



Embajada de Colombia en Kenia

Executive Board UN Habitat Second Session 2024

Speech Agenda Item 6

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, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Madame Executive Director, Colombia appreciates the detailed updates on the development of the Strategic Plan 2026–2029. As the chair of the ad hoc working group on PBA, I commend your tireless efforts and those of the Secretariat in engaging Member States in a participatory process through various sessions and retreats.

In my national capacity, Colombia strongly supports the rationale of the strategic plan and the strategic focus of adequate housing, land and basic services for all, as this resonates with our national efforts. Programs like “Mi Casa Ya” and “Cambia Mi Casa” aim to reduce housing deficits and improve living conditions for vulnerable communities. We believe these initiatives reflect how housing serves as a foundation for equity, social cohesion, and resilience.

We also emphasize the importance of integrating biodiversity and nature-based solutions into urban planning. At COP16, held in Cali, Colombia highlighted the need of urban adaptation strategies to mitigate climate impacts, including the protection of ecosystems and green spaces. Colombia is currently implementing a comprehensive habitat policy that revolves around territorial planning centered on water as a means to generate transformation in urban and rural habitats, considering objectives of climate change mitigation, territorial peace, and economic reactivation. Therefore, we encourage UN-Habitat to continue expanding its focus on these areas.

Colombia values UN-Habitat’s commitment to participatory governance and the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals. Our experience shows that incorporating local perspectives and traditional knowledge into urban planning fosters inclusive and effective solutions. We strongly encourage prioritizing the voices of marginalized communities, including women, youth, and indigenous peoples, in these processes.



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Finally, we are pleased to see the inclusion of in the draft zero of a dedicated chapter on resource mobilization. We believe this Strategic plan provides a robust framework for action and we look forward to seeing it translated into regional contexts, ensuring it can adapt to and address the diverse realities of different countries.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.