

Open-ended informal consultations on Habitat III

German contribution to follow up and review

GER is convinced that an effective follow up and review mechanism is essential to support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. It should guide decision-making and strengthen the New Urban Agenda's political impact, inclusiveness, legitimacy and accountability. At the same time, monitoring, reporting and review should create and renew political commitment from member states and motivate UN agencies and other stakeholders to engage in and contribute to the implementation process.

We firmly believe that the follow up and review mechanism of the New Urban Agenda should take an **integrated approach** and support both the implementation of the **urban dimension of the SDGs and the elements and recommendations of the New Urban Agenda**. This namely also refers to the enabling conditions for the successful implementation of the New Urban Agenda, such as National Urban Policies, capacity development, and effective municipal finance systems and legal frameworks. The monitoring, reporting and review mechanism of the New Urban Agenda feeds into the SDG process, and should build on existing structures and mechanisms. We thus have to avoid setting up two separate processes for monitoring, reporting and review as well as avoid unnecessary duplication.

An effective follow up mechanism should be integrated and inclusive, multi-level, and allow for comparability as well as flexibility. Even though we need uniform reporting guidelines, we should leave countries enough flexibility with regard to their capacities and to encourage innovation.

And, the review mechanism should be inclusive and participatory, mobilize relevant knowledge and expertise, take place regularly, facilitate policy learning and trigger urban policies and actions. Policy learning would entail sharing experiences, diffusion of innovation and learning from different options related to strategies, policies and good practice.

GER would like to make three proposals for how an effective follow up and review mechanism could look like:

- First, follow up and review should take place at **three levels**: the global, national as well as subnational and the local level. This report should be informed by UN interagency contributions, national reports and contributions by non-state actors. At the global level, we consider deepened coordination and cooperation among relevant UN institutions important to ensure effective and integrated monitoring, reporting and review. The Interagency Task Force on Habitat III provides a positive example in this regard.
- Second, the review process of the New Urban Agenda requires the engagement of multilateral organizations, national governments and non-state actors. The review process could be tripartite, involving national reviews, city peer reviews, and contributions by non-state actors.
- Finally, the report should provide a **regular qualitative and quantitative** analysis of progress of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the SDGs. The NUA should give guidance to all involved actors on how to achieve the vision of the sustainable and livable city. To this end, complementary to the relevant SDG indicators, fields of observation should be identified which will inform on the progress of cities.