



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

Draft proceedings of the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its resumed second session

I. Organization of the session (agenda items 1–5)

A. Opening of the session (agenda item 1)

1. The resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (UN-Habitat Assembly) was held at the headquarters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in Nairobi on 29 and 30 May 2025.
2. The session was opened at 10.40 a.m. on Thursday, 29 May 2025, by Enrique Javier Ochoa Martínez, President of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

B. Opening statements

3. Opening statements were delivered by Enrique Ochoa Martínez (Mexico), President of the UN-Habitat Assembly; António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, via video message; Philémon Yang, President of the General Assembly, via video message; Bob Rae, President of the Economic and Social Council, via video message; Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris; Anacláudia Rossbach, Executive Director of UN-Habitat; and Alice Wahome, Minister of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development of Kenya.
4. In his opening remarks, Mr. Ochoa Martínez recalled that, in decision 2/2, the UN-Habitat Assembly had decided to adjourn its second session so as to better align the planning cycle of UN-Habitat with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. At the current resumed second session, the Assembly was tasked with adopting several important decisions, in particular on the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2026–2029 and on the international guidelines on people-centred smart cities.
5. He said that, since 2019, his delegation had presided over the UN-Habitat Assembly, guided by two overarching principles. The first principle reflected his Government's unwavering commitment to multilateralism and a strong belief in the United Nations and its role in harnessing international cooperation and fostering international peace and security. The second principle was rooted in the UN-Habitat mandate to support cities and human settlements, with a view to ending poverty, reducing inequalities, promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, achieving gender equality and contributing to environmental goals, including on climate action. At a time of budgetary constraints and growing scepticism among the public and some world leaders about the merits of international cooperation and the United Nations, UN-Habitat could leverage its influence on the ground to demonstrate the real value of multilateralism. The Assembly, too, could show countries and their

leaders that they could trust in the United Nations system. There was an urgent need to translate policy into action. His own Government had committed to the implementation of urban development projects, including building more than 1 million homes in the coming years, in particular for young people. Doing so was critical to ensure social justice, achieve gender equality and leverage the potential of cities, young people and migrants.

6. The text of the Secretary-General's message is reproduced in annex [--] to the present proceedings.

7. In his statement, delivered via video message, the President of the General Assembly highlighted urbanization as a defining trend of the current time. With urban systems coming under even greater pressure from the climate crisis, conflicts and natural disasters, the resulting challenges demanded swift, coordinated and bold action. Cities had the potential to be places of opportunity and innovation, and housing formed the very foundation of that potential. Adequate, affordable housing was more than just shelter; it offered dignity, security and opportunity, and laid a solid foundation for sustainable development and peace. That understanding was reflected in the proposed strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2026–2029, which would strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to support Member States in promoting inclusive, liveable and sustainable cities. In that regard, success would require collective action, including by governments, civil society, the private sector and communities, to ensure that no one was left behind. In closing, he urged participants to transform challenges into opportunities and to build cities that served as engines of prosperity, resilience and equity for generations to come.

8. In his statement, delivered via video message, the President of the Economic and Social Council said that sustainable urbanization and adequate housing lay at the heart of the mandates of both the Council and the UN-Habitat Assembly. Increasing urbanization meant that the fate of sustainable development was directly linked to that of cities and human settlements; for that reason, the Council had convened a special meeting on sustainable urbanization and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in April 2022. The upcoming midterm review of the Agenda's implementation would also provide an excellent opportunity to critically assess progress in that regard. The new strategic plan of UN-Habitat offered a robust approach to advancing sustainable cities and human settlements, and its focus on adequate housing, land and basic services was both timely and essential. The preparations for the World Social Summit, to be held in November 2025, would provide an opportunity to position housing at the core of the global social development agenda. As part of the preparatory process, he planned to convene a dialogue on adequate housing at the annual meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development. The Summit itself would be an opportunity to reimagine development and commit to leaving no one behind. In closing, he expressed his commitment to working with participants and UN-Habitat to ensure that adequate housing and sustainable urbanization received full recognition for their role in building inclusive, just and resilient societies.

9. The Executive Director of UNEP commended the longstanding collaboration between UNEP and UN-Habitat, which was being renewed through the Greener Cities Partnership and would be strengthened by the Sustainable Cities Impact Programme. The UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2026–2029 would help to promote adequate and resilient housing, protect land resources, ensure the provision of basic services, and support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, while also seeking to enhance biodiversity and protect the environment, and was consonant with the aspirations of the UNEP medium-term strategy for the same period.

10. Noting that the mandates of UNEP and UN-Habitat were distinct but mutually reinforcing, she highlighted four areas of alignment. First, she stressed the benefits of urban development that gave priority to nature, which could reduce emissions, provide protection in the form of shade and flood barriers, and improve inhabitants' mental health. Second, construction, which accounted for a third of global emissions and waste, was an important area in which UN-Habitat work advanced environmental goals. Waste was the third point of overlap and, in that regard, the upgrading of the conference facilities at the headquarters of UNEP and UN-Habitat in Nairobi was an example of the low-waste construction that cities should embrace. Fourth, as 70 per cent of climate solutions were in the hands of subnational authorities, the benefits of collaboration with cities and local governments were clear; UNEP was working with UN-Habitat to promote the inclusion of action by cities in the nationally determined contributions that Member States were preparing in advance of the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Belém, Brazil. As cities expanded, their environmental impact increased, and as climate change intensified more city dwellers would be exposed to extreme heat, water scarcity and rising sea levels. She therefore urged participants to approve the strategic plan and help to prepare the world for a more sustainable and liveable future.

11. Ms. Hidalgo praised UN-Habitat for championing dialogue between cities, national governments and civil society for nearly 50 years. Far from being in competition with States, cities were their partners and allies. Indeed, as the closest level of government to the people, cities were the first responders when crises hit – including those resulting from heat waves, flooding, pollution and inequality – and were key to solving those issues. As acknowledged in the Pact for the Future, global transformation required local action, but cities needed international funding to accelerate their transitions. Urban policies were the building blocks of the collective future: investment in public transport and active mobility cut emissions; developing affordable and social housing fought poverty and benefited the economy; and creating safe, green public spaces protected the vulnerable.

12. Cities should also be part of shaping the global agenda they were vital to enacting. At a time when multilateral institutions faced major challenges, the necessary reform of global governance should involve cities, the success of whose diplomacy, particularly with regard to climate action, had been demonstrated. Inviting participants to mark the tenth anniversary of the Paris Agreement on climate change at an event in Paris on 23 June, she said that cities were delivering on the Agreement, including her own, which had reduced air pollution by 40 per cent over the past decade. Emphasizing the importance of granting every child, family and community a fair chance in sustainable cities that were resilient and economically attractive, she welcomed the discussion at the resumed second session on refocusing the work of UN-Habitat towards access to housing.

13. In her statement, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat outlined several important milestones that had been reached in the implementation of UN-Habitat Assembly resolutions, such as the development of international guidelines on people-centred smart cities and the launch of a global action plan to accelerate the transformation of informal settlements and slums by 2030. She said that the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly was a moment for collective reflection and an opportunity to renew political will and forge consensus on the future of the world's cities and communities. In an increasingly complex global landscape, the organization's current strategic plan, covering the period 2020–2025, had enabled UN-Habitat to support housing reconstruction in conflict-affected areas, advance climate-resilient infrastructure in vulnerable regions and strengthen its own capacity to innovate, build partnerships and respond swiftly to emerging needs.

14. The proposed strategic plan for the period 2026–2029 sought to address an urgent and universal challenge, namely the global housing crisis, which, left unattended, would continue to undermine efforts to reduce poverty, advance equality and achieve the Goals. Currently, more than 2.8 billion people did not have adequate housing, with over 1 billion living in informal settlements and more than 300 million unhoused. The situation was exacerbated by the loss of housing to climate disasters and conflicts. In the new strategic plan, housing, land and basic services were placed at the heart of the UN-Habitat mandate. Anchored in international human rights law and global commitments, such as the Pact for the Future, it was aimed at delivering impact where it mattered most. Cities were bearing the brunt of multiple overlapping crises, such as conflict, displacement and the impact of climate change, in particular in the global South, and were providing refuge and safety to the displaced. The role of UN-Habitat in supporting urban recovery and housing reconstruction was more vital than ever. The world was on track to exceed the 1.5°C global warming threshold; without decisive climate action in cities, the chances of achieving Goal 11 on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, along with its target 11.1 – by 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, and upgrade slums – were in serious jeopardy. She therefore urged the Assembly to adopt the strategic plan so that UN-Habitat could take decisive action to tackle the global housing crisis and ensure sustainable urbanization.

15. At a time when the multilateral system was under increasing pressure, the UN80 Initiative sought to reimagine the United Nations on the basis of the principles of innovation and impact. UN-Habitat had taken important steps in that regard, including by enhancing financial oversight, streamlining human resources and boosting transparency and efficiency through the use of digital tools. Its greatest impact was on the ground, however. Over the past year, it had advanced sustainable urban development in more than 100 countries, including by improving access to clean water, helping to shape inclusive housing policies, deploying nature-based water solutions and clean energy, and supporting climate-responsive urban planning in various countries across every region. Those efforts reflected the unwavering commitment of UN-Habitat to achieving sustainable urban transformation. Partnerships with other United Nations entities and collaboration with international financial institutions were crucial to UN-Habitat efforts to address urban and environmental challenges. She expressed appreciation for the timely core contributions received from Member States and welcomed the support of new and returning donors. She encouraged Member States to consider increasing their non-earmarked contributions so that UN-Habitat could continue to serve as a means for the world to overcome the global housing crisis, preserve the environment and build thriving communities and cities, while leaving no one – and no place – behind.

16. Welcoming participants to Kenya, Ms. Wahome said that the level of participation in the resumed second session demonstrated a shared resolve to face the challenges and seize the opportunities of urbanization over the coming decade. Expressing the hope that the Assembly would conduct its business with respect for its rules of procedure, she said that the items on the agenda were not of merely procedural importance, but were fundamental to the continuing effectiveness, credibility and impact of the work of UN-Habitat.

17. Rapid urbanization, with over half of the world's population living in urban areas, brought huge opportunities for economic growth, innovation and cultural exchange and it also presented complex challenges, including rising inequality, inadequate housing and environmental degradation. The Government of Kenya had taken significant steps to align national policies with the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, prioritizing affordable housing, improved urban infrastructure and the empowerment of communities. Indeed, the Government's affordable housing programme, with 170,000 housing units under construction and another 200,000 in the pipeline, was raising living standards for the people of Kenya and had created over 200,000 jobs. Environmental stewardship was another priority for her Government, which, among other things, was engaged in cleaning up the Nairobi River, incorporating consideration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in urban and territorial planning, and championing climate-resilient urban planning.

18. The challenges were significant, but not insurmountable, and she underlined the importance of implementing the resolutions adopted by the Assembly at previous sessions, which, she said, were crucial to delivering tangible benefits to millions of urban residents. Urging bold vision, pragmatic action and unwavering commitment to equity, sustainability and human dignity, she expressed the hope that the work of the Assembly would resound beyond the conference rooms and shape the future of cities and communities around the world.

C. High-level dialogue

19. [to be completed]

D. Attendance

20. The following [--] Member States of the UN-Habitat Assembly were represented: [to be completed]

21. Observers to UN-Habitat for [--] also participated.

22. The following United Nations bodies were represented: [to be completed]

23. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: [to be completed]

E. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 2)

24. At the 1st plenary meeting, in accordance with rule 13 of its rules of procedure, the UN-Habitat Assembly adopted the following agenda, on the basis of the provisional agenda (HSP/HA.2/12):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Report of the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
4. Report of the Bureau on credentials of representatives.
5. Election of the members of the Executive Board.
6. Strategic plan for the period 2026–2029.
7. Adoption of the outcomes of the session.
8. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the third session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
9. Election of officers of the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
10. Other matters.
11. Closure of the session.

F. Organization of work

25. At the 1st plenary meeting, the Assembly approved the proposed organization of work, as outlined by the President, including a high-level dialogue on the theme “Adequate housing for all” under agenda item 6 on the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029.

G. Report of the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (agenda item 3)

26. At the 1st plenary meeting, Mr. Hussain Khan (Pakistan), speaking in his capacity as Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, provided an overview of the work of the Committee at its third open-ended meeting, in preparation for the current session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. The Chair’s summary of the proceedings was set out in document HSP/OECPR.2025/[–] while the procedural report of the meeting was contained in document HSP/OECPR.2025/[–].

27. During its meeting, the Committee had held substantive discussions on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, UN-Habitat Assembly resolutions and the strategic plan for the period 2020–2025. It had received an update on the outcomes of the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum, held in Cairo in November 2024, and on the preparations for the Forum’s thirteenth session, to be held in Baku in May 2026. The Committee had prepared a number of draft recommendations and decisions for the consideration of the Assembly. Following intensive deliberations, the Committee had reached consensus on a draft decision on the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2026–2029 and on an accompanying document, which contained proposed changes to the draft strategic plan set out in document HSP/HA.2/13. In the light of those extensive consultations, he encouraged the Assembly to consider adopting those documents without further changes. Despite significant efforts, consensus had eluded the Committee with regard to the draft decision on the international guidelines on people-centred smart cities. The draft decision still contained bracketed text for consideration by the Assembly; he expressed the view that, with additional informal consultations, an agreement was within reach.

28. Lastly, the Committee had agreed on the dates and provisional agenda of its fourth open-ended meeting, to be held from 14 to 18 June 2027, and elected the new members of its Bureau to serve for the period 2025–2027. The seat for the Eastern European States remained vacant, however, until an agreed candidate could be nominated and approved by means of a silence procedure.

29. The UN-Habitat Assembly took note of the report of the Chair of the Committee on Permanent Representatives.

30. The Assembly agreed to convene informal consultations, to be led by Dampsey Bediako Asare (Ghana), with a view to resolving the outstanding issues in the draft decision on the international guidelines on people-centred cities.

H. Report of the Bureau on credentials of representatives (agenda item 4)

31. [to be completed]

I. Election of the members of the Executive Board (agenda item 5)

32. [to be completed]

II. Strategic plan for the period 2026–2029 (agenda item 6)

33. [to be completed]

III. Adoption of the outcomes of the session (agenda item 7)

34. [to be completed]

IV. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the third session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (agenda item 8)

35. [to be completed]

**V. Election of officers of the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly
(agenda item 9)**

36. [to be completed]

VI. Other matters (agenda item 10)

37. [to be completed]

VII. Closure of the session (agenda item 11)

38. [to be completed]

Annex [--]**Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its resumed second session**

Excellencies,

Dear friends,

I am pleased to send my greetings to this Second United Nations Habitat Assembly as you resume your session in Nairobi.

You gather as our world and cities face challenges on all fronts – accelerated by conflicts, the climate crisis, rising inequalities and growing geo-political divides.

This Assembly is about coming together to help find solutions, adhering to shared values, and strengthening our work as the UN marks its 80th anniversary.

You recognize a core truth:

We can't build a liveable world if people don't have a place to live.

Yet 2.8 billion people around the world lack adequate shelter – stuck in informal settlements, slums or no home at all.

The Pact for the Future underscores the urgency – calling for universal access to adequate, safe, and affordable housing.

The Strategic Plan that you are taking up in Nairobi reaffirms that housing is a human right. It is a public good. And it is crucial to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Your Strategic Plan offers a pathway to helping advance dignity, safety, opportunity.

I wish you every success.

Together, let's keep working to ensure that everyone, everywhere, has a place to call home.

Thank you.
