



CONCEPT NOTE

Quito + 10 towards the High-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on the New Urban Agenda

May 29, 2025 | 13:30 –15:00 | Conference Room 2 | UN Campus, Gigiri, Nairobi

Background

The [New Urban Agenda \(NUA\)](#), adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Quito on 20 October 2016 and endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-eighth plenary meeting of the seventy-first session on 23 December 2016, represents a shared vision and the global commitment for a better and more sustainable future, emphasizing the critical role of sustainable urban development. UN-Habitat is requested to play a coordination role in the implementation, follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda.

The Secretary-General is requested by the United Nations General Assembly to report on the progress of the implementation of the NUA every four years reflecting voluntary inputs from Member States, regional and international organizations. The Secretary General submitted the first quadrennial report in 2018 and the second quadrennial report in 2022. As outlined in paragraph 175 of the NUA ([A/RES/71/256](#)), the quadrennial report for 2026 will act as a midterm review that is critical “to take stock of the progress made and challenges faced in the implementation of the NUA since its adoption and to identify further steps to address them.” The report aims to be both reporting back and looking forward, with a focus on the accelerator role of the NUA for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

In addition, through resolution (A/C.2/79/L.18/Rev.1) Member States decided “...to hold high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the New Urban Agenda to be held in New York for a duration of two days at the highest possible level following, or preceding, the 2026 high-level political forum on sustainable development, to assess progress on integrating the New Urban Agenda into policies, programmes and investments at all levels, identify good practices, gaps and challenges and accelerate the path to achieving the goal of the New Urban Agenda by 2036, taking into account the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to be presented in 2026”. Member States further invited “...states and local and regional governments to assess progress, gaps and challenges in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda at the local, national, regional and global levels, to share findings, good practices and recommendations with UN-Habitat, to be included in a report on the midterm review”.

Furthermore, the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum 13 to be held in May 2025 in Baku Azerbaijan provides a strategic moment to mark the mid-term milestone of the NUA and consider progress to date while galvanising commitment for scaled action and impact in the remaining period of NUA implementation to 2036. Therefore, specific high-level engagements and events will be planned to take place at WUF 13.

The mid-term review: 2026

Preparations for the 2026 quadrennial report of the UN Secretary General on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda are ongoing. Through resolution A/RES/71/256, Member States requested the Secretary-General to prepare the report with voluntary inputs from countries and relevant regional and international organizations, based on the activities of national, subnational and local governments, and with inputs of multilateral organizations and processes where appropriate, civil society, the private sector and academia. As per the resolution, the preparation is coordinated by UN-Habitat in collaboration with other relevant entities of the United Nations system.

Towards this process, UN-Habitat shared updated guidelines to inform the preparation of national progress reports by Member States, updated the New Urban Agenda Platform and commenced a global mobilization roadmap leveraging all relevant opportunities and platforms towards the 2026 quadrennial report, including multi-level urban Forums. As part of the preparations, Member States are encouraged to submit – or update – NUA **National Progress Reports by 1 July 2025**, which will serve as critical inputs to the 2026 Secretary-General's report.

In this context, the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly provides a timely moment for advancing preparations towards the mid-term review of the New Urban Agenda. It offers a platform for Member States to deliberate on how to monitor and respond to the strategic opportunities and critical challenges in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and scale up efforts for greater impact.

The New Urban Agenda Session at UNHA 2.2

Overview

The session will bring together Member States to consider the status of implementation of the New Urban Agenda in the context of the mid-term review in 2026. It does so through showcasing the experiences and insights of Member States in the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the New Urban Agenda to illustrate key lessons, opportunities and challenges. The exchange is expected to inform the ongoing preparations towards the quadrennial report of the UN Secretary General in 2026, as well as the high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly in 2026.

Furthermore, based on resolution A/RES/71/256 which asks for the UN Secretary General's quadrennial report to build on existing platforms and processes such as the World Urban Forum, the session will provide valuable insights for the NUA related engagements at the WUF 13 to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan in May 2026.

Housing at the centre of the NUA

Realising the vision of the New Urban Agenda and its transformative commitments is not possible without addressing the global housing crisis that in which the world finds itself at present. Almost 3 billion people face various forms of housing inadequacy, of which 1.1 billion live in informal settlements and slums, and more than



300 million are homeless. World leaders recommitted to address this in the NUA expressing their intent to “...*foster the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living.*” Yet, the magnitude of the housing challenges presents critical barriers to securing a better quality of life for all across cities and communities globally. The mid-term review of the NUA is therefore the right moment to revisit commitments to improve access to adequate housing, and to galvanize scaled action and impact going forward.

Objectives

Drawing on the experiences and insights of Member States with respect to the implementation, monitoring and reporting on the NUA, the event aims to:

- Consider the status of implementation of the NUA and key prospects ahead for acceleration
- Enhance awareness and engagement around the 2026 NUA mid-term review including the quadrennial report of the UN Secretary General and the high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in 2026
- Mobilize and advance National Progress Reports and inputs by Member States for the 2022-2026 reporting cycle
- Consider key opportunities for UN-Habitat's in supporting the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the NUA

Expected Outputs

- Enhanced insights and sharing of lessons on the status of implementation, monitoring and reporting of the NUA
- Increased awareness, engagement and commitment to the 2026 NUA mid-term review
- Increased commitment of Member states to submit national progress reports and inputs for the 2026 NUA mid-term review
- Key opportunities UN-Habitat to support the NUA implementation, monitoring and reporting highlighted

