

*This document is the **Zero Draft of the Global Stakeholders Forum (GSF) Declaration**. It is a working document intended to inspire and guide discussions in the GSF and does not represent a finalized or consensual position. As outlined in the Terms of Reference of the Drafting Committee, this initial draft is meant to set the foundation for further deliberation. The Drafting Committee is composed of 12 members representing various constituencies, co-chaired by two co-chairs and supported by three rapporteurs. Note-takers will be present in every plenary session and breakout room of the GSF on 22 and 23 of May. However, the Drafting Committee will place special emphasis on oral interventions, particularly the breakout room reports delivered in plenary sessions. The Committee's task is to summarize the outcomes of the GSF discussions in no more than four pages of a declaration, and will be edited by the Drafting Committee in its final phase.*

Please find below the timeline for the elaboration of the final declaration, which will be delivered as a two-minute oral statement during the UN-Habitat Assembly 2.2 in Nairobi. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to write to unhabitat-partners@un.org (*Zero Draft submitted to GSF participants by 21 May 2025; GSF sessions and collection of inputs on 22–23 May 2025; Final draft Declaration shared by 27 May 2025).*

Stakeholders' Declaration to the UN-Habitat Assembly (Zero Draft)

Preamble

This declaration represents the collective voice of _____ stakeholders from _____ countries who participated in the virtual Third Global Stakeholder Forum on 22–23 May 2025. We affirm our commitment to implementing the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and the 2030 Agenda, particularly Goal11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities. In the lead up to the 13th World Urban Forum and the tenth anniversary of Habitat III (NUA+10) it is key to strengthen meaningful and substantive stakeholder engagement to support the implementation of the NUA commitments through the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan (2026-2029).

We are a broad group of global actors committed to sustainable urban development, adequate housing for all, the equitable and sustainable access to, use of, and democratic management of land, and safe, consistent, accessible, affordable and usable basic services that include public spaces. We affirm our alignment with the vision, impact areas, and strategic direction outlined in the draft UN-Habitat Strategic Plan (2026–2029) and assert the importance of collaboration and meaningful self-organized stakeholder engagement as central to its success.

Section 1: Affirmation of UN-Habitat's Mandate and Strategic Focus

The undersigned organizations and/or individuals:

- Applaud the clarity and ambition of the 2026–2029 Strategic Plan, particularly its prioritization of the human right to adequate housing, land, and basic services for all, and the transformation of informal settlements to develop inclusive, equitable, just, safe, healthy, accessible, resilient and sustainable cities.
- Reaffirm our support for UN-Habitat as the UN system's focal point for inclusive and sustainable urbanization and adequate housing through co-production of data, policies, and practices for full enjoyment of the human rights to housing, land, and basic services.

- Recognize the centrality of urban systems to achieve the SDGs and the NUA, and support these frameworks as foundations for consensus in recognizing the right to adequate housing that is environmentally sustainable.
- Support the strengthened alignment with Member States' human rights obligations and emphasize "leaving no one behind."
- Highlight the importance given to climate action in cities as a key area of work, recognizing the urgent need to act in urban areas, including informal settlements, to address the threats posed by climate change.
- Emphasize the need for context-sensitive implementation of the Strategic Plan, recognizing multi-stakeholder collaboration, coalitions, and networks to tailor local actions to global goals, commitments and obligations.
- Call for the application of intersectional and gender equality lenses, centering care and people-centered frameworks in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and its programming.
- Underscore the relevance of the work and mandate of UN-Habitat in a context that call for the strengthening of multilateral institutions.

Section 2: Support for the Three Impact Areas

The undersigned organizations and/or individuals:

1. Equitable and Inclusive Prosperity for Poverty Eradication

- Recognize that the global housing crisis requires a comprehensive response that addresses its root causes and prioritize the fulfilment of the right to adequate housing for all.
- Emphasize that adequate housing is foundational to inclusive human development, social equity, and poverty reduction.
- Recognize the diverse pathways towards adequate housing through a continuum of legitimate tenure types, encompassing progressive housing, rental, rent-to-own, self-managed, or self-produced solutions, including the social production of habitat, which Member States committed in the NUA to support (paras. 31 and 46).
- Support UN-Habitat's role in protecting and elevating the social and environmental function of land and housing, calling for efforts to advance measures that seek its decommodification, including market regulations and non-commodified approaches to housing.
- Support efforts within UN-Habitat to demonstrate the centrality of land and malfunctioning land markets as drivers of housing costs and poverty.
- Highlight the importance of prohibiting, monitoring and remedying forced eviction as a crucial pathway to reducing vulnerabilities and securing housing for all.
- Advocate for the support of exchange, co-creation and co-implementation of adequate housing policies, programmes and monitoring mechanisms.

2. Preparedness, Response, Recovery, and Reconstruction

- Endorse UN-Habitat's comparative advantage as a focal point in the UN system to respond to urban crises and long-term recovery.
- Stress the importance of data-driven, locally informed and community-based recovery and reparation mechanisms, with the meaningful inclusion of displaced populations.
- Support existing and future efforts within UN-Habitat to support and empower subnational governmental efforts to manage cities – their communities, land (territories) and land

uses as key elements of preparedness, response, recovery, and reconstruction strategies to “build back better” and strengthen resilience.

- Invest in and support building community resilience efforts, recognize the role of communities both in the assessment of risks and in crisis response, calling for the co-production of policies and programmes in the framework of mitigating risks and responding to crises.

3. Environment and Climate Action

- Support the role of cities in climate mitigation, adaptation and recovery from loss and damage. Contextual remedies to housing and land loss and damage, as well as UN-Habitat’s leadership in nature-based solutions, circular economy and housing, and resilient systems, structures and infrastructure.
- Stress the importance of adequate housing as a critical nexus of achieving carbon emissions reductions and effective adaptation.
- Promote collaborative solutions and actions between national and subnational governments and civil society to prevent and recover from emergencies and disasters.
- Recommend stronger collaboration with grassroots and Indigenous communities on contextual climate solutions and land-use management.
- Stress the importance of prioritizing inclusive slum upgrading as a key strategy for preventive (i.e., mitigation and adaptation) and remedial climate action.

Section 3: Strengthening the Means of Implementation

The undersigned organizations and/or individuals:

- Call upon the recognition of the critical importance of effective stakeholder participation to help ensure successful policy implementation as stated by the numerous references to ‘stakeholders’ in the resolutions adopted at the First and Second UN-Habitat Assemblies (41 and 19 respectively).
- Recognize UN-Habitat’s central role in generating, disseminating and demonstrating key concepts, data, and practices that advance human development, social equity, and poverty reduction, assuring its impact in partnership with Member States and stakeholders who can contribute their own unique set of resources and expertise.
- Call for enhanced investments by contributing entities including Member States in the five means of implementation:
 1. Integrated urban and territorial planning
 2. Participatory multilevel governance and SDG localization
 3. Knowledge, data, digitalization and capacity development
 4. Partnerships, coalitions, advocacy, and communication
 5. Effective resource mobilization
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- Recognize the critical value that UN-Habitat brings as the UN80 process proceeds, by providing technical expertise and action to some of the greatest concerns of our era. As such, we stress the need for core funding, country program support, and flexible donor mechanisms to avoid implementation gaps in the critical programming produced by the agency.
- Call for the incorporation of mechanisms for community-generated data and participatory accountability mechanisms into official reporting and implementation tracking.

- Stress the importance of increasing direct, flexible funding to local stakeholder organizations — particularly women-led, grassroots, and community-based groups — to scale up proven approaches and foster innovation.
- Call for scaling up regional knowledge-exchange mechanisms and capacity development that facilitate horizontal cooperation between and among cities and organizations tackling similar housing and land challenges, management and provision of accessible and affordable basic services and infrastructures.

Section 4: Commitment to Implementation and Monitoring

The undersigned organizations and/or individuals:

- Encourage UN-Habitat to create support mechanisms in the local and national sphere for Member States to improve their data collection and reporting towards these commitments. This is in recognition of the gaps in reporting under/against SDG 11.1.1 and the NUA.
- Establish and support more robust and formal mechanisms for stakeholder engagement at local, national, and global levels, including in national urban forums, municipal planning bodies, and the NUA reporting processes.
- Create mechanisms for local governments to play a coordinating and convening role in the implementation of the 2026-2029 Strategic Plan, inviting all sectors of society to participate in the design of future cities.
- Encourage UN-Habitat to support and participate in efforts to build and fund the public institutions designed to safeguard and harness the social and ecological functions of land and housing.

Section 5: Stakeholder Engagement Policy

The undersigned organizations:

- Strongly urge the adoption of an ambitious Stakeholder Engagement Policy that:
 - Recognizes the value of self-organized stakeholder mechanisms across the UN System
 - Fulfills the principle and promise of a self-organized stakeholder-engagement mechanism to meet and deliberate with UN Habitat-governance bodies
 - Upholds transparent, timely accreditation processes
 - Enables meaningful participation in agenda setting, policy making, implementation, and oversight of initiatives, programs, and projects
 - Ensures continuity between formal UN-Habitat governance sessions and stakeholder consultations
 - Recognizes diverse types of stakeholders and ensure mechanisms for the meaningful engagement of grassroots, community-led, Indigenous and civil society organizations; along with the strategic role of multi-stakeholder networks, coalitions and platforms in channeling bottom up perspectives and knowledge transfer
 - Ensures meaningful participation of women, youth, grassroots, the urban poor and Indigenous communities, their contributions and leadership among Habitat Agenda Partners.
- Call on Member States to ensure the final Stakeholder Engagement Policy reflect the diversity and autonomy of stakeholders, and to avoid unnecessary restrictions on access and influence [and strives to minimize redundancies in and across policy initiatives and projects].

- Express readiness to implement and refine stakeholder mechanisms, including the Global Stakeholder Forum, the UN-Habitat Assembly and the WUF13 roadmap.

Final Note / Call to Action for implementation

In conclusion:

- We express the ongoing commitment of this group of stakeholders in partnering with UN-Habitat in realizing its strategic vision.
- We call on Member States to:
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- We call on UN-Habitat to:
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The success of the 2026-2029 Strategic Plan in contributing to the achievement of the NUA and SDG 11, will be measured not only by written plans, but by achieved outcomes —and those outcomes will depend significantly on the capacity and inclusion of the diverse stakeholders. Member States must act now to build durable, well-resourced partnerships with the stakeholders that reflect the lived realities of the people and places the Agenda and Goal aim to serve.

Stakeholder Contributors:

- 1. ABC**
- 2. DEF**
- 3. GHIJK**
- 4. etc**