

H.E. Pedro León Cortes Ruiz

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Colombia in Kenya

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Agenda Item 8

Thank you to the secretariat for the presentation and the report on Agenda Item 8: Preparations for the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum and the report provided by the secretariat.

Since its establishment in 2001, the World Urban Forum has been a vital platform for global advocacy and mobilization of broader actions regarding sustainable urbanization at all levels and by all stakeholders. It is a space where leaders and decision-makers come together to address the most pressing issues affecting cities and communities worldwide.

For Colombia, it is important to underscore the significance of the World Urban Forum as a key vehicle for strengthening collaboration and partnerships with diverse stakeholders, as recognized in UN-Habitat's current strategic plan for the period 2020-2025.

The twelfth session of the World Urban Forum, themed "It all starts at home: local actions for sustainable cities and communities," strikes at the heart of our shared global challenges. It underscores the pivotal role of localized efforts in addressing pressing issues affecting urban areas worldwide. As we confront issues like housing inadequacy, rising living costs, climate change, and insufficient basic services, the emphasis on local actions highlights the importance of grassroots initiatives and community engagement in driving meaningful change.

In this context, it is important to note that Colombia proudly recalls the privilege of hosting the seventh session of the World Urban Forum in 2014 in the vibrant city of Medellín. The Medellín Declaration that emerged from that forum emphasized the importance of inclusive and sustainable urban development, laying the groundwork for subsequent sessions to build upon. We eagerly look forward to supporting WUF12 and contributing to its continued success.

We are grateful to the secretariat for sending in a timely manner the letter of invitations for the ministers of housing, which will facilitate their participation and engagement in this important event.

We thank the secretariat for their hard work in preparing for this crucial event and look forward to closely collaborating in the realization of the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum in Cairo in November 2024.