

**Statement by H.E. Amb. Boumediene Mahi**  
**At the First Session of the Executive Board of the United Nations**  
**Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)**  
**UNON, 25–27 March 2025**

Mr. Chair,  
Madame Executive Director,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, Algeria aligns itself with the statements delivered by Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, Mozambique on behalf of the African Group, and Palestine on behalf of the Arab Group.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Madame Executive Director for her leadership and tireless efforts to advance the mandate of UN-Habitat and we also commend the Secretariat for its dedicated work in preparing this session.

**Mr. Chair,**

We commend your effective leadership of the Executive Board and appreciate your commitment to fostering inclusive dialogue and building consensus among Member States throughout your mandate.

Algeria takes note of the Report of the Executive Board on its second session in 2024, along with the updates from the Chairs of the Ad-Hoc Working Groups on programmatic, budgetary, administrative matters, and stakeholder engagement. We commend the transparent and inclusive approach adopted and encourage continued efforts to finalize the stakeholder engagement policy through consensus, ensuring broad and balanced participation while upholding the intergovernmental character of the organization.

Algeria takes note of the Executive Director's report on Recruitment, Geographical Representation, and Gender Parity, and underscores the importance of building a truly inclusive and representative UN-Habitat

workforce. We encourage the Programme to strengthen efforts in addressing the underrepresentation of Member States—particularly from the Global South—through transparent, merit-based, and equitable recruitment. Balanced geographical representation is essential not only for fairness but also to enrich the Programme’s work with diverse perspectives and ensure its relevance in the field. We also call for renewed commitment to gender parity at all levels, especially in leadership, in line with UN-wide strategies. Beyond numerical targets, gender equality must involve creating enabling environments where women can contribute and lead effectively.

Algeria welcomes the update on the 2026 Draft Work Programme and Budget and encourages its timely finalization by the relevant UN bodies. We look forward to a results-oriented document that ensures financial discipline and delivers meaningful impact on the ground.

**Mr. Chair,**

Algeria appreciates the report on the development of the Strategic Plan 2026–2029 and commends the Executive Director and her team for the inclusive and transparent consultations with Member States. We reaffirm our commitment to constructive engagement in its finalization and urge UN-Habitat to avoid contentious or non-consensual language, in order to preserve unity and ensure broad ownership of the process.

We believe the Strategic Plan must reflect regional urban priorities, align with national development frameworks, and remain sensitive to diverse local contexts. Anchoring the Plan in these realities is essential to ensure it is not only ambitious but also practical and implementable. A context-driven approach enhances effectiveness, strengthens local ownership, and supports inclusive, resilient urban outcomes. Such alignment also facilitates the mobilization of political will, local partnerships, and resources—key elements for delivering tangible and lasting impact. Algeria notes with appreciation the updates on UN-Habitat’s normative and operational activities in 2024 and commends its ongoing efforts to enhance field

presence and impact. Maintaining a strong balance between normative guidance and on-the-ground implementation is key to the Programme's effectiveness, and we support its continued expansion in both areas.

Algeria takes note of the challenges faced in preparing a comprehensive update on the situation in the Gaza Strip, following the large-scale destruction of urban infrastructure, housing, public services, and essential facilities due to the ongoing war waged by the occupying power against the Palestinian people. We express deep concern over the dire humanitarian and urban conditions and call on UN-Habitat to intensify its efforts and mobilize all available resources to overcome access and security constraints. We urge the Programme to deliver, as soon as feasible, a reliable assessment of the state of human settlements and reconstruction needs. UN-Habitat's involvement will be vital in supporting recovery, planning, and rebuilding efforts, and in restoring dignity and resilience to the affected population.

**Mr. Chair,**

We underscore the importance of the equal implementation and consideration of all UN-Habitat resolutions, to ensure the Programme's impact is equitably distributed across all regions and responsive to diverse urban realities. A balanced and inclusive approach is vital to advancing sustainable urban development that leaves no one behind and to promoting a global urban agenda rooted in solidarity, equity, and mutual respect.

In conclusion, Algeria reaffirms its commitment to active and constructive engagement in all deliberations of this session, including the finalization of the Draft Outcomes. We remain fully supportive of UN-Habitat's efforts to advance inclusive, sustainable, and resilient urbanization globally.

Thank you.