

Opening Remarks**United Nations Advisory
Committee of Local
Authorities (UNACLA)****Wednesday, 19/05/21
18.00 EAT**

Colleagues, friends, ladies and gentlemen, a very good afternoon to all of you!

Thank you, Mr. Chair and Mayor of Kazan for your introductory words, and for inviting me to this very important meeting of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities. Let me thank also all the networks and participants present here today.

Last time we met was at the World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi, in February 2020. Despite the pandemic already raging in Asia, few among us could have imagined what the coming months would have meant for our world, our societies, and communities.

Nevertheless, during the past year we came even closer - together finding new ways of collaborating and supporting local governments throughout the globe.

Dear friends, I can never be grateful enough for your cooperation, your advice and tireless work. You are an inspiration to us and to all the UN family.

UNACLA was created 20 years ago, and **until today**, it **remains as** the only formally mandated channel of interaction between the UN System and the local government constituency.

These [years of intervention](#) have seen several moments of great engagement, between UNACLA and the UN system. The role and advice of the Committee has always been valuable for [UN-Habitat and the entire UN System](#).

Now, dear colleagues, we stand at an important juncture. The United Nations has celebrated its 75th anniversary, and the Secretary-General has made clear his commitment to the pursuit of a new inclusive multilateralism [and a new social contract](#).

Cities, Local and Regional Governments, and the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals [and the New Urban Agenda](#), are at the center of the global debate on sustainability and gaining increased traction every day.

The Secretary-General's commitment is also demonstrated in the creation of the **UN Task Force on the Future of Cities**, one of whose objectives is to provide inputs to his Report on Our Common Agenda.

I have the honor of chairing this Task Force, which has already sought the inputs of the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments for the Secretary-General's report.

In this ecosystem, UNACLA can and should play a key role, bringing local and regional governments closer to the UN System, and supporting critical processes such as the High-Level Meeting to review the progress of implementation of the New Urban Agenda, to be organized in 2022.

Moreover, UNACLA could be an important vehicle to promote greater exchange, collaboration and coordination of local and regional governments with national governments.

To do so, **we need to ensure coordination and coherence among the key existing networks and consultation mechanisms, such as the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments**, so that UNACLA can add value and provide critical advice to UN-Habitat and the UN System as a whole.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let us take today to reflect on the main opportunities we have ahead of us, to revitalize UNACLA in the context of increased cooperation between the UN and Local and Regional Governments Constituency. Let me close by reaffirming my own commitment to ensuring that local and regional governments are recognized - **with the importance they deserve** - at all levels of the multilateral system.

Once again, thank you for having me here today, and I look forward to your insights, reflections and advice.

Thank you.

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Martino Miraglia	Shipra Narang Suri; Neil; Runze	Finalized	Wed 19 May 08:29	550	4.5 minutes

Presentation**United Nations Advisory
Committee of Local
Authorities (UNACLA)****Wednesday, 19/05/21
18.20 EAT**

Thank you once again Mr. Chair, for giving me the opportunity to address the Committee.

Dear colleagues, friends,

As I mentioned before, cities and local and regional governments are at the center of the global attention and debate on sustainability, [especially during this challenging time of pandemic](#).

Several processes are ongoing to strengthen the cooperation and coordination between local and regional governments and the UN System, many of which are driven by UN-Habitat.

Let me update you on the most relevant of these processes starting with the **Task Force on the Future of Cities**.

The Task Force on Future of Cities was established [in](#) November 2020 by Assistant Secretary-General Volker Türk, with the primary objective to look at possible options on how to strengthen the institutional relationship between the UN System and cities, including in its intergovernmental processes.

This is a UN Inter-Agency Task Force, chaired by UN-Habitat and supported by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. It includes many different UN Agencies and Programmes, and also engages with other relevant entities, including the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments.

[The engagement with](#) cities and local governments, is one of 13 workstreams that the UN Secretary-General has established, to formulate his *Report on Our Common Agenda: Responding to Current and Future Challenges*.

The Report's content will be finalized in June, and will then be subject of consultation with Member States in the coming months.

Over the past two months, we have held three meetings of the Task Force. [One of the main](#) achievements, was the formulation and approval of the inputs to the Secretary-General's *Report on Our Common Agenda*. I would like to take this opportunity, to express my heartfelt thanks to Emilia, and the Global Task Force, for your valuable contribution to these inputs.

Alongside the Task Force, we continue to explore opportunities to engage local and regional governments in intergovernmental processes.

The High-Level Political Forum in July, the UN General Assembly in September, the governing body meetings of the different UN entities, and the **High-Level Meetings of the General Assembly [on the Implementation](#) of the New Urban Agenda in April 2022** – are some of the most important upcoming opportunities.

On the last one, specifically, Member States are now in the process of formulating their reports that will be uploaded and made available for review on the Urban Agenda Platform.

The reporting Guidelines that we have created to facilitate country reporting lay a special emphasis on spatial analysis and disaggregation - a deliberate effort so to make sure that the different local realities are captured in the national report.

Let me here take a moment to urge all of you in this virtual room, to [work closely with your](#) central governments, to prepare and submit national reports on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. These reports are key to further engage Members States in promoting local development, and in orienting the allocation of resources to local and regional governments.

At the same time, UN-Habitat is also leading the development of the Global Urban Monitoring Framework. This Framework aims to harmonize existing indices on urban and local development, and provide coherent support to cities and local governments in monitoring their development progresses.

This is a groundbreaking effort that will substantially improve reporting on the New Urban Agenda and SDGs from the bottom-up, and help cities with development of Voluntary Local Reviews.

The **Voluntary Local Reviews**, as you all know, are gaining increased traction globally, and are also one of the key thematic focuses of the Task Force on the Future of Cities.

Many of you have been working on The Voluntary Local Reviews, and we have led many joint activities in the past months. [I would like to give a quick overview of the key milestones coming up in the short and medium term.](#)

In the short term:

- In June, together with UCLG, we will release the second Volume of the Guidelines for VLRs that is focused on the connection between VLRs and Voluntary National Reviews.
- During HLPF, between July 14 to 16, UCLG and UN-Habitat are planning to organize the VLRs and [VNRs](#) Days for partners to present their work and engage in discussion with peers.
- Moving forward in time, mark October on your agendas, as during Urban October, we are planning many events around the topic of SDG localization and VLRs.

In the medium term:

- 2022 is going to be a key year for VLRs, SDG Localisation, and the New Urban Agenda.
- The President of the General Assembly will be convening a High-Level Meeting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, in April 2022.
- SDG localization and VLRs will be at the very heart of the 11th edition of the World Urban Forum to take place in Katowice in June 2022. WUF will be the main UN-led forum for cities to present their local reviews.
- Last but not least, HLPF in 2022 is likely to review SDG 11, putting local development at the core of the debate, a key moment to capitalize on the current efforts to further connect VLRs and VNRs.

Let me conclude by reporting that UN-Habitat is also leading the revitalization process of **Local 2030**, the UN-wide initiative on localizing the SDGs. With a new mandate and reinvigorated strength, Local 2030 will become the coalition to drive the UN work on SDG localization, within the framework of the Decade of Action at the global and country level.

Dear colleagues, friends,

The road is still long, but all pieces are coming together, for a stronger recognition of [the](#) role of local and regional governments, and an enhanced cooperation with the UN system.

Please count on UN-Habitat, [and](#) let's together make UNACLA [a driving force in this key](#) process.

Thank you.

Prepared by	Edited by	Status	Version	Word Count	Estimated Time (125 words/min)
Martino Miraglia	Shipra Narang Suri; Neil; Runze	Finalized	Wed 19 May 08:58	978	8 minutes

**UNITED NATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES (UNACLA)**

2021 MEETING

19 MAY 2021

6PM – 7.30PM NAIROBI TIME

Session Scenario for UN-Habitat Executive Director

Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif

<p>18:00-18:20</p>	<p>ITEM N. 1: UNITED NATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LOCAL AUTHORITIES (UNACLA) - ANNUAL MEETING OPENING</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mayor of Kazan and Chair of UNACLA, Mr. Ilсур Metshin, to welcome participants to the 2021 Meeting of UNACLA 2. Chair of UNACLA invites UN-Habitat Executive Director to take the floor and give her welcoming remarks. 3. UN-Habitat Executive Director takes the floor and addresses participants (speech enclosed) 4. UN-Habitat Executive Director closes her speech and gives back the floor to UNACLA Chair 5. UNACLA Chair gives his welcoming speech 6. Opening closes.
<p>18:20-18:35</p>	<p>ITEM N. 2: PRESENTATION ON THE FUTURE OF CITIES TASK FORCE, THE NEW URBAN AGENDA REPORTING AND THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW URBAN AGENDA (2022), AND VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEWS</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mayor of Kazan and Chair of UNACLA, Mr. Ilsur Metshin, gives and introduction to agenda item n.2 and invites UN-Habitat Executive Director to take the floor 2. UN-Habitat Executive Director gives a presentation on the Future of Cities Task force, NUA reporting, High Level Meeting and Voluntary Local Reviews.
18.35 – 18.50	<p>ITEM N. 3: THE ROADMAP OF THE GLOBAL TASKFORCE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mayor of Kazan and Chair of UNACLA, Mr. Ilsur Metshin, gives and introduction to agenda item n.3 and invites a Global Task Force representative to take the floor. 2. The GTF representatives takes the floor and gives her/his remarks.
18.50 – 19.30	<p>ITEM N. 4: KEY PRIORITIES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mayor of Kazan and Chair of UNACLA, Mr. Ilsur Metshin, gives and introduction to agenda item n.4 and invites UNACLA’s Vice Chairs to take the floor. 2. UNACLA’s Vice Chairs the floor and gives her/his remarks. 3. UNACLA’s Chair invites other representatives to take the floor if they want to.
19.30	Meeting Ends

