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# SGG 7: INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

*CITIES THAT BELONG TO EVERYONE*

CREATED BY

EUSL AB

*Care to Change the World*



## Table of Contents

<b>Chapter 1 — Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Chapter 2 — Goal Statement and Definition .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Chapter 3 — Strategic Rationale .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Chapter 4 — Advocacy Objectives.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Chapter 5 — Implementation Pathways (Non-Financial) .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Chapter 6 — Institutional Anchoring .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Chapter 7 — Compliance and Governance Principles .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Chapter 8 — Monitoring and Advocacy Metrics.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Chapter 9 — Risk and Mitigation.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Chapter 10 — Alignment with Other Goals .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Closing Summary .....</b>	<b>9</b>

# SGG 7: Inclusive and Equitable Urban Development

## Chapter 1 — Executive Summary

Cities are more than buildings and roads—they are living ecosystems where people seek opportunity, safety, and belonging. Yet, when urban growth is unmanaged, it can deepen inequality, leaving some communities in overcrowded housing, unsafe neighborhoods, or without access to basic services. SGG 7 responds to this challenge with a clear vision: cities that work for everyone, not just the privileged few.

Inclusive and equitable urban development means designing spaces where affordability, accessibility, and safety are non-negotiable. It calls for housing policies that prevent displacement, transport systems that connect rather than divide, and public spaces that welcome diversity. It also demands that urban planning anticipates the needs of vulnerable groups—low-income families, refugees, persons with disabilities—so that no one is left behind in the race for modernization.

This goal aligns with global frameworks such as SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) but goes further by embedding social equity into every layer of urban governance. It is not just about infrastructure; it is about dignity—ensuring that every resident can live, work, and thrive in a city that values inclusion as much as innovation. By 2074, cities should be engines of opportunity and cohesion, not arenas of inequality.

## Chapter 2 — Goal Statement and Definition

### Goal Statement

To ensure that by 2074, all urban spaces are planned, developed, and governed in ways that guarantee accessibility, affordability, safety, and inclusivity for every resident, regardless of income, gender, disability, or migration status. This includes equitable housing policies, integrated transport systems, climate-resilient infrastructure, and participatory governance that gives communities a voice in shaping their cities.

### Definition

“Inclusive and equitable urban development” refers to the process of designing and managing cities so that social equity is embedded in housing, transportation, public services, and environmental planning. It means creating urban environments where marginalized groups are not pushed to the periphery but integrated into the social and economic fabric of the city. This concept goes beyond physical infrastructure—it includes governance models that prioritize participation, transparency, and fairness, ensuring that urban growth strengthens social cohesion rather than eroding it.

SGG 7 draws inspiration from SDG 11 and the New Urban Agenda, but its emphasis on equity makes it a cornerstone of Agenda 2074. It is a call to reimagine cities as inclusive communities where progress is measured not only by skyscrapers and smart grids but by the ability of every person to live with dignity and opportunity.

## Chapter 3 — Strategic Rationale

Cities are the beating heart of modern life. They concentrate opportunity, culture, and innovation—but they also concentrate inequality. When urban growth is unmanaged, the result is stark: overcrowded housing, unsafe neighborhoods, and marginalized communities pushed to the periphery. SGG 7 exists because cities should not be engines of exclusion; they should be engines of equity.

The rationale for this goal rests on three truths. First, urbanization is inevitable. By 2050, two-thirds of the world's population will live in cities. Without inclusive planning, this growth will deepen divides—between rich and poor, center and periphery, connected and excluded. Second, cities shape life chances. Access to housing, transport, education, and healthcare often depends on where you live. Poorly designed cities trap people in cycles of poverty and vulnerability. Third, resilience and sustainability depend on equity. Climate shocks, pandemics, and economic crises hit hardest in informal settlements and underserved neighborhoods. Inclusive urban development is not just a social ideal—it is a survival strategy.

Global frameworks like **SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)** and the **New Urban Agenda** emphasize sustainable urbanization, but Agenda 2074 goes further: it makes equity the cornerstone. This means housing policies that prevent displacement, transport systems that connect rather than divide, and governance that invites participation from those most affected by urban decisions. By embedding fairness into the DNA of urban planning, SGG 7 ensures that cities become places of opportunity, safety, and dignity for all—not just for those who can afford it.

## Chapter 4 — Advocacy Objectives

Advocacy for SGG 7 is about turning inclusive urban development from a policy aspiration into a lived reality. It must speak to governments, planners, businesses, and communities alike, making equity the guiding principle of every urban decision.

### **Policy Integration and Legal Reform**

Governments should adopt urban policies that guarantee affordable housing, accessible public transport, and climate-resilient infrastructure. Legal frameworks must prohibit discriminatory zoning and ensure that marginalized groups—low-income families, refugees, persons with disabilities—are prioritized in planning.

### **Community Participation and Voice**

Cities belong to the people who live in them. Advocacy must promote participatory planning processes where residents, especially those in vulnerable communities, have a real say in shaping urban spaces. WOSL Group will lead grassroots campaigns to make urban governance inclusive and transparent.

### **Designing for Accessibility and Safety**

Urban design should reflect diversity. Advocacy should push for universal design standards in housing, transport, and public spaces, ensuring safety and accessibility for all, including persons with disabilities and older adults.

### **Technology and Smart Cities for All**

DESA will champion ethical urban tech—open-access platforms for citizen feedback, transparent data systems for planning, and digital tools that improve service delivery without creating new divides.



### Measurable Advocacy Outcomes

Benchmarks include:

- Number of jurisdictions adopting inclusive urban development laws;
- Percentage of housing projects meeting affordability and accessibility standards;
- Uptake of participatory planning platforms;
- Expansion of public transport coverage in underserved areas;
- Deployment of ethical smart-city technologies verified for equity.

### Advocacy Matrix

Objective	Action	Expected Outcome
Policy Integration	Inclusive housing and transport laws	Legal guarantee of equitable urban development
Community Participation	Participatory planning platforms	Residents shape decisions affecting their lives
Accessibility & Safety	Universal design standards	Cities that welcome diversity
Technology Access	Ethical smart-city tools	Digital innovation without exclusion

Advocacy under SGG 7 is not about abstract ideals—it is about shaping cities where every person feels they belong, where progress is measured not by skyscrapers but by shared opportunity.

## Chapter 5 — Implementation Pathways (Non-Financial)

Turning inclusive urban development from vision to reality does not always require massive budgets—it requires smart governance, community engagement, and open-access tools. These pathways focus on practical steps that cities, institutions, and communities can adopt without financial barriers.

### Embed Equity in Urban Policy

Governments should integrate equity clauses into urban planning laws and housing regulations. This means mandatory affordability standards, anti-displacement measures, and zoning rules that prevent segregation. These reforms rely on legal drafting and governance—not costly infrastructure.

### Education and Awareness for Urban Inclusion

Schools and community centers can teach urban rights and responsibilities, helping residents understand how to engage in planning processes. Awareness campaigns can demystify zoning, housing rights, and transport planning, empowering citizens to shape their cities.

### Community-Based Planning Platforms

Cities should create participatory planning platforms—both physical forums and digital tools—where residents can co-design solutions. WOSL Group will mobilize grassroots networks to ensure that marginalized voices are heard and included.

### Universal Design and Accessibility Standards

Urban development must adopt universal design principles for housing, transport, and public spaces. These standards can be embedded in building codes and procurement guidelines, requiring compliance without adding significant cost.

### Digital Enablement for Smart Inclusion

DESA will provide open-access digital tools for urban mapping, citizen feedback, and service delivery monitoring. These tools must prioritize accessibility, multilingual support, and privacy safeguards to ensure technology serves everyone.

### Illustrative Pathways Table

Pathway	Action	Expected Outcome
Policy Integration	Equity clauses in urban laws	Legal guarantee of inclusive development
Education & Awareness	Urban rights curricula; campaigns	Empowered citizens shaping cities
Community Platforms	Participatory planning forums	Decisions reflect real community needs
Universal Design	Accessibility in codes and standards	Cities that welcome diversity
Digital Enablement	Open mapping and feedback tools	Transparent, inclusive urban governance

These pathways make inclusion practical and achievable—embedding fairness into the everyday mechanics of urban life.

## Chapter 6 — Institutional Anchoring

Inclusive cities require more than good intentions—they need clear custodianship and shared responsibility. Agenda 2074 provides a governance ecosystem to ensure that equity is not optional but integral to urban development.

**GSEA (Global Social Equity Alliance)** will lead advocacy, pushing for urban policies that prioritize affordability, accessibility, and participation.

**GSIA (Global Social Impact Alliance)** will oversee compliance, conducting audits on housing standards, transport coverage, and participatory governance indicators.

**GSCA (Global Social Cooperative Alliance)** will develop cooperative charters for municipalities and urban developers, embedding equity principles into governance frameworks.

**WOSL Group** will activate communities, organizing local forums, awareness campaigns, and citizen engagement programs.

**Agenda 74 Agency** will facilitate implementation through multi-actor dialogues, policy templates, and knowledge-sharing platforms.

**DESA (Digital Enablement)** will ensure that technology supports inclusion, providing open-access tools for urban mapping, feedback systems, and service monitoring.

### Universal Adaptability and Open Access

SGG 7 is designed for universal adoption. All toolkits, charters, and digital resources will be freely available, enabling governments, businesses, and civil society to adapt them locally without licensing or financial barriers.

### Roles and Responsibilities Snapshot

Actor	Responsibility
Governments	Embed equity in urban laws; enforce accessibility standards
Private Sector	Adopt inclusive design in housing and infrastructure
Civil Society	Mobilize communities; monitor equity in planning
Creativa Ecosystem	Advocacy (GSEA); compliance (GSIA); governance (GSCA); grassroots (WOSL); implementation (A74); technology (DESA)

Institutional anchoring ensures that inclusion is not an afterthought but a guiding principle—woven into the DNA of urban governance and development.

## Chapter 7 — Compliance and Governance Principles

Inclusive urban development cannot rely on good intentions alone—it needs clear rules, accountability, and transparency. Compliance under SGG 7 ensures that equity is not optional but embedded in every stage of urban planning and governance.

### Legal Integration

Governments must codify inclusive urban development into law. This means mandatory affordability standards for housing, universal design requirements for public spaces, and anti-discrimination clauses in zoning regulations. These legal anchors make equity enforceable, not aspirational.

### Institutional Accountability

Municipal authorities, developers, and service providers should conduct annual audits on housing accessibility, transport coverage, and participatory planning processes. Results must be published openly to build trust and drive continuous improvement.

### Participatory Governance

Urban planning should never be a closed-door exercise. Governance frameworks must require consultation with residents—especially marginalized groups—through structured forums and digital platforms. This ensures that decisions reflect real needs, not assumptions.

### Technology Ethics and Data Transparency

Smart-city technologies must comply with standards for privacy, accessibility, and fairness. DESA will provide open technical guidance to ensure that digital innovation serves inclusion rather than creating new divides.

### Open Access Principle

All compliance templates, charters, and toolkits under SGG 7 will be freely available, enabling universal adoption and local adaptation without financial or licensing barriers.

## Compliance Snapshot

Principle	What It Means	Oversight Body
Legal Integration	Equity embedded in urban laws	GSIA
Institutional Audits	Annual reviews of housing, transport, participation	GSIA
Participatory Governance	Inclusive decision-making processes	GSCA
Ethical Tech	Privacy and accessibility standards for urban tech	DESA
Open Access	Free toolkits and templates for all actors	Agenda 74 Agency

Compliance under SGG 7 is not about bureaucracy—it is about building cities where fairness is a structural guarantee, not a fragile promise.

## Chapter 8 — Monitoring and Advocacy Metrics

Monitoring inclusive urban development means tracking progress where it matters—on the ground, in neighborhoods, and in governance systems. SGG 7 uses practical indicators to measure readiness and impact.

### Core Indicators

- **Policy Adoption** — Number of jurisdictions with inclusive urban development laws and equity clauses.
- **Housing Accessibility** — Percentage of housing projects meeting affordability and universal design standards.
- **Transport Coverage** — Expansion of public transport networks in underserved areas.
- **Community Participation** — Uptake of participatory planning platforms and forums.
- **Technology Inclusion** — Deployment of ethical smart-city tools verified for accessibility and privacy.

### Monitoring Matrix

Indicator	How It's Measured	Target by 2074
Policy Adoption	GSIA compliance audits	Universal integration of equity in urban law
Housing Accessibility	Developer audits; municipal reports	100% compliance with affordability and design standards
Transport Coverage	Infrastructure mapping; service data	Full coverage for underserved neighborhoods
Community Participation	Participation records; platform analytics	Inclusive planning in all urban projects
Technology Inclusion	DESA compliance checks	Universal access to ethical urban tech



Advocacy metrics complement these indicators by tracking the number of campaigns launched, partnerships formed, and public dialogues held. These metrics ensure that inclusion is not just a policy goal but a visible, measurable reality in every city.

## Chapter 9 — Risk and Mitigation

Urban development carries enormous promise—but also significant risks if equity is not at the center. The first risk is **gentrification and displacement**. When cities modernize without safeguards, low-income families and marginalized groups are pushed out of their neighborhoods. Mitigation requires strong housing policies: rent controls, anti-displacement clauses, and affordable housing quotas embedded in law.

The second risk is **fragmented governance**. Urban planning often involves multiple agencies with overlapping mandates, leading to confusion and delays. Mitigation lies in cooperative governance charters and clear institutional roles, ensuring coordination between municipalities, developers, and civil society.

A third risk is **digital exclusion**. Smart-city technologies can improve service delivery, but if they are designed without accessibility standards, they create new divides. Mitigation involves ethical tech guidelines, multilingual platforms, and privacy safeguards—DESA will lead this effort.

The fourth risk is **climate vulnerability**. Poorly planned cities are highly exposed to floods, heatwaves, and other climate shocks. Mitigation requires climate-resilient infrastructure, green spaces, and early-warning systems integrated into urban planning.

Finally, **social resistance** can arise when communities feel excluded from decision-making. Mitigation is simple but powerful: participatory planning processes that give residents a real voice and build trust.

### Risk–Mitigation Snapshot

Risk	Mitigation
Gentrification	Affordable housing quotas; anti-displacement laws
Fragmented Governance	Cooperative charters; clear institutional roles
Digital Exclusion	Accessibility standards; multilingual smart-city tools
Climate Vulnerability	Resilient infrastructure; green urban design
Social Resistance	Participatory planning; community forums

Resilient, inclusive cities are not built overnight—but these mitigation strategies make progress possible and sustainable.

## Chapter 10 — Alignment with Other Goals

SGG 7 is deeply interconnected with other Social Global Goals. It strengthens **SGG 1 (Universal Access to Essential Services)** by ensuring that housing, transport, and public services remain accessible in urban areas. It complements **SGG 2 (Eradicating Poverty)** because affordable housing and equitable transport reduce economic vulnerability.



It works hand-in-hand with **SGG 3 (Gender Equality)** by designing safe public spaces and transport systems that protect women and promote participation. It reinforces **SGG 4 (Educational Equity)** by integrating schools into urban planning and ensuring they are accessible to all communities. It supports **SGG 5 (Mental Health)** by creating green spaces and safe neighborhoods that foster well-being.

SGG 7 also advances **SGG 6 (Community Resilience)** by embedding disaster preparedness into urban design, making cities better equipped for climate shocks and emergencies. It links to **SGG 8 (Social Justice and Governance)** through transparent, participatory planning processes. And it intersects with **SGG 17 (Ethical Use of Technology)** by ensuring that smart-city innovations serve inclusion rather than deepen divides.

In short, inclusive urban development is not just a standalone goal—it is a platform for achieving equity across the entire Agenda 2074 framework.

## Closing Summary

SGG 7 envisions cities that welcome everyone—where housing is affordable, transport is accessible, and public spaces are safe and inclusive. It calls for governance that listens, technology that empowers, and planning that anticipates the needs of all residents, not just the privileged few. By embedding equity into the DNA of urban development, this goal transforms cities from engines of inequality into engines of opportunity.

By 2074, urban spaces should reflect the values of fairness and dignity. Through advocacy, compliance, and open-access tools, SGG 7 ensures that progress is measured not by skyscrapers alone but by the ability of every person to live, work, and thrive in a city that belongs to all.