

## WUF11 SESSION CONCEPT NOTE

### MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE

*National policies for transforming our cities for a sustainable urban future*

#### 1. List of Partners Contributing to the Session:

- Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy, Poland
- Relevant regional political bodies and platforms, including the African Union, European Union, ASEAN, Minurvi and other regional Ministerial Conferences.

#### 2. Key Words:

*National Urban Policy; Global Urban Development Trends; Accelerate the implementation of global agendas*

#### 3. Objectives of the Session:

Bring together Ministers and senior representatives of national governments and regional political bodies and institutions to guide, support and elevate the public debate on sustainable urbanization towards accelerated implementation of the New Urban Agenda aligned with the SDGs and other global development agendas.

Create further momentum for the periodic national reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

Identify significant global trends in urban development that will inform national urban policy approaches to transform cities and human settlements for a better urban future for all, with a focus on housing and basic services, climate and environment, peace, and security, planning and local government engagement, and financing sustainable urbanization.

Explore concrete collective efforts to intensify engagement with local and regional governments towards the implementation of global development agendas and to support existing ones.

#### 4. Summary:

The Ministerial Roundtable will bring together Ministers and senior representatives of national governments and regional political bodies to elevate the debate on sustainable urbanization to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to support the Sustainable Development Goals and other global agendas.

The Ministerial Roundtable aims to identify significant global trends in urban development that would inform national urban policy approaches to transform cities for a better urban future for all. Finally, the Ministerial Roundtable will explore concrete collective efforts to intensify engagement with local and regional governments towards the implementation of global agendas.

The Ministerial Roundtable is expected to come up with a set of forward-looking urban policy measures to transform our cities and human settlements towards a sustainable urban future, particularly for the post COVID-19 era, which can be adapted and replicated at different levels and in different contexts.

Particular attention will be paid to topics that have been prioritized for the High-Level Meeting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (HLM), namely, housing and basic services, climate and environment, peace and security, planning and local government engagement, and financing sustainable urbanization.

The Roundtable will also serve as a forum to make commitments and advocate for new initiatives and alliances at the local, national, and regional levels for accelerating the implementation of the NUA towards the achievement of the urban dimensions of the SDGs.

The Ministerial Roundtable will be organized in a hybrid format in two main parts, namely:

- Part 1: Regional and sub-regional review and engagements; and
- Part 2: National updates and commitments.

NOTE: Ministers in physical attendance will be prioritized as speakers, also considering geographical and gender balance

#### **5. Guiding Questions for Discussions:**

- From regional and cross-regional perspectives and a few months after the High-Level Meeting on the Progress of Implementation of the New Urban Agenda, what are key strategies available to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda?
- Which urban legal frameworks, urban and territorial planning frameworks are being developed in your country, to guide the transformation of cities and human settlements towards a sustainable urban future?
- How does your government/regional/sub-regional mechanism intend to facilitate investments to support the transformation of cities and human settlements for a sustainable urban future?
- Which steps have been taken by your government to empower local and subnational authorities in this process?
- What more could be done by your government in the next two years to keep and increase political momentum for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda?

#### **6. Expected Outcomes and Impact:**

- A set of forward-looking urban policy measures with the potential to transform our cities for a sustainable urban future, which can be adapted and applied to different contexts.
- New commitments, announcements, and alliances at the national and regional levels for accelerating the implementation of the NUA.
- Further momentum and buy-in for the periodic national reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the use of the Urban Agenda Platform.

#### **7. Session Format:**

Part 1: Regional and sub-regional review and engagements

Duration: 13:30-14:30

Chair: Minister of the Host Country

Co-Chair: Executive Director of UN-Habitat/or Representative

Ministers designated to represent recognized regional or sub-regional mechanisms will form the core of the high-level panel, focusing on regional/sub-regional trends. The panelists will cover priority issues in their region/subregion/country and make recommendations on the theme of the Roundtable.

Part 2: National updates and commitments

Duration: 14:30-15:30

The debates during Part 2 should aim for concrete examples. National governments spearheading the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in their countries shall be asked to provide cases of concrete initiatives planned for and or under execution towards transforming cities for a better urban future.