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Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management

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Items 2 and 3 of the provisional agenda
Ministerial Meeting on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management 2021
Report on the outcomes of the Ministerial Meeting on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management 2021, the roundtable "In Focus: SDG 11" and related recommendations

Place and Life in the ECE – A Regional Action Plan 2030: Tackling challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, climate and housing emergencies in region, city, neighbourhood and homes

Note by the Bureau of the Committee

Summary

The "Place and Life in the ECE – A Regional Action Plan 2030: Tackling challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, climate and housing emergencies in region, city, neighbourhood and homes" was developed by the ECE secretariat in cooperation with the Committee Bureau. It was presented to the attention of ECE member States at an informal briefing on 12 May 2021. The draft was then open for comments to be submitted to the secretariat by 27 June 2021. No comments were received by then. The draft hereby is presented to the attention of Ministers and heads of delegation for endorsement.

Please recycle

I. Introduction

1.   The mandate for the preparation of this Regional Action Plan was given to the ECE secretariat at the eighty-first session of the ECE Committee of Urban Development, Housing and Land Management on 6-8 October 2020 as follows:

> The Ministerial Meeting on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management is … expected to launch a regional action plan for the ECE region "#Housing 2030: promoting sustainable housing as part of the recovery and rebuilding plans after the COVID-19 pandemic" (ECE/HBP/2020/10 para 13[1]);

and

> The Regional Action Plan is expected to support Governments (of the member States) in the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis through the sharing of examples and good practices in facilitating investments and promoting the "building better" approach - as outlined in the report of the United Nations Secretary-General "Shared responsibility, global solidarity: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19". … The adoption of the Regional Action Plan by the Ministerial Meeting will facilitate an exchange of good practices and experiences, support countries in shaping policy packages and financial measures to promote sustainable housing and urban development. (ECE/HBP/2020/10 para 14).

2.   A Regional Action Plan is required to be clear, concise and set out intent through a series of principles, policies, goals, targets and actions. In the context of *#Housing2030 Initiative*[2], it should focus on sustainable and affordable housing as outlined in the *Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing* endorsed by the ECE in 2015 and should also be anchored into the wider and more integrated agenda now advanced by all UN agencies and organizations following the adoption by the General Assembly of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement in 2015; and the New Urban Agenda at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016. The principal UN policy instruments are therefore: *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (including its SDGs and targets); and, the *Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing*.

3.   Two further initiatives have a bearing on the Regional Action Plan: the UN Secretary-General report *"Shared responsibility, global solidarity: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19" and* the report of the study *"Housing2030: Effective policies for affordable housing in the UNECE region"* which is being developed by the ECE in cooperation with Housing Europe, UN-Habitat and other partners and will be launched at the same Ministerial Meeting in October 2021.

4.   These key documents, together with other UN-Habitat/ECE papers, are informing all 56 ECE member States and provide the underlying UN policy rationale upon which to build the reasoned justification contained in the *principles, policies, goals, targets* and *actions* for Regional Action Plan. Other important ECE documents include the *Geneva Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Housing and Urban Development* adopted on 9 November 2017, an Annex to that Declaration and the Habitat III Regional Report for the ECE Region upon which this was based.

5.   The other matter of pre-eminent importance to this Action Plan concerns the impacts, challenges and opportunities arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

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[1] https://undocs.org/ECE/HBP/2020/10

[2] See more at https://www.housing2030.org/

II. Background

6.   The single most important document for this Regional Action Plan is *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Commonly referred to as the Agenda 2030, the document introduced the 17 SDGs and the targets by which they would be measured. There are now nine years to achieve these targets. The SDGs have three remarkable characteristics.

7.   The SDGs and their targets have been adopted/signed up to by 195 countries worldwide. Although it is now six years since they were introduced, they have grown in stature and prominence across the globe and today Member States, sub-national governments, local authorities and the private sector use them in their daily work as a common language upon which to base international dialogue on a diverse range of subjects affecting the human habitat and our interaction with the planet.

8.   The SDGs are often expressed as a circle which recognises that they are "integrated and indivisible". Each has its strength, but only through a balanced approach to all 17, can their intent be achieved – an integrated approach of paramount importance, (to) common action and endeavour across a broad and universal policy agenda (Please see Figure 1. The interrelated nature of the SDGs).

Figure 1
The interrelated nature of the SDGs

9.   The 2030 Agenda with the SDGs therefore provides a common foundation and language upon which to base the work of the UN and the Member States and is the foundation for everything that the UN does in respect of sustainable housing and urban development. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level is reviewed through the Volunteer National Reviews (VNRs) developed by the Member States; VNRs are a central element of the follow-up and review mechanisms of the 2030 Agenda and allow the sharing of experiences, best practices and lessons learned.

10.   Further, local and regional governments prepare their Volunteer Local Reviews (VLRs) which review the achievement of the SDGs at the local level and feed into the preparation of the VNRs.

11.   Although all of the SDGs are interrelated and must be integrated, in terms of the work of the Committee and this Action Plan, SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) is of particular relevance and importance with its associated targets for 2030 including:

(a)   Access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services (11.1)

(b)   Access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all (11.2)

(c)   Enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanisation and capacity for participatory, integrated, and sustainable human settlement planning and management (11.3)

(d)   Protect and safeguard … cultural and natural heritage (11.4)

(e)   In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the target to significantly reduce the number of deaths … and substantially decrease direct economic losses … with a focus protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations (11.5)

(f)   Provide universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible green and public spaces (in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities) (11.7)

(g)   Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning (11.a)

(h)   Increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change … (11.b).

12.   SDG 11 therefore recognises that access to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services (11.1) is central to the delivery of action in pursuit of this goal and places it alongside access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems (11.2), inclusive and sustainable urbanisation supported by participatory, integrated, and sustainable planning and management (11.3) and universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible green and public spaces (11.7). The SDGs are all interconnected in the concept of a resilient city (11.B) where resilience is the capacity of cities and human settlement to respond better and faster to shock and impacts, social, economic or climate & disasters. All this underlines the integrated nature of the Committee's mission to place affordable housing at the forefront of its work in supporting the delivery of sustainable urbanism.

13.   This Action Plan has as its focus on the role of affordable, sustainable housing within urban development across the ECE Region and the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing provides a clear complement to the 2030 Agenda as the starting point for this work. Adopted in 2015, the Charter has provided a clear focus for much of the Committee's work over the past six years.

14.   The Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing is widely regarded throughout the United Nations network as a successful concise document that has enabled considerable progress in the field. Based on the fundamental premise that "sustainable housing has a key role in the quality of human life", the Charter identifies a number of key challenges including globalization, demographic changes, climate change and the economic crisis of 2008-2010.

15.   The Charter also recognises that the provision of housing is, in itself, a resource-intensive exercise with consequences for emissions and therefore requires the engagement of Governments and civil society, as well as action by the ECE and other international organizations, in the effort required for housing development and management to minimise emissions and deliver large-scale retrofitting to improve environmental performance. The development of financial mechanisms to improve access to housing should therefore be a policy priority combined with a life-cycle approach to design in order to reduce the impact

of the sector on the environment. In addressing these challenges, the Charter provides a clear rationale and four principles to guide the provision of sustainable housing:

(a) Environmental protection: Housing should be planned, constructed and used in a way that minimises environmental impact and promotes environmental sustainability

(b) Economic effectiveness: Housing is, and has been, an influential sector in national economies and should be a sustainable element in a vibrant economy as well as meeting people's needs

(c) Social inclusion and participation: Housing policy should be advanced with an enhanced emphasis on engaged and negotiated civic involvement, social inclusiveness, public health, transparency, and a concern for ethical processes

(d) Cultural adequacy: Housing policy should take into consideration questions of cultural identity, value, and emotional wellbeing.

16. The consistent application of the 2030 Agenda and the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing, together with extensive consultation and perceptive observance of developing charters by the Secretariat has provided a body of good practice across the ECE that informed the Habitat III Regional Report: Housing and Urban Development in the Economic Commission for Europe Region, which in turn was the principal evidence underpinning the 2017 Geneva Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Housing and Urban Development. The Declaration stressed:

"the historical importance of the Committee (of Urban Development, Housing and land Management) as a cornerstone of the pan-European cooperation in the field of housing and urban development, including its transforming efforts to address housing and urban development challenges in countries with economies in transition. The Committee is the only open pan-European intergovernmental platform to deal with these topics from all the sustainable development dimensions - economic, environmental and social, including cultural aspects. The work of the Committee is aimed mainly at assisting member states in the region to address a number of major housing and urban challenges, including those of an international nature."

17. Together with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the UN-Habitat Global Housing Strategy, the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing, the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning, and the Strategy for Sustainable Housing and Land Management in the ECE Region for the Period 2014-2020, the Declaration invites national, regional and local governments and their stakeholders to address the housing and urban challenges through economic, social and environmental dimensions, governance and local cooperation.

18. Towards these ends, the ECE established a partnership with UN-Habitat and Housing Europe to embark on a major study entitled "Housing2030: Effective policies for affordable housing in the UNECE region" that explores housing governance and regulation; access to finance and funding; access and availability of land for housing construction; and climate-neutral housing construction and renovation. The eighty-first session of the ECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management that enabled the #Housing2030 study to progress, also called for the preparation of this Action Plan. Both were mandated to reflect on and prepare action directed towards *"promoting sustainable housing as part of the recovery and rebuilding plans after the COVID-19 pandemic"*.

III.   The COVID-19 pandemic and its effects

19.   The year 2020 saw the emergence of a global health crisis "unlike any in the 75-year history of the United Nations", a human crisis brought about by a disease (COVID-19) that attacked societies at their core and provoked a global recession as bad, or worse, than the credit crisis of 2009. The UN Secretary General was quick to react, and in *Shared responsibility, global solidarity: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19*, issued a plan to confront and address the challenge. The document stressed the social, economic and multidimensional impacts created by COVID-19 pandemic, their complexity and their impact on all and recognised the profound and negative effect on sustainable development efforts including the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement and showed graphically the effect of COVID-19 on the SDGs (Figure 2: Covid-19 has an impact on all SDGs).   The final section of *Shared Responsibility* report stressed the need to use the opportunity created by the crisis to recover better and build sustainable societies.

Figure 2
COVID-19 affects all the SDGs

Source: UNDESA
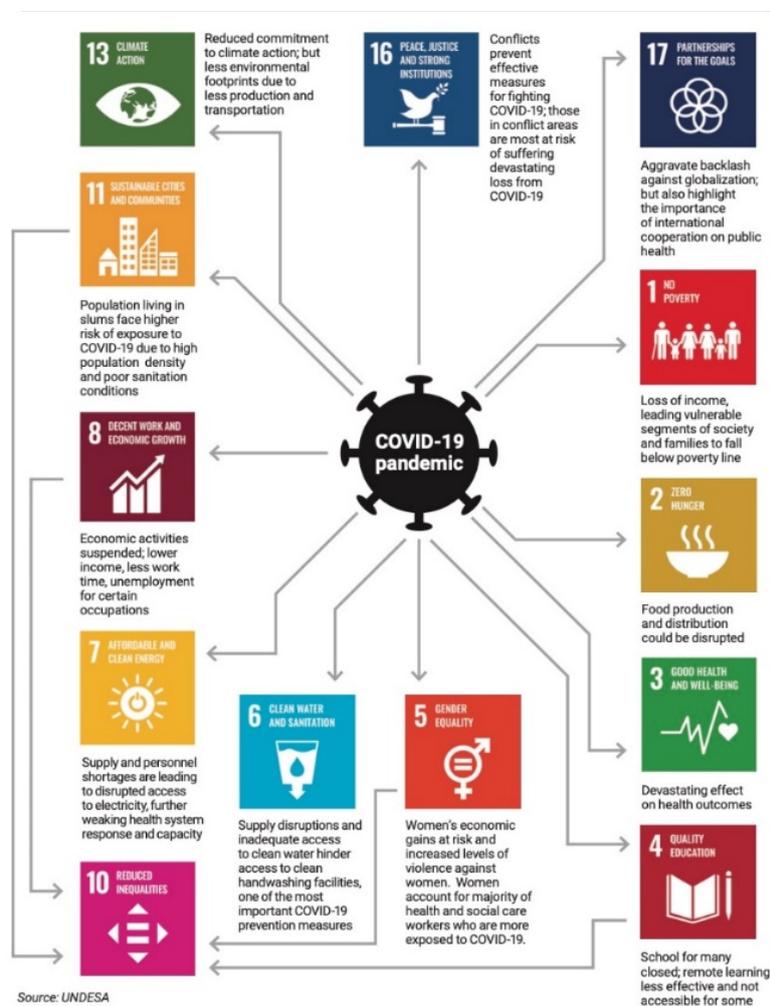
20.   Following on from *Shared Responsibility*, the UN has published a series of policy briefs and, in September 2020, provided a comprehensive response entitled *Saving Lives, Protecting Societies, Recovering Better*. As part of this work, *Policy Brief#2* concentrated

on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic and reported on an extensive series of country Socio-Economic Impact Assessments (SEIAs) to inform government action. The work revealed that the pandemic has changed the lives of all the peoples of the world prompting governments and citizens to start rethinking how life should be in a new normal. The multifaceted nature of the pandemic has affected the context the UN system by directly reversing the hard gains made by countries in pursuit of SDG targets, requiring different sets of policies and solutions to respond, impacting severely on existing infrastructure and services. The document summarises these impacts extending from poverty and slum dwellings; to jobs and trade; and tourism and food (Figure 3. UN summary of socio-economic impacts).

Figure 3
Output of the Socio-economic Impact Assessments – SEIAs (Source Brief#2)

21.   The document further stresses the importance of moving from forecasts to assessment of needs and responses and summarises action against the pillars and cross-cutting issues of the UN Framework set out in *Shared Responsibility* and highlights the significance of cross-cutting themes (Figure 4: Focus of SEIA across the pillars of the UN Framework).

Figure 4
Focus of SEIA across the pillars of the UN Framework
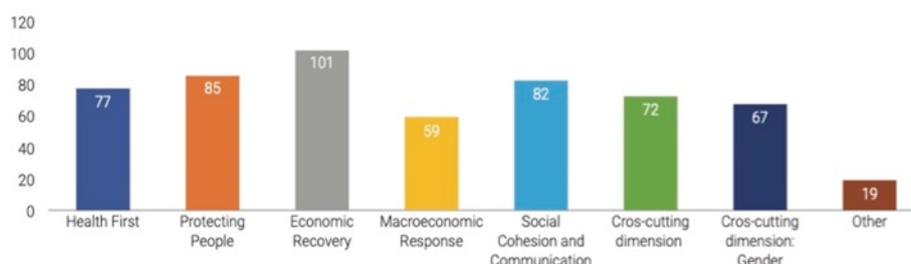
22.   In particular, *Brief#2* identified the serious issue that human development faces an unprecedented level of impact since the concept was introduced in 1990 that will require recovery responses beyond the immediate short-term to explore and devise action in response to second and third order effects in the medium and long terms. (Figure 5. Impact of COVID-19 on the UN human development index).

Figure 5
Impact of COVID-19 on the UN human development index

Change in Human Development Index value, annual

The Global Financial Crisis

2020 simulated change
in COVID-19-adjusted HDI

Source: United Nations Development Programme, May 2020.
* The 2019 value is a provisional estimate.

23.   In a further Policy Brief (COVID-19 in an Urban World), the UN examined the effect of COVID-19 pandemic on cities and addressed the challenge head-on in three concise sections each with a series of stark message (See Box 1). The document concludes that, in respect of the future of cities, the pre-pandemic status quo should be avoided. Instead, there should be a focus on transforming cities across the globe in pursuit of future resilience, inclusion, green and economic sustainability. Not only is this urgent, it is necessary to build an inclusive and resilient urban future opening the way for economic recovery to drive a profound green transformation, ensuring that innovation in central to the design, planning and management of cities in three steps:

(a)   Tackling inequalities and development deficiencies;

(b)   Strengthening the capacities of local actors; and

(c)   Pursuing a green, resilient and inclusive economic recovery.

24.   In September 2020, the UN published the *United Nations Comprehensive Response to COVID-19: Saving Lives, Protecting Societies, Recovering Better* as the UN's systemic response outlining key guidance, lessons and support and pointing the way to the crucial steps needed to: "*save lives, protect societies and recover better, leaving no one behind and addressing the very fragilities and gaps that made us so vulnerable in the first place. It also points the way toward addressing future shocks – above all from climate change – and*

toward overcoming the severe and systemic inequalities that have been exposed and exacerbated by the pandemic" (Figure 6. The UN's Three-Point Comprehensive Response).

Figure 6
The UN System Three-Point Comprehensive Response to COVID-19

Source: UN, September 2020

25.   The importance of housing to the big picture for cities is stressed in a number of OECD publications including *Housing amid Covid-19: Policy Responses and Challenges* (2020) and *Building for a better tomorrow: Policies to make housing more affordable* (2021), that identifies how "*the Covid-19 pandemic has severely disrupted construction, made it difficult for many households to pay for shelter, and seriously hurt the housing sector*."[1] In addition, the OECD makes clear, that swift responses by governments to alleviate the negative consequences of the crisis for tenants, borrowers, builders and lenders can in some instances, impede a recovery and/or impair the responsiveness of the housing market to the evolving needs of society quoting the example that rental market restrictions can help tenants in the short-term, but weaken supply responses by making housing investment less responsive to changes in demand and pose obstacles to residential mobility. The OECD work

looks at new emerging evidence of the impact of COVID-19 on construction activity and prospects and the balance between short-term incentives for affordability and ensuring sufficient, environmentally sustainable supply.

26.   When the trends are examined, it is discouraging to note the conjoined effect of the credit crisis of 2009-10 and the COVID-19 crisis of 2020-21 where investment in housing development was only beginning to recover in the years 2017-19 (Figure 7: Decline in public capital spending on housing).

Figure 7
Decline in public capital spending on housing (OECD)

Public capital transfers and public direct investment in housing development, and public spending on housing allowances and rent subsidies, OECD-25 average, % GDP
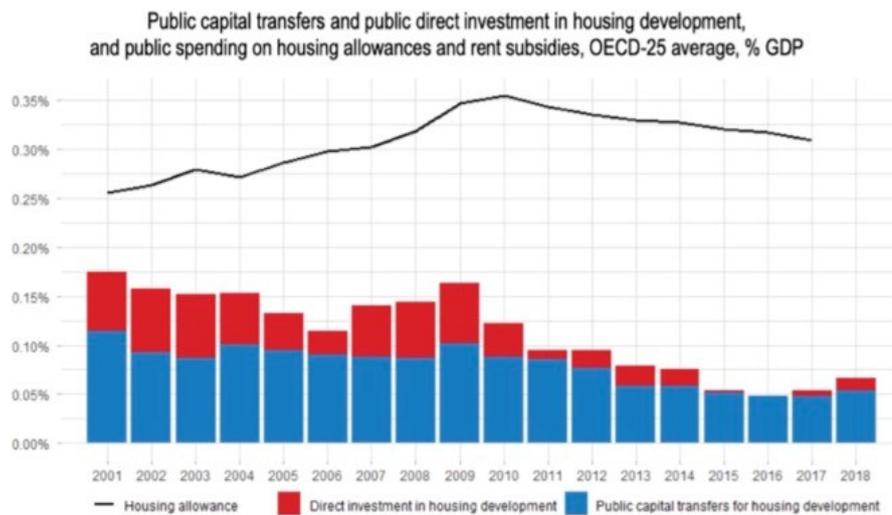
Note: The OECD-25 average is the unweighted average across the 25 OECD countries with capital transfer and gross capital formation data available for all years between 2001 and 2018. It excludes Australia, Canada, Chile, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Korea, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Turkey and the United States. Spending on housing allowances does not include spending on mortgage relief, capital subsidies towards construction and implicit subsidies towards accommodation costs. See the source for more details.
Source: OECD Affordable Housing Database (Adema and Plouin, 2020[3]).

27.   Nevertheless, much has been achieved through supporting incomes, securing tenure, preventing evictions and sheltering the homeless and that policies ensuring purposeful investment can shape better and fairer housing markets as highlighted by the OECD as critical for building back better. In this context, it should be remembered that affordable housing is not simply about average market rentals and ownership costs but is rather defined in relationship to the housing needs of a local area with particular attention to low-income and frequently excluded vulnerable groups. The tools for how this can be achieved is the focus of *Housing 2030.*

Box 1
Summary of UN Policy Brief: COVID-19 in an Urban World

1. Tackling Inequalities and Development Deficits

Impact:
- COVID-19 is widening existing spatial, social and economic inequalities in cities;
- The global housing crisis has worsened the pandemic and in turn has been worsened by it;
- Inadequate access to urban healthcare and basic services is undermining COVID-19 response;
- Access to public space is unevenly distributed despite its importance in curtailing COVID-19;
- The pandemic is exposing the inequalities underpinning the digital divide.

Solutions:
- Governments could tailor responses for high-risk neighbourhoods given the spatial disparities in COVID-19 impact and resilience;
- Innovative short-term responses to inadequate and unaffordable housing, overcrowding and homelessness could be a starting point for … policy shifts;
- Access to essential public services is key for effective COVIDS response, recovery and building resilience to future crises in cities;
- Equitable access to health services helps to protect lives;
- Targeted interventions to vulnerable groups recognises differentiated exposure to risks and impacts.

2. Strengthening the Capacities of Local Actors, Particularly Local Government

Impacts:
- Highlighted local government front-line responders in crisis response, recovery and rebuilding;
- Substantially reduced local and subnational governments revenues and budgets;
- Demonstrated the power of community;
- Constrained local government capacity to deliver essential services and infrastructure; and
- Resulted in innovative local government solutions in COVID-19 response and provision.

Solutions:
- National governments could promote inclusive, collaborative and responsive governance across jurisdictions and levels of government;
- National governments help ensure response and recovery measures fit local context and adopt stimulus packages to maximise subnational responses and boost local budget capacity:
- Improve transparency and enable effective community engagement in civil society and local government responses;
- Counteract mis- and dis-information:
- Local government provision of essential services should be a priority in cities;
- Public transport remains vital especially for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups; and
- Urgent attention is needed to address the inadequate state of public services in many cities.

3. Pursuing Resilient, Inclusive and Green Economic Recovery

Impacts:
- Interrupted global value chains; devastated hospitality, travel and tourism; and, disrupted the global economy provoking a deep recession;
- Local economies have been hit hard;
- Major job losses have occurred in cities; especially in informal and low-paying jobs;
  Lockdown and lower economic activity have resulted in positive environments effects, showing that a green urban future is possible;

Opportunities;
- The possibility for a climate resilient urban future;
- The correlation between COVID-19 and compact urban development is misleading and could encourage lower densities and sprawl; and
- The importance of reliable and robust urban data and statistics.

Solutions:
- Financial assistance is needed to support local businesses;
- Local economic development strategies are critical for recovery;

Box 2
Key message from the Secretary-General's Policy Brief on COVID-19

1: HUMAN RIGHTS Threat to one is a threat to all – Human rights advance the SDGs	**2: INEQUALITY** A new Social Contract is required that creates equal opportunities
3: SHARED RESPONSIBILITY Social cohesion, helping people cope, particularly the vulnerable	**4: DEBT** Structural issues need to be addressed
5: FOOD SECURITY Investment in transformation of food systems needed	**6: THE WORLD OF WORK** Focus recovery on human-centred, green and sustainable approaches
7: EDUCATION As a human right, flexible, equitable and resilient systems needed	**8: CITIES** Choices about living, working and travel with a focus on green resilient & inclusive recovery
9: TOURISM Opportunity & need to rethink tourism and its impact	**10: MENTAL HEALTH** Widespread psychological distress needs to be overcome

28.   As the COVID-19 pandemic wears on and its impacts become better understood, it is becoming clear that human societies face not one but three conjoined emergencies: COVID-19, climate change and inequalities notably affordable housing where each emergency can compound the impacts of the others in respect of human health, social cohesion, environmental integrity and economic vitality. These emergencies demand coordinated and urgent action in the delivery of the '*integrated and indivisible'* SGDs as well as inspired leadership, mutual support and tolerance.

29.   In March 2021, following on from *The Value of Sustainable Urbanization (World Cities Report 2020)* UN-Habitat published *Cities and Pandemics: Towards a more just, green and healthy future* a major study into the human habitat with the three emergencies of COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and housing now identified in sharp detail as the subject matter for this Action Plan. *Cities and Pandemics* report sets out the beginning of a global pathway for cities and identifies a number of over-arching calls to action including the opportunity for a new social contract, a rights-based recovery and what these will mean for cities and for society. Cites and Pandemics does not change our Urban Agenda, it merely makes it even more urgent.

30.   It is possible to draw the following clear conclusions from the comprehensive UN work of 2020-2021 in respect of the COVID-19 pandemic:

(a)   Cities, and all human settlements, are central to building better: By 2050 at least 70% of the world's population will live in cities – so the *place* that is our cities as much as the *agency* of cities as governing entities becomes ever more fundamental to the human habitat and it follows therefore that multi-level governance involving intergovernmental agencies, national and local government and stakeholder partnerships will be fundamental as cities by themselves do not have all the relevant powers and resources required for the comprehensive approach that is required

(b)   Cities cannot flourish without well-functioning housing systems. Physical distancing, movement restrictions, lockdowns and the associated increase in working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic have allowed the neighbourhood to take on renewed importance in urban life. As historic pandemics adapted housing to ensure minimum standards of light, ventilation and sanitation, the COVID-19 pandemic presents an opportunity to reinforce such measures and adopt new ones to promote housing design flexibility and the avoidance of overcrowding. Cramped and poor quality housing has proved to be a major factor in the spread of the virus and therefore the improvement, reconfiguration retrofitting of housing and informal settlements is now of even more importance

(c)   Housing, mobility, environment and economy, and culture are interrelated and require integrated responses: The changes in the way that city residents interact with their urban environment at the neighbourhood level as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic particularly regarding public spaces and mobility, have led to the rethinking of how neighbourhoods should be planned to build back better. Specifically, the "15- or 20-minute neighbourhood" characterised by compactness and the ability to meet daily needs such as shopping, health care, socialising and education within walking distance from home is gaining prominence which in turn stresses the importance of integrated design approaches in housing, mobility, environment economy, and culture.

31.   A series of over-arching principles to inform this Action Plan have been identified:

(a)   From UN COVID-19 policy guidelines:

(i)   Principle E: Cities are central to building better

(ii)   Principle F: Cities cannot flourish without well-functioning housing systems

(iii)   Principle G: Housing, mobility, environment and economy are interrelated and require integrated responses

(b)   From the Geneva UN Charter:

(i)   Principle A: Environmental protection;

(ii)   Principle B: Economic effectiveness;

(iii)   Principle C: Social inclusion and participation; and

(iv)   Principle D: Cultural adequacy.

32.   In formulating policies, goals, targets and actions in the Regional Action Plan, the work has adopted the aims set out in the Secretary General's Policy note to intensify commitment and action in three key areas:

(a)   Tackling inequalities and development deficiencies

(b)   Strengthening the capacities of local actors

(c)   Pursuing a green, resilient and inclusive economic recovery.

33.   The compelling evidence and commitments and summarised above underlines the significance and importance of the ECE's intention to advance both the Housing 2030 research and report prepared together with partners UN-Habitat and Housing Europe, and this Regional Action Plan intended to identify policy propositions, goals, targets and actions to assist the governments and cities of member states address the difficulties brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic for an already stretched affordable housing system across the Region.

IV.   Follow-up to the Action Plan

34.   This Action Plan proposes a series of aims, policies, goals and targets for sustainable urban development and affordable housing in the ECE region and identifies a series of actions to achieve these. These will be implemented, on a voluntary basis, by international organisations, the governments of member States and cities, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders.

35.   The Action Plan is intended to inspire action and provide the basis for plans and activities to focus on the contribution of affordable housing to sustainable urban development in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and in the face of the climate emergency. The Action Plan is voluntary and provides suggestions for action, it is not a work programme for any of the bodies mentioned. The ECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management invite their member governments to consider how they can contribute to the implementation of the Action Plan. Some countries may choose to develop voluntary national action plans or measures of affordability for their housing sector based on the Action Plan. ECE, working in association with Housing Europe and UN-Habitat could assist countries in developing such plans or measures by facilitating policy dialogues and capacity building activities.

36.   The ECE, Housing Europe and UN-Habitat will also draw the work to the attention of other possible actors, such as the private sector, inviting them, without obligation, to implement actions where they already play – or could play – a role as possible actors. In this context, public-private partnerships are widely regarded an effective way to disseminate knowledge and insights into affordable housing, sustainable development and the green economy approach.

37.   The Committee will prioritise and incorporate relevant actions identified in the Action Plan within its area of competence into their annual lists of activities, ensuring that the Action Plan and their programme of work are fully with each other.

38.   The Action Plan is also intended as a tool for communication with other sectors and for awareness raising and the Committee will monitor progress in sustainable urban development and affordable housing as a part of its work programme using existing information. The secretariat will work with the network of ECE Charter Centres to prepare ideas on how to proceed with dissemination, monitoring and evaluation of work through the Action Plan for the consideration of the Committee.

V. The Action Plan

39.   Following the identification of a series of principles the Action Plan now outlines two policy areas, each of which contains a number of goals. These are divided into more specific targets and suggested actions to be taken to reach those targets, including timeframes. Each goal is underpinned by an overall expected outcome for its implementation by the year 2030. The action plan in presented below. The accompanying diagram provides an outline of the Action Plan indicating policy areas, goals and expected outcomes.

40.   The overall aim of this Action Plan is to establish the necessary institutional conditions to develop and strengthen these components and thereby achieve a sustainable and progressive transformation towards sustainable housing and urban development. To these ends, the Action Plan provides a policy framework for both the actions of individual member States and international cooperation until 2030.

A. Objectives of the Action Plan

41.   In formulating policies, goals, targets and actions in the Regional Action Plan, the work is intended to follow the aims set out in the Secretary General's Policy note to intensify commitment and action in three key areas:

   1)   Tackling inequalities and development deficiencies

   2)   Strengthening the capacities of local actors

   3)   Pursuing a green, resilient and inclusive economic recovery.

and has therefore established the following objectives:

   (a)   To build capacity within and between Member States in respect of policy development, organisation, design and implementation

   (b)   To encourage effective strategic policy development and implementation

   (c)   To build capacity within and between cities in respect of policy development, organisation, design and implementation through the *Forum of Mayors*

   (d)   To shape housing systems that generate access to adequate and affordable housing

   (e)   To establish networks of cities, agencies and stakeholders

   (f)   To research, document and disseminate best-practice through governmental, city and academic networks and through the *ECE Charter Centres of Excellence*

   (g)   To encourage accountability through the establishment of peer-to-peer review and *ECE Charter awards for excellence in practice.*

B. Policies and Goals for the Action Plan

42.   In the following pages, the Action Plan sets out goals, targets and actions in two policy areas:

   (a)   Policy Area A: Cities, Neighbourhoods, Homes and Rural Life

   (b)   Policy Area B: Sustainable Housing and Homes.

1. Policy Area A: Cities, Neighbourhoods, Homes and Rural Life

Goal A1:   **Coordinated national, sub-national and local action through multi-level governance and strategic plans and frameworks**

Key Targets:

A1.1   Planning System
A1.2   National Strategy
A1.3   Policy Leadership
A1.4   Standards, Tools & Techniques
A1.5   Programme for Action
A1.6   Networking
A1.7   Monitoring and evaluation.

Goal A2:   **City-wide and integrated action**

Key Targets:

A2.1.   Integrated Action
A2.2.   Coordinated Services
A2.3.   Partnership Action in Research
A2.4.   Engagement
A2.5.   Monitoring & Evaluation.

Goal A3:   **Sustainable neighbourhoods and local living environments**

Key Targets:

A3.1.   Research
A3.2.   Planning & Design Principles
A3.3.   Published Guidance
A3.4.   Engagement Guidelines
A3.5.   Monitoring & Evaluation.

Policy Area A: Cities, Neighbourhoods, Homes and Rural Life

Goal A1:

Coordinated national, sub-national and local action through multi-level governance and strategic plans and frameworks.

Rationale:

Living in urban, peri-urban and rural environments and putting homes at the centre of policy and action is key to delivering on the SDGs, combatting the climate emergency and building back better to combat the effects of the pandemic and the climate emergency.

	Target		Action
A1.1	Planning System: A planning system organised to deliver affordable and inclusive housing outcomes	A1.1.1	Support integrated and sustainable human settlement planning, territory and management.
		A1.1.2	Coordinate land use, land market, planning, design and development processes and approvals.
A1.2	National Strategy: A national housing strategy to tackle challenges in housing, health and climate	A1.2.1	Develop national housing policies that take into account social need and territorial distinctiveness and support the protection and enhancement of environmental, landscape, historical and cultural heritage.
		A1.2.2	Develop and coordinate a national plan across levels of government, market sectors and stakeholders to support energy decarbonisation.
A1.3	Policy Leadership: Policy leadership integrates and co-ordinates measures to implement strategic action	A1.3.1	Support cooperation between government agencies within and between countries.
		A1.3.2	Provide effective housing policy leadership which coordinates different disciplines, interests and organisations involved in health, housing and climate planning.
		A1.3.3	Develop capacity through legislation, strategic programmes, including VNRs and VLRs, investment and management with implementation targets for 2030.

A1.4	Standards, Tools & Techniques: Standards, policy toolkit and inclusive design principles for affordable, adequate and accessible housing and	A1.4.1	Support research, good practice, project implementation and design.
		A1.4.2	Ensure compliance with and enforcement of regulations and remove unnecessary procedural barriers to energy efficiency.
		A1.4.3	Encourage housing and land tenure policies that support social justice developed through deliberative and democratic processes based on expert knowledge, data collection, transparent reporting of statistics, and extensive and inclusive public debate.
A1.5	Programme for Action: A programme of well-defined actions and resources	A1.5.1	Improve the promotion and market uptake of innovative solutions including knowledge of deep-renovation technologies among tenants, housing providers and private owners.
		A1.5.2	Promote national policies and programmes that encourage residents of informal construction to formalise and upgrade their dwellings.
A1.6	Networking: A network of shared good practice	A1.6.1	Enable stakeholders in the private and public sectors to play a role in achieving affordable and inclusive housing.
		A1.6.2	Support diversification in the renovation supply-chain to improve performance in energy and resource efficiency in order to accelerate decarbonisation.
		A1.6.3	Support up-skilling of the supplier and contractor workforce to ensure innovation and delivery in renovation and development.
A1.7	Monitoring & Evaluation: An annual monitoring and evaluation programme	A1.7.1	Develop a systematic and evidence-based monitoring system for adequate, affordable and accessible housing to understand housing needs in private ownership, private rental, not for profit

and co-operative housing to inform policy solutions.

A1.7.2 Assemble data on housing and homelessness using common international standards to ensure data comparability between Member States and make these data and national statistics available in order to support policy-making, research and economic development.

Goal A2:

City-wide and integrated action.

Rationale:

Living in urban, peri-urban and rural environments and putting homes at the centre of policy and action is key to delivering on the SDGs, combatting the climate emergency and building back better to combat the effects of the pandemic and the climate emergency.

	Target		Action
A2.1	Integrated Action: Integration of planning and action between all agencies of city and regional government together with stakeholders and communities.	A2.1.1	Provide policies and action plans for city-wide and equitable access to health services and housing interventions directed to vulnerable groups.
		A2.1.2	Develop policy instruments to provide support to community groups to assist front-line responders in times of crisis.
		A2.1.3	Support compact urban development and prevent suburbanisation and sprawl.
		A2.1.4	Co-ordinate spatial and urban mobility planning to promote energy-efficient urban form with a variety of land uses and mix uses (compact city model) including affordable and social housing in green, walkable neighbourhoods that minimise dependence on car use.
		A2.1.5	Support smart city concepts (evidence-based), integrated policies and plans to support inclusion, including socially mixed communities, resource efficiency, and resilience to climate change and disasters.

		A2.1.6	Promote integrated spatial planning and mix-uses that support the efficient spatial distribution of economic activities, the improvement of technical and social infrastructure, urban regeneration, integrated urban renewal and affordable housing.
		A2.1.7	Encourage spatial planning through the compact city model that includes policies to efficiently distribute economic activities, improve technical and social infrastructure and services, urban regeneration, affordable housing and addresses urban sprawl.
		A2.1.8	Encourage appropriate density in housing settlements through compact city policies to prevent urban sprawl and give priority to housing settlements with sustainable and integrated transport systems and of green infrastructure.
A2.2	Coordinated Services: Mutually supportive delivery of services and development across cities and regions.	A2.2.1	Ensure city-wide access to essential public services for effective responses to and recovery from pandemic, social inequalities - housing and climate challenges.
		A2.2.2	Promote inclusive, collaborative and responsive governance across jurisdictions and levels of government.
		A2.2.3	Ensure response and recovery measures fit local context and adopt stimulus packages to maximise subnational and city-wide responses.
		A2.2.4	Encourage investment in research and innovation in all aspects of sustainable housing.
		A2.2.5	Encourage the development of housing stock based, as much as possible, on local solutions, labour and local materials in design, construction, refurbishment and maintenance, to contribute to local employment and the circular economy.
A2.3	Partnership Action in Research:	A2.3.1	Develop and implement capacity-building programmes on housing, urban planning and land management issues for all stakeholders – including investment and finance stakeholders -

	Partnership action delivers research, development and investment for sustainable development across cities and regions		and provide public spaces for cultural and social activities.
		A2.3.2	Encourage energy efficient housing design, maintenance and retrofitting that, promotes healthy living; encourage the implementation of universal standards design principles in order to increase the usability of homes for all people across generational, gender and disability divides and encourages socially mixed communities.
		A2.3.3	Increase the proportion of low-energy housing units also as a part of an integrated urban regeneration.
A2.4	Engagement: Integrated engagement between government, stakeholders and communities	A2.4.1	Improve transparency and enable effective community engagement in civil society and local government responses.
		A2.4.2	Support key stakeholders to develop and manage affordable and inclusive housing with effective regulation, standards, strategic investment, capacity building and expertise.
		A2.4.3	Develop accountable, inclusive and transparent engagement with citizens setting targets for monitoring implementation and evaluating outcomes and enable all relevant stakeholders, including local communities, private and public sectors to play a role in achieving sustainable development and affordable and inclusive housing goals.
		A2.4.4	Develop capacities for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management.
		A2.4.5	Develop and implement capacity-building programmes on housing, urban planning and land management issues for all stakeholders – including investment and finance stakeholders - and provide public spaces for cultural and social activities.

A2.5	Monitoring & Evaluation: Establish an annual monitoring and evaluation programme	A2.5.1	Assemble reliable and robust urban data and statistics and support the transition from a linear to a circular economy.
		A2.5.2	Intensify the regional and international exchange of experience and cooperation in housing, urban planning and land management.

Goal 3:

Sustainable neighbourhoods and local living environments

Rationale:

Local living environments require locational proximity to goods and services, social networks economic well-being and transportation accessibility.

	Target		Action
A3.1	Research: Published research guidance on the size, composition, population, services and environment of sustainable neighbourhoods.	A3.1.1	Provide local neighbourhood access to essential public services including health.
		A3.1.2	Require affordable and inclusive housing in all new developments.
		A3.1.3	Make waste and water management an integral part of sustainable housing strategies and policies.
		A3.1.4	Promote and monitor integrated urban development and regeneration which brings workplaces and services into closer spatial relation to housing, while taking into account potential dangers and hazards and resilience to climate change.
		A3.1.5	Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for disadvantaged population groups.

A3.1.6 Develop socially mixed communities and avoid social segregation, gentrification and gated communities.

A3.1.7 Encourage integrated urban development and regeneration with workplaces and services brought into closer spatial relation to housing, while taking into account potential dangers and hazards.

A3.1.8 Promote urban settlements that use clean and renewable energy, and proactively take into account climate change.

A3.2 Planning & Design Principles:

Agreed and published planning and design principles for sustainable neighbourhoods.

A3.2.1 Housing design should support local climate resilience and climate resilient infrastructure projects.

A3.2.2 Adopt green housing policies and integrate them into sustainable urban and territorial development policies.

A3.2.3 Promote the use of universal design principles in order to increase access to adequate housing and the ability to live independently for all.

A3.2.4 Emphasize the development of public spaces for economic cultural and social activities.

A3.2.5 Design and maintain houses and neighbourhoods to enhance the emotional wellbeing of people, including the involvement of local communities in this process.

A3.2.6 Provide green spaces around and within housing areas, including areas that provide habitat for wildlife, space for leisure, sport and urban agriculture.

	A3.2.7 Encourage of healthy living through high-quality design, maintenance and retrofitting.

A3.3	Published Guidance: Published guidance on the mix of private, rented, affordable and cooperative housing provision in neighbourhoods	A3.3.1	Assemble fragmented and underused land into coherent parcels to be used for housing to ensure more coherent and timely development.
		A3.3.2	Encourage construction of multifamily housing, promote integrated public transportation and facilitate the use of clean vehicles in order to counteract urban sprawl and save energy.
		A3.3.3	Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for disadvantaged population groups.
		A3.3.4	Develop and review policies and procedures for integrated urban renewal and housing maintenance, including utility systems and green investments in the sector.
		A3.3.5	Ensure that waste management is treated as an integral part of sustainable housing strategies, including in housing construction, housing demolition and household living, with the encouragement of re-use, recycling, and composting.
A3.4	Engagement Guidelines: Established guidance for the principles of community engagement.	A3.4.1	Develop support – preparedness actions or instruments - for neighbourhood volunteering to augment frontline responders in crisis response.
		A3.4.2	Focus social protection and value creation on the communities and especially for the most vulnerable and marginalised urban groups.
		A3.4.3	Empower and support households to determine their own housing outcomes and realise their right to adequate housing.
		A3.4.4	Provide appropriate technical and financial mechanisms for support to housing stakeholders

	and ensure the feasibility and affordability of energy efficiency measures, including for the most vulnerable parts of the population.		
		A3.4.5	Develop capacities for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management.
		A3.4.6	Where possible and appropriate, assist people living in informal and low-income settlements to have access to adequate infrastructure and services.
A3.5	Monitoring & Evaluation: An annual monitoring and evaluation programme	A3.5.1	Develop and publish best practice case studies in the 20-minute neighbourhood.
		A3.5.2	Develop and publish best practice case studies in the last mile ecosystem.

2. Policy Area B: Sustainable Housing and Homes

Goal B1:   **Governance**

Key Targets:

B1.1   National Leadership
B1.2   Integrated Policy
B1.3   Evidence-based Processes
B1.4   Fair Tenure
B1.5   Resident-focused Housing

Goal B2:   **Land Policy**

Key Targets:

B2.1   Vision & Strategy
B2.2   Delivery
B2.3   Land Market Mechanisms
B2.4   Innovation

Goal B3:   **Finance & Funding**

Key Targets:

B3.1.   Financial Regulation
B3.2.   Investment
B3.3.   Frameworks, Funds & Capacities
B3.4.   Mechanisms & Instruments

Goal B4**:   Climate neutral housing**

Key Targets:

B4.1.   National strategies
B4.2.   Financial tools
B4.3.   Regulation
B4.4.   Innovative Renovation
B4.5.   Standards, Tools & Techniques

Policy Area B: Sustainable Housing and Homes

Goal B1:

Governance.

Rationale:

Good governance shapes the-functioning of different actors in housing systems. It promotes decision making, policy development and implementation that is well informed, expert and participatory while being accountable and transparent.

Target		*Action*	
B1.1	*National Leadership:* *High level government commitment to affordable, healthy and climate neutral housing and living environments as a central pillar of urban policy*	B1.1.1	*Provide clarity of vision in a comprehensive, long-term national housing strategy that sets goals, targets and actions to ensure households have access to adequate, secure, accessible and affordable housing.*
		B1.1.2	*Provide government leadership and empower local administrations to champion, inspire, inform and execute affordable and inclusive housing policy.*
		B1.1.3	*Ensure that strategic and task orientated public investment is periodically evaluated and adjusted to address dynamic demographic, housing, finance and land market conditions and maintain social-wellbeing, inclusion and economic stability.*
B1.2	*Integrated Policy:* *Integrated, co-ordinated and monitored policy efforts for visible, responsible and accountable governance*	B1.2.1	*Provide government leadership and empower local administrations to champion, inspire, inform and execute affordable and inclusive housing policy.*
		B1.2.2	*Establish dedicated long-term funding and co-ordination of implementation across multiple layers of government through legislative authority, intergovernmental funding agreements and public purpose partnerships.*

B1.3	*Evidence-based Processes:*	B1.3.1	*Provide long-term, evidence-based, multi-stakeholder planning involving local and national authorities to devise 'housing needs assessments', with the ambition of setting targets for the delivery of a range of housing options, including social, public or cooperative housing in their area.*
	Evidence-based, multi-stakeholder planning processes that combine local and national housing needs assessments, investment plans and development delivery		
		B1.3.2	*Provide rigorous monitoring of and reporting on the adequacy of affordable housing provision, with attention to needs and voices of vulnerable households.*
		B1.3.3	*Investigate, evaluate and support business models for affordable housing, supported by regulatory, investment, subsidy and taxation provisions.*

Goal B2 :

Land Policy

Rationale:

Better, fairer housing outcomes can be secured through effective land policies such as public land banking and leasing, land readjustment, land value capture and tax instruments and by combining these instruments through effective neighbourhood and city planning.

Target	*Action*

B2.1	*Vision & Strategy:*	B2.1.1	*Develop long term land strategy for the operation of public land agencies for effective land resource use for affordable and climate neutral living environments in order to achieve sustainable development, consolidate fragmented land, activate underutilised sites and allocate suitable land for long term lease or conditional sale.*
	A purposeful vision to achieve quality urban development, through long term strategic plans, land banking activities, development promotion and regulation, social inclusion and sustainability.		
B2.2	*Delivery:*	B2.2.1	*Designate specific land uses areas for affordable and social housing development in strategic urban plans, through zoning requirements and/or development conditions, to meet projected housing needs and address housing market deficiencies or backlogs.*
	Affordable and social housing planned and delivered through strategic planning, land use regulation and allocation, and development approvals.		

B2.3	*Land Market Mechanisms:* *Purposeful land markets that ensure affordable and sustainable residential development through site acquisition, land exchange, sales and leases through strong co-operation between affordable housing providers and residents.*	*B2.3.1*	*Legislate to empower public land agencies to participate in land markets though land purchase, site preparation, lease and release to ensure affordable housing supply outcomes and climate neutral living environments.*
		B2.3.2	*Direct long-term lease of public land to social housing providers to ensure that allocation addresses local needs and that lease costs are affordable and can be indexed appropriately over time.*
		B2.3.3	*Ensure that redevelopment of brownfield and greenfield sites include an allocation on a basis of need, to be owned and/or managed by social landlords.*
		B2.3.4	*Use land taxation, bonuses and value capture mechanisms to promote the provision of affordable and climate neutral housing developments.*
B2.4	*Innovation:* *Innovation best practice in affordable, climate neutral residential development through a network of developers, planners, builders, provider, management and residents.*	*B2.4.1*	*Conduct competitions and collaborative strategies for available land judged on the basis of social inclusion, climate neutrality, affordability and access.*
		B2.4.2	*Promote the use of spatial, cadastral and land registration information and services to create an environment conducive to investment in housing and the security of land and housing tenure.*

Goal B3:

Finance and Funding

Rationale:

Appropriate financial, fiscal and taxation frameworks, together with purposeful housing delivery models and consumer support can enable policy makers to shape housing finance systems to ensure investment expands and protects affordable housing opportunities.

Target		*Action*	
B3.1	*Financial Regulation:* *Regulated national finance systems in order to expand investment in affordable and sustainable housing and address housing needs*	B3.1.1	*Regulate finance systems to promote housing market stability and prioritise sustainable investment to expand the supply of climate neutral, affordable and inclusive housing.*
		B3.1.2	*Legislate and implement long term rent setting and indexing systems to promote affordability and security while sustaining long term investment in supply and quality provision.*
		B3.1.3	*Modify state aid rules to support purposeful public investment in social housing provision that shapes better housing markets and addresses locally identified housing needs not met by market mechanisms.*
B3.2	*Investment:* *Investment prioritised through housing delivery models that have affordable, sustainable and needs based allocation as their core purpose supported by a range of regulatory, funding and financing tools*	B3.2.1	*Develop, support and enforce the implementation of responsible credit norms and standards, (e.g., deposit ratios, loan to income and loan to value ratios) which prioritise access to first home buyers, prevent over-indebtedness and also stabilise house markets.*
		B3.2.2	*Encourage long term investment in affordable housing supply, maintenance and renovation, and discourage investment strategies that erode housing affordability, quality and security.*

B3.2.3 *Establish dedicated and revolving cycles of investment in affordable housing, which are insulated from fluctuations in the availability of finance from governments and financial markets in order to support social and economic wellbeing and play a counter-cyclical role.*

B3.2.4 *Use long term public investment in the form of equity, grants, long term loans, interest rate subsidies, guarantees and insurances to ensure and accelerate affordable housing supply and innovation, improve energy efficiency, promote economic stability and ensure access for people excluded from local market processes.*

B3.2.5 *Promote investment in sustainable housing through private and public investments, public-purpose partnerships, and other means of financing.*

B3.3 *Frameworks, Funds & Capacities:* *The establishment of effective financial frameworks, public purpose financial intermediaries and revolving funds that channels investment towards expanded access to affordable, adequate and sustainable housing*	B3.3.1 *Establish special purpose financial intermediaries to support households and affordable housing providers that may otherwise have limited access to the private market.*
	B3.3.2 *Develop and support financial investment frameworks and their compliance that channel long term low-cost investment to social and affordable housing assets.*
	B3.3.3 *Improve capacity of households to afford decent housing, by stabilising housing prices, improving and securing household incomes and, when required, provide adequate assistance in the payment of housing costs..*
	B3.3.4 *Encourage stable, fair rent setting and indexing systems which support adequate, well-maintained and affordable provision.*

B3.4	*Mechanisms & Instruments:*	B3.4.1 *Prevent and mitigate the risks to households associated with predatory lending and over-indebtedness.*
	New legal mechanisms that shield residents from excessive financial risks and burdens as a consequence of the design and enforcement of credit norms, consumer protection, financial literacy and regulation of financial products. Taxation instruments that support and promote affordable, adequate and sustainable housing outcomes	B3.4.2 *Design and enforce taxation codes to encourage the efficient use and more equitable distribution of land and dwellings; to discourage speculation in land and housing markets; and, to attract investment in recognised affordable housing projects.*
		B3.4.3 *Take specific measures to counteract housing speculation in order to protect scarce affordable housing resources.*
		B3.4.4 *Provide assistance to households who are unable to afford decent housing.*

Goal B4:

Climate neutral housing

Rationale:

There are many climate policy tools (regulation, policy initiatives, funding & financial incentives, awareness-raising and training) that can help to realise climate neutral and affordable housing solutions at the home, neighbourhood, city and regional level.

	Target	*Action*
B4.1	*National strategies:*	B4.1.1 *Develop commitment between government and stakeholders to energy transition and affordability, through a national plan and/or a strategic agreement.*
	National strategies to promote climate neutral, inclusive and affordable living environments, with commitment from stakeholders and legislative, regulatory and investment implementation actions	B4.1.2 *Increase efficiency of administrative procedures to reduce hurdles and bottlenecks, provide long-term technical and policy development certainty to market actors and remove unnecessary regulatory*

and procedural barriers to achieving energy efficiency.

B4.1.3   *Encourage spatial and mobility planning that promotes energy-efficient homes, neighbourhoods, cities and regions, in green, socially inclusive, and walkable neighbourhoods which minimise car dependency.*

B4.2   *Financial tools:*

Fiscal and financial tools to accelerate and shape effective, housing systems that deliver affordable, inclusive and energy-efficient housing

B4.2.1   *Ensure sufficient investment in climate neutral living environments through grant programmes, financial intermediation, loans and taxation incentives.*

B4.2.2   *Invest directly in low carbon affordable housing and renovation, by providing soft or long-term loans to well-regulated social and affordable housing providers that commit to and implement environmental and social goals.*

B4.2.3   *Ensure affordability of renovation outcomes for low-income households through a range of strategies and instruments including cost efficient renovation, long term loans, revolving funds and rent assistance.*

B4.3   *Regulation:*

Regulations requiring the re-use and renovate of existing buildings over replacement with new structures

B4.3.1   *Formulate short-term and longer term responses to inadequate and informal housing, overcrowding and homelessness.*

B4.3.2   *Use legislative, regulatory and investment frameworks to implement to ensure cost-effective renovation and affordability of outcomes for housing providers and their residents.*

B4.3.3   *Use regulation and policy to re-use and renovate existing buildings wherever possible rather than building new.*

B4.4   *Innovative Renovation:*

Renovation processes that do not displace nor place cost burden on residents and employ grants, long-term low-cost investment and assistance to residents

B4.4.1   *Disseminate knowledge of deep-renovation technologies widely among tenants, housing providers and private owners.*

B4.4.2   *Support capacity development in suppliers and contractors in pursuit of productive techniques and a trained and skilled workforce.*

B4.4.3   *Improve knowledge of deep-renovation possibilities and innovative solutions among tenants, housing providers and private owners.*

B4.4.4   *Design and conduct suitable competitions to advance technological awareness of energy efficient solutions that are affordable for residents.*

B4.5   *Standards, Tools & Techniques:*

Building standards, technologies, processes and supply-chains that promote climate neutral living environments

B4.5.1   *Reduce the carbon footprint of the housing sector by life-cycle reduction of energy use of buildings in housing design, material supply, manufacturing, construction, maintenance, refurbishment, and, where appropriate, demolition processes.*

B4.5.2   *Develop and monitor objective standards of energy-efficiency for investment, builders, managers and residents for all typologies of residential construction, renovation and use.*

B4.5.3   *Enable the creation and registration of homeowners' associations empowered with energy efficiency responsibilities.*

B4.5.4   *Share and promote good practice and the roll-out of appropriate technological developments in renovation supply-chains to improve the energy- and resource efficient outcomes, reduce costs, accelerate delivery and simplify installation and operation.*

Annex

Acronyms and Abbreviations

COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease
ECE	(United Nations) Economic Commission for Europe
Habitat-III	United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development
HSE	Health, Safety and Environment
NUA	New Urban Agenda
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SMEs	Small and Medium Sized Enterprises
SEIA	Socio-Economic Impact Assessments
UCLG	United Cities and Local Government
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
VLR	Voluntary Local Review
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WHO	World Health Organization

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