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**Committee of Permanent Representatives
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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

**Progress in the implementation of the decisions and
resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly
at its adjourned second session**

Implementation of United Nations Habitat Assembly resolutions through the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029

Report of the Executive Director

I. Introduction

1.   The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) strategic plan for the period 2026–2029 establishes a clear framework for structuring, prioritizing and further advancing the delivery of the Programme's mandates, including the implementation of the 15 resolutions adopted at the first and second sessions of the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat Assembly), held in 2019 and 2023, respectively. The plan introduces a strategic focus on access to adequate housing, land and basic services for all, as well as clearly articulated outcomes under five means of implementation:

(a)   Integrated urban and territorial planning, management, investment and finance;

(b)   Participatory multilevel governance and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(c)   Knowledge, data, digitalization and capacity development;

(d)   Partnerships, coalitions, advocacy and communication;

(e)   Effective resource mobilization.

2.   In the present report, implementation highlights for all UN-Habitat Assembly resolutions (except resolution 1/1, as is explained below) are clustered according to their alignment with the overall strategic focus on housing, land and basic services and with each of the means of implementation listed above. This demonstrates how the strategic plan will help to advance the mandates given to UN-Habitat through those resolutions. Additional details are available in the reports

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* HSP/OECPR.2025/1.

submitted to the Executive Board in 2024 and 2025 on the implementation of resolutions,[1] as well as in the UN-Habitat online resolution tracker (available at https://unhabitat.org/unhabitat-resolutions).

3.   Progress in the implementation of UN-Habitat Assembly resolution 1/1, on the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2020–2023 (extended to 2025 through Assembly decision 2/1), is outlined separately in document HSP/OECPR.2025/5.

II.   Strategic focus area: housing, land and basic services

4.   The strategic plan for the period 2026–2029 defines access to adequate housing, land and basic services as its strategic focus and as a lever that helps to address the broader challenges of poverty, humanitarian crises and climate change, which are defined as "impact areas". This strategic focus is directly underpinned by UN-Habitat Assembly resolution 2/2, on accelerating the transformation of informal settlements and slums by 2030, and resolution 2/7, on adequate housing for all. It is further supported by Assembly resolution 2/8, on urban planning and sustainable infrastructure; resolution 1/5, on enhancing urban-rural linkages for sustainable urbanization and human settlements; resolution 2/4, entitled "Biodiverse and resilient cities: mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into urban and territorial planning"; and resolution 2/3, on World Cleanup Day.

5.   With regard to slum transformation and housing, resolutions 2/2 and 2/7 have enabled the development of key new normative products (e.g. technical guidelines for a multiple partnership approach to slum transformation) and bolstered the work of country offices in implementing slum upgrading and housing projects. Resolution 2/2 served as the basis for an agreement with the Southern African Development Community and the Government of South Africa on a subregional strategy for the transformation of slums and informal settlements. Resolution 2/7 contained the principal mandate for the successful convening by UN-Habitat of the first session of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All in December 2024.

6.   In relation to access to basic services, resolution 2/8 has framed the work of UN-Habitat in developing integrated urban planning tools and methodologies, including, for example, activities and tools focusing on sustainable urban mobility.[2] Resolution 2/3 has advanced global action towards sustainable waste management, a critical element of urban basic services. Progress in the implementation of resolution 2/3 is described in greater detail in section VI below.

7.   Regarding land, in resolution 2/2, the Assembly emphasized the need for strengthened land management in support of slum transformation efforts. In resolution 2/7, the Assembly advocated strategies and frameworks that integrate adequate housing with sustainable land management to promote land tenure security. In resolution 1/5, it called for integrated regional and territorial planning to ensure sustainable land use across urban and rural territories. Resolution 2/4 supports efforts to minimize urban sprawl, in line with the imperative of biodiversity protection. Under resolution 1/5, UN-Habitat published the *Primer on Urban-Rural Linkages and Land*.[3]

III.   Outcome 1: integrated urban and territorial planning, management, investment and finance

8.   This outcome is directly underpinned by UN-Habitat Assembly resolution 2/8, on urban planning and sustainable infrastructure, and further supported by Assembly resolutions 2/5, on enhancing the interlinkage between urbanization and climate change resilience, and 2/4, entitled "Biodiverse and resilient cities: mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into urban and territorial planning".

9.   Since its adoption in 2023, resolution 2/8 has enabled the expansion of access to urban planning tools and resources through the UN-Habitat Our City Plans platform[4] and helped to advance the development of new normative products and methodologies, including the capital investment planning methodology guidelines, and new capacity-building materials, for example, as part of a training package on urban regeneration. UN-Habitat is also working with partners to advance the development of innovative financing frameworks to catalyse public and private investments in sustainable urbanization.

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[1] HSP/EB.2024/8, HSP/EB.2024/20 and HSP/EB.2025/7.

[2] Now available on the UN-Habitat Our City Plans online platform.

[3] Available at https://unhabitat.org/primer-on-urban-rural-linkages-and-land.

[4] Recently added resources include tools, case studies and thematic content focused on urban and territorial planning for climate action, participation, socio-spatial inclusion, sustainable urban mobility and urban finance.

10.   Further, under resolution 2/5, UN-Habitat has mainstreamed climate-responsiveness into its urban and territorial planning support and, conversely, also advanced the integration of sustainable urban and territorial planning into climate responses – for example, through the launch of a guide to strengthen the urban focus within countries' revised nationally determined contributions.[5]

11.   Under resolution 2/4, UN-Habitat has promoted biodiversity-sensitive urban planning, encouraging cities to align their urban and territorial planning, management, investment and finance with global biodiversity goals, the New Urban Agenda and climate resilience initiatives,[6] and presented its work at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

IV.   Outcome 2: participatory multilevel governance and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals

12.   This outcome is clearly underpinned by UN-Habitat Assembly resolution 2/6, on the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals. It is further supported by Assembly resolution 1/4, on achieving gender equality through the work of UN-Habitat to support inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements, and resolution 2/5, on enhancing the interlinkage between urbanization and climate change resilience.

13.   Under resolution 2/6, significant milestones have been achieved in multilevel governance and the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, including the establishment of a permanent secretariat for the Local2030 Coalition in Bilbao, Spain. In partnership with the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund, and through the use of the innovative Sustainable Development Goal localization marker, $24 million was allocated to 30 joint United Nations country team projects aimed at advancing the six Sustainable Development Goal transitions. To enhance learning and capacity-building on the localization of the Goals, UN-Habitat has developed multiple normative products[7] and launched the Sustainable Development Goal Cities (SDG Cities) global community. Sustainable Development Goal localization country frameworks are being developed to facilitate the localization of the Goals in different countries, with support from the Government of Italy.

14.   To advance resolutions 2/6 and 1/4 together, UN-Habitat has launched the Women-led Cities initiative in order to support women leaders in accelerating and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in their cities.

15.   Under resolution 2/5, UN-Habitat has so far organized three ministerial meetings on urbanization and climate change, held at the twenty-seventh, twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The meetings focused on the need for multilevel and multisectoral climate action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and climate goals. In addition, the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe) initiative is being advanced with support from the Government of Slovakia.

V.   Outcome 3: knowledge, data, digitalization and capacity development

16.   This outcome is directly underpinned by UN-Habitat Assembly resolutions 1/3, on enhancing capacity-building for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and 2/1, on international guidelines on people-centred smart cities. It is further supported by Assembly resolution 1/2, on the United Nations System-Wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements; resolution 1/5, on enhancing urban-rural linkages for sustainable urbanization and human settlements; resolution 2/4, entitled "Biodiverse and resilient cities: mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into urban and territorial planning"; and resolution 2/5, on enhancing the interlinkage between urbanization and climate change resilience.

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[5] See *Urban Content of NDCs: Local Climate Action Explored Through In-depth Country Analyses – 2024 Report*.

[6] Two reports were produced: one on best practices related to multi-scalar and supra-municipal planning for prevention-oriented development and another on the urban content of national and local biodiversity strategies and action plans.

[7] Examples include the "Planning for change with the SDGs" training module and the SDG Cities courses.

17.   Under resolution 1/3, UN-Habitat advanced the production of tools to support capacity development for New Urban Agenda reporting and implementation, such as the *New Urban Agenda Illustrated* practical handbook and the accompanying self-paced courses online, as well as the UN-Habitat Learn online platform.

18.   Under resolution 2/1, UN-Habitat has successfully facilitated the collaborative development of the international guidelines on people-centred smart cities.

19.   Many other achievements could be presented in relation to this outcome, as multiple resolutions contain objectives linked to the development of knowledge, data, digital tools and capacity development. To name only a few: the Urban Safety Monitor tool was developed under resolution 1/2,[8] as was the Hotspot Stoplight tool for measuring urban biodiversity loss under resolution 2/4[9] and multiple reports and capacity-building activities on urban-rural linkages under resolution 1/5.[10] Under resolution 2/5, the 2024 Innovate4Cities Conference was convened by UN-Habitat as a global event to advance research, policy and innovation on urban climate action.

VI.   Outcome 4: partnerships, coalitions, advocacy and communication

20.   This outcome is directly underpinned by UN-Habitat Assembly resolution 2/3, on World Cleanup Day. It is further supported by Assembly resolution 1/4, on achieving gender equality through the work of UN-Habitat to support inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements; resolution 1/5, on enhancing urban-rural linkages for sustainable urbanization and human settlements; resolution 2/7, on adequate housing for all; and resolution 2/9, on the creation of a human settlements resilience framework for early warning, foresight, risk reduction, crisis response, and post-crisis recovery and reconstruction.

21.   On the basis of the recommendation in UN-Habitat Assembly resolution 2/3, the General Assembly, in its resolution 78/122, proclaimed 20 September as World Cleanup Day, to be observed annually. The inaugural celebration of World Cleanup Day was held in Tromsø, Norway, in 2024. In addition, more than 50,000 events in 180 countries were organized to mark the day.

22.   As with outcome 3, advancements related to building partnerships and coalitions and to advocacy and communication could be presented for each resolution. To name but a few examples, under resolution 1/4, UN-Habitat is currently preparing for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, including the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action ("Beijing+30"), to advance engagements regarding gender-related progress and challenges in urban contexts. Under resolution 1/5, UN-Habitat engaged with global platforms such as the Group of 20 (G20) and the United Nations Food Systems Summit, as well as the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, held in Riyadh. In addition, the Centre for Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa has been established at University of Nairobi (Kenya).

23.   Importantly, the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum, held in Cairo in 2024, also provided a platform to increase opportunities for advocacy and coalition formation, thus serving the implementation of UN-Habitat Assembly resolutions. For instance, with regard to resolution 2/9, meetings with partners further advanced the development of the comprehensive operational resilience framework for early warning, foresight, risk reduction, crisis response and post-crisis recovery and reconstruction.

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[8] The Urban Safety Monitor tool was co-developed with mayors, academia, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Human Security Unit of the United Nations trust fund for human security, and VibeLab, among others. While knowledge-sharing and peer-learning events have been held as part of the implementation of the resolution, a lack of funding has been a constraint in carrying out context-specific pilot-testing of the tool.

[9] Hotspot Stoplight is an innovative, data-driven tool utilizing open-source data, artificial intelligence and deep learning algorithms to project urban expansion and the risks of biodiversity loss and climate change up to 2050. It is being developed in partnership with the University of Pennsylvania (United States of America).

[10] Key publications under resolution 1/5 include the *Compendium of Inspiring Practices on Peri-Urban-Rural Linkages: Beyond and Between – Connecting Urban and Rural for Shared Prosperity* and "Beyond the city: global trends and insights on urban-rural linkages – key highlights booklet". Capacity development activities were carried out in Uganda, with the organization of an expert group meeting in April 2024; in Kenya, with training sessions organized in Nakuru; and in Mali, with the integration of urban-rural linkages into the Grand Bamako framework.

VII. Outcome 5: effective resource mobilization

24. The strategic plan for the period 2026–2029 acknowledges that the implementation of resolutions adopted at the first and second sessions of the UN-Habitat Assembly has been constrained by limited financial resources. These constraints were partially anticipated in resolution 2/10, on equitable financing and effective monitoring of the implementation of resolutions adopted by the Assembly.

25. Under resolution 2/10, UN-Habitat successfully created a resolution tracker in order to enable the systematic sharing of updates related to the implementation of each resolution. UN-Habitat also established the requested urban action funding window to allow unspent balances of earmarked contributions to be directed towards resolution implementation needs. However, as of February 2025, the funding window remained empty.

26. This is a matter of particular concern, as the implementation of resolutions has been progressing in an uneven manner due to disparities in resource mobilization. Some resolutions, such as resolution 2/6, on the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, have mobilized a significant proportion of the resources foreseen and are proceeding apace. Others, such as resolution 1/5, on enhancing urban-rural linkages for sustainable urbanization and human settlements, have been partially supported by contributions related to specific requirements in the text of the resolution.[11] Resolutions 1/3, on enhancing capacity-building for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda, and 1/4, on achieving gender equality through the work of UN-Habitat to support inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements, have been supported entirely by core resources, but with those resources dwindling, continued implementation of those resolutions is expected to be jeopardized. Lastly, for several resolutions, including resolution 1/2, on the United Nations System-Wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements,[12] resolution 2/2, on accelerating the transformation of informal settlements and slums by 2030,[13] resolution 2/7, on adequate housing for all,[14] and resolution 2/9, on the creation of a human settlements resilience framework for early warning, foresight, risk reduction, crisis response, and post-crisis recovery and reconstruction,[15] implementation has been severely constrained due to insufficient funding.

27. The new strategic plan aims to mobilize predictable and diversified resources for the work of UN-Habitat, drawing on the United Nations funding compact and the commitments made therein for mutual action by both Member States and United Nations entities to support the Sustainable Development Goals. The plan also seeks to scale up partnerships with international financial institutions and collaborations with multilateral development banks and the private sector.

VIII. Conclusion

28. The strategic plan for the period 2026–2029 reflects UN-Habitat's continued commitment to addressing the evolving challenges of sustainable urbanization through the implementation of its mandates, including the resolutions adopted at the first and second sessions of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

29. Detailed information on the financial and programmatic status of each resolution is available from the UN-Habitat online resolution tracker.

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[11] A memorandum of understanding was signed with Shanghai University (China), securing $900,000 in support for global normative work on urban-rural linkages.

[12] For example, in addition to the resources needed to pilot the Urban Safety Monitor tool, plans to develop a framework for United Nations system-wide coordination on urban safety and security remain stalled, as funding is needed.

[13] For example, drafts have been developed for a global publication on slum transformation and the technical guidelines for a multiple partnership approach to slum transformation, but finalization is pending due to a lack of funding for editing and design.

[14] For example, the first session was successfully held in December 2024, but intersessional activities and preparations for the next session will depend on the availability of funding.

[15] For example, a comprehensive operational resilience framework is under development, but further consultations and finalization of the draft framework have been delayed due to lack of financial resources.