



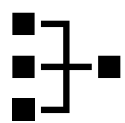
UN-HABITAT

Agenda item 6:

Preparation of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan: 2026 – 2029

Executive Board of UN-Habitat: First session for the year 2024
6 to 8 May 2024

Guiding principles



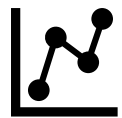
Ambitious, relevant, and responsive: defining the role of UN-Habitat in the UN adding value, and responding to the needs of the Member States;



Focused and Prioritized: addressing reasonable and workable number of relevant priority issues articulated as challenges



Flexible and adaptable: allowing for flexibility and adaptability to respond to the Member States' demands in specific contexts







Evidence and knowledge-based: informed by data, scientific research, and experience by UN-Habitat and other partners and stakeholders;



Manageable, realistic, effective, and measurable: clearly structured in measurable objectives unambiguously assigning responsibilities for attaining them.

Articulating emerging priorities for impact

-  **Continuity and foresight:** retaining successful and relevant legacy themes, keeping proven impact, experience, and existing capacity and attending to the rapid changes in the world, identifying competences to be developed and capacity to be built;
-  **Unique proposition and added value:** engaging in the field of activities where no other multilateral actors engage, empowering UN-Habitat to build on its comparative advantages, and identifying where UN-Habitat can “add value” with its experience and expertise to the work of other multilateral actors;
-  **Globally relevant, locally applicable:** proposed interventions of UN-Habitat address articulated global priorities translatable to the diverse contexts of the regions and countries to respond to the requests of the Member States.
-  **NEW: Urbanization and human settlements:** addressing urbanization at a national scale as e.g. system of human settlements and working with individual human settlements;

Foundations for priorities for review of
Member States

- access for all to adequate, safe and affordable **housing**
- inclusive urban **prosperity and finance**
- effective climate action and **environmental sustainability**
- **multilevel governance and localization** of the SDGs
- effective urban **crisis response and recovery**



SDG 11

- adequate, safe and affordable **housing** and basic services
- safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable **transport systems** for all
- participatory, integrated and sustainable **human settlement planning and management**
- protect and safeguard the world's **cultural and natural heritage**
- reduce the number of deaths, people affected and direct economic losses from **disasters**
- reduce the adverse per capita **environmental impact** of cities
- universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and **public spaces**
- links between **urban, peri-urban and rural areas**
- holistic **disaster risk management** at all levels
- support least developed countries in building **sustainable and resilient buildings**

- ★ **Sustainable urban development for social inclusion and ending poverty** (e.g. poverty, informal settlements, inequality, housing, land, basic services, public space)
- ★ **Sustainable and inclusive urban prosperity and opportunities for all** (e.g. inclusive economic growth, employment & decent work, local economic development, spatial planning)
- ★ **Environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development** (e.g. climate change, hazards, natural resources, energy, waste management, resilience)

- ❖ People-centred smart cities
- ❖ Transformation of informal settlements
- ❖ Biodiverse and resilient cities
- ❖ Interlinkage between urbanization and climate change
- ❖ Localization of Sustainable Development Goals
- ❖ Adequate housing for all
- ❖ Urban planning and sustainable infrastructure
- ❖ Human settlements resilience framework for early warning, foresight, risk reduction, crisis response, and post-crisis recovery and reconstruction



Recent progress: new elements since
Executive Director's report

OIOS conclusions relevant to the new Strategic Plan:

- stronger focus and prioritization is needed;
- current outcomes capture all key aspects of UN-Habitat's work without a clear hierarchy;
- better identification and articulation of the main (negative) trends where UN-Habitat could support national and local governments;
- simpler structure of Strategic Plan needed;
- clearer corporate guidance on how it can be implemented at the global, regional, national and subnational level.



Purposes of a strategy for UN-Habitat

From the **UN-Habitat mandate** perspective: select and articulate priority challenges in society, formulate attainable goals for the medium-term period, define actions to be taken by the UN-Habitat in the multi-lateral system to attain the goals;

From the **project-funded entity** perspective: profile UN-Habitat as feasible actor which can address issues prioritized by beneficiaries and donors, set goals fundable by the donors, and create flexible organizational structure of capacities and competences to respond to opportunities of getting its work funded;

From the **UN Secretariat entity** perspective: provide guiding structure and articulation to the work of UN-Habitat, approved by the Member States - to inform structuring the work in sub-programmes.

- ✓ Once **priorities** have been reconfirmed by the Member States, **articulate them as challenges to be resolved**, where **UN-Habitat has a role**
- ✓ Articulated priority issues would be **translated into attainable strategic goals** for the period, which will **clearly determine the role of UN-Habitat** and guide its activities in attaining the goals
- ✓ **Strategic goals will be supported by planned action with measurable objectives**, which will also serve in monitoring progress of attaining the Strategic goals

OUR VISION e.g., just and resilient human settlements in harmony with nature

OUR SCOPE FOR 2026-29 Priorities articulated as **issues or challenges** to the global society

OUR ROLE What can UN-Habitat do to **address those issues** in the multilateral system

OUR FOCUS What **goals** UN-Habitat will set for itself to address the challenges

OUR ACTION What will UN-Habitat do to attain the goals

—
Way forward

DATE	ACTIVITY	FORMAT
May 6-8	MS Dialogue 4: Principles, considerations, train of thought	EB
	<p><i>Member States comment on Analytical framework: purposes of a strategy for UN-Habitat, proposed guiding principles, balancing considerations, flow of reasoning for drafting the strategic plan, tentative entry points to challenges and priorities.</i></p> <p>Expected outcomes: <i>Member States discuss and take note of the analytical framework, enabling the drafting of the strategic plan to commence, and the detailed roadmap with expected outcomes.</i></p>	

DATE	ACTIVITY	FORMAT
May 30	<p>MS Dialogue 5: priority challenges, role of UN-Habitat, strategic goals</p> <p><i>Deep dive: MS inputs and discussions on the scope of challenges UN-Habitat plans to address in 2026-2029, the role UN-Habitat will play in addressing the challenges, and the strategic focus articulated as goals for the period.</i></p> <p>Expected outcomes: Member States share their views and deliberate on the scope of priority challenges and focus on strategic goals for UN-Habitat for the period of 2026-2029, directing the drafting of these parts of the plan.</p>	MS retreat 2
INTERIM CONSULTATIONS IN WRITING		
Sep tbd	<p>MS Dialogue 6: action to be defined in the SP discussed</p> <p><i>Deep dive: MS inputs and discussions on the draft proposed actions of UN-Habitat to achieve the strategic goals;</i></p> <p>Expected outcomes: Member States share their views and deliberate on the proposed draft action of UN-Habitat during 2026-2029 to attain the strategic goals, directing the drafting of this part of the plan;</p>	MS retreat 3
Sep 27 tbc	<p>Advanced draft of SP submitted to MS</p> <p><i>MS prepare their comments to the advanced draft for the EB session in Dec 2024;</i></p> <p>Expected outcomes: statements of the MS on the draft SP at the EB session</p>	

DATE	ACTIVITY	FORMAT
Dec 3-5 2024	MS Dialogue 7: SP draft endorsed in principle; action discussed	EB
	<i>Expected outcome: Member States discuss and take note of the advanced draft of the SP, enabling to finalise the drafting of the strategic plan.</i>	
Jan-Feb 2025 tbd	MS Dialogue 7bis: further discussion of UN-Habitat's action formulated in the Strategic Plan 2026-2029	AHWG PBA tbd
	<i>Further refining the formulation in the SP of the action UN-Habitat must undertake to attain the strategic goals in this period.</i>	
	<i>Expected outcome: consensus of the MS on the action enabling the Task Force to complete the drafting of the Strategic Plan 2026-2029</i>	
Mar 2025	MS Dialogue 8: SP final draft endorsed	EB
	<i>Expected outcome: Member States discuss the Strategic Plan of UN-Habitat for 2026-2029 and transmit it to the resumed 2nd session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.</i>	
May 29-31	SP presented to the UN-Habitat Assembly	UNHA 2
	<i>Expected outcome: Member States discuss and adopt the Strategic Plan of UN-Habitat for 2026-2029.</i>	

SCOPE : Priorities articulated as challenges for the global society

ROLE : What can UN-Habitat do to address those issues in the multilateral system

FOCUS: What goals UN-Habitat will set for itself to address the challenges

Background paper:
to be shared before
the retreat on April 16