HabPost

Updates from UN-Habitat

SDG Good Practices:
Spotlight on ROAS and ROLAC

Editor's note

Dear Reader,

SDG good practice, blockchain, and learning — this is what we're bringing you today in this 35th issue of HabPost. We look at four projects from the Regional Office for Arab States (ROAS) and the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) that have made the cut and landed into UNDESA's SDG Good Practices database. The database is a stove of information on UN and non-UN entities' exemplary contributions to the achievement of the SDGs — take a detour!

We also take a dive into Blockchain and its application to sustainable urban development. Colleagues from the Innovation section have been sending us a lot to share with you these past few months, and we'll continue to relay their messages and invitations to engage as long as innovation is the hype. Our guess is it's here to stay.

Finally, be ready to be back to school with the many learning opportunities availing themselves to you after the summer. Browse the Learning section of this issue to learn more and enroll!

Happy reading!

The HabPost Team

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Did you know?

News roundup 🗞

UN-HABITAT IN THE NEWS

🗞 Small space with a large impact: UN-Habitat creates a public space for women in the old city of Ramallah (ReliefWeb)

🗞 UN-Habitat launches "Rebuilding Lives Together" online appeal for Arab States (ReliefWeb)

🗞 UN-Habitat works with Mayors Migration Council on fund for COVID-19 response to support migrants, refugees and IDPs (ReliefWeb)

🗞 Nairobi Metropolitan services and UN Habitat sign deal on Nairobi River restoration (The Star)

ARTICLES CONNECTING TO OUR DOMAINS OF CHANGE

🗞 Designing for the Next Wave of Urban Poverty (Bloomberg)

🗞 Lessons from Durban's approach to water resilience (PreventionWeb)

🗞 How cities can adapt to climate change (McKinsey)

🗞 Living in a heatwave: How cities are being futureproofed against climate change (Euronews)
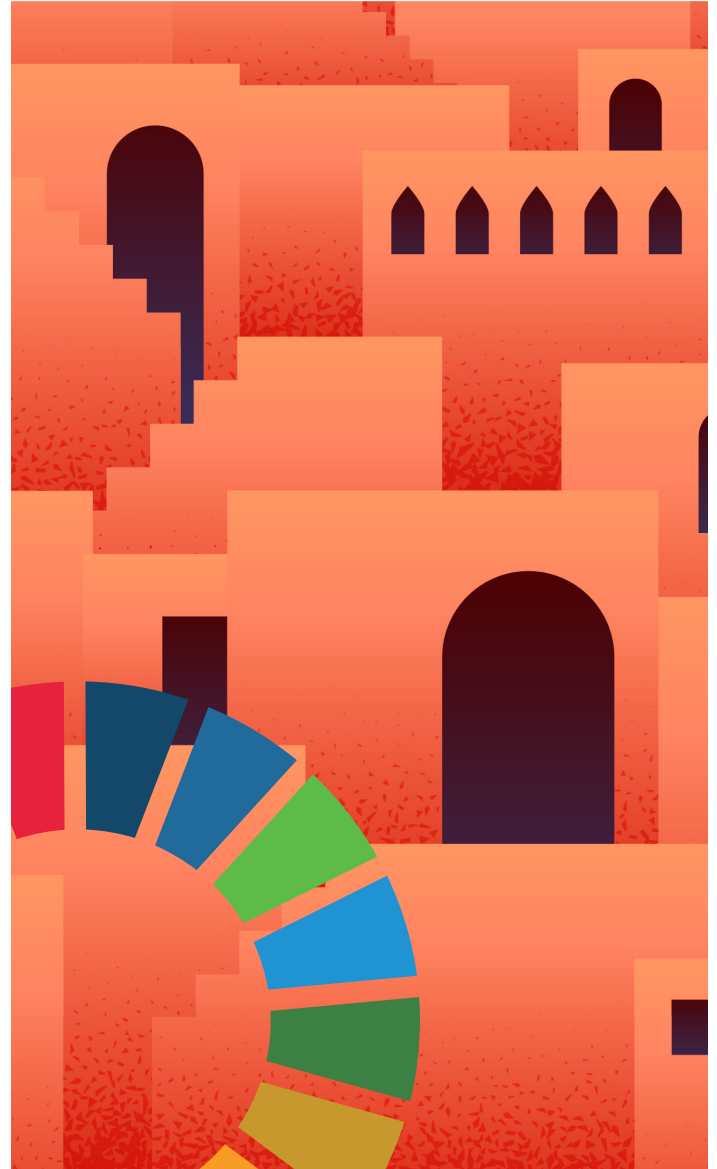
SDG Good Practices:
Spotlight on ROAS and ROLAC

Five years into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), many governments, UN entities, international and regional organizations and stakeholders from all sectors have accumulated experiences and lessons learned towards the implementation of the SDGs. From our regions, **four UN-Habitat projects made it to the SDG Good Practices database managed by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).** Zoom in on those projects from ROAS and ROLAC.

From December 2020 to March 2021, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) launched a second Open call for submissions of good practices, success stories and lessons learned by all stakeholders in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The call aimed to unveil the inspiring breakthroughs and success stories showing results and impacts, explore good practices that can be replicated and scaled up, identify the gaps and constraints to better

address them, and understand what is needed to accelerate progress.

The results of the call are available in an online database of more than 450 SDG good practices implemented by governments and stakeholders from different sectors, and addressing all 17 SDGs. Two projects from ROAS and two others from ROLAC made the cut.

1.

Fight against poverty and vulnerability in Tunisia (ROAS)

SDGS CONTRIBUTION: 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 11, 16, 17

1 NO POVERTY

2 ZERO HUNGER

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

5 GENDER EQUALITY

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

During 2020, the project supported homeless people and persons evicted from their homes as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. UN-Habitat supported the Orientation and Social Support Centres in charge of hosting homeless people as well as their Emergency Social Support Service in three major Tunisian cities, namely Tunis, Sousse and Sfax. In collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs, UN-Habitat provided homeless people shelter, access to basic hygiene facilities, and socio-psychological support.

The project allowed for the rehabilitation of the women's living unit in the Homeless Center of Tunis, in particular interior and exterior painting, maintenance of sanitary blocks, and maintenance of the garden. The intervention improved the conditions for hosting of women in the center and generated interventions financed by other donors such as the purchase of beds, furniture for two living units, as well as air conditioning.

The project further allowed the complementary participation of UNHCR who provided support to asylum seekers and refugees during and after the COVID-19 outbreak. UNFPA and UNAIDS also participated, targeting young people, women and girls, and people living with HIV in these centers. To reach more homeless people in the streets, the project made available a vehicle to be used by the Tunis Social Support Centre for their mobile relief teams.

"This was the first project we mobilized under the COVID-19 trust fund last year in Tunisia. The support given by UN-Habitat to the Orientation and Social Support Centres in charge of hosting the homeless people has been selected as a good practice that can be replicated and scaled up to address existing gaps and constraints."

Erfan Ali
Regional Representative, Regional Office for Arab States

2.

ABJAD Community Centre in Tripoli/Lebanon (ROAS)

SDGS CONTRIBUTION: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11

1 NO POVERTY

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

5 GENDER EQUALITY

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

The Abjad Centre is the first of its kind in Tebbaneh, Tripoli in Lebanon and serves as a sociocultural hub for vulnerable Lebanese, and Syrian and Palestinian refugees in the area. The Centre offers a multitude of activities and services to its members including psychosocial support, life skills workshops and vocational trainings and promotes self-expression through art, theatre and intercultural dialogue. Beneficiaries also access cash assistance and income generating activities especially for women and youth. The working model of the Centre prioritizes leaving no one behind and integrates several SDGs and their respective indicators into the activities and services provided with the aim of improving the lives of the most marginalized.

Since its establishment in 2018, the Abjad Centre has reached over 5,000 beneficiaries in cooperation with UNICEF, UN Women, UTOPIA (a Lebanese NGO) and the Municipality of Tripoli. The Centre has provided legal protection to more than 150 Syrian refugee and host community families in Tripoli by certifying marriages and registering newborns to help prevent statelessness while protecting households from eviction, which has become more prevalent due to Lebanon's worsening economic situation compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic.

3.

2030 City Vision for Sustainable Urban and Territorial Development of San Nicolás de los Garza (ROLAC)

SDGS CONTRIBUTION: 5, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17

| 5 GENDER EQUALITY | 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES | 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | 13 CLIMATE ACTION | 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS | 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS |

San Nicolás de los Garza is a municipality of half a million inhabitants, located in northern Mexico. It currently faces significant challenges as a result of patterns of accelerated urbanization and metropolitan growth, and the lack of an up-to-date regulatory framework and inter-municipal coordination. San Nicolás de los Garza faces major challenges of environmental sustainability and urban governance and legislation. The municipality approached UN-Habitat to collaborate and develop, in a participatory manner, a roadmap for the sustainable urban development of the city by 2030 in line with the Agenda 2030 and the New Urban Agenda.

The objective is to establish where the urban development of the city should evolve in terms of physical, social, economic and environmental dimensions in order to contribute, from the local level, to the fulfillment of the SDGs and improve people's quality of life. The project seeks to be a coordinating mechanism that defines guidelines, orientations and strategic actions in the field of urban and territorial development, laying the foundations for a shared future, creating a common framework for action, and strengthening the continuity of long-term urban policies.

Some of the results of the project include the collective definition of a city vision, the innovative design of a participatory strategy including activities focused on the integration of young people, women, children and girls, as well as the use of digital tools to ensure interaction and dialogue with local actors.

4.

Equity Park Master Plan: An Opportunity for social integration in Cancún (ROLAC)

SDGS CONTRIBUTION: 1, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17

| 1 NO POVERTY | 5 GENDER EQUALITY | 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY | 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES | 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | 13 CLIMATE ACTION | 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS | 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS |

Since 2019, the Strategic Projects Agency of the state of Quintana Roo (AGEPRO) and UN-Habitat have been working on the development of the Equity Master Plan which consists of an urban planning strategy that positions public space as a central element for the sustainable development of Cancún. The Plan seeks to develop and consolidate infrastructure, equipment and services to improve the quality of life of residents, directly benefiting about 200,000 people throughout the area of influence of the park.

The Master Plan effectively responds to various urban goals of the SDGs and the principles of the New Urban Agenda by providing the city of Cancun with a green, safe, inclusive, accessible and quality public space in the most densely populated area of the city.

Some of the expected results include a decrease in socio-spatial segregation in the area, a more diversified public space user base — especially the vulnerable — , reduced criminal acts around the area, an increase in the number of non-motorized trips, an increase in the number of jobs generated by the park's activities, and road safety and good accessibility in the vicinity of the park.

To learn more about these projects and others at UN-Habitat and beyond, visit https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/good-practices.
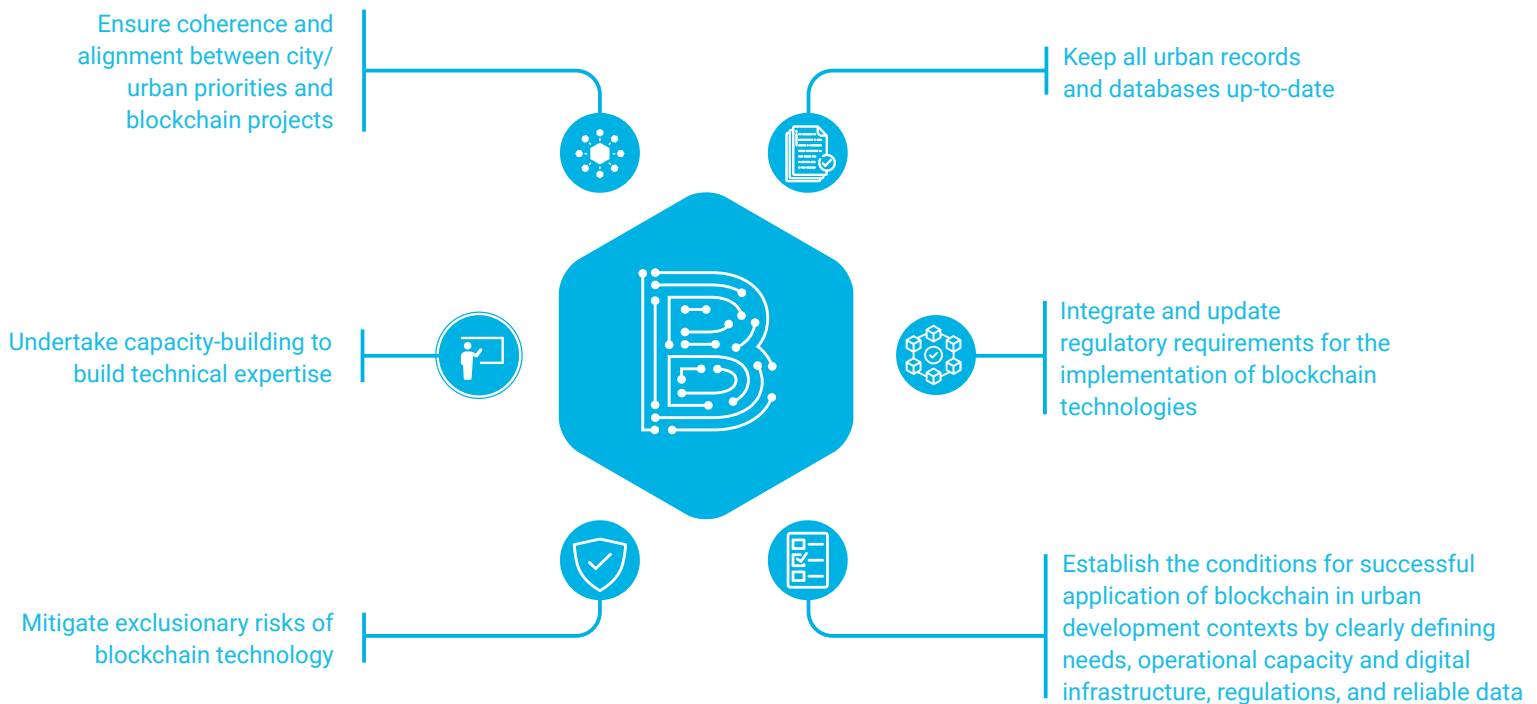
Innovation corner

Blockchain for urban development

Have you been attending UN-Habitat's organizational-wide roundtables on innovation and frontier technologies? The fifth installment of the series looked at blockchain technology and its contribution to sustainable urban development.

The UN system is already using blockchain for digital payments, land registration, supply chain, and managing tokens. The roundtable discussed the potential application of blockchain for urban development and recommendations for successful adoption. Examples include blockchain for land registration, urban governance, social inclusion, and energy systems, as highlighted in the cases of Georgia's land title registry, Bitland in Ghana, UN-Habitat and OICT's proposed GolandRegistry initiative in Afghanistan, Brooklyn's Microgrid project, New York's blockchain for change initiative and others.

The discussion featured key recommendations to consider when engaging with blockchain:

- Ensure coherence and alignment between city/urban priorities and blockchain projects
- Undertake capacity-building to build technical expertise
- Mitigate exclusionary risks of blockchain technology
- Keep all urban records and databases up-to-date
- Integrate and update regulatory requirements for the implementation of blockchain technologies
- Establish the conditions for successful application of blockchain in urban development contexts by clearly defining needs, operational capacity and digital infrastructure, regulations, and reliable data

Go the extra block

Learn more about blockchain applications in the UN system in the recent Report of the Joint Inspection Unit which captures blockchain applications that are currently in use and possible future use. The report also contains recommendations for UN organizations in relation to risk assessment, integration of blockchain applications into overall innovation strategies and organizational policies, in line with the Principles for Digital Development and the Secretary-General's Roadmap on Digital Cooperation.
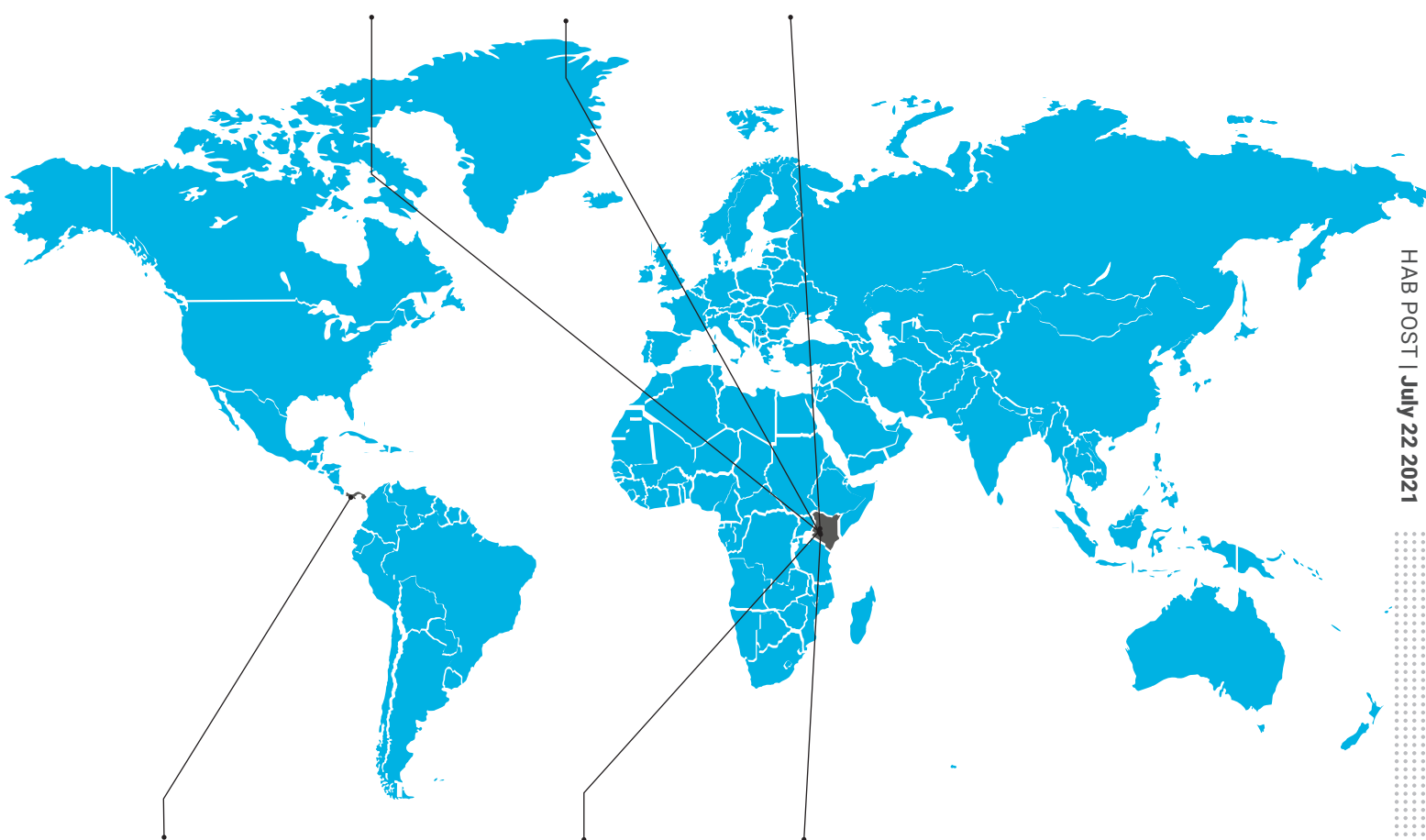
Consult the UN Innovation network's website for resources on blockchain including webinars and courses on how to get started with blockchain. You can also contact the Innovation section (un-habitat-innovation@un.org) to explore potential application of blockchain in your work.

Vacancies

Role
Programme
Management
Officer, P3
Duty Station
Nairobi, Kenya
Deadline
18 August 2021
Apply here

Role
Programme
Management
Assistant, G6
Duty Station
Nairobi, Kenya
Deadline
11 August 2021
Apply here

Role
Administrative
Assistant, G6
Duty Station
Nairobi, Kenya
Deadline
10 August 2021
Apply here

Role
Associate
Administrative
Officer, P2
Duty Station
Panama City,
Panama
Deadline
30 July 2021
Apply here

Role
Programme
Management
Assistant, G6
Duty Station
Nairobi, Kenya
Deadline
8 August 2021
Apply here

Role
Administrative
Assistant, G5
Duty Station
Nairobi, Kenya
Deadline
28 July 2021
Apply here

Learning

Enrollment for exciting courses from September through November is now open!

Click on the links on this page to learn more and enroll.

Enrollment for each cohort closes one month before course start, or as soon as the course is full. Announcements on seat distribution will be made two to three weeks before course start.

Virtual Innovation Sprint

In two 3-hour sessions with a trainer, you will be able to learn a tried and tested approach to innovation based on Google design thinking, and gain experience in practicing the method. Enroll here

Emotional Resilience

In 7 90-minute sessions, you will frame your experience, step into your values, and make an impact. Click here for more information or enroll here

Career Transitioning

Explore your career and life timeline, your job satisfiers, how to analyze job vacancies, and interviewing skills. This workshop can help you improve your career progression, move into a new role, explore your career options, overcome a feeling of being stuck career-wise, position yourself for future opportunities, write compelling CVs, and perform well at an interview. Enroll here

Work-Life Balance

Learn how to map and address your stressors and apply tools to decrease stress and increase wellness. Click here for more information or enroll here

Preventing Racism and Discrimination for a Dignified and Inclusive Workplace

Learn about discrimination and racism at the UN, conscious and unconscious bias, building a respectful and dignified workplace, micro-inequities and how they relation to prohibited conduct, as well as celebrating diversity and actively creating inclusion. Enroll here
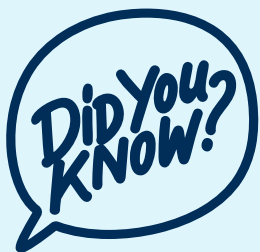
Effective Online Presentations

8.5 hours or learning how to effectively teach and present online wile being cool, calm and engaging. Learn how to increase engagement using the S.A.K.E. Tool, learn about what not to do when presenting, and get a chance to practice presenting online and receive supportive feedback. Click here for more information or enroll here

Inspiring Management and Supervisory Excellence

Learn about the context of managing and supervising in the United Nations, motivation of self and staff, setting objectives, delegation, giving feedback that has impact, unconscious bias, and building high performing teams. Enroll here

The Umoja login authentication switched from Unite ID to Microsoft Azure

Did you know?

This means you will no longer be required to login separately to your Umoja and Office 365 accounts. The move to Azure enables Single-Sign-On (SSO) with Microsoft Office 365, improves the Umoja user experience, and enhances security by implementing multi-factor authentication.

The updated Umoja login guide provides step-by-step instructions on logging in using your UN email address instead of Unite ID.

Watch the video below introducing the change from Unite ID to Azure.

If you experience any technical difficulties, you can open an iNeed ticket with the Unite Service Desk.

Participate!

Want your story featured? Submit your ideas or reach out to us at unhabitat-habpost@un.org.