Global Action Plan - Communique
Accelerating for Transforming Informal Settlements and Slums by 2030

1. We, the ministers responsible for cities and human settlements, together with representatives of local authorities, international organizations and other stakeholders, honor the initiative of the Government of South Africa in hosting the launch of the Global Action Plan for Transforming Informal Settlements and Slums in Pretoria on 16th and 17th of October 2022, to bring together key stakeholder to effectively face the challenges to achieving of the Sustainable Development Goal 11 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: *"Make cities and other human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable."*

2. We endorse the Global Action Plan Initiative for transforming informal settlements and slums as a timely and strategic multiple-partnership initiative and commit to act as leaders initiating global, regional, national, and local transformation.

3. We commit to look at eight years of the Decade of Action to build the foundation for transformation in future and introduce an initial benchmark that is catalytic to meet the needs of 1 billion slum dwellers today and 3 billion in 2050, if no action is taken.

4. We commit to think of the transformation of informal settlements by 2030 as part of a long-term and sustainable plan to transform our neighborhoods and cities into integrated urban settlements that accommodate and support all who inhabit them. Informal settlements will thus transform into beautiful, functional and desirable settlements for all.

5. We are committing to the following key actions towards scaling slum transformation:

a. **Multi-level participatory governance:** Institutionalizing multi-level participatory governance, integrated frameworks with multi-sector, horizontal and vertical coordination among government spheres, enabling democratic and effective participation of all groups, especially communities and civil society, to ensure that capacities of public sector, private sector and civil society are leveraged to the fullest extent possible. These structures will have the built-in capacity to change according to changing circumstances of a community and the individuals within the community. Strengthen institutions to ensure their accountability towards the local community and the implementation of the SDG11.

b. **Spatial planning:** Strengthen land management and statutory planning of land, for citywide recognition and integration of informal settlements into the urban fabric, maximizing the availability, use and access to public land for housing purposes. Design strategies for balanced densification to avoid non-planned and environmentally predatory urban expansion. Ensure equitable and empowered participation of the residents for direct involvement in integrated planning and decision-making, to enable culturally adequate and inclusive design of interventions and solutions, following a people-centered development approach.

c. **Data:** Improve methodologies of enumeration exercises to reflect more accurately the reality of informal settlements and households and disaggregate data. Collect data across all settlements, regardless of tenure status or legal regularization, through an integrated approach that goes beyond the isolated settlement level, including transformation costs and affordability as well as impacts of interventions, and dynamics of movements of households after interventions.

d. **Policies:** Review and design enabling legal, regulatory, planning, investments, and institutional frameworks, at local, metropolitan, and national levels, establishing transformation targets with a long-term perspective with mid-term benchmarks, to create, mandate and capacitate institutions for implementation. This will require the establishment and integration of high-level policy coordination mechanisms for implementation and follow-up monitoring. Mainstream community participation in the formulation of transformative public policies.

e. **Comprehensive packages of adequate housing:** Target incremental and progressive provision of habitable, accessible, affordable and social housing with use of local materials that lower the costs; and of available basic services, in thriving locations characterized by availability of education and social facilities, integrated and targeted health care services, and safe and accessible public spaces of high quality, connected through inclusive mobility options. Interventions need to target spatial and socioeconomic impacts, creating access to jobs and livelihoods, for which housing will be incorporated within city structures in well-located areas where there are job opportunities and services. Include all relevant groups, build their capacity to participate and localize interventions. The outcomes should build responsiveness of all population groups to disasters, pandemics, or climate change for risk reduction and management of external shocks and stresses.

f. **Finance:** Establish and adequately resource flexible finance models to respond to the needs of lowest income groups, accommodating mechanisms for localization and responsiveness. Apply integrated fiscal transfers, enabling slum transformation to go to scale, leveraging multiple partnerships and investments, including from the private sector and communities. Strengthen municipal fiscal health, including land-based finance mechanisms and implementation of special vehicles as intermediary instruments especially for smaller municipalities to coordinate and mobilize funds from government, private sector and technical and financial institutions. Establish accountability for progressively achieving transformation benchmarks. Encourage funding to collective infrastructure supportive of housing as roads, water, sewer and electricity lines, and rainwater drainage – this coupled with security of tenure means that private finances will be used to upgrade the residential units incrementally and organically, gradually reducing the reliance on government funding/subsidies during the lifetime of a settlement.

g. **Land:** Recognizing the social function of public and private land through guaranteeing secure tenure and land regularization and increasing the affordable supply of well-located land for housing through underutilized and vacant land and buildings. Recognize the continuum of land rights and property rights and ensure safeguards in cases of relocation, which is to be minimized and negotiated, avoiding forced evictions.

h. **Community Resilience and Empowerment:** Produce and create new knowledge based on the local experiences on resilience and community approaches, including tailored adaptation and mitigation measures, establishing platforms to enable horizontal exchange between stakeholders to enhance capacities. Support innovations in identifying potentials of the community in data generation and solution finding in collaboration with the public agencies. Implement actions to strengthen community-based organization. Support and identify key stakeholders and nurture them through various engagements.

i. **Capacities:** Collaborate with universities and academic actors to ensure alignment of curriculum and promote courses for public, social, and private stakeholders, capturing the knowledge from practitioners and case studies.

j. **Collaboration for implementation:** Initiate open and regular dialogue on all levels of governance, engaging with other ministries from national government, subnational administration, civil society and communities, private sector agents, and academia to review and specify the central action areas and identify key actions. Commit to co-establish multiple partnership frameworks at different levels (global, regional, national, local) and participate in regional consultations to inform the way forward, expanding and diversifying existing partnerships in consolidated and coordinated structures, and promoting exchanges, accelerating and monitoring the implementation of the Global Action Plan and the SDG11 globally through a Global Implementation Framework, to be endorsed during the UN-Habitat Assembly in June 2023 and regularly revisited during regular international events, such the biannual World Urban Forum.