

## Inputs received from Egypt on the draft strategic plan 2026-2029

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22.20. Guided by the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, UN-Habitat's approach is people-centred and anchored in international human rights standards<sup>34</sup>, while promoting youth engagement, gender equality and women's empowerment at all stages, in line with the United Nations Habitat Assembly Resolution on Achieving gender equality to support inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements<sup>35</sup>. This ensures urban development prioritizes inclusivity, equity, and resilience, preventing inequality and exclusion that undermine the sustainability of cities and human settlements. Without this approach, urban growth risks perpetuating inequality and exclusion, undermining the sustainability of cities and human settlements and the well-being of their inhabitants.

33.31. Adequate housing, aside from being a precursor to other essential aspects of social inclusion, such as education and health, also serves as an asset in creating livelihood opportunities. Well-located and connected, mixed-use, and socially mixed neighbourhoods enable equitable access to services and opportunities for all. Well-designed networks of accessible, green and high-quality public spaces—, accessible to all and free from crime, and sexual harassment, and gender based – in view of the urgent need to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence and harassment against women and girls<sup>45</sup> – along with safe and equitable mobility systems, are key to promoting inclusive prosperity. These interventions help eradicate poverty and provide a decent quality of life for all, underpinning gender equality and the empowerment of marginalized groups people in vulnerable situations, prioritising their needs.<sup>46</sup>

46. Special attention will be given to empowering marginalized groups<sup>55</sup> which are disproportionately vulnerable to the housing crisis, by equitably addressing human rights, gender women and girls, children, and youth, older persons, and persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and local communities, refugees, and internally displaced persons and migrants, particularly the poorest and those in vulnerable situations who are disproportionately affected by the global housing crisis and other hardships<sup>56</sup>.

63. UN-Habitat will support knowledge exchange and cross-learning among countries to transfer knowledge and successful experiences, including peer-to-peer, personalized, and housing lab modalities. The potential of digital technologies to accelerate sustainable urbanization will be promoted through a people-centred smart cities approach that fosters international cooperation between institutions and governments, promotes academic research and educational initiatives, and aligns with international guidelines<sup>67</sup>. UN-Habitat will further strengthen its normative work by better integrating feedback between the global scale and regions and countries.