

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Statement

UN-Habitat OECPR Plenary: Agenda Item 6, Strategic Plan 2026–2029 | May 27th 2025

Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Excellencies,

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important discussion on the Strategic Plan.

As we collectively chart a course for the future of our cities and human settlements, we must **reaffirm** a common commitment, as acknowledge by G77 & China, Asia Pacific Group, and Arab Group: **to place *quality of life for all*** at the heart of our shared vision. This imperative is grounded not only in human dignity, but also in practical governance to achieve inclusive, resilient, and thriving cities.

To actualize the development outcomes envisioned in the Strategic Plan, **we must** address the persistent obstacles that it identifies –chief among them: the absence of reliable, timely, and disaggregated urban data. Regrettably, as underscored in the Secretary-General’s 2023 report, *Rescue People and the Planet*, over 60% of countries are still without consistent validated urban data series.

It is widely recognized that “*what cannot be measured cannot be effectively managed*”. In the absence of robust data, we are navigating the complexities of urbanization and development **without a reliable compass**.

It is in this context that **the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia strongly advocates for the integration of the Global Quality of Life Initiative as a cornerstone of the Strategic Plan**. This initiative reflects UN-Habitat’s strategic vision and elevates “better quality of life in an urbanizing world” as a defining goal of our collective future.

This Initiative leverages modern data systems, real-time analytics, and community-level indicators to assess not only the objective and quantitative metrics, but also the qualitative metrics; **the lived experiences of people**.

By equipping national and local authorities with actionable insights, the QoL Initiative enables: (1) the identification of service and infrastructure gaps, (2) the enhanced ability to inform targeted policies, and (3) the better supported formulation of *housing strategies* that are **both evidence-based and meaningful**.

Importantly, global development agendas have **repeatedly reaffirmed the centrality of quality of life**. General Assembly resolutions—including 70/1 (Transforming Our World) and 71/256 (The New Urban Agenda), as well as paragraphs 4 and 10 of the Cairo Call to Action—explicitly link quality of life to sustainable development.

Integrating quality of life considerations and frameworks into the Strategic Plan's implementation architecture will enable more meaningful development outcomes that reflect **what people value most** in their everyday lives.

Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Excellencies,

This is not a matter of ideology, it is a practical matter of sound governance. Cities that invest in accurate, timely, and people-centered data are better positioned to deliver meaningful and measurable results.

We commend the ambition of the Strategic Plan, and respectfully urge the Assembly not to merely **adopt the proposed framework, but to do so with conviction, ensuring that prioritizing quality of life remains central to all implementation efforts. This is how we will truly deliver on our shared goals:** the pursuit of a life of dignity, opportunity, and well-being for all.

Thank you.