



# Call for Expressing Interest to Sponsor the second Session of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All (OEWG-H2)

## 1. Background

---

### The Global Housing Crisis

Housing challenges continue to escalate globally, reflecting persistent and systemic inequality in access to safe and secure housing. Currently, 2.8 billion people are estimated to be living in inadequate housing<sup>1</sup>. The problem is most acute for at least 318 million people experiencing absolute homelessness<sup>2</sup>, as well as the over 1.12 billion people living in informal settlements or slums – an increase of 130 million since 2015 with Sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Asia seeing the sharpest increases<sup>3</sup>. Further, between 350 and 500 million people living in informal settlements are children. Rapid urbanisation is projected to add 2.2 billion people to urban areas by 2050<sup>4</sup> (a majority of whom will be children).<sup>5</sup> To meet the rising demand, at least 40 million new housing units will be needed, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Asia.<sup>6</sup> Still, currently urbanisation continues to outpace planning, leading to sprawling, fragmented and unequal cities where informal settlements are often the only option for low-income populations. These areas are characterised by unsafe living conditions and limited access to essential services, leaving millions vulnerable to climate-related events and social exclusion.

### The UN Habitat Assembly resolution

To address these challenges, in June 2023, the United Nations Habitat Assembly adopted [Resolution 2/7: Adequate housing for all](#) (HSP/HA.2/Res.7). The resolution established an Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group tasked with providing recommendations to accelerate the universal achievement of safe, sustainable, adequate, and affordable housing. The Assembly plans to review the group's recommendations at its 3rd session in 2029 and to guide further action.

The resolution calls upon Member States to prioritize access to adequate housing, addressing issues such as homelessness and slum transformation, as central components for inclusive, resilient post-pandemic recovery and achieving the 2030 Agenda and the New

---

<sup>1</sup> UN-Habitat (2023), [Rescuing SDG 11 for a Resilient Urban Planet – available at: sdg\\_11\\_synthesis\\_report\\_2023\\_executive\\_summary.pdf](#)

<sup>2</sup> UN-Habitat (2023), *ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> A/79/79-E/2024/54.

<sup>4</sup> UN DESA Population Division (2014), *Revision of the World Urbanization Prospects*

<sup>5</sup> UN-Habitat, Habitat for Humanity and UNICEF (2022), *Children, Cities, and Housing: Rights and Priorities*. Available at <https://unhabitat.org/children-cities-and-housing-rights-and-priorities>

<sup>6</sup> World Bank, (2021) Policy Research Working Paper 9830 - A New Approach to Estimate the Adequate Housing Deficit within and across Emerging Economies

Urban Agenda. It urges the expansion of access to safe, sustainable, adequate, and affordable housing through inclusive and integrated strategies that respect human rights and target all households and forms of tenure, with particular attention to lower-income households and those at risk of displacement. Additionally, the resolution emphasizes the importance of collecting and releasing disaggregated and local data on adequate housing to inform actions and monitor the impact of measures.

## **2. The Open-ended Working Group**

---

The Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All (OEWG-H) is the first universal forum of its kind to address the global challenge of inadequate housing. The initiative reflects the growing awareness that housing is both a fundamental human right and a complex issue that requires coordinated, multilateral efforts to resolve. It provides a dedicated platform for Member States to assess progress, share solutions and discuss challenges.

The first session of the OEWG-H was held between 9-11 December 2024 at the UN-Habitat Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. Information can be [found here](#). France and Kenya were elected as co-chairs of the Working Group for a period of one year and prepared a work plan to guide the work of the Group.

### **The second session of the Open-ended Working Group**

The knowledge developed and the progress made in the course of the first year will be presented and discussed at the second session of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Adequate Housing for All (OEWG-H2), which will take place in the third quarter of 2025. The co-chairs of the Working Group and UN-Habitat as its secretariat will lead the content preparation and the process of engaging Member States. Member states will be invited to participate with delegations composed by a political and a technical representation. To this end, a call for nominations is being issued, separately.

Member States's support is needed to allow the meeting to take place. In addition to their active participation in the inter-sessional discussions, Member States are called to sponsor the meeting. Further information is below.

## **3. Sponsoring the Second Session of the OEWG-H**

---

Member states are invited to express their interest in sponsoring the second Session of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All (OEWG-H2), expected to take place in the third quarter of 2025 (likely in October). This is a unique opportunity to play a pivotal role in bringing together the international community to tackle the global housing crisis and draw visibility.

Member states can opt to:

**Option 1. Full sponsor** - Individually sponsor the full organisation of the OEWG-H2 in the UN Gigiri Complex in Nairobi (see breakdown below);

**Option 2. Co-sponsor** - Come together as a group to sponsor the organisation of the OEWG-H2 in the UN Gigiri Complex in Nairobi;

**Option 3. Hosting** - Individually sponsor and host the full organisation of the OEWG-H2 in an alternative location (in Nairobi, Kenya or elsewhere). The cost will vary depending on the location and the venue. Sponsoring Member States will be required to cover the costs of venue, IT support, interpretation, event management, and travel and accommodation for some of the LDC countries. Host countries will also need to support the issuing of invitation letters to delegations and facilitate the issuing of visas.

### Overview of the cost of hosting the OEWG-H2 in the UN Gigiri Complex in Nairobi, Kenya

This estimate is based on the cost of organising the previous meeting, and upwards adjustments could occur for some items. The proposed duration of the meeting is 2 – 3 days.

Item	Cost estimate (USD)	Notes
Essential items for Option 1, 2 and 3		
Venue	40,000	Accommodating 200-300 people approx. (relevant for Option 3)
Interpretation in the 5 UN languages	50,000	
Production, editing and translation of official documentation	80,000	
Communication and visibility	10,000	
Event management, including security, managing access and other venue-related costs	20,000	
Travel of representatives and experts from LDC countries	100,000	
Additional items to be provided for Option 3		
Event coordination team within the hosting Ministry	Approximately 3 persons over a period of 4 months (in kind)	Selection and management of the venue and related service providers, coordination with relevant national institutions, contributions on content, coordination with UN-Habitat and OEWG-H Co-chairs, visibility, etc.
Protocol management	Approximately 2 persons over a period of 4 months (in kind)	Invitations, management of ministerial delegations, support with visa and travels, etc.
Hosting of ministerial delegations	Cost to be determined based on country's protocol. Average estimate: 40,000 + in kind support	Pick up and transport to hotel, accommodation, courtesy dinner, bilateral discussions, etc.

Food and refreshments	Cost determined by the country and location. Average estimate: 40,000	Light lunch and 2 coffee/tea breaks.
-----------------------	--	--------------------------------------

**4. Complementary Items in support to the implementation of Resolution 2/7:  
Adequate housing for all**

Member states can support the implementation of Resolution 2/7 with contributions that are complementing the organisation of the OEWG-H2. Such support can cover the establishment and maintenance of the housing platform, the hosting of intersessional meetings, and the provision of support for the development and presentation of content and information produced. An estimated of the cost is below.

<b>Complementary items in support of Resolution 2/7: Adequate housing for all</b>		
Item	Cost estimate (USD)	Notes
Housing Platform Development and Maintenance	80,000 per year	2024-2029
Hosting of intersessional hybrid or online meetings	40,000 – 80,000	Exact estimates depend on location, modality, interpretation provisions, etc.
Research and report development	In cash or in kind	

**5. Expressing interest to sponsor**

Member States are invited to express interest to sponsor, co-sponsor or host the OEWG-H2 by sending a letter signed by a PR, DPR, Minister or equivalent to Ulf Bjornholm, UN-Habitat Secretary of the Governing Bodies ([unhabitat-sgb@un.org](mailto:unhabitat-sgb@un.org)), Cc Ombretta Tempra, Chief of the Land, Housing and Shelter Section ([ombretta.tempra@un.org](mailto:ombretta.tempra@un.org)). Further information on the process can be provided by Ms Tempra.