Implementing the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean
Key regional initiatives from ECLAC, UN-Habitat and MINURVI

In the lead up to Habitat III, ECLAC, UN-Habitat and the member countries of the Forum of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Housing and Urban Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI) reaffirmed their strategic partnership to support the implementation and monitoring of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Together, these actors have coordinated a number of concrete and ongoing initiatives, providing road maps, strategies, and tools to promote the implementation of these agendas across the region.

---

Regional Action Plan
Subregional Action Plan for the Caribbean
Latin American and Caribbean Urban and Cities Platform

---

MINURVI AS Jun. 2017
CdeC Oct. 2017
WUF9 Feb. 2018
Regional Action Plan for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda

The Regional Action Plan for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean (RAP) has been developed under the coordination of ECLAC, UN-Habitat and MINURVI, with the collaboration of over 125 regional experts associated with diverse actor groups (ministries, local governments, academia, NGOs, development banks and the private sector). The RAP builds upon the impetus of Habitat III, and seeks to be the regional expression of the New Urban Agenda.

The RAP 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 and cities towards the achievement of sustainable urban development. It is intended as a regional guide, both adaptable to local conditions and needs, and capable of building synergies with existing global agreements and agendas beyond the New Urban Agenda, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction, the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and the Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway for Small Island Developing States.

The RAP adopts its first five action areas from UN-Habitat’s Action Framework for Implementation of the New Urban Agenda (AFINUA). A sixth action area has been incorporated to address the need for improved monitoring and evaluation in the region. A strategic objective and key recommendations are outlined for each action area.

The effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean will depend on the commitment of diverse actors from multiple sectors and intervention scales. The development of subregional action plans, national action plans and city or local action plans can address specific national or local opportunities and challenges, engaging local actors in their development and implementation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. National urban policies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strategic objective:</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. Urban legal frameworks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strategic objective:</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. Urban and territorial planning and design</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strategic objective:</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4. Urban economy and municipal finances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strategic objective:</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Local implementation

**Strategic objective:**
Improve capacities and local instruments to guide sustainable urbanization and promote solid partnerships between the diverse actors and sectors involved in sustainable urban development.

6. Monitoring, reporting and revision mechanisms

**Strategic objective:**
Reinforce human, technical and financial capacities in all sectors in order to monitor advances towards sustainable urban development and for the monitoring, reporting and revision of associated policies, programs, plans and projects.

---

**Subregional Action Plan for the Caribbean**

The Subregional Action Plan for Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in the Caribbean (Sub-RAP) responds to complex contextual factors and requests for specific attention to the subregion. The Sub-RAP builds upon the base structure and principles defined by the AFINUA and the RAP. It proposes the integration of Caribbean-specific elements and prioritizations in order to provide a useful tool for orienting national and subnational sustainable urban development within the subregion. In order to respond to the vulnerabilities of the Caribbean States and territories, the Sub-RAP incorporates a guiding principle relating to increasing resilience in the face of climate change and other risks. It also defines a Caribbean-specific objective for each action area and the necessary components required to achieve these goals, establishing a prioritization of the objectives presented by the RAP based on the subregional context. In the long-term, the Sub-RAP seeks to support the mobilization and direction of national and global resources and attention to address priorities for sustainable development in the Caribbean.

**Follow up and review of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean**

The New Urban Agenda defines a four year reporting cycle to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council for the follow up and review of the Agenda. Voluntary inputs of both qualitative and quantitative analysis from countries and regional organization alike will compose the basis of this reporting. The World Urban Forum, among other existing platforms, may serve as key mechanisms for regional monitoring, review and revision. Within Latin America and the Caribbean, the Cities Conference: Implementing the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean co-organized by ECLAC, UN-Habitat, and MINURVI in 2017, offers an instance to present advances and provide follow up. The Forum of the Countries of Latin American and Caribbean on Sustainable Development (LAC RFSD) and the MINRUVI General Assemblies, held annually in the region, represent additional opportunities for ongoing regional assessments of progress towards NUA implementation.

**Regional Cooperation Program for Latin America and the Caribbean**

A regional cooperation program will promote the implementation of the Regional Action Plan, orienting ECLAC’s response to challenges and opportunities for achieving sustainable and inclusive urban development in Latin America and the Caribbean. As part of ECLAC’s mandate, it provides advisory services and technical cooperation at the request of Governments. The Regional Cooperation Program will serve as a framework for connecting and aligning ongoing initiatives and promoting cooperation at the regional, national and subnational levels. Key elements of the program will include capacity building, research and knowledge construction, policy implementation, and partnerships to reinforce strategic commitments for development.
The program will represent an important space for orienting, coordinating, validating and providing visibility to multi-level and multi-sector efforts to support NUA implementation. The production of recommendations, planning documents and other knowledge products and dialogues to support and guide development processes will advance the identification of synergies between ongoing and emerging actions, avoiding the duplication of efforts and maximizing the impact of initiatives by key program partners. Program partners will also benefit from participation in the construction and expansion of the Latin American and Caribbean Urban and Cities Platform, with access to consolidated data, documents and other information on urban planning and development processes within the region as well as ongoing dialogue and knowledge exchange between actors.

Subregional Cooperation Program the Caribbean

Caribbean States face limited capacities for responding to critical urban sector challenges due to a lack of critical mass and economies of scale. This context demands a coordinated, subregional approach to sustainable and inclusive urban development. A subregional cooperation program will respond to requests from Caribbean states to support NUA implementation in the Caribbean subregion, adapting the core elements of the regional cooperation program to the subregional context and challenges.

The program will support capacity building for the design, development, implementation, and monitoring and assessment of projects, programs and policies to address key challenges in the urban sector and advance NUA implementation in the Caribbean. The program will also seek to strengthen regional systems for data collection and knowledge construction in order to inform and orient relevant policies, programs, projects, and other initiatives. NUA implementation in the Caribbean will be further supported by leveraging existing and emerging sources of funding for sustainable urban development and supporting the prioritization of key urban issues within the subregion, while strengthening partnerships to align existing and emerging initiatives between sectors and scales, fostering long-term commitments for collaboration.

Latin American and Caribbean Urban and Cities Platform

In order to address the pressing need to monitor the implementation of both the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the SDGs, and at the same time, to strengthen capacities for implementation, ECLAC, UN-Habitat and MINURVI have proposed the development of a Latin American and Caribbean Urban and Cities Platform. The Platform will have two main components:

1. **A Forum**: for the analysis and discussion of urban and territorial dynamics and processes within the region. The Forum will be guided by an established agenda for research, exchange of ideas and experiences between experts, decision-makers and other stakeholders, in order to strengthen national and sub-national capacities for the implementation of sustainable development agendas.

2. **An Observatory**: to compile and visualize urban and city-level information, including a repository of good practices, and the analysis of related legislation, public policy, plans, programs and projects. The Observatory will provide relevant information and resources to support the development of qualitative and quantitative urban assessment methodologies.