



Embajada de Colombia en Kenia

Executive Board UN Habitat Second Session 2024

Speech Agenda Item 8

H.E. Pedro Cortes Ruiz, Ambassador of the Republic of Colombia in Kenya,
Permanent Representative of Colombia to UNEP and UN Habitat

Thank you Mr. Chair, Madam Executive Director, Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Republic of Colombia, I would like to thank UN-Habitat for the report on the outcomes of the Twelfth World Urban Forum (WUF12) and the Africa Urban Forum. We acknowledge the effort and collaboration that made these events a success. Congratulations to Egypt on organizing WUF12, which was the largest session ever held, with over 24,000 participants from 182 countries. This unprecedented level of engagement demonstrates the global commitment to sustainable urbanization.

The theme of WUF12, “It All Starts at Home: Local Actions for Sustainable Cities and Communities,” reflects Colombia’s priorities. We share the belief that local action is key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Cairo Call to Action provides clear steps, such as addressing the housing crisis, promoting justice in cities, and using local data to make better decisions. These are issues that are also central to Colombia’s urban development plans.

We are particularly interested in the discussions about financing for cities and partnerships. Dialogue 4 on financing localization and Dialogue 3 on partnerships give us practical ideas on how to better support our local governments. Colombia is committed to exploring innovative solutions, especially to help vulnerable communities.

The Africa Urban Forum also offered valuable lessons. The focus on financing, resilience, and youth engagement is inspiring, as Colombia works closely with African nations through South-South Cooperation to share and learn from experiences.

We trust that the outcomes of WUF12 will provide valuable input for the development of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026–2029 and help to shape its focus on addressing key challenges in urban development.

Thank you.