, intergovernmental transfers, and external resources. As subnational government revenues in the region are still generally low (except in the cases of Brazil, Costa Rica, Uruguay and Chile, whose subnational governments obtain more than 60% of their income from own resources) there continues to be a high dependence on intergovernmental transfers for urban financing, especially for small municipalities (ECLAC,

2017c). As a traditional source of financing, intergovernmental transfers are in many cases uncertain and limited by restricted use (Blanco et al., 2016), which restricts the capacity of local governments to allocate their expenditures and autonomously guide their urban development.

The last two decades in Latin America and the Caribbean have been marked by decentralization processes where capacities have been transferred from the national to subnational levels, which has largely resulted in an increase in the allocation of responsibilities to the local level, for example in the social and environmental areas, but without adequately adjusting resources or public administration frameworks (UN-Habitat, 2012). This has caused a growing gap between expenditures and resources at the local level (ECLAC, 2017c). In terms of urban finance, this has meant the reallocation of functions on the side of expenditures, but not in taxation and financing powers. For example, even though 30% of public expenditure responsibility has been transferred to subnational governments, this represents only 10% of tax revenue collection, which creates a financial dependence on national governments and reduces the capacity of subnational governments to implement, manage and finance urban and territorial development (IDB, 2013).

In addition, the participation of most subnational governments of Latin America and the Caribbean countries in the collection of total tax revenue is very low (except in Brazil, Argentina and Colombia) and little growth has been seen in the last ten years (ECLAC, 2017c). Weak and outdated tax bases of local governments in most countries prevent them from implementing and performing their functions in terms of urban management and social protection, which in some cases has resulted in the re-centralization of their functions towards the national level (IDB, 2013; UN-HABITAT, 2012; ECLAC, 2017c). To address these challenges, multilevel, coordinated and transparent governance is required to maximize the sustainable mobilization of resources, where the role of subnational governments is strengthened in decision-making and the implementation of urban policies.

One of the biggest challenges for Latin America and the Caribbean is low investment in urban infrastructure, which has implications for economic competitiveness, access to employment and basic services, quality of life, and environmental protection, among others (MINURVI, ECLAC and UN-Habitat, 2016). It is estimated that only 3% of the regional GDP is spent on infrastructure, half of what is necessary to meet demands (ECLAC, 2014). For the most part, the responsibility for financing urban projects such as urban infrastructure and the provision of basic services generally falls on subnational governments, which has resulted in the indebtedness of many municipalities in the region (ECLAC, 2017c). The composition of subnational debts in Latin America and the Caribbean is achieved in most cases through public entities, either directly with the central government or through development banking (ECLAC, 2017c). Advances in social control mechanisms and in the implementation of regulatory frameworks to control subnational loans and debt capacity have improved fiscal health in certain places (i.e. as an effect of the Fiscal Responsibility Law in Brazil enacted in 2000), however, more social and political control is still needed to achieve fiscal balance in the region (UN-Habitat, 2012).

In general, debt as a tool to finance projects and urban infrastructure usually "does not seem to put fiscal sustainability at risk", given that its overall weight is low in collective terms (ECLAC, 2017c, p. 112). However, it should be noted that there are differences in debt sustainability among subnational governments, and similarly, access to credit can exacerbate territorial disparities (ECLAC, 2017c, p. 112). Access to credit by subnational governments can be hampered by their lack of credit profiles, which makes it difficult to access credit from reliable institutions, or from underdeveloped capital markets, or they cannot acquire the interest of private banks for this type of credit loan (Blanco et al., 2016). To face this dilemma, some Latin America and Caribbean countries have created entities and instruments that adapt to the financing needs of subnational governments with the purpose of offering financing and investment options for projects at the territorial level for local development (Blanco et al., 2016). To improve the quality of basic services and infrastructure in cities of n, it is necessary that subnational governments have the opportunities to access secure and reliable financial sources, which are regulated and transparent, and that are controlled and monitored by debt mechanisms.

Additionally, financing urban development is not only about a challenge of infrastructure and urban services, but also of how to significantly contribute to the reduction of inequalities and inequities within cities, among them, and between their associated territories. In this regard, an instrument for local revenue generation that has not yet been used to its potential in Latin America and the Caribbean is the capture of value increases or capital gains. Such mechanisms are designed to recover expenditures on urban infrastructure, mobilizing revenues from increases in land value resulting from public investment in the surrounding area or through a regulatory change, and then reinvesting them in projects that have public benefit, such as urban infrastructure (ECLAC and UN-HABITAT, 2016a); the most notable examples being from Brazil and Colombia. Capital gains are important sources of income, in some cities in Latin America and the Caribbean, the impact of infrastructure on the value of urban land can value, on average, up to three times the cost of its construction (IDB, 2013). An advantage of this instrument is that it provides fiscal autonomy to subnational governments, since it supplies them with their own resources with heightened potential (IDB, 2013). The main reasons why this mechanism has not been taken advantage of in the region, is that its design requires technical and technological capabilities, which some subnational governments do not possess. And in some cases, the process is stalled in its implementation due to lack of political will at the local level, or is hampered by the opposition of particular interest groups (IDB, 2013; UN-HABITAT, 2012). Survey results in the region show that public authorities lack understanding regarding their potential, as well as holding a perception that it is an instrument that promotes equity rather than being a source of local resources (Smolka, 2012). However, capital gains have the potential to serve both purposes, as an important source of local urban financing and, at the same time, promoting more equitable cities.

Another key mechanism for urban financing and the provision of services are Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), where a combination of private and public investment facilitates design, construction, operation and maintenance (Blanco et al., 2016). This mechanism requires long-term financing contracts between the public and private sectors to carry out urban projects such as infrastructure projects, the recovery of urban areas and the preservation of historic centres (IDB, 2013; Blanco, 2016). Systematic efforts to attract private investment in infrastructure in Latin America and the Caribbean since the 1990s (ECLAC, 2014c) have resulted in the region receiving the largest proportional private contribution to infrastructure in the world (Jordán and Livert, 2016). This is a success that should be understood in relative terms, since it also has the highest rate of private investment cancelled, with frequent renegotiation of contracts, which have high economic and political costs for governments (Engel et al., 2014; Jordán and Livert, 2016). The limiting factors of PPPs in many Latin American and Caribbean countries are mainly: inadequate legal and regulatory frameworks, the lack of resources and capacities of the associated political entities, the risk associated to the private sector over local authorities, the complexity of the tax systems, and the lack of transparency of accounting records, which means that this type of mechanism is not suitable for all (Blanco et al., 2016).

A relatively underexplored issue in the region is public participation in urban financing. In Brazil, their experience with participatory budgeting since the 1980s provides a positive example, in which up to 15% of the budget of the city of Porto Alegre is allocated and monitored directly by citizens, a concept that has been replicated in other Brazilian cities and, in some cases, shows that up to a third of citizens participate and approve urban projects (IDB, 2013, p. 14). There is an urgent need in the region to maximize new, sustainable, and inclusive ways of financing long-term sustainable urbanization so that subnational governments and their citizens can obtain more autonomy over their development, enabling a transparent and accountable urban management.

This action area seeks to provide a roadmap for municipalities and cities to maximize their capacity to link growth and urban development with a basis of fiscal administration and sustainable governance.

Action area 4: Urban economy and municipal finances	
Strategic objective	*Strengthen municipal finances, local fiscal systems, and the instruments and capacities to innovate and develop new and improved financing mechanisms for urban investment.*
SDG alignment	

	Objectives	Key components	
Enabling conditions of sustainable urban financing	4.1 Establish **intergovernmental fiscal systems** to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and distributive equity of public expenditure at the subnational level	4.1.1	Political competencies and public spending functions that correspond to each level of government and are clearly defined before funding is allocated.
		4.1.2	Functions assigned to the level of government that can most efficiently undertake these functions (according to scale economies, capacities, the principle of subsidiarity), avoiding a transfer of functions from other levels of government that are not accompanied by the necessary resources for their provision.
		4.1.3	Clearly distributed competencies and expense functions that minimize overlap between levels, within a framework that creates incentives for intergovernmental expenditure coordination in the provision of public goods and services.
		4.1.4	Reassignment or allocation of functions that consider institutional size and the capacities of subnational governments to effectively and efficiently perform these functions.
	4.1 SDG target alignment	*1.b; 8.1; 8.2; 8.3; 8.5; 8.6; 8.b; 8.10; 10.2; 10.3; 10.4; 11.3; 11.a; 11.b; 12.1; 13.a; 16.6; 16.7; 17.1; 17.4; 17.5; 17.13*	
	4.2 Establish or strengthen **urban governance systems** in order to maximize the sustainable mobilization of resources (, for public urban infrastructure and services)	4.2.1	Coordination between urban planning and local financial planning that provide geo-spatial and sector coherence to urbanization and establish a long-term vision for urban investments to support the mobilization of financial resources and the promotion of job creation.
		4.2.2	Flexible and transparent governance structures that promote the effectiveness and efficiency of urban financial planning and the management of urban services and infrastructure. Public consortia among governments at federal and municipal levels.
		4.2.3	Programs to develop institutional capacities for local, metropolitan and sub-national financial management.
		4.2.4	New financing mechanisms or public-private mechanisms for the development or upgrading of urban infrastructure, i.e., urban renewal trusts, programs for public private participation, etc.
		4.2.5	Enabling environments conducive for innovation in the design of financial instruments that permit private savings capture for urban improvements.
	4.2 SDG target alignment	*7.b; 8.1; 8.2; 8.3; 8.5; 8.6; 8.10; 8.a; 9.1; 9.3; 9.4; 9.a; 9.c; 10.6; 10.b; 11.3; 11.a; 11.c; 12.7; 16.3; 16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.10; 17.1; 17.3; 17.5; 17.8; 17.9; 17.16; 17.17*	
	4.3 Promote **effective local fiscal regimes** that strengthen inclusive and sustainable municipal finances and consider institutional size and government capacities to effectively and efficiently exercise assigned functions and to support capacity development	4.3.1	Framework and mandate to promote the autonomy of local governments in identifying priorities and orienting fiscal policy.
		4.3.2	Framework to ensure intergovernmental relations and distribute responsibilities and roles for project implementation through agreements with public and private stakeholders and linkages between public funding and planning functions.
		4.3.3	Solid, transparent and institutionalized systems for intergovernmental transfers of resources from upper levels of government to municipal levels, that considers both general and specific uses of funds.
		4.3.4	Legal and institutional framework that authorizes local governments to use financial instruments (such as municipal loans and tools for land value capture) in order to finance local economic development and infrastructure.

		4.3.5	Local governments with capacities to pool resources in order to facilitate access to credit markets when seeking funds to finance operations, maintenance activities, infrastructure projects or service provision (as permitted by national legislation) and appropriate risk assessment, in order to expand local debt markets.
	4.3 SDG target alignment		*1. a; 2.a; 8.1; 8.3; 8.5; 8.6; 8.10; 9.1; 9.3; 9.4; 9.a; 10.3; 10.4; 10.b; 11.2; 11.3; 11.a; 11.c; 12.7; 16.3; 16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.8; 16.10; 16.b; 17.1; 17.3; 17.4; 17.5; 17.9; 17.13; 17.14; 17.5; 17.17; 17.19*
	4.4 Strengthen or support the design and implementation of an **efficient and effective local fiscal and financial framework** for inclusive and sustainable economic development	4.4.1	Local fiscal management strengthened by modern, results-based budgets developed in participatory processes; local auditing; accountability of public policies and programs, including public service providers.
		4.4.2	Effective links between income, expenditure and medium- and long- term investment programs. Investment plans and policies for capital goods and the maintenance of infrastructure to support multi-year capital planning. Effective linkages with local territorial and economic development planning and job creation.
		4.4.3	Design, implementation and strengthening of municipal financial management systems, processes and instruments; design and implementation of instruments to promote transparency and accountability in local public financial management; strengthening of local capacities for effective and transparent municipal financial management; effective supervision of local financial performance.
	4.4 SDG target alignment		*8.1; 8.3; 8.4; 8.10; 10.2; 10.4; 10.6; 11.3; 11.a; 12.7; 12.c; 14.7; 14.b; 16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.8; 16.10; 16.b; 17.1; 17.3; 17.5; 17.9; 17.13; 17.14; 17.16; 17.17; 17.18; 17.19*
	4.5 Improve and expand financing sources for urban investment through **new and improved tools and mechanisms to generate own revenues**	4.5.1	National and local level reforms to create opportunities and incentives to increase and diversify the local resource base and the efficient use of local resources.
		4.5.2	Development of land based financing instruments: procurement of public lands; exactions; improvement contributions; transfer or sale of urbanization rights; relotting and in general, land value capture. Fiscal and regulatory land management tools applied to urban planning strategies. Densification and re-development of underutilized land. Participatory, transparent and legal instruments for the valuation of capital gains generated by public action or decision, and the equitable distribution of the costs and benefits of urbanization processes. Management and updating of the land cadastre based on market value.
		4.5.3	Financing mechanisms to defray the capital costs of high quality massive transit systems (given their major access to principal urban areas).
		4.5.4	Integrated planning for financing sources, investment in infrastructure and urban services, and urban territorial development (transit-oriented development projects, mixed urban operations for urban infill or re-development).
		4.5.5	National and local-level reforms to provide opportunities and incentives to increase efficiency in the management of public assets, access to capital markets and the mobilization of private sector resources.
		4.5.6	Strategies and programs linked with urban investment that promotes local economic development and job creation.
		4.5.7	Improved access to climate finance for cities through: (i) creation of a financial regulatory environment that encourages cities to invest in low-emission, climate-resilient infrastructure; (ii) support for cities in developing frameworks for assessing climate externalities; (iii) support for the preparation of mitigation and adaptation projects; and (iv) collaboration with local financial institutions to design infrastructure solutions for cities through climate finance.
		4.5.8	Maximised opportunities for international funding opportunities through subnational training programs for the application, execution and monitoring of international grants.

Critical elements for financing urbanization (4.4)

Critical elements for financing urbanization (4.5)

	4.5.9	Exploration and development of additional financing sources, subject to the characteristics of the investment in specific public services: tarification systems and charges that reflect marginal social costs that promote sustainable behaviour; systems based on the principles of use-benefits.
4.5 SDG target alignment		*7.b; 8.1; 8.3; 8.4; 8.5; 8.6; 8.b; 8.10; 8.a; 9.1; 9.3; 9.4; 9.a; 9.c; 10.3; 10.4; 10.5; 10.6; 10.b; 11.1; 11.2; 11.3; 11.4; 11.a; 11.b; 11.c; 12.7; 12.c; 13-all; 16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.10; 17.1; 17.3; 17.5; 17.7; 17.8; 17.9; 17.13; 17.14; 17.16; 17.17; 17.18; 17.19*
4.6 Create and implement **new and diversified instruments** at all levels of government **to improve access de adequate housing**	4.6.1	Options for home financing available to all income levels. Development of diversified housing projects that group distinct segments of society.
	4.6.2	Cross subsidization, mortgages and financing for social and rental housing. Non-collateral loan mechanisms for homebuilders. Credit for developers, contractors and construction material manufacturers.
	4.6.3	Mechanisms and environment that favour development and licensing, rental policies, home improvement, housing cooperatives, and/or room use. Public housing production and administration based on the principle of the security of tenancy.
	4.6.4	Promotion of cooperative action for neighbourhood organization, maintenance, improvement, modernization and/or repair of homes and surroundings. Equitable instruments to channel civil society savings. Use of ancestral practices for community construction and the incorporation of sustainable materials. Heritage protection.
	4.6.5	Management of social housing developments and assets through progressive housing programs, microcredits to improve housing, development of new building materials and their commercialization, technical assistance, and other mechanisms.
	4.6.6	Subsidies for improved access to well-located urban land to promote inclusive development (equitable land-use planning, re-development, and upgrading of precarious settlements).
4.6 SDG target alignment		*1.4; 5.a; 5.c; 8.1; 8.3; 8.10; 10.2; 10.3; 10.4; 10.b; 11.1; 11.2; 11.3; 11.4; 11.a; 11.b; 11.c; 13.2; 13.3; 16.3; 16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.10; 16.b; 17.5; 17.9; 17.14; 17.16; 17.17; 17.18; 17.19.*

E. Action Area 5: Local implementation

Cities are the engines and nodes of the region´s economies. The overarching challenge is to increase economic performance in a way that is sustainable and promotes equality. National policies and regulations have a significant effect on the economic performance that occurs in cities. The management of the physical environment of urban centres is also important for economic development. Local regulations for land use and infrastructure development, as well as effective collaboration and cooperation between the public and private sectors and civil society are key for promoting investment and sustainable growth (MGI, 2011).

The competitiveness of the urban productive base depends on economic variables that characterize the production in local businesses, where some of the most relevant factors are the quality of the factors of production (including the labour force), the endowment of natural resources and available technology, entry barriers for new investments and substitutes for local products, and the dynamism of target markets. The improvement of this base is one of the key axes of intervention for public policy. In the region, these policies focus on improving the competitiveness of urban economies, and enhancing the development of agglomeration and scale economies.

The challenge of improving productivity and the growth of urban economies in Latin America and the Caribbean needs to be addressed by strengthening areas of research and development (knowledge economies) and adequately diagnosing other productive areas to optimize the use of agglomeration and scale economies. Competitiveness has been promoted through Local Economic Development (LED) processes which include a participatory development that encourages partnership

agreements between representative actors and stakeholders from all sectors in urban centres. The objective of LED is to provide a road map for private and public entities in urban areas, allowing for joint development and implementation of strategies for urban and territorial development (UN-Habitat III, 2015). Given that a high percentage of the Latin American and Caribbean urban population work in low productivity sectors and in the informal economy, this is an area of importance for the economic development strategies at the local government.

Subnational governments have three key responsibilities for strengthening urban economies and promoting economic development. These are to develop local skills, abilities and comparative advantages; collect and maintain up-to-date high quality local data (to identify problems and prioritize policies) and develop a better connectivity with rural areas from urban contexts; and to improve labour markets, and promote efficient exchange, value chains and capital transfers. Some of the most important policies relevant to this context are: strengthening local institutions and regulatory frameworks; provide the necessary infrastructure for innovation and the development of human capital; simplify administrative procedures for the creation of businesses, the generation of patents and general operations related to business; coordinate land use with urban infrastructure planning; facilitate, encourage and promote training of entrepreneurs; ensure an environment of trust with respect to contracts and the legal system based on an efficient and secure legal framework at the subnational level.

Subnational governments play key roles in basic services provision and capacity development at the city and local levels. However, ineffective and incomplete decentralization processes have resulted in shortcomings with regard to local implementation capacity. These shortcomings produce deficiencies in the delivery of basic services and are exacerbated by the increasing environmental challenges facing the region, such as the intensification of the effects of climate change in a highly vulnerable region, whose effects do not respect political borders (IDB, 2011).

The region also shows urbanization patterns with deficits of social cohesion, high levels of segregation and inequality, together with high levels of violence and insecurity (ECLAC and UN-Habitat, 2016a). Urban public spaces in Latin America and the Caribbean often do not fulfil their role as spaces for interaction or for community building. The privatization and commercialization of these areas deepens tendencies in segregation and limits their potential for citizen empowerment. On the other hand, public participation initiatives lack sufficiently robust administrative and institutional mechanisms and a transversal culture of active participation (ECLAC and UN-Habitat, 2016a).

The region presents a diverse range of problems in terms of urban land management at the city level and a lack of adequate and permanent programs to improve and update urban planning and management mechanisms and instruments. Progress to date on urban and territorial planning has been slow, with problems related to inefficient and informal institutions and frequent interruption and discontinuity, due to lack of political will to carry out long-term urban planning, and due to external factors, that hinder the implementation of urban projects in a continuous and consistent manner (Smolka, 2012; ECLAC and UN-Habitat, 2016a). There is also a questioning of local institutional quality in the region caused by high rates of corruption, tax evasion and lack of supervision by subnational administrations (ECLAC and UN-Habitat, 2016a).

The lack of effective land policies and other deficiencies in subnational management, in addition to deepening socio-spatial inequalities, contributes to the spread of urban sprawl. The rapid expansion of large urban areas in Latin America and the Caribbean observed during the last decades complicates local management and administration where the urban fabric and the management of public services often do not coincide with the administrative territorial definitions. In recent years, there has been a multiplication of closed and mono functional spaces in the region, together with the de-population of urban centres. The growth of the city's surface generates an increase in the costs of management and the delivery of basic public services. Regional projections foresee an average decrease in urban density of 2% per year (ECLAC and UN-Habitat, 2016a). This situation, along with the asymmetries observed in terms of management capacity between local administrations, creates coordination challenges and makes it difficult to define roles and responsibilities for the delivery of infrastructure, amenities and services in the city (ECLAC and UN-Habitat, 2016a).

Action area 5: Local implementation	
Strategic objective	*Improve capacities and local instruments to guide sustainable urbanization and promote solid partnerships between the diverse actors and sectors involved in sustainable urban development.*
SDG alignment	

Objectives		**Key components**	
5.1	Create **local communities that play an integral and leading role** in civil society and sustainable urban development	5.1.1	Formal and informal civil society organizations with the capacity to take an active and relevant role in decision-making and local planning processes.
		5.1.2	Mechanisms for dialogue and effective coordination between governments and communities, which incorporate ICTs.
		5.1.3	Urban inhabitants informed and aware of their roles, rights and needs within the urban system and in urban development processes.
		5.1.4	Tools and capacities to promote effective participation in local decision making and planning processes.
		5.1.5	Organizational and institutional initiatives and structures that strengthen a sense of belonging, identity, community and responsibility.
		5.1.6	Multi-use, multi-purpose and inclusive public space that strengthen a sense of belonging, identity, community and responsibility.
		5.1.7	Legal defense mechanisms and judicial support for citizen reporting and demands related to urban development and city management.
5.1 SDG target alignment		*1.4; 4.5; 4.6; 4.7; 4.a; 5.1; 5.2; 5.5; 5.a; 5.b; 5.c; 6.b; 8.3; 8.5; 9.c; 10.2; 10.3; 10.7; 11.1; 11.2; 11.3; 11.7; 12.8; 13.3; 16.3; 16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.9; 16.10; 16.b; 17.8; 17.16; 17.17*	
5.2	Establish and strengthen **cooperation between different levels of government and other actors** to guide and coordinate sustainable urban development at the subnational level	5.2.1	Local and sub-national tools and capacities for management and leadership to promote partnerships and the definition of conditions and priorities for cooperation with multi-sector actors, including the use of ICTs.
		5.2.2	Active mechanisms and networks for cooperation between cities and sub-national governments to exchange experiences and information, dialogue regarding challenges and opportunities, identify common priorities and align urban development initiatives that include a framework to strengthen South-South cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean.
		5.2.3	Alliances between local and sub-national governments and continuous review and reporting processes to assess achievements and address persistent challenges.
		5.2.4	Flexible public-private partnerships, with strategic vision, geared to respond to urban and territorial needs.
		5.2.5	Flexible partnerships with the academic, civil society and other sectors, with strategic vision and geared to responding to the needs of the territory and its inhabitants.
		5.2.6	Mechanisms for coordination with representation from all relevant multi-sector actors.
5.2 SDG target alignment		*1.a; 4.7; 5.5; 5.b; 8.4; 9.c; 10.2; 10.3; 11.3; 11.a; 12.7; 12.8; 12.a; 16.3; 16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.10; 16.a; 17.6; 17.7; 17.8; 17.9; 17.14; 17.15; 17.16; 17.17; 17.18; 17.19*	
5.3	Strengthen **the continuity of medium and long-term planning and implementation processes** for sustainable urban development	5.3.1	Long term, binding mechanisms to guarantee resources and establish explicit commitments to comply with ongoing plans, programs and projects.
		5.3.2	Policies and plans with local- and city- level strategic vision and that integrate short-term needs with medium and long term projections.
		5.3.3	Allocation of explicit and long-term roles and responsibilities for public policies, plans, programs, and follow-up.
		5.3.4	Regular and transparent instances of public accountability and mechanisms for the recording, systematization and application of results.
5.3 SDG target alignment		*8.4; 10.3; 11.3; 11.a; 12.8; 13.2; 13.b; 15.9; 16.3; 16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.10; 16.b; 17.9; 17.14; 17.18; 17.19.*	

5.4	**Plan** for **new urbanization with an integrated**, city-based approach	5.4.1	Strategic urban planning instruments with legal basis and enforcement capacity.
		5.4.2	New urbanization that responds to the economic, social, environmental and cultural needs of the cities and their hinterlands.
		5.4.3	Adequate and accessible urban services, amenities, and infrastructure in areas of newly urbanized areas.
		5.4.4	Application of risk and environmental vulnerability criteria in land use allocation and development processes to preserve and conserve green spaces and urban ecosystems and their functions.
		5.4.5	Strategic zoning and land use allocation for new urbanization, in line with the local and city level vision.
		5.4.6	Connectivity of areas of new urbanization with the existing urban fabric, through an integrated approach that promotes equitable access to the city, and limits the privatization of public space.
	5.4 SDG target alignment		*1.4; 1.5; 4.7; 4.a; 5.2; 5.5; 5.a; 6-all; 7.1; 7.b; 8.3; 8.4; 8.5; 9.1; 9.4; 9.a; 9.c; 10.2; 10.3; 11-all; 12.4; 12.5; 13.1; 13.2; 13.3; 13.b; 14.1; 14.2; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4; 15.5; 15.9; 16.3; 16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.10; 16.b; 17.14; 17.16; 17.17; 17.18; 17.19*
5.5	Promote **urban renewal and infill development**	5.5.1	Mechanisms to control land speculation and prevent gentrification.
		5.5.2	Regeneration and recovery of abandoned and derelict areas for infill development; redesign of high risk areas.
		5.5.3	Infill development that promotes appropriate densities, improve access to services, amenities, and infrastructure, and to reduce impacts per capita in terms of energy use, emissions, water, and other resources, including the efficient use of urbanized land.
		5.5.4	Mechanisms for land value capture and reinvestment of profits in public goods in the city (infrastructure, green spaces, etc.).
	5.5 SDG target alignment		*1.4; 1.5; 3.6; 4.a; 5.5; 6.1; 6.2; 6.4; 6.b; 7.1; 7.3; 7.b; 8.4; 9.1; 9.4; 9.c; 10.2; 10.3; 11-all; 12.1; 12.2; 12.4; 12.5; 12.7; 12.8; 13.1; 13.2; 13.3; 13.b; 14.1; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3;15.5; 15.9*
5.6	**Improve the existing urban fabric** to promote efficiency, equity, and safety in the city and the city's use of resources	5.6.1	Urban design for the efficient use of primary and secondary resources, with criteria for eco-efficiency applied and incentivized.
		5.6.2	Initiatives to preserve and increase socio-economic balance and mixed-use land use.
		5.6.3	Equitable connectivity, security, and in the delivery and quality of urban infrastructure and services in precarious settlements.
		5.6.4	Compensation for relocation (by both the public and private sectors) implemented effectively and equitably.
		5.6.5	Regulatory instruments and other legal mechanisms with enforcement capacity to guide private sector and other actors' involvement in urban development and new urbanization, to ensure alignment with the local and city level strategic vision.
		5.6.6	Instruments that permit intervention in the urban morphology to prevent fragmented development, and to create incentives for the use of partial plans.
		5.6.7	Commitment by local governments to guide urban development and decision making at the local and city level, according to the strategic vision defined for the territory.
	5.6 SDG target alignment		*1.4; 1.5; 3.6; 4.7; 4.a; 5.2; 5.4; 5.5; 5.a; 5.c; 6.1; 6.2; 6.4; 6.a; 6.b; 7.1; 7.2; 7.3; 7.b; 8.4; 8.8; 9.1; 9.4; 9.c; 10.2; 10.3; 10.4; 10.7; 11-all; 12.2; 12.3; 12.5; 12.7; 12.c; 13.1; 13.2; 13.3; 13.b; 15.9; 16.1 16.2; 16.3; 16.4; 16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.10; 16.b; 17.7; 17.16; 17.17*
5.7	Provide **basic urban services, amenities and social infrastructure** in an integrated, efficient and equitable manner, and allow for the promotion of the social production of habitat	5.7.1.	Ongoing dialogue and coordination among key actors for the integrated, efficient and equitable provision of services, amenities and infrastructure.
		5.7.2.	Urban planning to guarantee sufficient and adequate space needed to provide the services, amenities and infrastructure required by the city to maximize integration and minimize the negative externalities of their provision (water services, wastewater and its return to natural channels, sanitation and energy services, solid waste management, housing, public space, mobility etc.) and guarantee food security and healthy lifestyles.
		5.7.3.	Access to public transport and alternative transportation options, with multimodal systems integrated and equitably provided to all inhabitants.
		5.7.4.	Multi-purpose public spaces with equal access for all inhabitants of the city.

	5.7.5.	Strategies, initiatives and instruments for the provision of basic services and health and education options to all inhabitants of the city; application of strategic planning mechanisms for the inclusion of marginalized groups.
	5.7.6.	Design, construction, management and maintenance processes that promote the efficient use of natural resources, sustainable resource use and the conservation of public goods.
	5.7.7.	Preservation and revitalization of city marine borders that respects the local economy, traditional fishing and the protection of beaches as public spaces.
5.7 SDG target alignment		*1.3; 1.4; 2.3; 2.4; 2.a; 3.7; 3.8; 4.a; 5.2; 5.5; 5.a; 5.b; 6-all; 7.1; 7.3; 7.b; 8.3; 8.4; 8.5; 8.10; 9.1; 9.4; 9.c; 10.2; 10.3; 10.4; 11-all; 12.2; 12.4; 12.5; 12.8; 13.3; 14.1; 14.2; 14.5; 14.7; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4; 15.9; 16.6; 16.10; 16.b; 17.14; 17.16; 17.17*
5.8 Design and implement strategies and instruments for **inclusive and sustainable urban economic development** to strengthen local urban economies, create employment, and improve livelihoods in cities	5.8.1.	Medium and long-term vision and land-use planning policy based on effective land use regulation and on transparency of the land tenure regime, to: (i) coordinate land use consistent with the sectorial and infrastructure development; (ii) articulate infrastructure investments to guide private development; and (iii) foster a suitable mix of high-density development and mixed land uses, in order for businesses of all sizes and types to thrive.
	5.8.2.	Formulation of medium and long-term infrastructure development plans based on rigorous needs and profitability assessments. Effective and transparent policy for the allocation of infrastructure investments and for the implementation of infrastructure projects. Funding from public as well as private sources.
	5.8.3.	Active dialogues between companies, entrepreneurs and investors representing both formal and informal sectors, in order to understand the challenges facing the local business community. Active support and development programs for company groups in the formal and informal sectors. Investment in the development of a skilled and knowledgeable workforce. Recognition and strengthening of the social and solidarity economy as a pillar in LED.
	5.8.4.	Address the gradual formalization of the informal economy while expanding social and legal protections and support services and regulating the use of public space.
5.8 SDG target alignment		*1.3; 1.b; 4.a; 5.4; 5.5; 5.a; 5.b; 5.c; 8-all; 9.1; 9.3; 9.4; 9.b; 9.c; 10.2; 10.3; 10.4; 10.6; 10.7; 10.b; 11-all; 12.1; 12.5; 12.6; 12.7; 12.8; 12.a; 12.c; 14.7; 14.b; 16.3; 16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.10; 16.b; 17.1; 17.3; 17.4; 17.5; 17.9; 17.11; 17.13; 17.14; 17.15; 17.16; 17.17*
5.9 **Transfer the benefits of public investment** to the inhabitants of the city	5.9.1.	Land based and territorial planning instruments that incorporate the valuation of ecosystem services and land use in the city.
	5.9.2.	Financial mechanisms to capture land value and reinvest public revenues in public infrastructure and services.
	5.9.3.	Financial mechanisms that value ecosystem services and prioritize re-investment of associated public revenues in public infrastructure to promote the sustainability of critical ecosystems and to preserve, conserve and restore public goods in the city (air quality, water quality, and green spaces).
	5.9.4.	Transparency, responsibility and accountability of public expenditures and investments.
	5.9.5.	Cross sectorial mechanisms of the circular economy to link productive processes at the regional and national levels.
5.9 SDG target alignment		*1.4; 4.a; 5.4; 5.5; 5.a; 6.1; 6.2; 6.3; 6.4; 6.6; 7.1; 7.3; 8.1; 8.2; 8.3; 8.4; 8.10; 9.1; 9.4; 9.c; 10.2; 10.3; 10.4; 11-all; 12.2; 12.4; 12.5; 12.c; 14.1; 14.2; 15-all; 16.3; 16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.10; 17.17; 17.18; 17.19*

F. Action Area 6: Monitoring, reporting
and revision mechanisms

Collecting and maintaining high quality and up-to-date local data and information systems is a key responsibility of national and subnational governments and is fundamental for identifying problems and prioritizing policies, programs and interventions for sustainable urban development. The region's potential to measure, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the NUA depends on capacities for data, statistical and geographical information collection, processing and analysis with coherent methodologies that are consistent with international recommendations.

In the Latin America and the Caribbean region data collection relating to human settlements is limited, which has led to a significant lack of quality urban data (ECLAC and UN-Habitat, 2016a). This is most evident for population living in informal and precarious settlements, for which there exist important gaps in knowledge regarding the dimension of situation characteristics, the conditions of the settlements, and their relation to the cities where they are located. This scarcity of information presents a barrier to the analysis and mobilization of urban policies in Latin America and the Caribbean and results in urban planning decisions that are not informed by empirical knowledge, leading to the inefficient investment of resources.

These deficiencies reflect a generalized regional gap in terms of knowledge and capacities for the collection, management and analysis of data and information (Smolka et al., 2007, ECLAC and UN-Habitat, 2016a). This is intensified due to the demands of international monitoring indicators and frameworks which are often incompatible with the institutional, technical and financial capacities of national and subnational governments in the region. Similarly, for monitoring, reporting and revision processes to be truly inclusive they must be understood and discussed by the whole community. The use of technical language segregates participation, highlighting the need for improved accountability that engages diverse actors and stakeholders and not just technical discussions.

The lack of horizontal and vertical coordination between different sectors and institutions on an urban scale represents another important barrier to monitoring urban development in the region. Gaps in data, information and skills are exacerbated by insufficient collaboration and coordination between subnational and national governments in the region. In general, management structures and responsibilities for data and information collection and management are fragmented and dispersed between various levels of public management fragmented. A lack of coordination among multi-sector bodies of urban management is also common. These factors increase inefficiencies in the use of human and technical resources and further complicate monitoring and follow-up processes.

To address these challenges, an integrated approach to data and information collection is needed that identifies and harnesses the potential for the generation of information from multiple sectors (such as the private and academic sector) and the formalization of information gathering initiatives which emerge from and engage civil society. The region lacks coherent and coordinated national and subnational monitoring frameworks that respond to the priorities, capabilities and resources available in this context.

The rapid incorporation of digital technologies into private consumption has important implications for data collection and has the potential to optimize citizen coordination within and between neighbourhoods and to improve the quality and relevance of local information. The integration of local government initiatives in statistical and geographical information systems in a transparent manner has the potential to improve urban democratic experience and contribute to more effective monitoring of urban development (ECLAC and UN-Habitat, 2016a).

Within this context, there are some advances that address the current state of data and information. UN-Habitat has developed a City Prosperity Index (CPI), which appears as an alternative to monitor the impact of public policies and strategies on urban development from a multidimensional perspective that considers economic, social, and environmental aspects, and connects them with a perspective of integrated spatial and territorial analysis. Monitoring the implementation of the NUA

may benefit from the progress of the CPI in different countries and could be adapted to the reality of each country or city.

Finally, the continuity of monitoring processes can be limited due to problems with the falsification of data, as well as issues arising from short political terms and frequents changes of the public officials responsible for the management of data and information. Both factors generate mistrust and reduce the quality and usefulness of the data produced by monitoring, as well as impairing the validity assigned to the monitoring processes and results by the citizens and decision makers, thus increasing the gap between the data and information, planning processes and urban development.

Action area 6: Monitoring, reporting and revision mechanisms

Strategic objective	*Reinforce human, technical and financial capacities in all sectors in order to monitor advances towards sustainable urban development and for the monitoring, reporting and revision of associated policies, programs, plans and projects.*
SDG alignment	

	Objectives	**Key components**	
Enabling conditions for monitoring, reporting and revision	6.1 Establish **coordinated statistical and geographical information systems** to measure and assess urban development	6.1.1	Diagnosis and ongoing assessment of available data and information at the city level and with geographical disaggregation that allows technical decisions at different urban scales.
		6.1.2	Collection, management, analysis and reporting of transparent and accessible information using defined methodologies and protocols that are available to the public, guaranteeing the validity of information and allowing for learning processes for participating sectors.
		6.1.3	Flexible information systems with mechanisms for ongoing review and learning processes, and clearly-defined deadlines, adapted to available local resources, technologies and capabilities.
		6.1.4	Formalized participation of sub-national government representatives, the private sector, civil society, residents and community organizations, and other relevant actors in data collection and interpretation and in the review and updating of methodologies. Incorporation of collaborative technologies and open data.
		6.1.5	Alignment with international standards and recommendations for information systems, including the indicators from the SDGs, that include standards for open sourcing, and do not represent user costs for access to public data.
		6.1.6	Incorporation of new sources for data and information with geographic disaggregation (i.e., big data, the application of new ICTs, etc.).
		6.1.7	Establish urban observatories that generate statistical and cartographic data to provide up-to-date and reliable information for urban planning.
	6.1 SDG target alignment	*4.7; 5.5; 10.2; 10.6; 11.3; 11.a; 16.3; 16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.8; 16.9; 16.10; 16.b; 17.6; 17.8; 17.9; 17.14; 17.16; 17.17; 17.18; 17.19*	
	6.2 Build **capacities for the collection, management, analysis and dissemination** of urban development data and information	6.2.1	Assessment of existing capacities and development of a regularly reviewed and revised training strategy that responds to urban and territorial needs, that includes the metropolitan perspective.
		6.2.2	Capacities for information collection, indicator construction and analysis, dissemination and progress reporting, according to international standards and recommendations.
		6.2.3	National and subnational statistics offices with capacities for the collection of high quality and geographically disaggregated information, that allows for diverse disaggregation (age, gender, race and ethnicity, language, health, education, etc).
		6.2.4	Partnerships between sub-national and national governments and other actors to promote the exchange of experiences and good practices, peer review, learning and voluntary reporting.

		6.2.5	Definition, commitment, and fulfilment of responsibilities for data and information generation by multiple sectors (public, private, civil society).
	6.2 SDG target alignment		*4.7; 5.b; 11.3; 11.a; 13.b; 16.6; 16.7; 16.9; 16.10; 17.6; 17.8; 17.9; 17.14; 17.16; 17.17; 17.18; 17.19*
Characteristics of an effective framework for monitoring, reporting and revision	6.3 Define a **monitoring framework** to analyse and guide urban development and respond to urban and territorial needs	6.3.1	Incorporation of international definitions, methodologies, standards and recommendations to minimize variation in the collection, interpretation and application of data, information and indicators.
		6.3.2	Identification and evaluation of existing mechanisms, institutions, capacities, platforms and processes for monitoring urban development.
		6.3.3	Incorporation of new methodologies and technologies to minimize the burden placed on national and subnational administrations.
		6.3.4	Regular review cycles and timely response to gaps in implementation identified by review.
	6.3 SDG target alignment		*16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.10; 17.8; 17.18; 17.19*
	6.4 Establish explicit **roles and responsibilities** for collecting, managing, analysing and disseminating multi-stakeholder and multi-level information	6.4.1	Identification of key actors at all management levels.
		6.4.2	Active strategies for strengthening the role of civil society actors.
		6.4.3	Mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation between sectors and levels of governance.
		6.4.4	Explicit definition of the right to choose, modify, apply, review, and deliver monitoring and assessment results.
		6.4.5	Explicit roles and deadlines for reporting.
		6.4.6	Periodic review and assessment of roles and responsibilities.
	6.4 SDG target alignment		*4.7; 5.5; 10.2; 10.6; 11.3; 16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.10; 16.b; 17.14; 17.16; 17.17; 17.18; 17.19*
Characteristics of an effective framework for monitoring, reporting and revision	6.5 Establish **coordination mechanisms** for the collection, management and analysis of statistical and geographical data and information for urban development	6.5.1	Horizontally and vertically coordinated information gathering processes.
		6.5.2	Horizontal and vertical flows of existing information between actors responsible for information collection, management and analysis.
		6.5.3	Dissemination of urban indicators through online systems; exchange of data between institutions and systems.
		6.5.4	Maximization of synergies between data and information collection, management and analysis by diverse actors.
		6.5.5	National and subnational statistics offices with the capacity and autonomy to coordinate and guide actors from multiple sectors and levels.
	6.5 SDG target alignment		*16.6; 16.7; 16.10; 17.8; 17.9; 17.16; 17.17; 17.18; 17.19*
	6.6 Identify and apply a **set of urban development indicators** that are relevant to the national and sub-national context	6.6.1	Evaluation of indicators and existing statistical capacity at the national and subnational level.
		6.6.2	Definition of clear, relevant, cost-effective, adequate and measurable indicators linked to sustainable urban development goals and other strategic urban and territorial processes.
		6.6.3	Identification of indicators that reflect the integrated and multi-sectorial nature of urban development and that identify trends in urban and territorial development; this includes the incorporation of indicators related to multidimensional poverty and its expression in precarious settlements.
		6.6.4	Clear definitions of selected indicators and methodologies for their application in order to ensure consistency and allow for comparisons between cities and at the regional and international levels.
		6.6.5	Alignment with the indicators proposed by global agendas; in particular, revision of indicators proposed for the SDGs, the CPI, and proposed assessments of Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement.
	6.6 SDG target alignment		*8.4; 11.1; 11.3; 11.b; 12.1; 13.a; 13.b; 14.c; 15.1; 16.6; 16.7; 16.10; 17.16; 17.17; 17.18; 17.19*
	6.7 Establish a **reporting system to inform national and sub-national decision-making processes**	6.7.1	Legally established, regular instances to report on the results of monitoring and review processes.
		6.7.2	Clear definition of criteria for incorporating monitoring results in urban planning and management.

	6.7.3	Explicit definition of roles and responsibilities by sector for the delivery and application of additional results that reflects adaptation to the characteristics and capacities of diverse groups of citizens.
	6.7.4	External and internal instances for multi-sector exchange to guide urban development and new urbanization.
	6.7.5	Results of monitoring and review that are easily accessible and presented to the public.
	6.7.6	Spaces for dialogue between actors responsible for data collection and decision-makers, in order to review and refine methodologies for data and information collection.
	6.7.7	Spaces for public participation in data analysis and improved platforms in benefit of public policy and monitoring.
6.7 SDG target alignment		*4.7; 5.5; 9.c; 16.5; 16.6; 16.7; 16.8; 16.10; 17.6; 17.7; 17.8; 17.9; 17.16; 17.18; 17.19*

IV. Next steps towards implementation and monitoring

A. Regional Cooperation Programs

1. Regional Cooperation Program for Latin America and the Caribbean

A regional cooperation program will promote the implementation of the Regional Action Plan, orienting ECLAC's response to challenges and opportunities for achieving sustainable and inclusive urban development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The program will serve as a framework for connecting and aligning ongoing initiatives and promoting cooperation at the regional, national and subnational levels. Key elements of the program will include capacity building, research and knowledge construction, policy implementation, and partnerships to reinforce strategic commitments for development.

The program will represent an important space for orienting, coordinating, validating and providing visibility to multi-level and multi-sector efforts to support NUA implementation. The production of recommendations, planning documents and other knowledge products and dialogues to support and guide development processes will advance the identification of synergies between ongoing and emerging actions, avoiding the duplication of efforts and maximizing the impact of initiatives by key program partners. Program partners will also benefit from participation in the construction and expansion of the Latin American and Caribbean Urban and Cities Platform, with access to consolidated data, documents and other information on urban planning and development processes within the region as well as ongoing dialogue and knowledge exchange between actors.

2. Subregional Cooperation Program the Caribbean

Caribbean states face limited capacities for responding to critical urban sector challenges due to a lack of critical mass and economies of scale. This context demands a coordinated, subregional approach to sustainable and inclusive urban development. A subregional cooperation program will respond to

requests from Caribbean states to support NUA implementation in the Caribbean subregion, adapting the core elements of the regional cooperation program to the subregional context and challenges.

The program will support capacity building for the design, development, implementation, and monitoring and assessment of projects, programs and policies to address key challenges in the urban sector and advance NUA implementation in the Caribbean. The program will also seek to strengthen regional systems for data collection and knowledge construction to inform and orient relevant policies, programs, projects, and other initiatives. NUA implementation in the Caribbean will be further supported by leveraging existing and emerging sources of funding for sustainable urban development and supporting the prioritization of key urban issues within the subregion, while strengthening partnerships to align existing and emerging initiatives between sectors and scales, fostering long-term commitments for collaboration.

B. Actors, roles and responsibilities

The effective, efficient and sustainable implementation of the NUA in Latin America and the Caribbean will depend on the commitment of diverse actors from multiple sectors and intervention scales. The responsibilities of national and subnational governments, civil society, NGOs, the academic sector, the private sector, development banks, other international cooperation institutions and UN-Habitat and other United Nations agencies as key players in RAP implementation will need to be made explicit. Coordination and learning networks among actors from different sectors and at different levels need to be built and strengthened as an integral and cross cutting element to the different action areas of the RAP. The region has a significant body of knowledge and experiences in sustainable urban development, as well as diverse groups of actors committed to sustainable urban development, all of which should be invested in collective learning processes to strengthen the implementation of the RAP in Latin America and the Caribbean at the subregional, and national levels, above all, in each city and urban territory.

C. Action plans

1. Subregional Action Plans

In this context, the preparation of subregional action plans seeks to respond to the specific challenges and opportunities of each subregional context. These processes will carry out a critical review and analysis of the contents of the RAP, identifying the key factors for sustainable development and for the implementation of the NUA in each subregion to provide a useful planning and contextual reference to national and subnational governments. The subregional action plans will set priorities for action in the short, medium and long term, and complement the RAP with elements and actions specific to the subregional context, including a mapping of actors in order to explicit roles and responsibilities between sectors and scales of implementation.

2. National Action Plans

The development and implementation of the RAP may include the development of national frameworks and action plans (NAPs) as tools for establishing commitments to advance sustainable, prosperous, and inclusive urban development at the national and subnational levels, recognizing priorities, capacities, and specific national challenges. Like the RAP, national plans will foster policy coherence and consistency across government as well as, if developed within a results-based framework, will lead to the effective delivery of longer-term development results. NAPs should be part of national urban

development plans already in place in many Latin American and Caribbean countries. NAPs have been firmly established as a form of public policy response used by States to address challenges in thematic areas; as such, they are suitable tools for the definition and implementation of the national commitments for the implementation of the NUA.

3. City Plans

Within the framework of the RAP, the role of the State as a governing body to ensure the application of the RAP´s guiding principles, to adequately regulate, to achieve the common good, and to establish and promote the necessary enabling conditions to materialize the NUA for the reality of each city and/or urban territory is critical. The City Plan interprets and materializes the NUA and the RAP according to the conditions necessary for sustainable urban development in its local context, allowing for articulation with the national and subnational territory and establishing conditions for internal integration in sub-urban spaces. City Plans are the key substantive part of the implementation of the NUA and the RAP in the region. Cities, together with their citizens, are the protagonists in building more inclusive, prosperous and resilient cities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

D. Monitoring and evaluating the Regional Action Plan

1. Urban and Cities Platform

The proposal to develop a regional observatory on urban and city issues was established in the Asunción Declaration (2016), the outcome document of MINURVI's XXV General Assembly. The intention was reaffirmed at Habitat III and in the Buenos Aires Declaration (2017), agreed upon at XXVI General Assembly of MINURVI. In these instances, the assembly members committed to promoting the development of an observatory on housing and urban development, which monitored progress toward the implementation of sustainable urban development agendas in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Within this context, and given the pressing need to monitor the implementation of both regional and global agendas and, at the same time, to strengthen capacities for implementation, the construction of a "Latin American and Caribbean Urban and Cities Platform" is proposed. The coordination of the Platform forms part of the strategic alliance between ECLAC, UN-Habitat and MINURVI, towards the implementation of the NUA and the urban dimension of the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean. Additionally, a steering committee will be convened to support its development process, comprised of strategic partners from multiple actor groups, such as international organizations, academia, NGOs, development banks, and the private sector.

Diagram 1 shows the proposed structure of the Platform, which will have two main components:

1. **A Virtual Forum**: for the analysis and discussion of urban and territorial dynamics and processes within the region. The Forum will be guided by an established agenda for research, exchange of ideas and experiences between experts, decision-makers and other stakeholders, to strengthen national and sub-national capacities for the implementation of sustainable development agendas.
2. **An Observatory:** to compile and visualize urban and city-level information, including relevant indicators for monitoring the implementation of the NUA and the SDGs, good practice, and the analysis of relevant legislation, public policy, plans, programs and projects. The Observatory will provide relevant information and resources to support the development of qualitative and quantitative urban assessment methodologies.

Diagram 1
Proposed structure of the Urban and Cities Platform
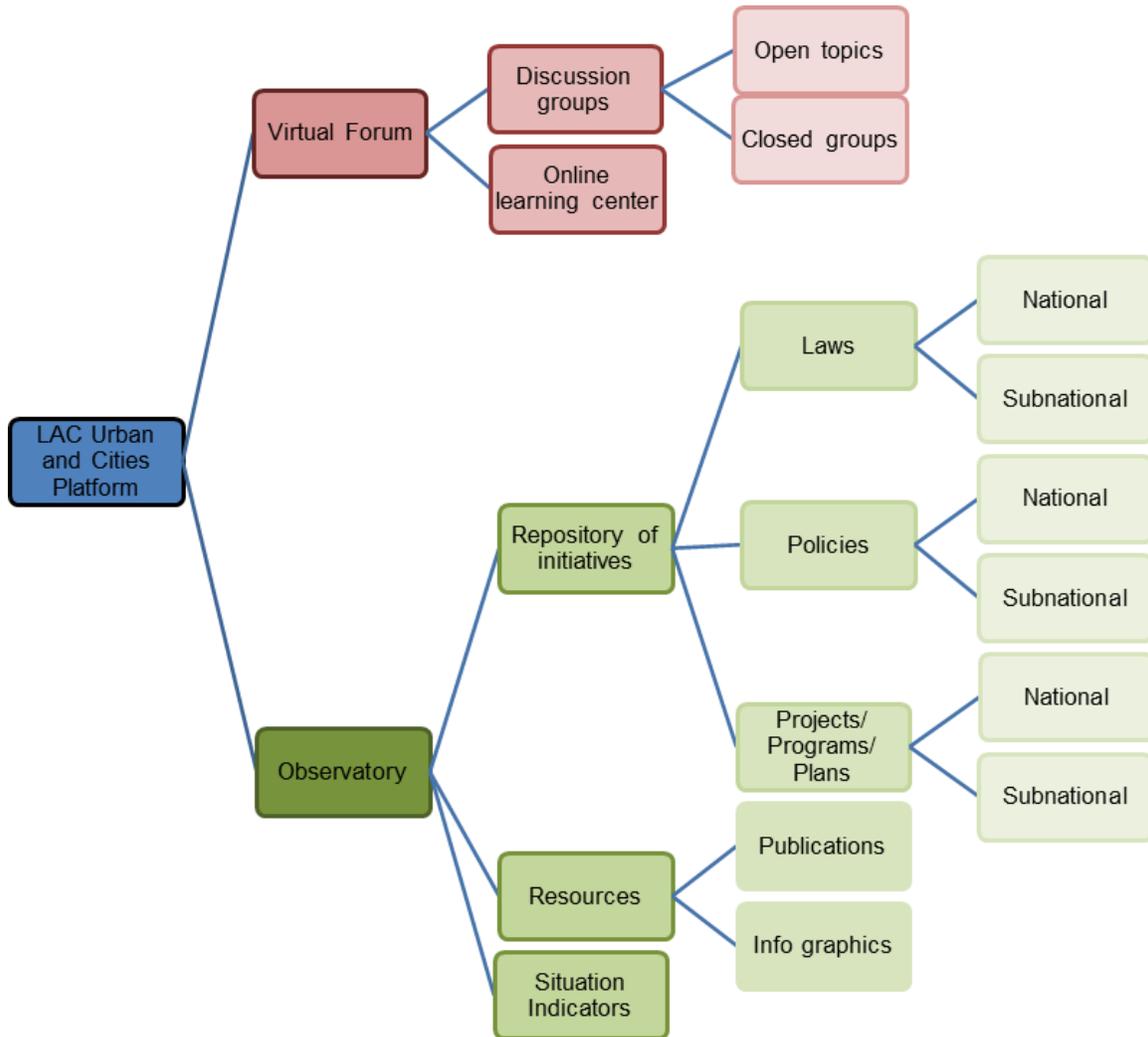
Source: Prepared by the authors.

The Platform responds to the need to collect and analyse information related to urban areas in the region and will provide its users with an objective tool for the review and follow-up of the RAP, the NUA and the implementation of the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda. The active participation of member states and cities in the collection and analysis of information will be a key factor in ensuring that the Platform is maintained up to date and of relevance.

Additional to providing follow up to the implementation of the RAP, the Platform will also support its implementation by acting as a tool for the improvement of local implementation capacities. The repository of initiatives aspect of the Platform will offer a space to share good practice and facilitate the exchange of ideas and experiences. In this sense, the Platform will support the strengthening of subnational and national capacities throughout the region with regard to sustainable urban development and it will also encourage south-south cooperation as a mechanism for horizontal learning. With this objective, interested parties will be invited to identify information and initiatives they deem relevant to NUA and RAP implementation.

The main objective of the Platform will be to consolidate and present information on the national, sub-national and city level in order to provide a useful tool for the visualization of information via a user-friendly and interactive interface. The information presented in the Platform will be open for use by all actors, including decision-makers, members of academia, and civil society. The Platform will therefore serve to support the development of public policy, plans, programs and projects; to inform academic investigations; and to maintain regional inhabitants informed regarding key urban issues. Additionally, the Platform will facilitate collaborative data analysis and research agendas between international agencies and countries, as well as the reports and reviews on cities regularly developed by UN-Habitat in collaboration with other UN agencies.

Synergies will be sought with other regional initiatives, coordinated by the UN system as well as member states and their cities, in order to connect the Platform with the numerous urban and city observatories already in existence. This includes the observatories which make up the Global Urban Observatory Network of UN-Habitat and other initiatives of CAF, IDB, OECD, World Bank, and others. At an analytical level, the methodologies and analytical methods of UN-Habitat initiatives like the State of the World's Cities, National Sample of Cities, and the City Prosperity Initiative (CPI) will be important. Likewise, special consideration will also be assigned to making progress toward information handling on behalf of national statistics offices or institutes, as well as to sectoral and thematic observatories which exist at the national and sub-national levels.

2. Follow up and review

Paragraphs 166 – 168 of the NUA, request the development of reports on the progress of the implementation of the NUA (United Nations, 2016a, p. 41). These reports will be the key milestones for the follow up and review of the implementation of the NUA on a global scale. The reports are to be submitted to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council every four years (United Nations, 2016a, p. 41). Additionally, the report will be incorporated into the high-level political forum on sustainable development in order to ensure "coherence, coordination, and collaborative linkages with the follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda" (United Nations, 2016a, p. 53). UN-Habitat oversees the coordination of the report, in close collaboration with other relevant UN entities (United Nations, 2016a, p. 53), such as ECLAC. As stated in the NUA, these reports will be prepared based on "voluntary inputs from countries and relevant regional and international organizations". These reports will offer a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the progress made towards the implementation of the NUA and the internationally agreed goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda relevant to sustainable urbanization and human settlements, at the national, subnational, and local levels (United Nations, 2016a, p. 53).

Existing platforms like the World Urban Forum will be used to systemize such contributions (United Nations, 2016a, p. 53). The World Urban Forum, which is held every two years, offers a global platform for the regional monitoring, review and revision of the NUA. Within Latin America and the Caribbean, the Cities Conference: Implementing the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean co-organized by ECLAC, UN-Habitat, and MINURVI which was held for the first time in 2017, one year after the adoption of the NUA, offers an instance to present advances and provide follow up. The Cities Conference was demonstrated to be a key regional platform which permitted dialogues and discussions with a wide group of multi-sectorial institutions and stakeholders relevant to the implementation of the NUA. Additionally, the Forum of the Countries of Latin American and Caribbean on Sustainable Development (LAC RFSD), a regional mechanism that was approved at ECLAC's thirty-sixth regular session in order to provide follow up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, its means of implementation, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the MINURVI General Assemblies, held annually in the region, represent additional opportunities for ongoing regional assessments of progress towards NUA implementation. A proposed road map for the follow up and review of the regional implementation is outlined in diagram 2.

For this, it is essential to identify the key actors in the region and work in partnership with these different groups at different levels. All these actors are necessary to develop the action areas of the RAP and to be able to fulfil the NUA, as well as to influence its implementation and achieve the expected goals at the country, city, and regional levels. Establishing and strengthening these strategic alliances in the region has special relevance and takes advantage of the legacy of Habitat III and the experience acquired in its preparatory process. The contributions from sub-national and local governments, parliamentarians, women's and youth groups, civil society, academia, the private sector, trade unions, professional groups, the media, foundations and philanthropy, intergovernmental organizations, and United Nations agencies and programs, will be key to the monitoring and fulfillment of the RAP and may be presented and consolidated at the World Urban Forum and considered as contributions for the preparation of the report.

Diagram 2
Proposed reporting road map
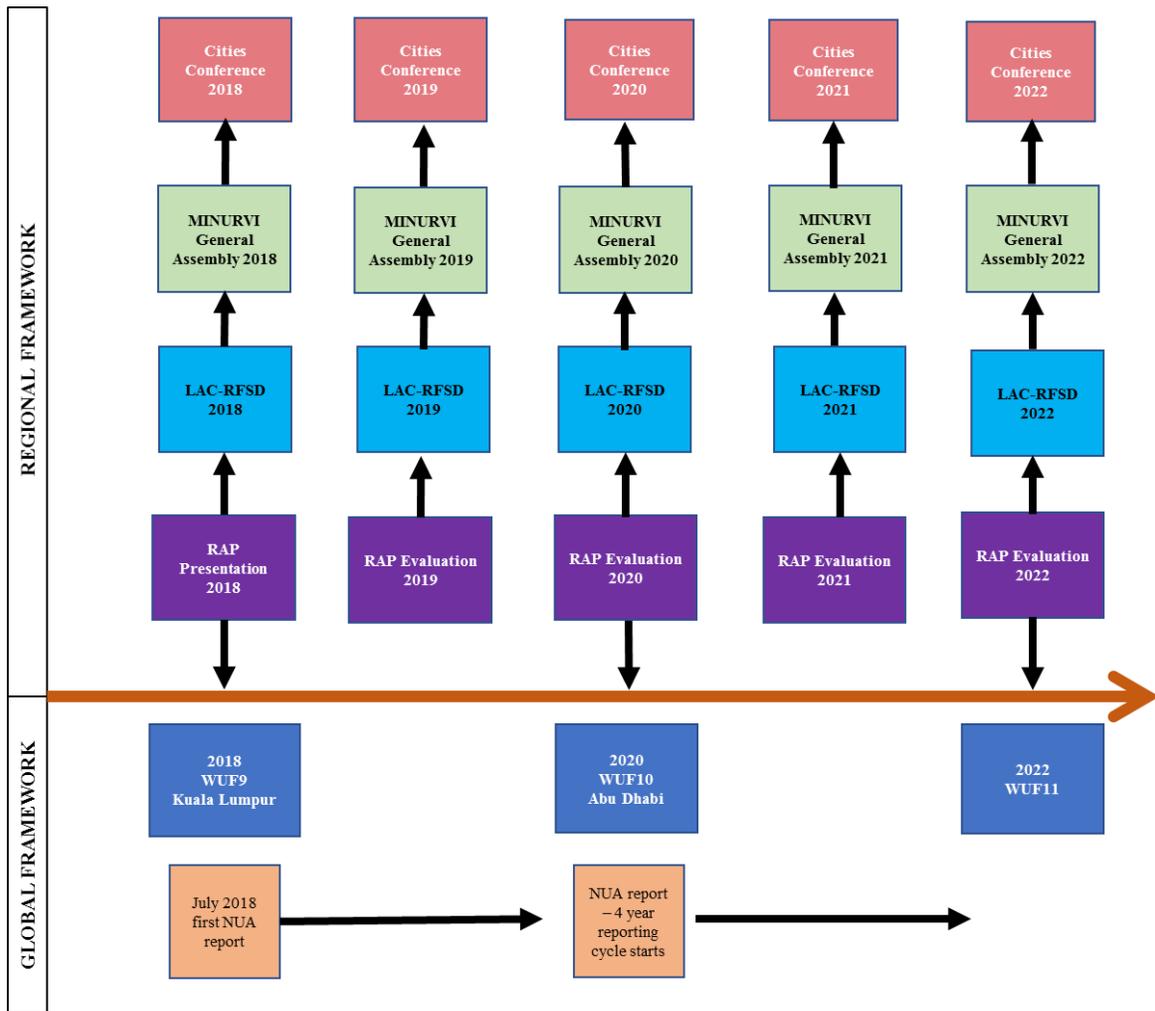
Source: Prepared by the authors

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