

Proposal for the Latin American and Caribbean Urban and Cities Platform

October 2018



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Proposal for the Latin American and Caribbean Urban and Cities Platform

October 2018



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A. INTRODUCTION

The concept of a regional observatory on urban and city issues arises from the Declaration of Asunción (2016), signed at the XXV General Assembly of Ministers and Maximum Authorities of Housing and Urban Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI) (2016)¹, and was later reaffirmed through the Declaration of Buenos Aires during the XXVI General Assembly of MINURVI² (2017). MINURVI members committed to promoting the construction of an observatory on housing and urban development issues with the objective of monitoring progress in the implementation of sustainable urban development agendas in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Declaration of Asunción announced the need to create a strategic alliance with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and UN-Habitat for this purpose.

In this context, and given the great need to monitor the regional implementation of these development agendas and to strengthen implementation capacities, the construction of the **Latin American and Caribbean Urban and Cities Platform** (the Platform) is proposed, as a means to serve both these purposes. This proposal for a monitoring platform is the result of the strategic alliance between ECLAC, UN-Habitat and MINURVI to support and promote the regional implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) in the region, and support compliance with the urban dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 11 for sustainable cities and communities.

The following sections describe the context in which this proposal has emerged, the conceptual aspects of the proposed Platform and the different functions that it will seek to provide. Some visual examples of the different proposed web-pages of the virtual platform are also presented.

B. BACKGROUND

The Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region is characterized by high levels of urbanization. Approximately 80% of the population resides in cities and human settlements. Given the weight of their human and financial capital, in addition to a growing ecological footprint, cities and human settlements have acquired a growing relevance in policy agendas at the global, national and sub-national levels.³ Cities are motors of growth and centres of innovation, redistribution and inclusion. They are also focal points and key spaces for decision-making, policy-making and for driving structural change that seeks to improve emerging sustainable development agendas.

This paradigm shift, which positions the city as a central actor for sustainable development, is reflected in the 2030 Agenda, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in September 2015. The Agenda presents an urban objective, SDG 11, which calls to “make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”. The comprehensive focus and territorial integration of this SDG, together with the numerous related targets and the other 16 goals presenting direct links with cities and urban areas, highlights the role of cities and the need to target action and attention to these areas.

The NUA, adopted following the Habitat III Conference in Quito in October 2016, and the Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean (RAP), developed by ECLAC, UN-Habitat and MINURVI and published following the Conference of Cities I in February 2018 in Santiago, Chile, establish the pathways to sustainable urban and city development at the global and regional levels. These agendas

¹ Declaration of Asunción, XXV General Assembly of Ministers and Maximum Authorities of Housing and Urban Development of Latin America and the Caribbean. Available at <https://www.minurvi.org/?q=node/47>

² Declaration of Buenos Aires, XXVI General Assembly of Ministers and Maximum Authorities of Housing and Urban Development of Latin America and the Caribbean. Available at <https://www.minurvi.org/?q=node/47>

³ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *Panorama multidimensional del desarrollo urbano*, (Santiago de Chile: United Nations, 2017)

complement and contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, promoting integrated, efficient, and effective means that will support the achievement of the SDGs.

Implementing the RAP, and therefore the NUA, requires the development and implementation of new and improved planning and management tools at all levels, as well as national urban policies, guidelines, regulations and legislation, the development of strategies and plans, and the availability of municipal financing⁴. However, cities need more and improved information to adequately inform decision-making, policy development and the provision of goods and services required by their inhabitants. Decision makers are often faced with the need to act in a situation of strong uncertainty, based on estimates and predictions of dubious quality.⁵ Information creates knowledge and understanding which is fundamental to carry out an appropriate and effective decision-making process in the road to achieving the SDGs proposed and adopted globally. Effective follow-up of the actions undertaken by multiple levels of government is required in order to formulate a more precise vision of progress, barriers and change within urban areas, and the way in which these elements affect and even determine the capacity of a given country to achieve sustainable development.

This document presents a proposal for the development of the *Latin American and Caribbean Urban and Cities Platform* as an instrument to support monitoring of urban development in the region and to promote capacity building and sharing of experiences among practitioners. The Platform will include an *Observatory*, where consolidated information on cities and urban areas in the region will be available for visualization, and will host an *e-Forum*, to strengthen capacities between diverse actors on urban issues, as well as providing a space for rigorous follow-up and assessment of regional NUA implementation, RAP implementation, and the fulfilment of SDG 11 and other SDGs at the national and sub-national levels.

A preliminary proposal for the development of a platform to provide a tool for follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the various sustainable urban agendas in Latin American and Caribbean countries was presented during the Conference of Cities I, in October 2017. Given the good reception of the preliminary presentation, in January 2018 a workshop was held with an expert in the development of web pages and virtual search tools in order to begin the process of defining the functions and structure of a possible virtual platform. The results of this workshop strongly informed the design of the instrument proposed in this document.

During the process of preparing this proposal, consultations and planning meetings were held with relevant actors within ECLAC, UN-Habitat and MINURVI. The inputs of these consultations have been incorporated into the proposal to ensure that it meets the expectations of the institutions involved and is realistic in terms of the limits of the institutional capacities for its development.

This document will be presented to the participants of the Conference of Cities II and other interested actors including representatives from both national governments and subnational administrative entities, with the aim of receiving feedback regarding the proposed functionalities and elements to be included. The comments received will be incorporated, to the extent possible, into the design of the instrument prior to its development.

⁴ Habitat III, The New Urban Agenda, <http://habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/>, 22 Sept 2017.

⁵ United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), *A Guide to Setting up an Urban Observatory*. 2015.

C. CONCEPTUAL ASPECTS OF THE PLATAFORM

The *Latin American and Caribbean Urban and Cities Platform* project arises in response to the great need to collect and analyse information related to the urban areas of the LAC region. The Platform will serve as an objective tool, enabling users to follow up on the implementation of the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda, the NUA and the Regional Action Plan. It will provide a space to facilitate the exchange of experiences and ideas, strengthening regional, national and subnational capacities for sustainable urban development and fostering South-South cooperation as a horizontal learning mechanism in the region. Along with monitoring the application of the RAP, the Platform will support its implementation, creating a tool of great utility in support of action area 6 of the RAP: Monitoring, reporting and revision mechanisms.

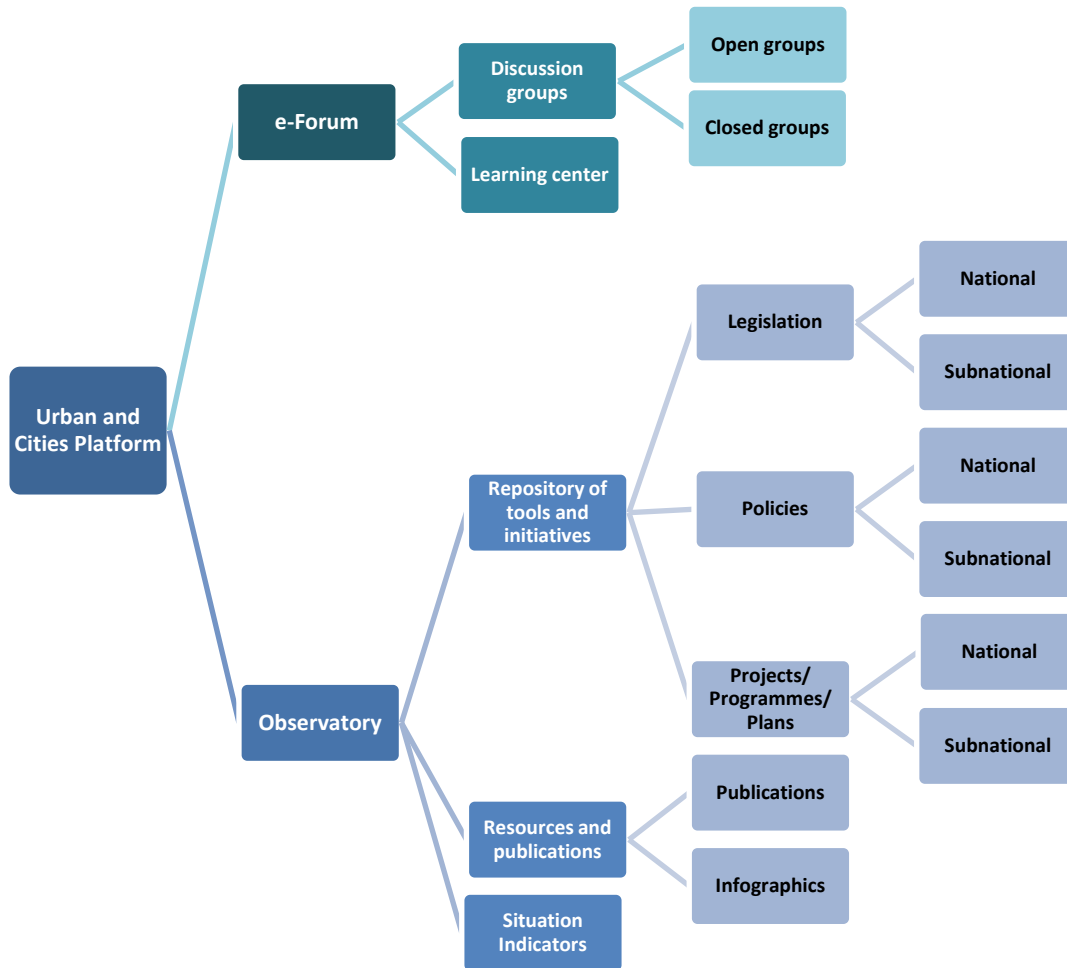
The objective of the Platform is to present information from both national and subnational/city levels. It will seek to provide users with a tool for viewing content through a friendly and interactive interface. The information presented may be useful for decision makers, academics and civil society. It may serve as input in the process of policy making, designing plans, programmes and projects, supporting the development of reports and academic studies, and more generally, keep the citizens of the region informed. Furthermore, the Platform could be an important source of information for the reports on cities that UN-Habitat regularly prepares in conjunction with agencies of the United Nations system.

D. PROPOSAL: LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN URBAN AND CITIES PLATFORM

Given the background information and conceptual aspects presented, the proposed Platform will be made up of two primary components:

- **The e-Forum:** for the analysis and discussion of urban and territorial dynamics and processes within the region. The e-Forum will be oriented by an established agenda for research, exchange of ideas and experiences between experts, decision-makers and other stakeholders, so as to strengthen national and sub-national capacities for the implementation of sustainable development agendas. The e-Forum will house a virtual learning centre which will host courses, seminars and/or conferences.
- **The Observatory:** to compile and visualize urban and city-level information, including relevant indicators for monitoring the implementation of the NUA and the SDGs, best practices related to legislation, public policy, plans, programmes, projects and other initiatives. The Observatory will provide relevant information and resources to support the development of qualitative and quantitative urban assessment methodologies.

Diagram 1
Proposed Structure for the Latin American and Caribbean Urban and Cities Platform



1. The e-Forum

The e-Forum (see image 10, pg.20) will promote synergies, encourage collaboration and strengthen capacities, allowing users to learn from one another by sharing best practices, experiences and knowledge. The thematic focus of discussions will be selected based on priorities identified by the Steering Committee (see section G.1.b).

This space will include both closed (participation by invite only) and open (participation by registration) groups, depending on the topic of discussion. Entities such as MINURVI and the Platform Steering Committee will have access to closed forums where they may carry out discussions of progress in the implementation of the Regional Action Plan and NUA, as well as discussions regarding next steps and stages in the development of the Platform. Within the open forums, channels for thematic discussion will be opened, with moderators suggesting questions to guide the debate and promote discussion around key issues. Moderators will be assigned by the members of the Steering Committee, based on their area of specialty. This space for debate will serve to develop and deepen knowledge creation for urban and territorial issues, promoting the continuity of dialogue and creating a bank of information and experiences emerging from relevant actors across the region.

E-Forum discussions will contribute to the development of research agendas, identifying existing knowledge gaps and promoting collaboration to focus efforts on key areas for intervention. The e-Forum will also facilitate access to initiatives, publications, documents and links to relevant events identified by forum users and moderators.

The e-Forum will house a virtual learning centre through which users will be able to participate in trainings seminars or web based conferences on topics related to urban and city development. These initiatives will be organized and developed by the institutions that form part of the Steering Committee.

2. The Observatory

The Observatory will compile qualitative and, at a later stage, quantitative information regarding urban areas and cities within the LAC region, providing information regarding urban and territorial processes and dynamics. The Observatory will also provide multiple options for visualizing content (such as interactive maps, graphics and/or tables) to facilitate understanding and comparison, and a repository of documents and relevant publications.

Given the limited availability of comprehensive and comparable information at the city level, a sample of cities with sufficient and satisfactory information will be selected, with the goal of achieving geographic representation from across the region. This selection of cities and related information will be updated and improved with existing information and reports compiled by UN-Habitat in the framework of the *Sample of Cities*, the *City Prosperity Initiative* and the *National Urban Policy Programme* of UN-Habitat, OECD, Cities Alliance and other initiatives from partner organizations which will be identified during the Observatory's conceptual development.

Synergies will be sought with other regional initiatives, coordinated by the United Nations system as well as those lead by Member States and their cities, in order to connect the Platform with the numerous urban and city observatories already in existence, including the observatories that make up the Global Urban Observatory Network of UN-Habitat and further initiatives of CAF, OECD, World Bank, IDB and others. Special attention will be given to monitoring progress of national statistics offices or institutes handling information, and following developments reflected in sectorial and thematic observatories which exist at the national and sub-national levels. At a later stage, and as the availability of city data increases, the possibility of incorporating a wider set of indicators, including quantitative indicators, will be evaluated.

The active participation of Member States and cities in the collection and analysis of information will be key to ensuring that the Platform is maintained up to date and relevant. For this reason, all interested parties will be invited to identify information and initiatives they deem relevant to New Urban Agenda and the Regional Action Plan implementation and share them with the Platform Working Group.

(a) Repository of Tools and Initiatives

The adoption of the NUA and the implementation of the RAP highlight the need to follow up on the processes that will be put in place in order to comply with these ambitious agendas and plans. It will be crucial to monitor the actions taken by governments at their various levels in order to follow the progress made before this is reflected in changes in situation indicators. Therefore, the Observatory will act as a repository of management tools such as national urban policies, legislation, strategies, urban and land development plans, programmes, projects and other initiatives from countries and cities within the region.

The main elements and aspects of these tools and initiatives will be highlighted, relating them to the implementation of the key components and objectives of the RAP. This will result in a collection of concrete actions and initiatives under each of the six action areas of the Regional Action Plan. Furthermore, the level of compliance with the SDGs will be monitored, especially with regards to **Goal 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities**.

This repository will be the central part of the Observatory, which will highlight the national and subnational efforts of different countries to implement urban agendas and respond to the needs of cities and urban areas and their

populations. This component of the Platform will not seek to provide a comprehensive analysis of the efforts in the region, but to provide a set of good practices and examples of relevant urban initiatives.

(b) Situation Indicators

In the medium/long term, the Platform aims to gather a set of urban indicators, including quantitative indicators, which provide information on the current situation of cities and urban areas in the region. The compilation of high-quality, up-to-date local data and information will support the identification of problems and prioritize policies, programmes and projects necessary for a sustainable urban development. This will support the development of urban policies that are based on statistical knowledge and, thus, promote efficient investment of resources.

In the Latin America and the Caribbean region there is a significant lack of high quality urban data and a particular deficiency in the collection of data relating to human settlements. This is most evident for populations living in informal and precarious settlements, for which there exists an important gap in knowledge regarding the dimension of the situation, the conditions of the settlements, and their relation to the cities where they are located. While these limitations make it difficult to have up-to-date and high-quality data to monitor progress at the local level, it is worth noting that there have been important advances to date in the search for alternatives for monitoring development at the city level.

The Cities Prosperity Index (CPI), for example, was born as an alternative to monitor the impact of public policies and urban development strategies from a multidimensional perspective that considers the economic, social and environmental aspects and connects these variables in a spatially and territorially integrated form of analysis. This multidimensional index includes six dimensions: productivity, infrastructure development, quality of life, equity and social inclusion, environmental sustainability and urban governance and legislation. The progress made in applying the CPI methodology in different countries and its ability to adapt to the reality of each location may be of great utility when considering options for monitoring the implementation of the NUA.

Furthermore, the substantial mobilization that is taking place at the international level regarding SDG indicators will undoubtedly result in strengthened capacities of national statistical offices and institutes to monitor progress at the subnational level. An increase in the capacity to monitor SDG indicators will imply an increase in capacity to monitor and follow-up on the implementation of the NAU. As relevant data becomes available, from entities of the United Nations system or national statistical institutes or is endorsed by relevant authorities at the city level, these will be included in the Platform. Other sources of information will be considered and evaluated at later stages within the context of the statistical protocols of the United Nations system and counterparts in the Member States.

It is estimated that in the near future, technology and new information capture practices (e.g. use of big data) will allow for a higher degree of data disaggregation thus facilitating, for example, geo-referencing of a greater volume of data. The Platform will therefore be a 'living' space in continuous evolution, adapting to changes and to the increasing quantity and quality of information available.

(c) Resources and Publications

The Platform will contain a repository of documents, publications, guides, reports, search tools and other relevant materials (e.g. infographics, brochures, etc.), all downloadable and linked to their original sources. It will seek to include a wide range of resources published by United Nations entities, by organizations that are part of the Steering Committee and other relevant actors, in order to offer a consolidated library of materials on the theme of sustainable urban and city development that may be useful and of interest to stakeholders and decision makers.

Although there will not be a dedicated section of the Platform for these materials, they will be viewable through the various website pages of the components described in section E. Each document will be related to at least one of the action areas of the RAP, SDG goals, thematic areas, countries and/or cities and will be viewable on the respective pages. Furthermore, through a system of tags, the materials included in the Platform will be accessible by keyword searches in the advanced search tool (see section F.1).

E. PRELIMINARY STRUCTURE OF THE PLATFORM

The **Latin American and Caribbean Urban and Cities Platform** will seek to provide a user-friendly interface and become an objective tool to follow up on the implementation of the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda, the NUA and the Regional Action Plan. In addition, it will provide a space to facilitate the exchange of experiences and ideas in order to strengthen regional, national and sub-national capacities for sustainable urban development.

As a regional horizontal learning mechanism, the contents of the Platform will be useful for decision-makers, academia and members of civil society and, therefore, should be made considering a wide range of users. For this reason, the Platform proposes to visualize its contents in different ways and in different groupings in order to facilitate access, as well as comparison and analysis of information.

1. Proposed Platform Components

The Platform proposal puts forward three ways of accessing information: **Geographical, Thematic** and according to the **Urban and Sustainable Development Agendas**. These access modalities will facilitate the use and research of information by different groups of users, as well as helping define the large components that should group and interlink the contents presented. As a result, 5 key components are proposed to shape and structure the Platform:

- **Countries** – national panorama of the urban situation in each of the 33 countries that make up the Latin America and the Caribbean region
- **Cities** – a representative sample of cities that presents urban initiatives at a local level in the region
- **Urban Themes** – categories established during the work prior to Habitat III, grouping the universe of urban sectors and actors into 22 thematic areas
- **Regional Action Plan** – monitoring, reporting and revision of the implementation of the NUA through the assessment of compliance of the six action areas presented by the RAP
- **Sustainable Development Goals** – monitoring the progress towards meeting the SDGs, especially SDG 11 for Sustainable Cities and Communities

Due to each component's specificities, below we will define their purposes and the contents that each will include.

(a) Countries Component

The purpose of this component is to monitor urban development in the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, highlighting relevant information at the national level. The region will be portrayed by means of an interactive map that redirects the user to the individual page for each country. The contents will also be linked to other components of the Platform, emphasizing their progress towards achieving the SDGs and the Action Areas of the RAP, as well as its compliance with the NUA.

The Platform will seek to establish local definitions for *cities*, thus understanding the different approaches in the region when assessing urban human settlements. Through the development of quantitative and qualitative evaluation methodologies, a series of templates will be established to present the various urban issues addressed in the Platform, thus facilitating the comparison and analysis of the contents.

Examples of specific contents:

- National Urban Policies
- National Law on Urban Development and Territorial Organization
- Legal urban framework
- Urban planning and management tools
- National programmes, plans and initiatives
- Urban infographics

(b) Cities Component

This component will seek to analyse and visualize urban information at the city level, positioning cities as the central axis of the Platform and highlighting their role as the engine in the process towards sustainable development. The contents presented will serve as references for other cities in the region, showing examples of initiatives that can be carried out at a local level to support sustainable urban development.

Initially, the Platform will work with a sample of cities in the region that make up a coherent set of cities that are representative of the regions territory, geography and history. This component proposes the analysis of city development featuring both the extension of their urbanized areas as well as their administrative and legal elements. The Platform aims to identify programmes, plans and initiatives at the local level, fostering the capacity for monitoring, reporting and review. By establishing clear indicators and reference data, the Platform hopes to strengthen tools, resources and institutional capacities within the region.

The Platform will present this component through an interactive map that illustrates the sample of cities in the region, redirecting to the individual pages of each city. The cities will be depicted according to their land uses and urban extension, accompanied by the land management plan that governs local urban development. The Platform will identify projects that represent local commitment and progress towards sustainable development, covering a wide range of urban issues.

This component will rely on active initiatives such as the *Atlas of Urban Expansion* or the *City Prosperity Initiative* adding, as already mentioned, both qualitative and quantitative data on urban human settlements.

Examples of specific contents:

- Land management plans
- Analysis of urban land uses
- Management and planning tools
- Programmes, plans and initiatives at sub-national level
- City Prosperity Index
- The definition of a *city* according to each country

(c) Urban Themes Component

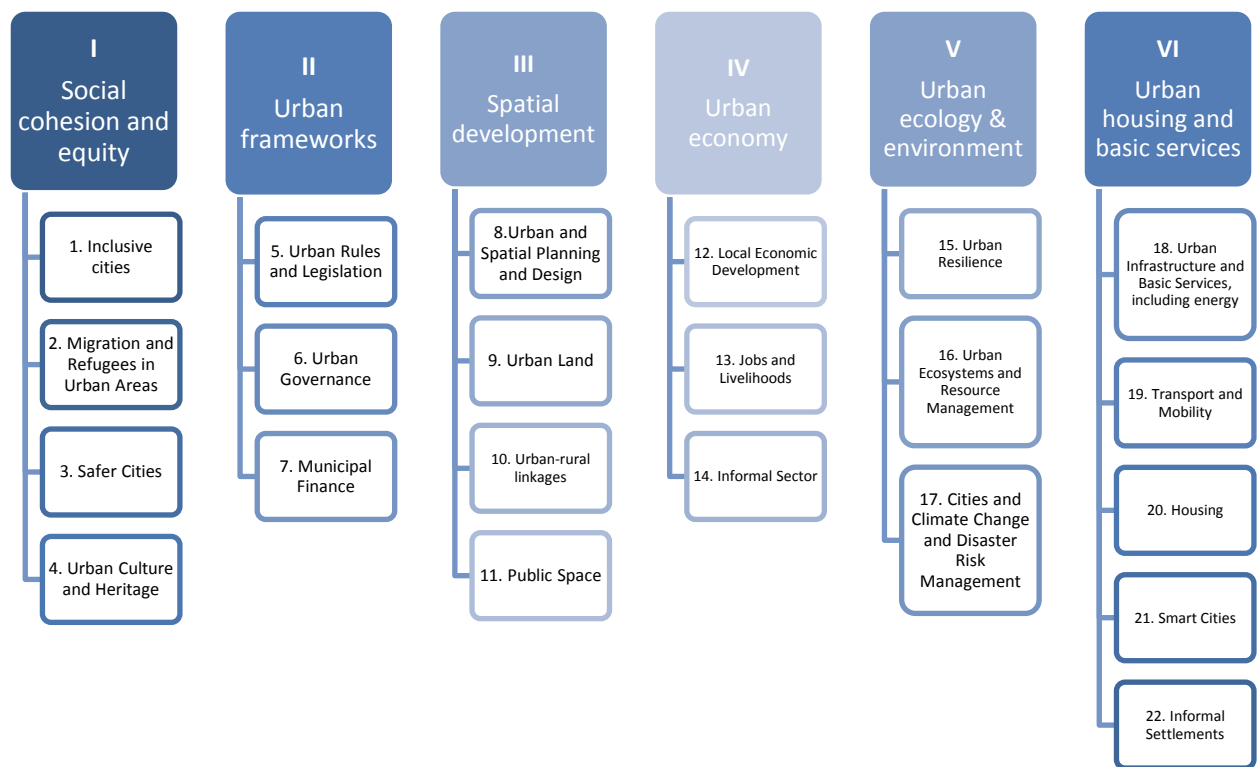
The purpose of this component is to visualize and organize the universe of urban issues, facilitating the navigation of all users and giving continuity to the processes already underway. Considering this, the thematic areas selected are those established in the preparatory process of Habitat III. These are defined by six thematic areas covering 22 topics that include a wide range of sectors (housing, environment, mobility, etc.) as well as relevant urban actors (youth, women, disabled, etc.) (see Diagram 2).

Guided by the challenges and problems identified in the *Issue Papers* prepared for Habitat III (see Annex 2), key words are identified for each topic. These will make up the future tags that will link the contents of the Platform. Tags are words or phrases that describe the content, regardless of its format, whether text, articles, videos, images, etc., and through them, the user can access information presented in the Platform from different angles, thus facilitating the location of contents of interest.

Examples of specific contents:

- Programmes, plans and initiatives according to sectors and urban actors
- Projects of public nature
- Infographics and urban data by sector
- Publications and reports of UN system entities on urban issues

Diagram 2
Urban Themes proposed for Latin American and Caribbean Urban and Cities Platform



(d) Regional Action Plan Component

The purpose of this component is to monitor the implementation of the RAP, through a process of monitoring and evaluation. The contents of the Platform will seek to exemplify practices at national and sub-national levels that align with the objectives and key components established in the six action areas: national urban policies; urban legal frameworks; urban and territorial planning and design; urban economy and municipal finances; local implementation; and monitoring, reporting and revision mechanisms.

The contents will be classified by action area and will be associated to the strategic objectives, establishing clear guidelines in the implementation of the NUA in Latin America and the Caribbean. This tool will be key in identifying the challenges and priorities faced by the region, facilitating and strengthening the implementation process. These contents will also be linked to the *Countries* and *Cities* components, helping in the visualization of the national and local urban panorama of each country as well as the *Urban Themes* component that will exemplify good practices throughout the different urban sectors.

Examples of specific contents:

- Regional Action Plan for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean document
- Programmes, plans and initiatives related to the RAP
- Projects linked to each action area

(e) Sustainable Development Goals Component

The purpose of this component is to follow up on the urban dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 11 of Sustainable Cities and Communities that promotes inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements. The contents will be linked to the 10 targets proposed in SDG 11 and will be backed by indicators that support the information.

The Platform seeks to support the systems of collection, processing and analysis of statistical and geographic data, promoting the use of coherent and consistent methodologies in accordance with international recommendations. This will be essential in monitoring the progress towards meeting the SDGs, identifying problems and prioritizing policies, programmes and projects for the sustainable development of cities.

The National Voluntary Reports presented in the High Level Political Forum will be presented as central documents in the follow-up and revision of the 2030 Agenda, giving an account of the national and sub-national progress towards meeting the SDGs. This represents an important mechanism for the exchange of experiences that will promote South-South cooperation.

Examples of specific contents:

- National Voluntary Reports
- Link to the official page of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Programmes, plans and initiatives directly linked to Goal 11
- Targets and indicators of Goal 11
- Publications and reports of UN system entities on urban issues related to the SDGs

2. Proposed Platform contents

The contents will be exportable to facilitate their reproduction and usability. Materials will come from a consolidated set of urban initiatives already present in the region, taking advantage of synergies already underway. The added value is given by identifying the existing interrelationships and creating new links between different sectors and urban actors. In this way, the Platform will seek to establish itself as a useful tool to inform development, planning and urban management in Latin America and the Caribbean.

To simplify the input of information and facilitate its future update, the Platform proposal foresees a single point of entry for the contents. Through internal associations and tags, the information will be simultaneously displayed in the different components, quickly populating the Platform with interrelated contents.

Two initial classifications are defined for inputting the information: "types of content", which include the categories: policies, plans/programmes/projects, legislation, etc. and "category of the content", which defines in which of the 5 components of the Platform the information should be visualized (see section F.2).

F. PLATFORM DESIGN PROPOSAL

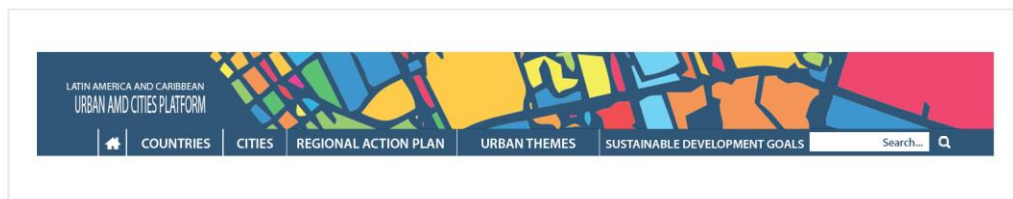
Considering all the aforementioned elements, preliminary design proposals of some components of the Platform are presented below. These consider both the structure of the pages, the proposed content and the interrelation of the information.

The Platform proposal suggests a user-friendly tool that offers different points of access to the contents and information compiled. The information is presented through suggestive and dynamic visual language that promotes a link between quantitative and qualitative contents.

1. Platform Tools Prototype

Before describing every page contained in the Platform's proposal, the main navigation and information selection tools are presented in this section.

Image 1
Urban and Cities Platform Prototype: Navigation Bar



1. The **Navigation Bar** represents the main means of accessing the different components of the Platform. It contains a Home button, which redirects to the main page, five buttons that link to the different components of the Platform (*Countries*, *Cities*, *Regional Action Plan*, *Urban Themes* and *Sustainable Development Goals*) and a search bar (see image 2). The proposal includes the same graphic design that was used for the Regional Action Plan document granting continuity to the implementation processes of the NUA in the region.

Image 2
Urban and Cities Platform Prototype: Advanced Search

Advanced Search...

Countries

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Bolivia

Urban Themes

- Inclusive cities
- Migration and Refugees in Urban Areas
- Safer Cities
- Urban Culture and Heritage
- Urban Rules and Legislation
- Urban Governance

Sustainable Development Goals

- GOAL 1: No Poverty
- GOAL 2: Zero Hunger
- GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being
- GOAL 4: Quality Education
- GOAL 5: Gender Equality
- GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Browse Results >

0 Countries Selected

0 Themes Selected

0 SDGs Selected

2. The **Advanced Search** allows the user to access more precise and specific content that goes beyond the automatic filters applied in the five navigation components (see image 1). Three additional search filters are applied simultaneously: Countries, Urban Themes and Sustainable Development Goal, generating interrelated results among actors, sectors and agendas, thus facilitating access to the contents of the Platform (see image 2).

Image 3
Urban and Cities Platform Prototype: Featured Documents - Publications



3. The section **Featured Documents** incorporates the repository of documents and publications in several pages of the Platform, thus offering additional reading material pertinent to the contents that the user is browsing (see image 3). This section becomes a powerful tool to visualize the wide range of available resources and redirects users to links where they can download the complete documents. This section will seek to include resources published by member organizations and other relevant actors, in order to offer a consolidated archive on the subject of urban development and sustainable cities.

Image 4
Urban and Cities Platform Prototype: Events



4. The **Events** section highlights conferences, training events, meetings and technical seminars relevant to the Urban Agenda and that are currently taking place in the region. This will be a place for exchange, generating synergies between urban actors and also allowing the visualization of the activities that are being carried out (see image 4).

Image 5
Urban and Cities Platform Prototype: Data

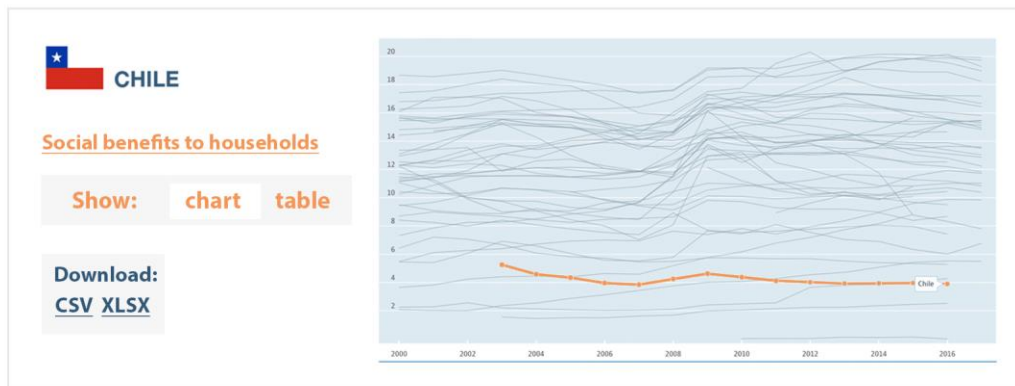
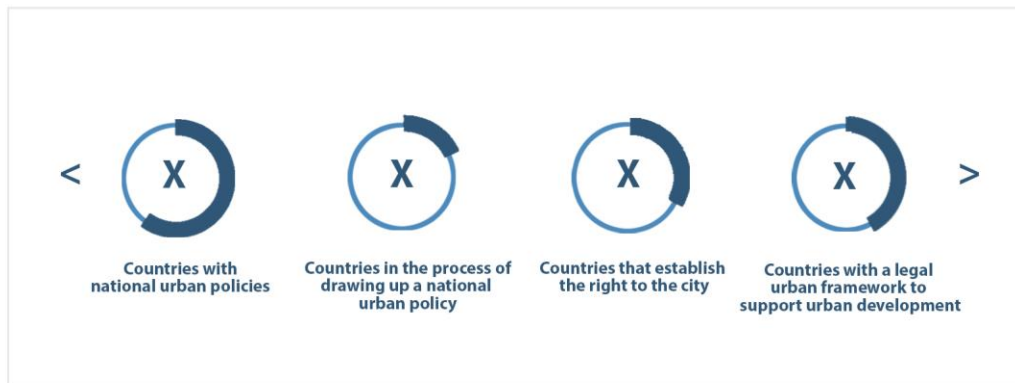


Image 6
Urban and Cities Platform Prototype: Data and Infographics



5. The Platform aims to incorporate quantitative contents such as **Data** and **Infographics** to accompany and support its qualitative information. These are considered to be dynamic contents in order to facilitate the visualization of information and promote the accessibility of data to a wide range of users (see image 6). These contents seek to be downloadable and linked to their original sources, promoting transparency and taking advantage of multiple actors already generating information.

Image 7
Urban and Cities Platform Prototype: Footer



6. The **Footer** links to the social networks of ECLAC and highlights the strategic partners, establishing clear links between all the actors involved in this effort and redirecting users to their official web pages. It also contains the subscription to the Newsletter of the Platform, where users can register to receive notifications of new content and news relevant to the region (see image 7).

Image 8
Urban and Cities Platform Prototype: Direct Links



7. All the contents of the Platform are conceived to be exportable. The information is linked to the different websites where the original and complete documents are located through **Direct Links**. This will facilitate the task of reviewing and updating the contents, thus ensuring that the Platform remains updated and relevant. It is expected that this tool will help to directly visualize the efforts of different entities and invite stakeholders to share data and initiatives (see image 8).

2. Platform Components Prototype

Below are the prototype pages of some of the proposed components of the Platform. These preliminary prototypes have tried to take into account the comments, interests and inputs expressed in previous work meetings. This proposal is not a finished product and hopes to spark conversations about the contents and links that the Platform must establish for the region, the urban agendas and the universe of urban issues and actors.

Image 9
Urban and Cities Platform Prototype: Home Page



The *Home Page* is the main access route to the various contents of the Platform. The home button (house icon), located on the left of the navigation bar (see image 1), is present on all the pages and always leads to this home page. This page is made up of a four options menu (*Latin America and the Caribbean*, *Implementation of Urban Agendas*, *Urban Themes* and the *e-Forum*) to access the various larger components of the Platform.

By placing the cursor over the first three buttons, a menu of the linked subcategories is displayed: in the box for **Latin America and the Caribbean**, the options for *cities* or *countries* is displayed, each of which will be taken to their respective pages (see images 11 and 15); in the **Implementation of Urban Agendas** box, the *Regional Action Plan* and *Sustainable Development Goals* are displayed, leading to the pages presented in images 18 and 21; in the box of **Urban Themes**, the menu of the six thematic areas described will be displayed as described below. The **e-Forum** button will take you directly to the registration page to access the virtual discussion rooms and the virtual training center.

Image 10
Urban and Cities Platform Prototype: Forum Component



After logging in, the user will be able to access open and closed discussion rooms. In these users can participate in thematic discussions, share links to events and resources of interest and report on relevant projects, initiatives and experiences. The open discussions will be enabled for a specific time and will be moderated by representatives of the working group. Closed groups, such as that of MINURVI (represented in Image 10), will be open for the long term so that members can use this space to report on progress and share useful experiences. These discussions will serve to document changes and advances over time and as a means to strengthen the community of urban practitioners.

Image 11
Urban and Cities Platform Prototype: Countries Component

Countries – Latin America and Caribbean

The **Latin America and 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.

Map of the Region
Latin America and Caribbean

X
 Countries with national urban policies

X
 Countries that establish the right to the city

X
 Countries with a legal urban framework to support urban development

Featured Documents

The screenshot displays a user interface for the 'Countries' component of the Urban and Cities Platform. At the top, a navigation bar includes a home icon, a search bar, and menu items for 'COUNTRIES', 'CITIES', 'REGIONAL ACTION PLAN', 'URBAN THEMES', and 'SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS'. The main content area is titled 'Countries – Latin America and Caribbean'. It features a circular globe icon and a text block describing the region's urbanization trends and challenges. Below this is a map of Latin America and the Caribbean, accompanied by three circular infographics, each marked with a blue 'X' and a descriptive label. The first infographic is 'Countries with national urban policies', the second is 'Countries that establish the right to the city', and the third is 'Countries with a legal urban framework to support urban development'. At the bottom, a 'Featured Documents' section displays four document covers: 'Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals', 'The 2018 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals', 'New Urban Agenda', and another document with a colorful cover.

The *Countries* button leads to the first component of the Platform (see image 11). This is organized through three main elements: a short text that describes the urban situation in the region, a section of urban infographics and an interactive map of the countries of the region. In addition, it is accompanied by a section of Featured Documents that highlights important publications relevant to urban development in the region.

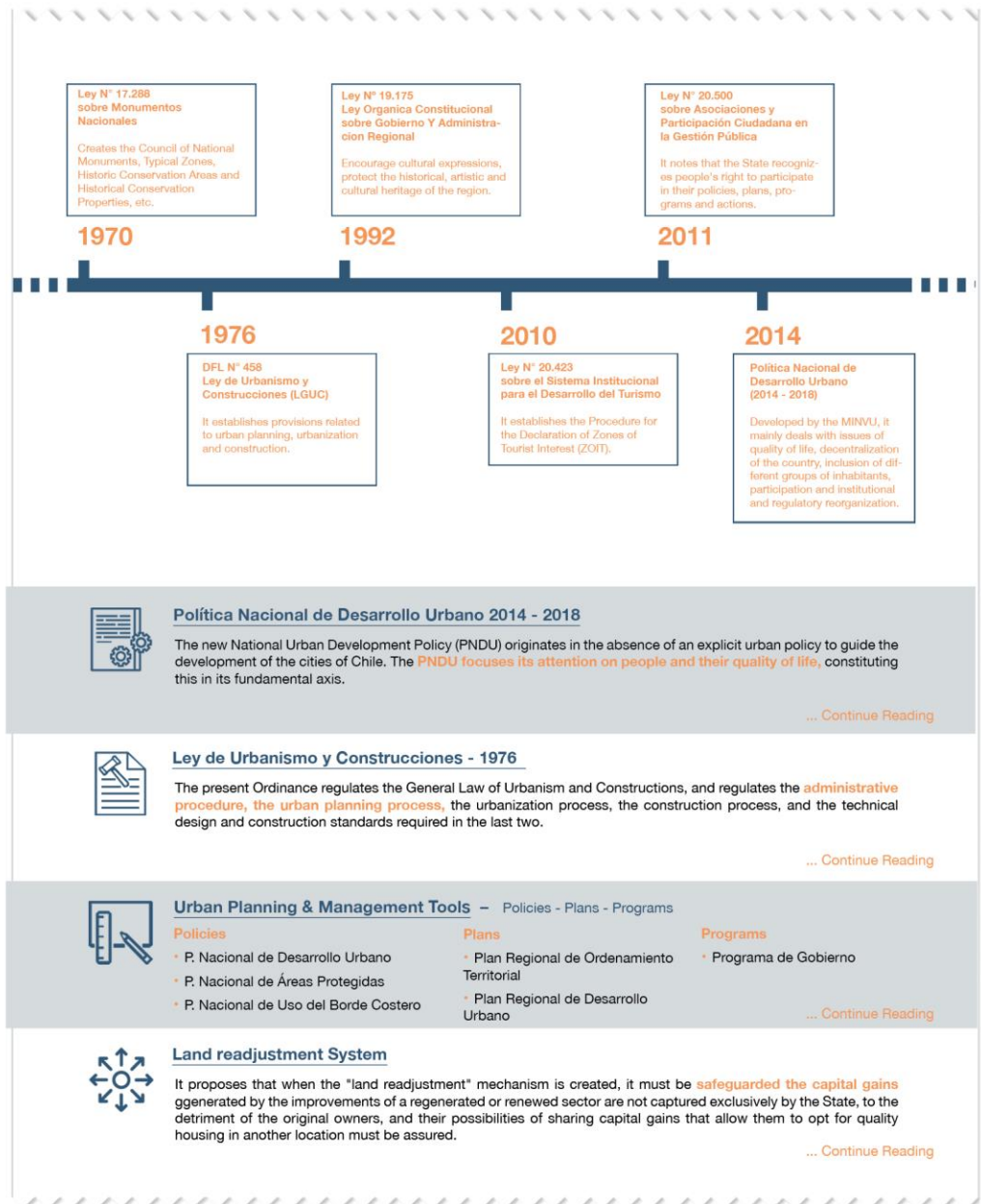
The user can access each country by clicking on the interactive map. When the mouse is hovered over a specific country, relevant data is displayed. The infographics section is presented as a dynamic element that can be updated from time to time to show different pertinent urban data.

Image 12
Urban and Cities Platform Prototype: Countries Component – Example, Chile 1/2



Each of the 33 countries of the region has an individual page (see images 12 and 13) that presents the country through a representative image, its flag and its population distribution. This page highlights a country's planning tools (policies, laws, decrees, etc.) and projects, plans and initiatives related to the implementation of the NUA and the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda. Through an interactive map and a series of infographics, the political distribution of the country is presented, as well as its territorial structure and configuration.

Image 13
Urban and Cities Platform Prototype: Countries Component – Example, Chile 2/2



A timeline gives an account of the country's legal frameworks (see image 13), presenting the main urban laws and plans in force. These are presented with a brief description of their function and contain a direct link to the government website where the original document is located.

Four sections showcase important urban planning and management tools, highlighting the National Urban Policy (NUP) and the National Law of Urban Development and Territorial Organization as central elements in the regulatory frameworks of urban planning in each country.

Image 14
Urban and Cities Platform Prototype: Countries Component - Example of National Urban Policy in Chile

Countries – National Urban Policies

UN-Habitat defines **National Urban Policies** as "a coherent set of decisions derived from a deliberate process led by the government to coordinate and bring together various actors for a common and global vision that will promote a more transformative, productive, inclusive and resilient urban development in the long term".

The development of a national urban policy is a fundamental step to reaffirm urban space and territoriality. It is also vital to give the appropriate direction and action plan to support urban development.

CHILE

HACIA UNA NUEVA POLÍTICA URBANA PARA CHILE
POLÍTICA NACIONAL DE DESARROLLO URBANO

VIEW PDF

DEFINITION OF CITY ACCORDING TO NATIONAL URBAN POLICY:

"City, referred to employment, facilities for entrepreneurship, conditions of social integration, possibilities of housing mobility, transport systems, costs, time and quality of transfers of people and goods, accessibility and interconnection with the rest of the territory and other cities, provision of city-scale equipment, commerce, health, education, parks, security, sports, recreation, worship and culture"

Explanatory notes, p. 71, para. 3

Name of Policy	Política Nacional de Desarrollo Urbano (2014 – 2018)
Entry into force	January 2014
Previous policies	Previous urban policy enacted in 1979, amended in 1985 and repealed in 2000
National urban Legal framework	Ley de Urbanismo y Construcciones – 1976
Who developed	Ministry of Housing and Urbanism "The present National Urban Development Policy was prepared by an advisory commission mandated by the President of the Republic, Sebastián Piñera Echenique. It was made up of 28 people, (...)". ... Continue Reading
Development process	Presidential Advisory Commission "President Sebastián Piñera took up the challenge, convening a Presidential Advisory Commission that, after 14 months of work, 17 plenary meetings, 56 subcommittee meetings, 32 workshops (...)". ... Continue Reading
Executing agency	National Council for Urban Development
Main Objective	"Generate conditions for a better" Quality of Life of People ", understood not only regarding the availability of goods or objective conditions but also in subjective terms, (...)". ... Continue Reading
Strategic Objectives	1. Social integration: Ensure that our cities are inclusive places, where people are and feel protected and incorporated into urban benefits: access to public spaces, (...)". ... Continue Reading

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Goal 11
Sustainable cities and communities

Within the *Countries* component, the National Urban Policy is presented as a central document in the construction of a framework of policies, regulations and programmes for the urban agenda of each country. The document is analyzed using a model template (see image 14) that presents the main aspects of the policy, its formulation process, its objectives and the definition of a city according to the document. In addition, through the cover of the NUP the user is linked directly to the government website that houses the complete original document, ensuring that the document is valid and up to date.

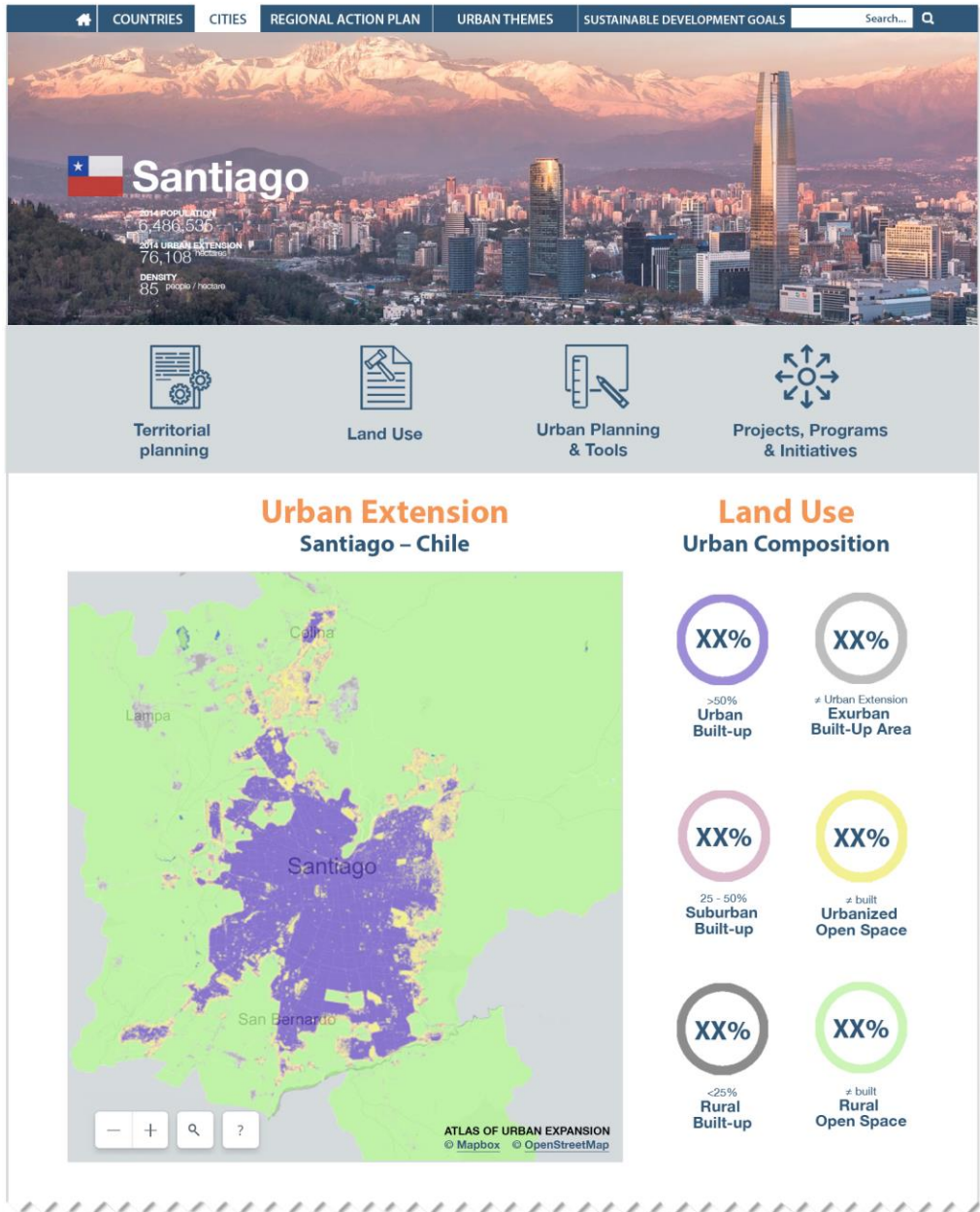
Image 15
Urban and Cities Platform Prototype: Cities Component

The screenshot displays the 'Cities Component' of the Urban and Cities Platform Prototype. At the top, a navigation bar includes 'COUNTRIES', 'CITIES', 'REGIONAL ACTION PLAN', 'URBAN THEMES', and 'SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS', along with a search bar. The main heading is 'Cities – Latin America and the Caribbean'. Below this, a text block explains that the 'Sample of Cities' of the United Nations monitors trends related to urban life, such as air and water quality, housing affordability, and access to public space. It notes that data from 200 cities is used to examine similarities and differences in city evolution. To the right, a 'Definition of City' is provided according to Chile's National Urban Policy, emphasizing employment, social integration, housing mobility, transport systems, and accessibility. A map of Latin America and the Caribbean shows the locations of the 200 cities. Below the map, there are navigation controls (minus, plus, search, and help icons). A section for the 'City Prosperity Index' is also visible, describing it as a composite index measuring six dimensions of prosperity. A link 'Learn about the initiative HERE' is provided.

The *Cities* button presents the second component of the Platform that follows a similar structure to the *Countries* component: a short text explaining the *UN National Sample of Cities* as an initial basis for addressing the universe of cities in the region, an interactive map illustrating this representative sample of the cities and a dynamic section that highlights important urban data of the region (see image 15). In addition, a final section briefly presents the *City's Prosperity Index*, linking directly to the initiative's site.

The user can access each city through the interactive map. When the mouse is hovered over a specific city, relevant urban data of that country and region is displayed. The data section of the region is presented as a dynamic element that can be updated from time to time to show different relevant urban data.

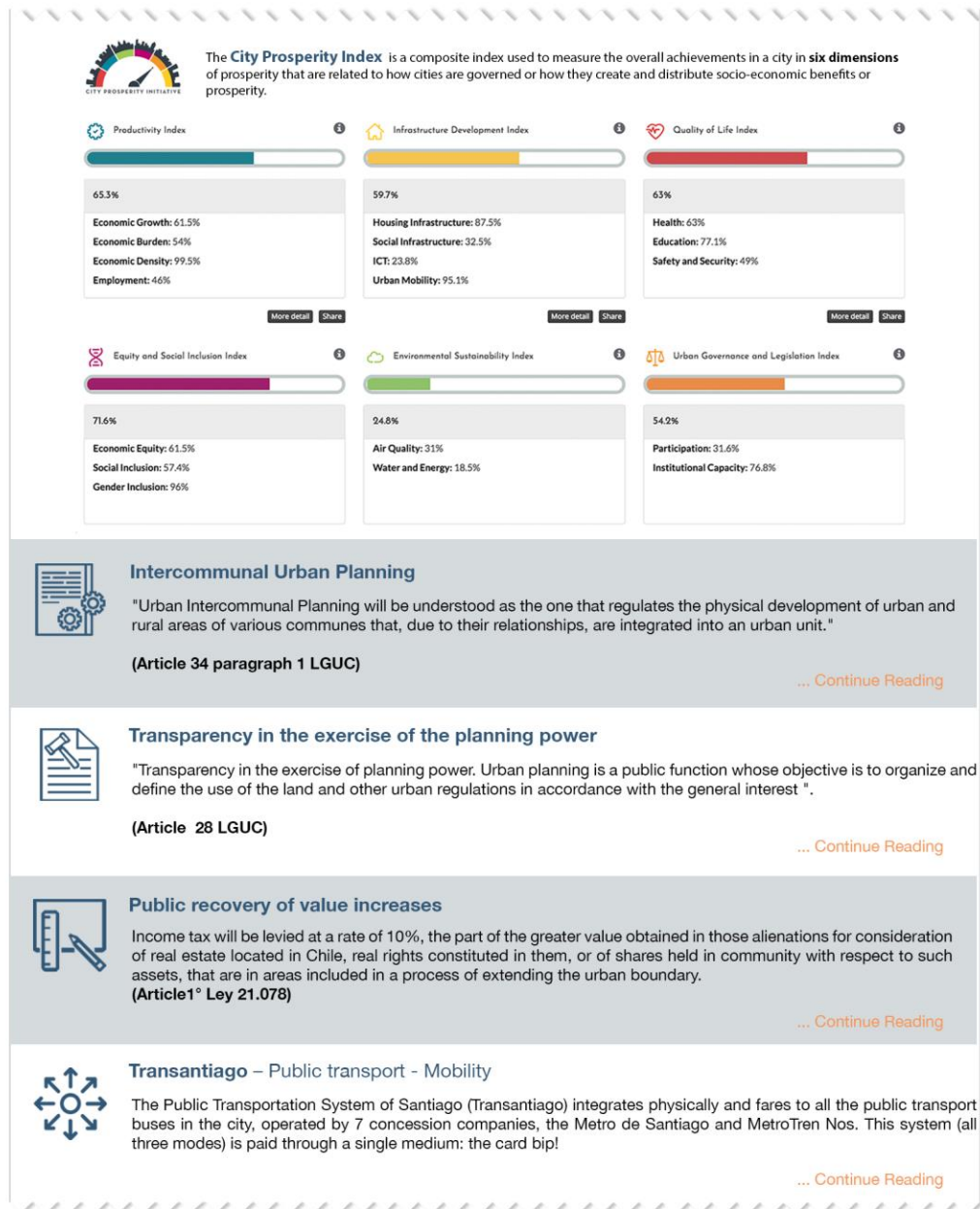
Image 16
Urban and Cities Platform Prototype: Cities Component - Example Santiago, Chile 1/2



Each profiled city is presented through a individual page (see image 16), which has a similar structure to the *Country* component: a representative image of the city, the country's flag and relevant urban data. This page highlights territorial planning, land uses, management tools (policies, laws, decrees, etc.) and projects, plans and initiatives that are directly related to the implementation of the NUA and the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda.

Through an interactive map and a series of infographics, the urban composition and land uses of the city are presented, including both the extension of its urbanized area and its administrative or jurisdictional limits.

Image 17
Urban and Cities Platform Prototype: Cities Component - Example Santiago, Chile 2/2



For each city in which there is a calculated *City Prosperity Index*, it will be displayed in a disaggregated form. This is a composite index used to measure general achievements of a city in six dimensions of prosperity. The City Prosperity Initiative seeks to monitor the impact of public policies and strategies for urban development from a multidimensional perspective, considering economic, social and environmental aspects, connecting them with an integrated view of spatial and territorial analysis.

At the same time, important urban management tools are featured in four sections, highlighting the Territorial Organization Plan in force as the central element in the urban planning for each city. These sections are presented as dynamic elements that will vary their contents every so often to show different relevant information.

Image 18
Urban and Cities Platform Prototype: Regional Action Plan Component

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

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.

Action areas

- Action Area 1: National urban policies
- Action Area 2: Urban legal frameworks
- Action Area 3: Urban and territorial planning and design
- Action Area 4: Urban economy and municipal finances
- Action Area 5: Local implementation
- Action Area 6: Monitoring, reporting and revision mechanisms

RIGHT TO THE CITY ACCORDING TO NATIONAL URBAN LAW:

BRAZIL

“ Guarantee the right to have sustainable cities, understood as the right to urban land, housing, environmental sanitation, urban infrastructure, transportation and public services, work and recreation, for present and future generations ”

ESTATUTO DA CIDADE
 Ley Nº. 10.257 de Julho de 2001
 Artigo 1

MEXICO

“ All persons without distinction of sex, race, ethnicity, age, physical limitation, sexual orientation, have the right to live and enjoy cities and Human Settlements in sustainable, resilient, healthy, productive, equitable, fair, inclusive, democratic and safe conditions ”

LEY GENERAL DE ASENTAMIENTOS HUMANOS, ORDENAMIENTO TERRITORIAL Y DESARROLLO URBANO
 Artículo 2

Action areas

- Action Area 1: National urban policies
- Action Area 2: Urban legal frameworks
 - Introduce or strengthen a legal framework for the right to the city
 - Establish a legal framework to guarantee participatory, transparent and accountable governance, with binding instruments and mechanisms for the urban sector
 - Adopt effective legal frameworks that strengthen government capacities at all levels, with fiscal, political, and administrative decentralization
 - 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
 - Establish or strengthen the legal foundation of statutory and strategic planning instruments and mechanisms
 - Strengthen regulatory housing instruments and their respective processes for urban and territorial planning and management
 - 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)
 - Establish minimum national standards for universal access to quality basic services, urban and social infrastructure and urban amenities
 - Develop and strengthen legal instruments and institutional frameworks that enable the recovery of gains resulting from public investment

The *Regional Action Plan* button leads to the third component of the Platform (see image 18), which contains three elements: a short introductory text of the document, its six action areas and an image of the cover that links directly to the repository of ECLAC where the full document can be accessed and downloaded.

The user can break down the objectives of each action area by moving the cursor over it, and by clicking on it, can access the detail of each action area where management tools (policies, laws, decrees, etc.) are highlighted, as well as projects, plans and related initiatives that provide an example of good practices for the achievement of sustainable urban development in the region. For more information about each initiative, the user can access its detail by clicking on it and will be redirected to a page with further information.

Image 19
Urban and Cities Platform Prototype: Urban Themes Component



The *Urban Themes* button leads to the fourth component of the Platform (see image 19), which contains two main elements: a brief description that explains the selection of urban themes through the Issue Papers of Habitat III and a menu that organizes the contents in groups according to six thematic areas (*Social Cohesion and Equity*, *Urban Frameworks*, *Spatial Development*, *Urban Economy*, *Urban Ecology and Environment*, *Urban Housing and Basic Services*). Each theme is represented by an icon, on which, when placing the cursor, the subcategories are displayed.

This page facilitates navigation for users who are not familiar with documents such as the NUA, the RAP or the SDGs, providing a more intuitive and educational navigation that focuses on specific urban sectors.

Image 20
Urban and Cities Platform Prototype: Urban Themes Component – Urban Rules and Legislation

The screenshot shows the 'Urban Rules and Legislation' page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for 'COUNTRIES', 'CITIES', 'REGIONAL ACTION PLAN', 'URBAN THEMES', and 'SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS'. Below the navigation bar, the page title is 'Urban Rules and Legislation' with a sub-header 'Urban Frameworks'. A section titled 'The Strategies for the Implementation of the Habitat Agenda include commitments to:' lists three numbered points. Below this is a 'FILTERS' section with three categories: 'Main Concepts', 'Country', and 'Type'. The 'Main Concepts' section has checkboxes for 'Urban Law', 'Legislation', 'Rules', 'Informality', 'Equity', 'Responsibility', 'Quality', 'Effectiveness', 'Rights', 'Policies', and 'Implementation'. The 'Country' section has a dropdown menu labeled 'Choose'. The 'Type' section has checkboxes for 'Law', 'Regulation', 'Decree', 'Plan', and 'Draft'. The 'RULES AND URBAN LEGISLATION' section displays three legislative examples, each with a country flag, a title, and a brief description of the law's content. The footer includes the GLTN logo and the UN-Habitat logo.

Within the *Urban Themes* component, *Urban Frameworks* is included within the *Urban Rules and Legislation* subcategory. This page is structured in three main components: a brief description of the commitments established in the Habitat Agenda for regulatory processes, planning systems, urban development rules and regulations; a series of search filters and a section of related contents (see image 20).

Through the filters - main concepts, country and type - the user can access more specific contents that give examples of good practices in the region on urban legal frameworks. The same contents can also be accessed through the *Country* component, organized individually by each country, and through the *Regional Action Plan* component, specifically linked to action area 2: Urban legal frameworks.

Image 21
Urban and Cities Platform Prototype: Sustainable Development Goals Component

The **Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development** is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We recognise that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

The Goals and targets will stimulate action over the next fifteen years in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet **People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership**.

MAPS: How does the UN support the implementation of the SDGs?

Aquí es como la ONU pasa los ODS de la teoría a la práctica.

sus 17 Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible y el compromiso de no dejar a nadie atrás.

The UNDP support to the countries for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals is part of the common approach of the United Nations Development Group called MAPS (Integration, Acceleration and Policy Support). This animation shows what MAPS is and how it guides the UN to move the SDGs from paper to practice.

The *Sustainable Development Goals* button leads to the fifth component of the Platform (see image 21). It is structured through three main elements: a short text that describes the 2030 Agenda, an interactive section that displays the 17 SDGs and a section that highlights different initiatives that support the implementation of SDGs.

In the Goals section, the user can get acquainted with the breakdown of each Goal as the cursor is moved over each one, and, by clicking, is redirected to the official page of the SDGs for the selected goal. For Goal 11, Sustainable Cities and Communities, the user will be redirected to a page that links all the relevant contents of the Platform to this objective, its targets and indicators.

Image 22
Urban and Cities Platform Prototype: Sustainable Development Goals Component - Goal 11

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
CITIES AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Cities are teeming with ideas, commerce, culture, science, productivity, social development and much more. In the best of cases, cities have allowed people to progress socially and economically. In recent decades, the world has experienced unprecedented urban growth. In 2015, nearly 4 billion people lived in cities and that number is expected to increase to around 5 billion by 2030. Therefore, urban planning and management need to be improved so that the urban spaces of the world are more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

50%
 half of the world population live in cities

282 MILLONES
 people live in slums

75%
 of carbon emissions come from cities

3%
 cities occupy only 3% of the surface of the Earth

TARGETS
 11.1 11.2 11.3 11.4 11.5 11.6 11.7 11.a 11.b 11.c

By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

INDICATORS

11.3.1
 Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate

11.3.2
 Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically

INITIATIVES

ECLAC promotes «ciudades cuidadoras» (care cities) project in Latin America and the Caribbean

Progress must be made in the construction of "care-giving cities", where the State, the market, families, the community, men and women take charge, in a context of co-responsibility and solidarity, of the necessary care work for the reproduction of society.

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

This component is presented through three sections: the description of Goal 11, a brief text that introduces the theme of cities and a series of infographics that graph the challenges and data related to this objective (see image 22). The contents will be linked to the 10 targets of the Goal and will be supported by indicators that back the information.

By selecting one of the targets, the user can see the related indicators along with the data available for the region. Additionally, it seeks to graph the progress achieved with outstanding initiatives that relate directly to each target. The national voluntary reports presented in the High Level Political Forum will be highlighted as central documents in the follow-up and revision of the 2030 Agenda.

G. PLATFORM DEVELOPMENT

1. Governance

(a) Working Group

The Working Group is composed of representatives of the Human Settlements Unit of ECLAC, UN-Habitat's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) and representatives of MINURVI. This group will be responsible for the conceptual design of the Platform, the processing of the materials to be included, the rollout of the different stages of development and updating of the contents.

ECLAC will lead the Working Group and will be in charge of organizing meetings both with the members of the Group, to coordinate necessary activities for the development of the Platform, and with the Steering Committee to report on progress and receive inputs and comments. The Platform will have an assigned e-mail address through which the ECLAC work team will be able to receive inputs from stakeholders and key actors within Member States and selected cities.

(b) Steering Committee

The Steering Committee will include representatives from partner organizations that contribute to the development of the Platform in the form of monetary or in-kind contributions. Representation will be sought from groups of key actors including civil society, academia, local governments, national governments, the private sector and non-governmental organizations, among others.

The Committee will play an advisory role during the process of developing and updating the Platform. Members will propose topics to be included in the analysis carried out, provide inputs related to the materials presented and act as an important link between the working group and the key stakeholder and Platform users.

(c) Member States

The active participation of the Member States, at both the level of national governments and that of subnational administrative units, will be key in maintaining the Platform updated and current. Through MINURVI, each Member State will be asked to appoint a focal point/point of contact to facilitate communication between the Working Group and the relevant actors in each country and enable access to relevant information. In the same way, a focal point/point of contact will be sought within each of the profiled cities to fulfil the same functions. The focal points will be responsible for reviewing the relevant contents of the Platform and notifying of the need for any corrections or updates or informing if any key information is missing. The focal points will also provide information about relevant projects, programmes or initiatives carried out by the national government for inclusion in the Platform.

2. Platform Rollout

The Platform will be developed gradually, in several stages, until achieving a complete integration of the two main functions: the Observatory and the e-Forum. The Platform will continue to be populated with new contents and existing contents will be continuously updated between stages. Despite the fact that the collection and analysis of information and possible contents has already begun, as it was an integral part of the preparatory process to develop this proposal, the timeframes for the development of each stage will depend heavily on the funds obtainable, and the availability of the counterparts in Member States to provide, or facilitate access to, relevant information. The rollout of the virtual Platform is planned in four phases.

- **Phase 1: Development of a pilot phase of the Observatory**

During this stage, the component of the Observatory that provides follow-up to the performance of the implementation of the agenda will be launched through the presentation of qualitative information, including management and legislative instruments at the national level (national legal frameworks and national urban policies, among others) for a select group of countries in the region. An initial repository of relevant publications, documents and infographics will be included in this phase. All these contents will be organized by thematic areas, RAP action areas and SDG goals.

Once this reduced version of the Observatory has been launched, inputs and comments will be collected from users and stakeholders to feed into the second stage of expansion and development of the Platform contents.

- **Phase 2: Expansion of the Observatory**

In this stage the necessary adjustments will be made to the contents already displayed taking into account the inputs and comments resulting from phase 1, the number of countries presented will be expanded and additional quantitative information will be included (including projects, programmes and other relevant initiatives implemented at the national level). In this phase, a first sample of cities and related instruments will be added.

Once more, inputs and comments from users will be collected to continue to improve the presentation and contents of materials displayed.

- **Phase 3: Development of the e-Forum**

In this phase, the e-Forum will be launched, inaugurating it with the creation of a closed group for the coordination of the Steering Committee. Several virtual discussion rooms will be created with different relevant themes and seminars/conferences or virtual workshops open to users of the Forum will be organized.

- **Phase 4: Development and launch of the qualitative component of the Observatory**

As increasing amounts of official urban and city level data and/or from other sources becomes available, it will be considered in the context of the statistical protocols of the United Nations system and counterparts in the Member States. The Observatory will thus be expanded to include situation indicators related to both the NUA and the SDGs.

The objective of the Platform is to ensure that it is a space that provides added value beyond what existing instruments, platforms and qualitative observatories in the region already offer. Therefore, a focus on data reproduction at the city level will be sought with the objective facilitating the identification of problems and the prioritization of policies, programmes and projects for sustainable urban development.

Social, economic and environmental data will be presented and, to the extent possible, they will cover the thematic areas established in Habitat III (Social Cohesion and Equity, Urban Frameworks, Spatial Development, Urban Economy, Urban Ecology and Environment, Urban Housing and Basic Services). The Platform will seek to present data that covers the largest time-frame available so as to determine progress over time and facilitate the development of projections by users. Prospective analysis and the construction of future urban sustainability scenarios will be important in this regard.

H. NEXT STEPS

This document seeks to present a proposal for the creation of an instrument to monitor the regional of the NUA and the Urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: the Latin American and Caribbean Urban and Cities Platform. The proposal has been developed to be presented and discussed at the II Conference of the Cities held in Santiago, Chile, in October 2018. The inputs of the discussion will be integrated into the proposal so that it responds to the actual needs of stakeholders in the region and can add value beyond the existing instruments. The pilot version of the Platform (see section G.2) will be built based on the modified proposal.

In the coming months, the Working Group will focus on raising funds to support the development of the instrument and the rollout of the various phases in the short and medium term, and resources with a long-term perspective for the maintenance and updating of the Platform over time. The timing of the development and rollout will depend strongly on the speed with which the necessary resources are mobilized. Likewise, the scope of the contents of the Platform (number of cities included, range of management tools, plans, programmes, projects and initiatives by country and city, etc.) will depend on the resources available to ensure the adequate maintenance of contents in the long-term.

In parallel, organizations and groups of relevant and interested actors will be identified to be included in the Platform's Steering Committee. This group will be a dynamic group that will change in its composition as new actors join. The Working Group will continue with the collection and processing of contents to populate the Platform in order to be able to launch the pilot version of the Platform with a significant amount of content.

I. ANNEXES

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Annex 2
List of themes and key words as per the *HIII* issue papers

THEMES	ISSUE PAPERS	KEY WORDS
I. Social cohesion and equity – liveable cities	1. Inclusive cities (a.o. Pro Poor, Gender, Youth, Ageing)	<i>Inclusive growth, inclusion, equality, social inclusion/exclusion, human rights, non-discrimination, migrants, marginalized groups, security of tenure, balance of power, gender, empowerment, consultation and participation, speculation on housing and land.</i>
	2. Migration and Refugees in Urban Areas	<i>Migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, diaspora, resilience, equality, discrimination, marginalization, xenophobia, access to adequate housing, livelihoods and basic services.</i>
	3. Safer Cities	<i>Inclusiveness, community and urban safety, planned urbanization, crime prevention, city leadership and accountability, governance, social integration, social cohesion.</i>
	4. Urban Culture and Heritage	<i>Culture-based regeneration, urban heritage conservation, urban landscape, cultural and creative industries, cultural values, cultural diversity, creative economy, inclusive development, social cohesion, right to cultural heritage, density, mixed-use, strategic territorial governance.</i>
II. Urban frameworks	5. Urban Rules and Legislation	<i>Urban Law, Legislation, Rules, Informality, Equity, Accountability, Quality, Effectiveness, Rights, Policy, Implementation.</i>
	6. Urban Governance	<i>Dialogue between national and local governments, metropolitan governance, transparent and efficient public management, innovation, local government, citizen/inhabitant's participation, inclusion, subsidiarity, accountability, local capacity and territorial cohesion.</i>
	7. Municipal Finance	<i>Revenue enhancement, financial management, transfers, decentralization, taxes, cadastral system, land value sharing, basic infrastructure, services, local assets, transparency, accountability.</i>
III. Spatial Development	8. Urban and Spatial Planning and Design	<i>Compactness, connectivity, inclusivity, mixed-use, social mix, urban resilience, context, urban form, urban sprawl, systems of cities, participation, partnership, cultural heritage, green infrastructure, land value sharing, productivity, economies of agglomeration.</i>
	9. Urban Land	<i>Land governance, tenure security, sustainable urban expansion, plurality of tenure, slums, inclusive cities, food security, gender, urban-rural linkages, housing, informal settlements, land administration, land rights, land financing, global population growth, loss of land base, displacement, land grabbing, public space.</i>
	10. Urban-rural linkages	<i>Poverty and inequality reduction, jobs and livelihoods, peri-urban, urban sprawl, market towns, spatial development, urban / regional and territorial planning, land, rural urbanization, human settlements continuum, transport, infrastructure and services, mobility, climate change, migration and refugees, inclusive cities, city region food systems, changing diet, partnership, ecosystem services, ecosystem connectivity, national urban and rural policies, green infrastructure.</i>
	11. Public Space	<i>Socially inclusive, gender inclusive, integrated, productive, connected, environmentally sustainable, resilient, urban safety, value sharing, place-making.</i>
IV. Urban economy	12. Local Economic Development	<i>Local economic development, competitiveness, urbanization, equitable development, diversification, resilience, externalities, business-enabling environment, skills development.</i>

	13. Jobs and Livelihoods	<i>Employment, jobs, livelihoods, decent work, productivity, urban form, infrastructure, inclusive growth.</i>
	14. Informal Sector	<i>Informal sector, informal enterprises, informal employment, informal economy, entrepreneurship, formalization, inclusive growth, gender equality.</i>
V. Urban ecology and environment	15. Urban Resilience	<i>Resilience, hazards, vulnerability, risk, resource efficiency, urban resilience, climate change, ecosystems, natural resources, disaster risk reduction, shocks, stresses, finance, urban planning, governance.</i>
	16. Urban Ecosystems and Resource Management	<i>Ecosystem, biodiversity, services, resource efficiency.</i>
	17. Cities and Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management	<i>Climate Change Adaptation, Climate Change Mitigation, vulnerability, disaster and climate risks, Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs), low carbon development, disaster risk management, information and communication technologies (ICTs), risk-informed urban development and investment.</i>
VI. Urban housing and basic services	18. Urban Infrastructure and Basic Services, including energy	<i>Urban infrastructure, basic services, access, demand, resources, human rights, investment, policy reform, business models, institutional capacity, sustainable infrastructure provision, resilience, technological innovation, infrastructure systems, networks, green infrastructure.</i>
	19. Transport and Mobility	<i>Accessibility, land-use planning, Transit orientated Development, National Urban Policy, Freight, Intermodal integration.</i>
	20. Housing	<i>Urbanization; housing needs; slums and informal settlements; commodification; speculation; spatial segregation; vulnerable groups; right to adequate housing; 'housing at the centre'; housing policy; housing finance; financial inclusion; affordability; subsidies; urban planning; housing and livelihood; incremental housing; rental housing.</i>
	21. Smart Cities	<i>"e-(-government, -services, -waste), green growth, green buildings, "smart_" (_government, _grids, _urbanization, _urban model), resource efficiency, information and communication technologies (ICTs), quality of life, rights, social inclusion, urban resilience.</i>
	22. Informal Settlements	<i>Urban poverty, slums, slum dwellers, vulnerable and marginalized groups, socio-spatial exclusion, governance, equity and equality, environmental justice, participatory planning, right to adequate housing, security of tenure, slum upgrading and prevention, inclusive finance, informal economy.</i>



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