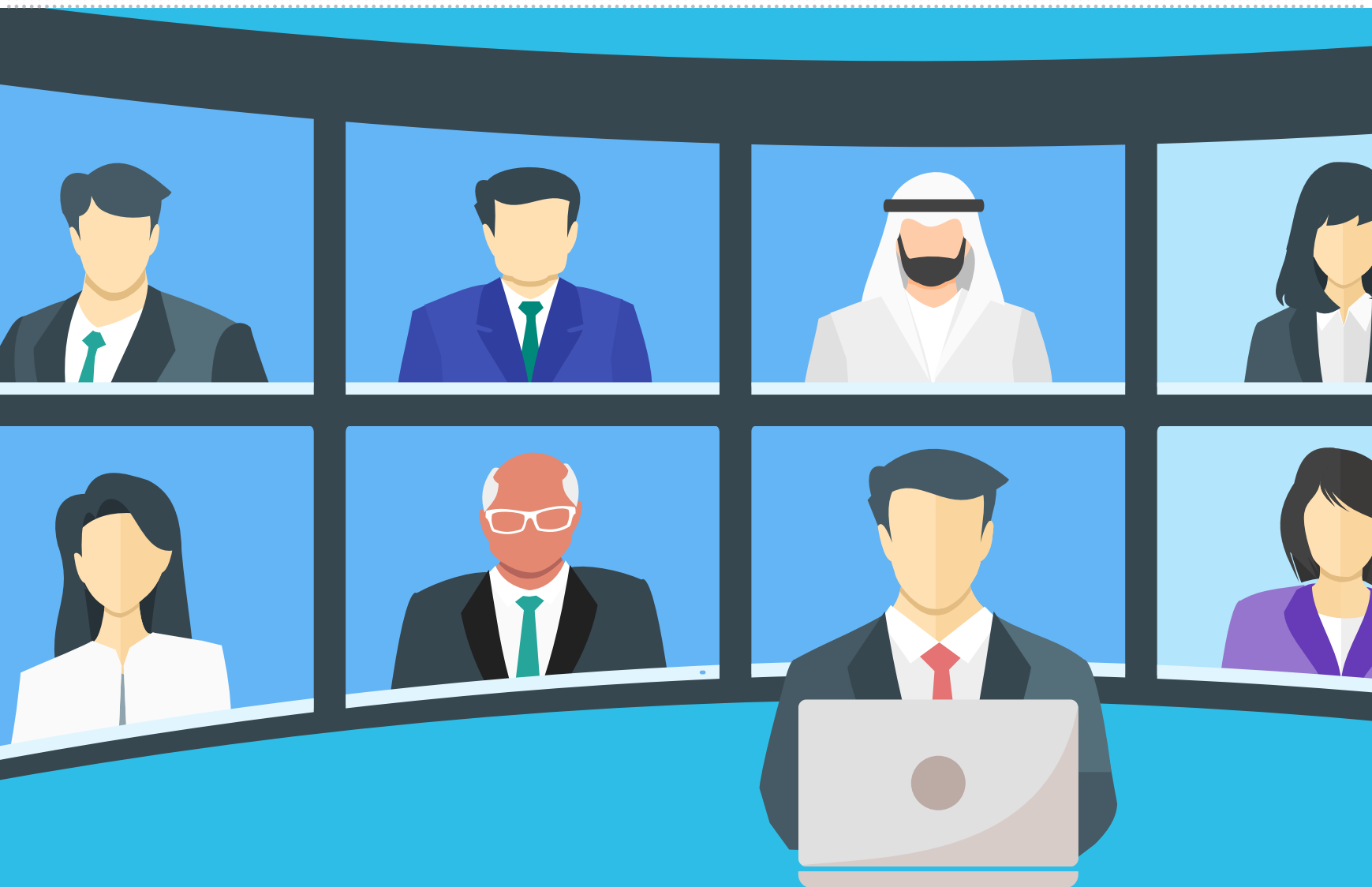


# Hab Post

Updates from  
UN-Habitat

**UN HABITAT**  
www.unhabitat.org  
unhabitat-info@un.org

ISSUE 36 | 5 AUGUST 2021



---

## UN-Habitat at the High-Level Political Forum 2021

# Editor's note

Dear Reader,

It's that time of the year when our minds wander off, mentally preparing for a well-deserved break after months of hard labour. Roughly a month after the High-Level Political Forum, we thought we'd bring you highlights from UN-Habitat's engagement at the Forum, and let our staff voice be heard. Throwback to over a week of debates and reflections on localizing the SDGs and recovering from COVID-19.

But before we also slip away for the summer break, we wanted to invite you to take a look at the latest news, job opportunities, and importantly at some of the rules for contracting temporary workers as we often find ourselves unaware of the nitty-gritty of hiring.

Happy August, and see you in September!

**The HabPost Team**



## On the menu

**News roundup**

**Feature story and talking head**

UN-Habitat in motion

Success Stories

Urban Agenda Platform Insider

Innovation corner

**Vacancies**

Upcoming events and corporate calendar

Missions

Learning

**Did you know?**

## News roundup



### UN-HABITAT IN THE NEWS



Mexican city puts "Placemaking" at the heart of post-pandemic recovery (ReliefWeb)



Marawi evacuees get permanent shelters (Inquirer.net)



Global CEO alliance, UN-Habitat to support 1,000 cities on SDGs (TheGuardian Nigeria)



UN-Habitat concludes Workshop on Action Plan for Solid Waste Management in Mangaluru (Mangalorean)



Lebanon's 1st mobile clinic for free COVID-19 testing launched in capital (China.org.cn)

### ARTICLES CONNECTING TO OUR DOMAINS OF CHANGE



Side Event Features SDG 11 as Chance to Spearhead Sustainability in Cities (IISD)



How to Build a Water-Smart City (Bloomberg)



The economic benefits of cities in the developing world (Brookings Institution)



# UN-Habitat at the High-Level Political Forum 2021



The [2021](#) meeting of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) took place from 6 to 16 July under the overall theme “Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.” If that doesn’t make it clear that sustainable development is a priority, we don’t know what will.

**B**ut first things first: the High-Level Political Forum is the main United Nations platform on sustainable development and adopts intergovernmentally negotiated political declarations. It has a central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Forum meets annually under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council for eight days (including a three-day ministerial segment), and every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the General Assembly, for two days.

This year, through a series of high-level dialogues, side events and workshops, Member States and partners from all over the globe came together to discuss progress made in achieving the SDGs and lay out the road ahead. UN-Habitat was of the party.

Throughout the HLPF, we participated, co-organized or led the organization of fourteen sessions focused on localizing the implementation of the SDGs, particularly in the context of recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic:

1.



The corporate session on [Homelessness, SDG 1 and Sustainable Recovery from COVID19: Poverty left behind](#) highlighted the necessity of coordinated national and local responses to addressing homelessness in the context of the pandemic.

2.

UN-Habitat co-organized [Territorial Approaches for Inclusive and Resilient Food Systems](#), drawing attention to the needs of innovative solutions that regions, countries and cities are applying to strengthen food systems and achieve SDGs at the local level.



3.



We participated in an event held by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and Swedish partners on [Reinventing Social Welfare – Examples to Combat Inequalities and exclusion at the local level](#), which brought together a panel discussing policies to bridge social gaps through welfare institutions and programmes at local levels.

4.



### VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEWS

A discussion on [Scaling up Voluntary Local Reviews in Africa: Responding to COVID-19 and Meeting the needs of the Decade of Action](#) highlighted the demand for expansion of the Voluntary Local Review (VLR) system in Africa, introducing the draft African Regional VLR Guidelines developed jointly by the UN Economic

Commission for Africa (UNECA), UN-Habitat, and United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa). Participants shared their experiences with the VLR process, their findings and results, and their plans to further expand the VLR process going forward.

5.



Through the concept of “visualizing” the Agenda 2030 in cities, [Venice Cities Solutions](#) offered local governments tools to understand how the SDGs can help them analyse what happens in cities.

6.



UN-Habitat participated in panels on [Building cities’ resilience for socio-economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and achievement of the SDGs](#) and [Island Responses to COVID-19 - In the Context of Climate Resilience and Sustainable Development through the Local2030 Islands Network](#), focused on building urban resilience and sustainable urban development in the face of the pandemic and climate change.

7.



As partner of the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative ([HESI](#)) and together with a consortium of UN entities, UN-Habitat co-organized the special event “Driving collective action for the SDGs: The role of further education - Building a sustainable and resilient recovery.” This event provided a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by the Higher Education sector, as well as the lessons learned to support a sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. It also highlighted key stakeholder initiatives that drive innovative efforts in support of the recovery and achievement of the SDGs such as education, teaching and learning, and decarbonization of campuses.

8.



During the second week of HLPF, the [Local and Regional Governments Forum \(LRGF\)](#) Special Event was the main political space for local and regional governments. Discussions during the LRGF highlighted the importance of multilevel coordinated action among spheres of governments for a resilient and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants also discussed the role of inclusive and responsive public service provision and health care in keeping our societies safe and in building back better.

**“The first annual VLR-VSR days were a resounding success, with lively discussion from all participants and strong engagement from speakers and audience members from across the globe. The interest in these high-level side events illustrates the momentum VLRs and VSRs are gaining globally, and the key role UN-Habitat and its partners are playing in driving their progress towards the localization of the SDGs.”**

Martino Miraglia  
Human Settlements  
Officer



9.



UN-Habitat organized the [Local 2030 Coalition](#) side event – the UN-wide initiative on localizing the SDGs – emphasizing the importance of multi-level, multi-stakeholder partnerships for recovery, particularly in urban environments. A [Celebration of Local and Regional Government Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\) through the Voluntary Local Review \(VLR\)](#) on 16 July brought together leaders across subnational governments to share key outcomes and lessons learned from their 2021 Voluntary Local Reviews and discuss the future of the VLR process.

10.

UN-Habitat continued its leading role in advancing the global debate on the localization of the SDGs through the first ever edition of the [VLR-VSR Days](#), held virtually between 14 and 16 July. Co-organized in collaboration with UCLG, the VLR-VSR Days focused on the process and future of VLRs and Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs). Five sessions with over 65 speakers and 470 participants representing 29 countries contributed to advancing the global reflection on VLRs and VSRs. While looking at VLRs and VSRs as powerful tools to accelerate the localization of SDGs, the sessions gave speakers and audience members a chance to share their experience to drive innovation, increase accountability and local ownership of development processes, and promote institutional interaction at all government levels.



12.



On 15 July, a session was dedicated to the work of metropolises in producing VLRs and in driving the SDG localization process. This was the occasion to launch the VLR of the [Metropolitan City of Florence](#), developed in collaboration with UN-Habitat.

13.

Eight countries that prepared VSRs presented their findings and experiences at the [Voluntary Subnational Reviews Session](#), where representatives from national governments and national associations of local governments engaged in a dialogue about lessons learned, best practices and future plans for VSR implementation.



14.



The VLR-VSR Days concluded on 16 July with two key dimensions of the processes for VLRs and VSRs: data and participation. The first session examined [Data and Indicators in VLR and VSR Processes](#) by presenting the UN-Habitat approach to data and indicator development – specifically the Global Urban Monitoring Framework. The second session on [Participation and Social Inclusion in VLR and VSR Processes](#) allowed stakeholders working on VLRs and VSRs to share best practices in community engagement through different stages of the review. The session facilitated exchanges of best practices and discussion of the importance of community involvement in the VLR process through a Q&A session with the audience, providing inspiration for participants looking to embark on their own VLR-VSR journey. These two events represent the directions VLRs are taking: towards a more dynamic, data-driven, and participatory process.

11.



The VSR-VLR days kicked off on 14 July with the [launch](#) of the Second Volume of the [UN-Habitat-UCLG Guidelines for VLRs Towards a New Generation of VLRs: Exploring the Local-National Link](#) and of the VLR Communique. This event introduced the main findings of the guidelines along with presentations by government actors that contributed to the process of their development.

The presentations illustrated how VLRs are changing the dynamics between local and national governments and facilitating multi-level dialogues on practices for a more sustainable future. The new guidelines will help other localities looking to perform their own reviews and expand the global VLR movement.

### For more information, visit:

[UN-Habitat HLPF engagement](#)

[UN-Habitat VLR online portal](#)

## Talking Head

Martino Miraglia, **Human Settlements Officer on SDG localization and local governments within the Urban Practices Branch in Nairobi**, shares his reflections on UN-Habitat's engagement during HLPF and the importance of VLRs and VSRs in accelerating the implementation of the SDGs at the local level.



“ The 2021 HLPF was an exciting time for UN-Habitat as we led the debate on SDG localization along with our key partners from across the globe, such as UNDESA, UCLG and the UN Regional Commissions. The HLPF is primarily an event for national governments to share their progress in implementing the SDGs through the Voluntary National Review (VNR) and discuss the future of sustainability. Over the past few years, however, we have seen a rapid growth in uptake of local and regional governments and local action in the discussions held at HLPF, such as through the organization of the Local and Regional Governments Forum – today at its 4th edition – many side events involving city partners, and more and more official delegation including representative from cities and local governments.

This process was certainly amplified and boosted by the rapid growth of the Voluntary Local Reviews global movement that UN-Habitat is closely supporting with the development of cutting-edge research, technical cooperation with cities and the organization of opportunities for exchanges and peer learning.

During this year's HLPF, we organized with UCLG the first ever edition of the [VLR-VSR Days](#) – three days dedicated to the future of local reporting and SDG localization. This event was an unprecedented occasion that gathered 65 speakers from the globe and almost 500 participants. We launched the second volume of the UN-Habitat-UCLG VLR guidelines [Towards a New Generation of VLRs: Exploring the Local-National Link](#). The guidelines provide key insights and recommendations to both national and local governments on how to strengthen their cooperation to monitor and achieve the SDGs.

**This event was an unprecedented occasion that gathered 65 speakers from the globe and almost 500 participants. During these Days, we launched the second volume of the UN-Habitat-UCLG VLR guidelines**

Across all events and sessions, participants stressed the importance of SDG localization to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and specifically to adopt multilevel and multi-stakeholder approaches to make sure our recovery process is sustainable, resilient and inclusive.

In addition, the HLPF highlighted how localization has truly become central, picking up steam year after year. We're excited to be at the forefront of this movement and look forward to working with colleagues and our partners to continue to accelerate the localization of the SDGs worldwide.

**Martino Miraglia**  
Human Settlements Officer, Urban Practices Branch, Global Solutions Division

► **Vacancies**

**Role**  
Associate  
Programme  
Management  
Officer, P2  
**Duty Station**  
Nairobi, Kenya  
24 August 2021  
[Apply here](#)

**Role**  
Programme  
Management  
Officer, P4  
**Duty Station**  
Nairobi, Kenya  
20 August 2021  
[Apply here](#)

**Role**  
Programme  
Management  
Officer, P3  
**Duty Station**  
Nairobi, Kenya  
18 August 2021  
[Apply here](#)

**Role**  
Programme  
Management  
Officer, P4  
**Duty Station**  
Nairobi, Kenya  
16 August 2021  
[Apply here](#)

**Role**  
Programme  
Management  
Officer, P3  
(Temporary Job  
Opening)  
**Duty Station**  
Nairobi, Kenya  
8 August 2021  
[Apply here](#)

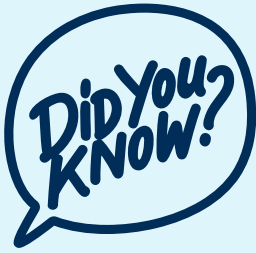
**Role**  
Administrative  
Assistant, G6  
**Duty Station**  
Nairobi, Kenya  
12 August 2021  
[Apply here](#)



**Role**  
Programme  
Management  
Assistant, G6  
**Duty Station**  
Nairobi, Kenya  
11 August 2021  
[Apply here](#)

**Role**  
Administrative  
Assistant, G6  
**Duty Station**  
Nairobi, Kenya  
10 August 2021  
[Apply here](#)

**Role**  
Programme  
Management  
Assistant, G6  
**Duty Station**  
Nairobi, Kenya  
8 August 2021  
[Apply here](#)



## Rules to hire consultants and individual contractors

The Secretariat utilizes temporary assistance in order to respond quickly, flexibly and effectively to organizational priorities. This work modality comes with a well-defined set of rules and procedures.

Yet these rules are often overlooked or unknown to hiring managers. Don't let them surprise you!



**Time bound:** assignments are temporary, outputs are measurable, and tasks can be performed and completed within a limited and specified period of time.



**36-month rule:** a minimum of a one-month break is applied between separation or retirement of a former or retired staff member and reengagement on an individual contract, unless the separation was on mutually agreed terms, in which case the former staff member may be reengaged on an individual contract only after a period of 36 months from the date of separation from service.



**Six-month rule:** consultants and individual contractors are not eligible to apply for or be appointed to any position in the Professional and higher categories and for positions at the FS-6 and FS-7 levels in the Field Service category within six months of the end of their current or most recent service.



**Family restriction:** individual contracts cannot be issued to a person whose father, mother, son, daughter, sister or brother works for the Secretariat as a staff member or in a non-staff capacity.



[Read the Administrative Instruction](#)



## Participate!

Want your story featured? Submit your ideas or reach out to us at [unhabitat-habpost@un.org](mailto:unhabitat-habpost@un.org).

### Editorial Team

**Advisors:** Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director  
Victor Kisob, Deputy Executive Director

**Leads:** Neil Khor, Amy Wood

**Coordinator & Editor:** Rachad Nassar

**Sub-Editor:** James Ohayo

**Design & Layout:** Denis Kimathi

**Contributors:** Martino Miraglia, Francesca De Ferrari, Claire Bond

