



CONCEPT NOTE

UNHA Donor Appreciation & Resource Mobilization Luncheon

Background & Rationale

UN-Habitat has made significant strides in advancing sustainable urban development under its **Strategic Plan 2020-2025**, implementing transformative projects that have improved the living conditions of millions. However, the financial model sustaining these efforts has been largely project-driven, with **90% of funding tied to earmarked projects**, leaving only **10% for foundation non-earmarked funding**, which is further split between regular budget and core contributions. While this approach has enabled targeted interventions, it has also highlighted critical gaps in institutional stability, programmatic continuity, and the ability to respond to emerging urban challenges.

As UN-Habitat **finalizes its Strategic Plan for 2026-2029**, the funding landscape will play a decisive role in determining the organization's ability to deliver on its new priorities. To ensure a structured and impactful approach to strengthening UN-Habitat's financial sustainability, a series of **two interconnected events** will be held to engage Member States at different levels. These events aim to **critically assess the strengths and limitations of the current funding structure, examine how it has shaped the implementation of the ongoing Strategic Plan, and explore strategies to enhance core contributions in the next strategic cycle.**

The Session Format

Date & Time: 13:15 – 14:45 (90 min), 30 May

Participants: Head of delegation of Member States (45 pax)

Venue: UN Recreational Centre, United Nations, Nairobi

Objectives:

1. **Recognize and appreciate donor contributions**, strengthening the relationship with key donors showcasing impact stories resulting from UN-Habitat operations and reinforcing their role in supporting UN-Habitat's mission.

2. **Sensitize Member States** on how the current funding model has shaped the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and the critical resource mobilization adjustments needed to effectively deliver the Strategic Plan 2026-2029.
3. Encourage greater donor engagement and commitments to **strengthen UN-Habitat's core funding and financial sustainability**.

Proposed Format (90 minutes)

Welcome & Seated Lunch Service Begins (10 minutes)

- Participants are welcomed and served lunch.

Opening Remarks (10 min)

- Introduction to the event and its purpose
- Brief remarks from UN-Habitat leadership on the past donor contributions, expressing appreciation towards the donors and highlighting the importance of sustained financial engagement for the implementation of UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and the delivery of its mandates

Recognition & Testimonials (15 min)

2 champion donors share their experiences supporting UN-Habitat, including:

- Why they continue to support UN-Habitat
- The impact of their contributions on scaling urban development initiatives
- The need for predictable and sustainable financing and their commitment to supporting the next Strategic Plan, including through financial contributions

Recognition of key donor contributions and expressions of appreciation

Strategic Funding Dialogue (35 min)

Presentation on UN-Habitat's funding structure, outlining:

- How the current funding model has influenced program delivery under the Strategic Plan 2020-2025
- The fundraising priorities for the Strategic Plan 2026-2029
- The status and role of core funding in ensuring institutional stability and programmatic flexibility



Open discussion with donors on:

- Strengthening multi-year financial commitments
- Expanding non-earmarked contributions and flexible financing mechanisms
- Opportunities for collaboration and co-financing in priority areas
- Opportunities for advocating for and positioning UN-Habitat with critical non-state partners (IFIs, multilateral donors, philanthropies, international development cooperations)

Closing & Next Steps (10 min)

- Summary of key takeaways and donor perspectives
- Member State statement encouraging ongoing engagement and expanded financial commitments
- Closing remarks from UN-Habitat leadership on building stronger financial partnerships

Lunch and guests leaving (10 mins)

Expected Outcomes

- Strengthened donor confidence and commitment to long-term financial support for UN-Habitat.
- Enhanced understanding by the donors about UN-Habitat's funding needs, particularly in relation to the Strategic Plan 2026-2029.
- Greater collaboration and dialogue between donors and UN-Habitat to align funding priorities with programmatic needs.

