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**United Nations Habitat Assembly of the
United Nations Human Settlements Programme
Resumed second session
Nairobi, 29 and 30 May 2025
Item 6 of the provisional agenda***

Strategic plan for the period 2026–2029

High-Level Dialogue on Adequate Housing for All: A focus on the next strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2026–2029

Concept Note

Note by the Secretariat:

The draft strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2026 to 2029 (HSP/HA.2/13) is expected to be adopted at the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (UN-Habitat Assembly). The high-level dialogue on adequate housing for all with a focus on the strategic plan will take place during the second plenary meeting of the session, on 29 May 2025 from 15:00-18:00 under Agenda Item 6. This concept note is intended to provide guidance to Member States to support their effective contribution to the dialogue.

Background

1. Access to adequate housing is a fundamental human right and essential for sustainable urban development. Yet, a global housing crisis persists, with millions facing insecurity, homelessness, and poor living conditions. The [UN-Habitat Strategic Plan](#) for 2026–2029 puts adequate housing, land, and basic services, including the transformation of slums and informal settlements, at its centre. This agenda addresses global challenges through three impact areas: inclusive prosperity for poverty reduction; preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction; and environment and climate action.

2. The second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly in June 2023 adopted a resolution on “[Adequate Housing for All](#)”, sponsored by Kenya, France, and other member states. The resolution calls for a holistic and rights-based housing approach and for the establishment of an Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Adequate Housing (OEWG-H) to make recommendations to the Assembly on the development and content of policies for accelerating progress towards the universal achievement of safe, sustainable, adequate and affordable housing. It also requested

* HSP/HA.2/12.

the establishment of a publicly accessible Adequate Housing Platform that will consolidate global data, tools and case studies, support evidence-based policymaking and facilitate collaboration among governments, researchers, private sector actors, and civil society.

Objectives of the High-Level Dialogue

3. The objectives of the high-level dialogue are as follows:

- i. Generate political momentum for adequate housing for all as the focus of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan for 2026-2029, recognizing that housing encompasses the transformation of informal settlements and needs to be complemented by access to land and basic services.
- ii. Present the work and roadmap for the Intergovernmental Working Group on Adequate Housing.
- iii. Promote knowledge sharing through good practices.
- iv. Foster multi-stakeholder engagement on adequate housing.

Level of Participation

4. The high-level dialogue to be held during the Assembly Plenary, will be attended by Ministers and Senior Officials from Member States, representatives from UN-Habitat and other UN entities and from international development banks, local and regional cities and municipalities implementing housing policies, the private sector, academic and research institutions, civil society and advocacy groups.

Expected Outcomes

5. The expected outcomes of the dialogue are:

- i. Political resolve and financial support for the implementation of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan for the period 2026-2029.
- ii. New commitments from Member States and partners in support of the Intergovernmental Working Group and the Adequate Housing Platform.
- iii. Identification of new actionable policy recommendations as inputs to the Intergovernmental Working Group and of good practices as contributions to the Adequate Housing Platform.

Format and Agenda

6. The session is chaired by the President of the Assembly and co-chaired by Kenya and France.

	<i>Agenda item</i>
15:00	<p>Opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Formal opening by the President of the United Nations Habitat Assembly ▪ Introductory statements by the OEWG-H Co-Chairs ▪ Introductory statement by the UN-Habitat Executive Director
15:20	<p>Panel discussion</p> <p><i>Four inspirational panelists from local authorities, civil society, academia and private sector will give their perspectives on adequate housing.</i></p>
16:00	<p>Dialogue with Member States</p> <p><i>UN-Habitat Executive Director will moderate a dialogue among Member States, whereby they will be invited to answer one or more of the guiding questions outlined below. Member States will be recommended to keep to a maximum of 3 minutes for each intervention.</i></p>
17: 45	<p>Closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Closing statements by the OEWG-H Co-Chairs ▪ Closing statements by the UN-Habitat Executive Director ▪ Formal closure of the high-level dialogue by President of the UN-Habitat Assembly

Guiding questions for panelists and Member States

7. The following guiding questions have been identified to stimulate an interactive, focused and inspiring high-level dialogue. To ensure that all Member States have the chance to contribute to the dialogue, representatives will be asked to keep within 2-3 minutes per intervention.

i. How can adequate housing policies drive poverty reduction, job creation, climate action, and recovery from crises? What successful models exist, and what innovations or reforms are needed?

ii. Partnerships are key for the delivery of adequate housing. Communities, banks and developers play critical roles. How can member states increase their cooperation with these actors to maximise their contribution?

iii. Transformative change in housing, land, and services calls for inclusive and scalable financing solutions. What successful models exist for financing housing interventions?

iv. The implementation of the resolution on Adequate Housing for All and the new UN Habitat Strategic Plan for the period 2026-2029 present an opportunity for Member States to significantly accelerate housing delivery. Achieving this, however, will require substantial financial resources. What contributions can Member States make to support UN-Habitat in this effort?

Registration

8. Member States who wish to contribute to the dialogue are requested to register online at least 2 weeks in advance of the meeting through [this link](#). Prominence may be given to Ministers and Vice Ministers, in line with standard UN practices.