**UN-Habitat Submission to Report on Local Governments Requested by HRC Resolution 39/7**

1. Laws, policies and programs that have been explicitly developed by local authorities to promote and protect human rights.

With the support of UN-Habitat, Amsterdam, Barcelona and New York City formally came together to form the Cities Coalition for Digital Rights, to protect and uphold human rights on the internet at the local and global level. They aim to rally and garner support from other cities to sign up to the following 5 principles: Universal and equal access to the Internet, and digital literacy, Privacy, data protection and security, Transparency, accountability, and non-discrimination of data, content and algorithm, Participatory democracy, diversity and inclusion and Open and ethical digital service standards. The city of Amsterdam is convinced that diverse input from residents is essential in their policy making. OpenCity Amsterdam provides easy-to-use digital participation tools to include the residents voice, such as co creating the design of public space. In Amsterdam civic initiatives have emerged to empower people digitally. Barcelona has been working for over 2 years on its Open Digitisation Plan and one of the important results are Barcelona’s Ethical Digital Standards, an open source Policy Toolkit for cities to develop digital policies that put citizens at the center and make Governments more open, transparent, and collaborative.

The Nairobi County Government has established the Directorate of Urban Design and Public Space Management within the Urban Planning Department, with dedicated staff and a work plan which has been incorporated in the Integrated Urban Development Plan 2018-2022 and a policy on community participation and engagement has been adopted that supports the enactment of the Nairobi City County Community and Neighbourhood Associations Engagement Act, 2016

Adequate housing strategy is a safeguard for human rights, particularly in urban extensions where inequalities are growing, or in places where people are being evicted through gentrification processes (for more details see SDG 11.1). To ensure the right to adequate housing and address socio-economic segregation and gentrification, local governments in cities such as Barcelona (Spain), Amsterdam (Holland), New York (United States) and Montevideo (Uruguay) among others, are taking a stand against gentrification. Airbnb as a new sharing economy models also has a big impact on people’s housing rights. The acknowledgment of the rights of homeless people is an important issue in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and has been followed by the adoption of the ‘Homeless Bill of Rights’ by six European cities. The city of Lisbon (Portugal) is tackling discrimination against social groups such as Roma people, Afro-descendant or LGBTI communities through the SOMOS programme. This is a comprehensive policy based on a strong collaboration with local civil society, carrying out numerous actions in the fields of education, awareness and training of local officials. Similarly, the recognition of cultural rights tends to play a crucial role in strengthening the local social cohesion of several groups such as indigenous or ethnic minorities. The city of Medellin (Colombia) implemented a long-term cultural plan. This aimed to consolidate a culture of peace and democratic participation, recognizing cultural rights for vulnerable groups such as Afro-Columbian, indigenous, LGBTI or internally displaced populations.

2. Effective methods to foster cooperation between local government and local stakeholders for the promotion and protection of human rights, including reference to local government programs.

UN-Habitat and the Addis Ababa city Administration Beautification, Parks and Cemetery Development and Administration Authority conducted a city-wide public space inventory and assessment in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia. Notably, the city-wide public space assessment has been instrumental in mobilizing partners and communities in realizing the value and quality of their own public spaces. As a result, the city is preparing a system to issue out title deeds to public spaces to protect them from illegal encroachment.

UN-Habitat is supporting Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) and Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) to map open public spaces and understand whether a network of connected small open spaces can compensate for the lack of larger urban parks.

The Social Tenure Domain Model, the main tool being employed in addressing the tenure security issues affecting returnees in Sinjar, is based on the continuum of land rights, and is about people and social tenure relationships, whereas traditional systems are concerned with land titling. The tool is employed to facilitate recognition of informal rights and claims without an operating official land administration system and where tenure is informal. Application of the model allows for management of informal and alternative tenure documents as well as administrative and spatial data. It facilitates recording of the history of parcels, locates boundaries of plots on satellite maps, and generates reports and certificates. A participatory and transparent process was used in community mobilization, vulnerability assessment, determination of alternative property documentation, preliminary evaluation of damaged houses, and mapping and verification of property claims. This provided a clear understanding of the current situation on land rights, and addressed the absence of official property documents in Sinuni. Local government officials played a central role throughout the project to ensure that stakeholders collectively addressed the absence of official property documents. UN-Habitat emphasized working with, and providing hands-on training to local leaders on land rights, including management of property-related grievances and development of common criteria for the issuance of certificates. Local contractors were employed to rehabilitate damaged houses with direct involvement of returnees as workers, ensuring their inclusion across the project cycle, and that they received much-needed income. UN-Habitat engineers worked with local authorities to raise awareness on minimum construction standards and good housing rehabilitation practices. A total of four hundred and seventy-five members of the community were involved in the reconstruction. Local authorities and beneficiaries validated rehabilitation of buildings and quality of work. Due to insecurity and the political and humanitarian situation in Sinjar, it was essential to coordinate with government counterparts as well as security organs. Local authorities supervised the rebuilding and were crucial in signing the certificates. The Mukhtars and Sinuni Mayor signed the occupancy certificates with the owners.

UN-Habitat supported development of a comprehensive local government finance policy for Somaliland and Puntland with the participation of all key stakeholders, among them representatives of the ministries of interior, finance and office of the champion for local governance, as well as representatives of local governments and local government associations, the private sector, and academia. To improve transparency, accountability and efficiency of local governments, UN-Habitat introduced the automated accounting information management system and the billing information management system. These electronic systems support tax collection and financial expenditure planning by local governments, with a unified and comprehensive accounting system across each local authority. A Geographical Information Management System (GIS) based property database was introduced where data on the location of properties and urban parcels that have been surveyed are catalogued and regularly updated. It includes information on the quality of properties, land use patterns, infrastructure, ownership and number of occupants. The database is connected to the Billing Information Management System which automatically generates bills and records tax collection. The GIS databases have been established in Hargeisa, Burao, Berbera, Borama, Gabiley, Sheikh and Odweine in Somaliland, and in Garowe, Bosasso, Qardo, Bander Bayla, Jariiban and Eyl in Puntland, with plans to extend into Mogadishu. The legislative reforms and improved property tax collection and management systems introduced in Somaliland and Puntland have strengthened the capacity of local authorities, and improved their efficiency at collecting and managing taxes. With growing revenues, local governments in Somaliland and Puntland have improved service delivery with ongoing construction of tarmac roads and improved garbage collection evident in all major towns where property revenue collection and management systems have been established. In Borama, the local government has constructed 16 tarmac roads in the last three years using local development funds, own-source revenue, and community contributions.

3. Ways in which local governments raise awareness about, and contribute, to the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the New Urban Agenda, including by ensuring participation by local stakeholders.

 Awareness efforts by local and regional governments to disseminate the SDGs through campaigns, events and regular communication channels are growing in almost all regions. There are more and more references to the SDGs and global agendas in social media by local governments, as well as in bulletins, websites and other platforms. Greater attention is also being given to the global agendas in national conferences and congresses of local and regional governments associations (e.g. during local government days in African countries such as Burundi, Cameroon, Mali, Togo). Moreover, many cities, regions and their associations are moving beyond awareness-raising activities to taking action to develop knowledge exchange initiatives or integrate the SDGs in their local plans and projects. Those activities include: Declarations, fora, national conference; publications (newsletters, brochures); campaigning; training, knowledge-sharing programmes; promote local plans’ alignment with SDGs; special initiatives or projects; involvement in Voluntary National Reports. (*Towards the localization of the SDGs, P26; 32-41).*

The New Urban Agenda integrates migration into the strategic planning and management of cities and national urban systems, at the same time affirming the universality of human rights regardless of the length of stay or legal status. Hence in their efforts to promote a human rights-based approach to include ‘those who are furthest behind’, local governments are instrumental in the localization of global agendas. The Mediterranean City2City Migration (MC2CM) programme, for example, has tried to show the responsibility local governments have dealing daily with migration issues within their competencies and capacities. Through peer-to-peer learning and nurtured dialogue, cities are building bridges to engage with local stakeholders and support both migrants and host communities in sustainable development strategies. The programme also develops City Migration Profiles with key assessments such as the evolving public perception of migration and integration.