

News release on Harmonized Implementation Framework for the New Urban Agenda in Africa

The webinar on *Harmonized Implementation Framework for the New Urban Agenda (NUA) in Africa* was organized jointly by UN-Habitat, Africa Union Commission (AUC) and United Nations Economic Commission held virtually on 16th June, 2021. The New Urban Agenda provides a blueprint on how the transformative potential of cities to drive sustainable development can be harnessed.

The focus of the Webinar was to strengthen the capacity of member states from Africa region to implement, monitor and report on New Urban Agenda (NUA) based on transformative outcomes of Africa's NUA priorities which are aligned to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Africa's Vision, Agenda 2063, and "The Africa We Want."

The development of New Urban Agenda in Africa requires transformative policies in a multi-sectorial, multi-stakeholder approach. There is need for new modalities of interaction among stakeholders which will promote integration of The New Urban Agenda with national development agendas including climate change adaptation and sustainable development frameworks. This will help policy makers to collect and use evidence to foster cross-sectorial action plans for integrated and inclusive development.

African countries are facing various challenges in the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda such as: Inadequate financing in implementation and coordination, gaps in data availability, disintegration of data, lack of quantitative/statistical data and lastly lack of regional framework to report on the New Urban Agenda in Africa. However, inequalities remain the greatest challenge in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

Efforts are needed to engage urban poor and other marginalized groups and communities including women, youth and elderly people. Therefore, New Urban Agenda for Africa should contemplate people centered approaches based on social inclusion as a fundamental principle.

There is need to raise awareness on the importance of integrating New Urban Agenda into National Development Plans by making it a central rather than ancillary concern. This will be a driver for inclusivity, shared prosperity and climate change mitigation and adaptation in cities.

High quality data and indicator definitions are important for implementation of The New Urban Agenda in Africa. This will help cities in Africa to connect urban data to strategic planning to guide policies and programmes in the diversion of resources to where they are needed the most.

On a positive note, African countries are increasingly recognizing the role of urban and human settlements in achieving their national development targets and priorities. If properly adapted to national, subnational and local contexts, this monitoring and reporting framework will help Governments to achieve the New Urban Agenda.