

Eswatini Statement

Event: Second Session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, High-Level Dialogue on Adequate Housing for All

Date: May 29, 2025

Location: Nairobi, Kenya

Agenda Item: High-Level Dialogue on Adequate Housing for All with a focus on the Strategic Plan 2026-2029

- Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen
- Madam ED, I am deeply honored to join this crucial Dialogue on Adequate Housing for All.
- On behalf of the Government and people of the Kingdom of Eswatini, I wish to express our profound appreciation for UN-Habitat's continued leadership in advocating for the fundamental human right to adequate housing.
- The discussions today underscore the universal challenge of ensuring access to adequate, safe, and affordable housing for all, a crisis that affects nations across all regions.
- In the Kingdom of Eswatini, our commitment to ensuring adequate housing for our citizens is unwavering. Housing is not merely a shelter; it is the foundation for dignity, health, economic opportunity, and social well-being.
- We are actively engaged in implementing national strategies aimed at expanding access to affordable housing, particularly for low- and middle-income groups. Our initiatives include:
 - Approval and operationalisation of Sectional Titles Act - for regulating multi-unit developments, ensuring clear ownership, effective management of shared spaces, and protecting the rights and obligations of all stakeholders.
 - His Majesty the King has provided more than 2000 hectares of land which will provide land with security of tenure to more than 5000 people free of charge
 - The Kingdom, in collaboration with financial institutions, is also building an Eco City in previously pure rural settings which will revolutionize the housing sector in the rural areas. This will introduce sustainable infrastructure, climate resilient housing and security of tenure
 - The Kingdom is also committed to upgrading informal settlements, recognizing the urgent need to improve living conditions, access to basic services, and security of tenure for vulnerable populations.
 - Also, Eswatini is continuously reviewing and strengthening housing policies and legislative frameworks to facilitate investments, promote partnerships, introduce innovative building models, and streamline land access for housing development.
- We believe that these efforts are crucial for poverty reduction, creating jobs, and ensuring inclusive prosperity, aligning with the objectives of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan for 2026-2029, which rightly places housing at its centre.
- Despite our best efforts, significant challenges persist. These include:

- Financial Constraints
 - Rapid Urbanization/Migration
 - Climate Resilience
- Eswatini fully supports the call for stronger multi-stakeholder engagement – involving governments, communities, financial institutions, and the private sector – to maximize our collective contribution to housing delivery.
- We are inspired by the initiative by the UN Habitat to engage the Secretariat of the SADC region to reposition housing to the forefront of the regional agenda.
- Let us collectively redouble our efforts to ensure that every individual has a safe, secure, and dignified place to call home.
- I thank you.