



## HABITAT III REGIONAL REPORT FOR THE UNECE REGION

### *Report Preparation: Methodology & Process*

#### INTRODUCTION

Habitat III is the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development to take place in 2016 in Quito, Ecuador. In resolution 66/207, the United Nations General Assembly decided to convene the Habitat III Conference to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanization and to focus on the implementation of a “New Urban Agenda”.<sup>1</sup>

The objective of the Conference is to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable urban development, assess accomplishments to date, address poverty and identify and address new and emerging challenges. The conference will result in a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented outcome document. Habitat III will be one of the first UN global summits after the adoption of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda. It offers a unique opportunity to discuss the important challenge of how cities, towns and villages are planned and managed, in order to fulfill their role as drivers of sustainable development.

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

Within this context, the Habitat III Secretariat in collaboration with the United Nations Regional Commissions and UN-Habitat Regional Offices is preparing a Regional Report for the 5 UN regions. This document sets out the methodology for preparing the UNECE Regional Report within the guidelines issued by the Habitat III Secretariat in partnership with the Regional Commissions and the UN-Habitat Regional Offices.

The Habitat III Regional Reports will be based on available data, Habitat III national reports and substantive contributions from regional and thematic meetings. For each Habitat III Region there will be three (3) Expert Group Meetings organized.

This document summarises the methodology being adopted in the preparation of the Regional Report for the UNECE Region.

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<sup>1</sup> This introduction is based on the Terms of Reference issued by the Habitat III Secretariat to the Regional Report Writers for each of the five (5) Un Regions.





## HABITAT III GUIDELINES

Under the leadership of Dr Joan Clos, the Habitat III Secretariat has prepared guidance for the preparation of the Regional Reports. In particular the H III Secretariat is concerned that the process leading up to Habitat III will concentrate on 4 key operational principles:

- **KNOWLEDGE** – Review lessons learned and best practice within the UN System and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Conduct analysis of the available data, including the available statistics, information available in the national reports, outcomes from official meetings of the regional roadmap towards Habitat III and draft relevant regional analytical chapters based on this analysis;
- **ENGAGEMENT** – consult widely with UN divisions, commissions and partner agencies to ensure that the process is integrated and inclusive and the result concise and compelling;
- **POLICY** – the content of the Regional Report in the form of analysis, synthesis and illustration, will be accompanied by a suite of draft recommendations the will be considered at a Regional Conference of Member States in early 2016;<sup>2</sup>
- **OPERATION** – the implementation of the ‘new urban agenda’ following the H III Conference

It is a primary objective of the Habitat III Secretariat that the Regional Reports will be concise, readable and well-illustrated documents that concentrate on the trends in urbanization within the Region and thereafter summarise the key issues, opportunities and challenges faced by the Region and its member states in urbanization with a specific chapter on trends followed by chapters on economy, social equity, environment and governance and culminating with a chapter on forecast scenarios (up to 3)<sup>3</sup>. The UNECE regional report structure will be in line with this guidance as evolved following the second EGM<sup>4</sup> that identified the following key issues as those most prescient in the Region:

- New Urban Poverty - affordability and accessibility of housing, public space and transport; informal settlements, re-emergence of slums;
- Demography - ageing, health, wellbeing, migration, shrinking cities;
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation (reduction of CO2 emissions), change to non-motorised and e-transport, resource efficiency, disaster risks - natural and man-made, resilience to climate change;
- Urban Governance - multilevel governance, uncontrolled growth/urban sprawl, cities, metropolias, cities and regions, cross-border, PPPPs, change management, participatory planning;
- Technology, innovation, Big Data: openness of the data, use of big data in urban planning and management, digital divide.

<sup>2</sup> UNECE Regional Conference, Prague, Czech Republic, March 2016

<sup>3</sup> Refer to the synoptic structure for the Regional Reports issued by HIIS in April 2015 attached here at Annex 01;

<sup>4</sup> Second EGM, Geneva 7/8 July 2015.





## METHOD & PROCESS

The UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) has appointed the Secretariat of the Committee for Housing and Land Management (CHLM) to assume the lead in preparing the Regional Report. Following the H III guidelines, the Secretariat of the CHLM team will undertake the process of preparing the Regional Report in a number of stages sub-divided into specific tasks as follows:

### STAGE 0 – INITIAL PREPARATION (January – May 2015)

#### Task 0.1: Initial Considerations (January – March 2015)

- Prepare initial draft structure for the Regional Report based on the H III guidelines;
- Assemble preliminary list of organisations and experts who will contribute;

#### Task 0.2: Initial Impressions (April – May 2015)

- Present structure and key messages for the RR to the first expert group meeting (EGM1)
- Collect comments and suggestions from the participants of EGM1.<sup>5</sup>

### STAGE 1 – INFORMATION ASSEMBLY, CONSULTATION & PRELIMINARY DRAFT (June – September 2015)

#### Task 1.1: Data Assembly (June 2015)

- Assemble initial information and bibliographies on 56 member states of the UNECE
- Prepare working papers on 4 sub-regions within the Region.<sup>6</sup>

#### Task 1.2: First Peer Review (July 2015)

- Convene the second expert group meeting (EGM2)<sup>7</sup>
- Present process to date, hold workshop with participants to brainstorm key issues facing UNECE Region
- Collate and disseminate comments.

#### Task 1.3: Strategic Consultations (July – August 2015)

- Conduct a series of strategic consultations with heads of Division in UNECE & with WHO
- Summarise and disseminate key issues
- Prepare for EGM3.

#### Task 1.4: Prepare First Synoptic Content of Issues (September 2015)

- Prepare first draft structure and annotated version of key issues document (**DRAFT 0**)
- Prepare initial proposal concerning illustrated content
- Issue to UN client working group.<sup>8</sup>
- Issue to Expert Group

#### Task 1.5: Second Peer Review (September 2015)

- Conduct EGM3<sup>9</sup>
- Collate and disseminate comments.

<sup>5</sup> This meeting took place in Milan on 31 May 2015

<sup>6</sup> To assist the process of data assembly and analysis the Expert Group advised that working papers be prepared for the 4 sub-regional groups of countries of the UNECE: (i) USA/Canada; (ii) EU/EFTA; (iii) Russia, the Caucasus and Central Asia; and (iv) Turkey, South-East Europe and Israel – refer to Annex 03.

<sup>7</sup> This meeting took place in Geneva on 7/8 July 2015

<sup>8</sup> UN 'Client' Working Group comprises representatives from UNECE Region (CHLM Secretariat); Habitat III Secretariat New York & Nairobi; Habitat Office Brussels; Habitat Office Moscow

<sup>9</sup> EGM3 to be held in Brussels 21/22 September 2015





## **STAGE 2 – DRAFT REPORT (1 & 2) (September – October 2015)**

### **Task 2.1: Prepare First Draft Report (September – October 2015)**

- Prepare first coherent draft of content (**DRAFT 01**)
- Prepare schedule of illustrations, brief graphics team
- Finalise working papers on 4 sub-regions within the Region

### **Task 2.2: Issue & Consult on First Draft Content (October 2015)**

- Issue for comment to 'UN-client Group'
- Issue content to UNECE divisions and partner agencies for comment
- Issue for comment to Expert Panel
- Collate and disseminate comments.

### **Task 2.3: Prepare Second Draft Report (October 2015)**

- Prepare second draft of content (**DRAFT 02**)
- Develop schedule of illustrations

## **STAGE 3 – FINAL DRAFT REPORT (October – December 2015)**

### **Task 3.1: Prepare Final Draft Report (November 2015)**

- Prepare final draft of content (**DRAFT 03 – First Final**)
- Prepare illustrations

### **Task 3.2: Issue & Consult on Final Draft Content (November - December 2015)**

- Issue for comment to 'UN-client Group'
- Issue content to UNECE divisions and partner agencies for comment
- Issue for comment to Expert Panel
- Collate and disseminate comments.

### **Task 3.3: Issue Draft Report to CHLM (December 2015)**

- Introduce comments into final draft (**DRAFT 04 – Second Final**)
- Issue to Committee

## **STAGE 4 – PREPARE FINAL REPORT (January – March 2016)**

### **Task 4.1: Prepare & Print Final Report (January - February 2016)**

- Agree final process stages
- Agree nomenclature and date of drafts

### **Task 4.2: Prepare for & Attend Regional Conference (March 2015)**





## **Outline of the Regional Reports:**

### **1. Executive Summary**

### **2: Urban Trends: Urbanization and Development**

- *Preamble*
- *Trends from 1996 to 2016*  
-> 2016...Trends (e.g. emerging issues)
- *Spatial Development*

### **3: Urbanization and Economy**

- *Spatial Development*

### **4: Urbanization and Social Equity**

- *Spatial Development*

### **5: Urbanization and Environment**

- *Addressing Climate Change (Adaptation)*
- *Urban Ecosystem and Resource Management*
- *Urban Resilience*
- *Disaster Risk Management*
- *Spatial Development*

### **6: Urbanization and Governance**

- *Institutional Development*

### **7. Conclusion and Recommendations** (including policy recommendations)

- *Three drivers for the urban future of the region: -> scenarios*
  - A. *Urban planning*
  - B. *Urban economy/prosperity*
  - C. *Urban legislation/institutions*





**ANNEX 02: UNECE SUB-REGIONAL GROUPINGS OF MEMBER STATES** (Issued by UNECE - 28May2015)

- 1: EU & EFTA (35 Member States)**
- 2: Russia, the Caucasus & Central Asia (12) (11 CIS + 1 Georgia)**
- 3: Turkey, South East Europe & Israel (7)**
- 4: USA & Canada (2)**

**1: EU & EFTA (35 Member States)**

- EU Member States that joined prior to 2004 (15)
- EU Member States that joined in 2004 and later (13)
- EFTA Countries (4)
- European 'Microstates' (3)

- Andorra (microstate)
- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland (EFTA)
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Liechtenstein (EFTA)
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Monaco (microstate)
- Norway (EFTA)
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- San Marino (microstate)
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland (EFTA)
- United Kingdom of GB & NI





**2: Russia, the Caucasus & Central Asia (12) (11 CIS + 1 Georgia)**

- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Georgia (ex CIS 2008)
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Moldova
- Russian Federation
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan
- Ukraine
- Uzbekistan

**3: Turkey, South East Europe & Israel (7)**

- Albania
- Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Israel
- Montenegro
- Serbia
- The Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia
- Turkey

**4: USA & Canada (2)**

- United States of America
- Canada

