

Africa Diplomatic Corps Retreat
Towards the Resumed session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly
Theme: Harnessing Urbanization for Africa's Sustainable Development
Date: 7th to 10 May 2025
Venue: Mombasa, Kenya

Objectives of the Retreat:

The retreat aims to facilitate active African engagement in the resumed second session of UNHA and the Strategic Planning process. Specifically, the objectives will include:

1. **Evaluating Emerging Urban Trends in Africa:** Analyze key urbanization challenges and opportunities in the region, including climate resilience, housing, and infrastructure development.
2. **Defining Regional Priorities:** Formulating a unified African position to advocate and propose actionable strategies to address urban challenges and align with global frameworks.
3. **Preparing for Regional and Global Engagements:** Ensuring Africa's urban agenda is integrated into implementation of the new strategic plan, resource mobilization initiatives, and the development of partnerships that support the region's urban development initiatives.

Provisional Programme

Time	Activities	Moderators/Speaker/Presenters
Travel Day: 07-05-2025		
	Travel To Mombasa	Secretariat
19:00 Hrs	Informal Dinner	
DAY 1: 08-05-2025		
Contextualizing Urbanization in Africa		
09:00- 09:10 Hrs	Introduction and overview of the Retreat	Speaker: Mr. Oumar Sylla, Director Regional Office for Africa, UN-Habitat
09:10-09:40 Hrs	Official Opening of the Retreat	Speakers: Ms. Anacláudia Rossbach, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN-Habitat (Virtually) H.E Amb Beyene Russom, Permanent Representative of the state of Eritrea to UN-Habitat and Dean of African Diplomatic Corps. H.E Judith Nabakooba, Minister of Land, housing and urban development, Uganda and Chair AU STC-8 H.E. Jeronimo Chivavi, Permanent Representative of the republic of Mozambique to UN-Habitat and Chair of the Africa Diplomatic Group

09:40-10:40 Hrs	High Level Discussion on positioning urban Agenda in Africa	Moderator: Martin Barugahare, Chief, Evaluation unit at UN-Habitat Presenters: H.E Judith Nabakooba, Minister of Land, housing and urban development, Uganda and Chair AU STC-8 Ms. Martha Mugarura, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Uganda.
	Q &A	
10:40- 11:00 Hrs	Photo Session and Break	
11:00-12:00 Hrs	Discussions on the outcomes of UN-Habitat First Executive Board Meetings of 2025	Moderator: Martin Barugahare, Chief, Evaluation unit at UN-Habitat Presenters: H.E. Jeronimo Chivavi, Permanent Representative of the republic of Mozambique to UN-Habitat and Chair of the Africa Diplomatic Group
12:00-13:00 Hrs	Preparations towards 3rd CPR and the Resumed UNHA 2.2 in May 2025	Moderator: Martin Barugahare, Chief, Evaluation unit at UN-Habitat Presenters: Mr. Ulf Bjornholm, Secretary to the Governing Council, UN-Habitat
	Q &A	
13:00-14:00 Hrs	Lunch Break	
14:00-15:00 Hrs	Mobilizing African Member State towards the New Urban Agenda Reporting at the National Level.	Moderator: Martin Barugahare, Chief, Evaluation unit at UN-Habitat Presenters: Dr Edlam Yemeru, Director (a.i) External Relations, Strategy, knowledge and Innovation, UN-Habitat Intervention: H.E. Ms. Siham Mourabit, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to UN-Habitat. (tbc)
	Q &A	
15:00-15:15 Hrs	Tea break	
15:15-16:15	Sustaining UN-Habitat Presence in Africa. Discussions on UN-Habitat Activities in the region and emerging issues.	Moderator: Martin Barugahare, Chief, Evaluation unit at UN-Habitat Presenters:

	Q &A	Mr. Oumar Sylla, Director, Regional Office for Africa, UN-Habitat Ms Rania Hedaya, Director, Regional Office for Arab State, UN-Habitat
16:15-16:45 Hrs	Opportunities for leveraging Urbanization as an instrument for Sustainable development in Africa	Moderator: Martin Barugahare, Chief, Evaluation unit at UN-Habitat Presenters: Mr. Babati Mokgethi, Senior Urban Development Officer (East Africa), African Development Bank (AfDB) Mr. Cheikhou Balde, Principal Urban Development Officer (West Africa), African Development Bank (AfDB)
	Q &A	
17:00-17:30 Hrs	Break	
17:30-19:30 Hrs	Africa Diplomatic Group Close Door Meeting	
End of Day 1		
DAY 2: 09-05-2024		
Aligning Priorities and Strategies		
09:00-09:30 Hrs	Africa Diplomatic Group Close Door Meeting	
09:30-10:00 Hrs	UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026-2029	Moderator: Martin Barugahare, Chief, Evaluation unit at UN-Habitat Presenters: Dr Edlam Yemeru, Director (a.i) External Relations, Strategy, knowledge and Innovation, UN-Habitat Ms. Anacláudia Rossbach, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN-Habitat (Virtually)
10:00-10:40 Hrs	Regional Implementation of the Strategic Plan-ROAF (20 Min Each)	Moderator: Martin Barugahare, Chief, Evaluation unit at UN-Habitat Presenters: Mr Oumar Sylla, Director, Regional Office for Africa, UN-Habitat Ms Rania Hedaya, Director, Regional Office for Arab State, UN-Habitat
10:40-11:10 Hrs	Discussion, and Q & A on the strategic plan presentations	Speaker All

		Moderator: Martin Barugahare, Chief, Evaluation unit at UN-Habitat
11:10- 11:30 Hrs	Coffee Break	
11:30- 12:30 Hrs	Working Group session: - Feedback session from Member State on the Strategic Plan and Regional Implementation plans.	Moderator: Martin Barugahare, Chief, Evaluation unit at UN-Habitat Speakers: Permanent Representative Present
12:30-13:30	Presentation of the Working Group session sub–Regional Groups.	Moderator: Martin Barugahare, Chief, Evaluation unit at UN-Habitat Speakers: Permanent Representative Present
13:30-14:30 Hrs	Lunch	
14:30-15:30	Discussion on International Guidelines on Smart cities and its relevance to Africa.	Moderator: Martin Barugahare, Chief, Evaluation unit at UN-Habitat Presenters: Dr Edlam Yemeru, Director (a.i) External Relations, Strategy, knowledge and Innovation, UN-Habitat
15:30-16:00 Hrs	The Road to the 13 th World Urban Forum	Moderator: Martin Barugahare, Chief, Evaluation unit at UN-Habitat Framing: Edlam, UNH Speaker: H.E Amb Wael Nasreldin Attiya, Ambassador of Egypt to Kenya and Permanent Representative of Egypt to UN-Habitat. (tbc) Hon. Sultan Hajiyeu, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UN-Habitat
	Q &A	
16:00-16:10	Break	
16:10- 17:00Hrs	Africa Diplomatic Group Close Door Meeting	
17:00- 17:10 Hrs	Summary of the Outcome of the ADC Retreat	Speaker: Martin Barugahare, Chief, Evaluation unit at UN-Habitat
17:00-17:30 Hrs	Closing Remarks	Moderator: Mr. Oumar Sylla, Director Regional Office for Africa, UN-Habitat Speakers: H.E Amb Beyene Russom, Permanent Representative of the state of Eritrea to

		UN-Habitat and Dean of African Diplomatic Corps Ms. Anacláudia Rossbach, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN-Habitat (Virtually)
19:00 Hrs	Cocktail offered by the Embassy of Azerbaijan to Kenya.	
End of Day 2		
Travel Day: 10 - 05 - 2025		
	Travel Back to Nairobi	