

Statement Delivered by Malaysia on the Zero Draft of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026-2029

Excellency Chair, thank you for giving me the opportunity to deliver a statement on behalf of Malaysia with regards to the Zero Draft of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026-2029.

As this is the first time that Malaysia is taking the floor, please permit me to congratulate Ms. Anacláudia Rossbach on her election as Executive Director of UN-Habitat. Malaysia welcomes her to this her first Executive Board meeting. Malaysia also assures the Executive Director of our continued support for UN-Habitat under her leadership.

Malaysia appreciates the Secretariat for the preparation of the Zero Draft of the Strategic Plan. Malaysia takes note that the Zero draft builds on the current Strategic Plan especially the domains of change and flagship programmes. The consensual approach taken by the Secretariat is much appreciated. Malaysia commends the Secretariat for developing the guiding principles that enables us to develop a Strategic Plan in an inclusive and transparent manner.

Malaysia welcomes the emphasis on housing that the Executive Director has eloquently articulated. It is Malaysia's own experience that the provision of housing and plan-led urbanization has resulted in equitable development.

Permit me to highlight three additional recommendations.

Firstly, the Secretariat might want to have a narrower set of data by prioritizing data that a majority of member states are already collecting. This will ensure that we have a baseline from which to measure the collective impact of our efforts when implementing the Strategic Plan.

Secondly, the Secretariat should also take into account the context of middle-income countries where urbanization is particularly rapid. If middle income countries all go down an unsustainable urban path, member states will not be able to meet the global goals especially the climate goals.

Thirdly, the emphasis on finance is important as the Secretariat can only provide guidance and technical support whilst the actual implementation of policies is the responsibility of member states. Only by ensuring that there is a strong correlation between the Strategic Plan and financing can any real impact be achieved.

Malaysia will send detailed comments with regards to the Zero Draft of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026-2029 in due course.

Thank you.

4 December 2024
(Nairobi, Kenya)