

*Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco
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سفارة المملكة المغربية
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**Statement of the Kingdom of Morocco on agenda item 3:
Progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda**

Mr Chairman,

At the outset, the Kingdom of Morocco aligns itself with the statements made by Mozambique on behalf of the Africa Group, by Egypt on behalf of the G77+China, and by Palestine on behalf of the Africa Group.

Morocco also congratulates you, Chair, and through you Pakistan, for the excellent manner in steering the work of this Committee.

Mr Chairman,

The Kingdom of Morocco would like to thank you Mme Executive Director for the report under consideration which provides an update on progress made in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, including on the preparation of the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General.

As we approach the 2026 mid-term review of the **New Urban Agenda**, we find ourselves at a crucial juncture. A moment not just for reflection, but for renewed action and accountability.

When the NUA was adopted in Quito in 2016, it offered us a bold vision: **cities that are inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable**—where urbanization is a force for equity and dignity. Today, we can say with cautious optimism: **progress has been made**, but **much remains to be done**.

Yes, we must be honest. The progress made **has not been universal, nor sufficient**. Urban growth continues to outpace planning in many countries. **Informal settlements** are expanding, and too many communities still lack access to adequate housing, basic services, and decent public space. Local governments often lack the **resources and autonomy** needed to deliver on their mandates. And most critically, **urban inequality persists**—in access, opportunity, and voice.

As we look to 2026, we must **shift from pilot projects to systemic transformation**. This means strengthening national urban policies, scaling up local finance and capacity, prioritizing inclusive planning, and integrating climate action deeply into urban development.

The need for **better urban data**, stronger coordination between all levels of government, and mechanisms that ensure the **voices of marginalized communities are at the center** of urban decision-making. **All are important axes that are clearly structured in the next strategic plan of UNHABITAT for 2026-2029**. We commend the alignment of the means of

implementation of the strategic plan with the New Urban agenda, as such alignment will not only respond to practicality, and coherence, but will serve efficiency in the implementation.

The Kingdom of Morocco, has submitted its first NUA national report, in March 2022, that covers the period 2016-2020, which **presents a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the progress made in implementing the objectives and targets of sustainable development and the commitments made at the NAU level, in terms of sustainable urban development and sustainable human settlements.**

The Kingdom is currently working on the development of the second report, for the period 2020-2024, **in a participatory integrated approach involving all national stakeholders,** which will be an update on activities including an analytical assessment of progress made in implementing the agenda.

Morocco firmly believes that the New Urban Agenda is not an abstract vision, but rather a roadmap to real change in the lives of millions of people—change we must now accelerate with urgency and resolve.

Morocco is considering the 2026 mid-term review as a **renewed commitment** to deliver the safe, resilient, and sustainable cities that its people deserve.

I Thank you.