



UN-HABITAT

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Meeting of the Joint Bureaux of the Governing Bodies

Hybrid format - Friday 27 June 2025

10:00 am - 12:00 pm EAT

Brief summary and assessment of the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly

Table of Contents

1.	Outcomes	2
2.	Elections.....	2
3.	Attendance and mobilization of high-level participants	3
4.	High-Level Opening	3
5.	High-Level Dialogue on Adequate Housing.....	4
6.	Stakeholder Engagement	4
7.	Special Events and other events.....	4
8.	Communication.....	5
9.	Preparatory process.....	6
10.	Budget.....	6

Following the completion of resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly (UNHA-2.2), this document outlines a brief summary and assessment from the meeting and its preparatory process, as prepared by the UN-Habitat secretariat. UN-Habitat would welcome additional observations and lessons learned from Member States.

1. Outcomes

- UNHA-2.2 approved the proposed strategic plan for the period 2026-2029 through a vote (105 Member States in favor, 2 against, and 1 abstention), subject to a limited number of consensual changes agreed by Member States in advance during the third open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR-3) held immediately before the Assembly. It was the first time in the history of UN-Habitat that a decision was adopted through voting, in breach with the long-established “Nairobi Spirit of Consensus”.
- The Assembly also adopted a draft decision on the date and agenda of the third UN-Habitat Assembly, scheduled for the last week of June 2029, to be preceded by the 5th meeting of the OECPR.
- In the absence of an agreement to approve the proposed draft international guidelines on people-centred smart cities, as was mandated by operative paragraph 3 of [Assembly resolution 2/1](#), the Assembly took note of the presentation by the Executive Director of the report. Member States may wish to further consider if and how to take this important substantive work forward.
- The Assembly also took note of the work done by the Executive Board to agree on a draft Stakeholder Engagement Policy; however, in the absence of an outcome by consensus by the Board, as required by Assembly [Decision 2/4](#), the Assembly did not consider the matter further.
- The Assembly elected new members of the Executive Board, and a new President (Malaysia) and Bureau of the Assembly (2 seats vacant).
- Noting that UNHA-2.2 was a resumed session, focusing on previously mandated and unfinished business (in particular the strategic plan, the stakeholder engagement policy and the guidelines on people-centred smart cities), no new draft resolutions were proposed.

2. Elections

- Four elections were held during OECPR-3 and UNHA-2.2
 - The President (Malaysia 2025-2027; expected to be replaced by the United Arab Emirates for the period 2027-29), a Vice President (Ethiopia) and a Rapporteur (Mexico) were elected by acclamation as members to the UNHA-3 Assembly Bureau (2025-29), leaving two seats vacant.
 - The Chair (Sweden), two Vice Chairs (China, Costa Rica) and one Rapporteur (Kenya) were elected as members to the OECPR-4 Bureau (2025-27), leaving one seat vacant (EEG).
 - 35 Members to the new Executive Board were elected (2025-29), leaving one seat vacant (WEOG).
 - The Chair (Germany), three Vice Chairs (China, Brazil and Slovakia) and one Rapporteur (Cameroon) were elected as members to the Executive Board Bureau (2025-26).
- Due to effective informal preparatory work and flexibility demonstrated from relevant delegations, all elections were decided through acclamation, and no voting through secret ballot took place for the elections.

3. Attendance and mobilization of high-level participants

- The following key statistics reflect the attendance, including high level attendance, at UNHA-2.2:
 - **1** Deputy Prime Minister; **33** Ministers and **14** Vice Ministers.
 - **9** Mayors/Governors and **11** Vice Mayors/Governors.
 - **119** Member States
 - **4** Observers
 - **1359** delegates registered and badged (male: 794 male, or 59%; 551 female, 40%; n/a 15 (1%); **1509** delegates were registered and approved
 - **647** Member State and Observer delegates badged
 - **205** stakeholders (academia, NGOs, foundations, private sector, local and regional governments) badged
 - **28** UN representatives badged (excluding UN-Habitat and UNON staff)
 - **38** Media badged
- The number of delegates was higher than expected, given that this Assembly was a resumed session, focusing on unfinished business.
- The high number of high-level participants can mainly be attributed to the significant political interest attached to the UN-Habitat Assembly in many capitals, active mobilization efforts by the Executive Director, and effective outreach by the UN-Habitat Regional Offices.
- Thanks to the generous donations by Germany and some other Member States, the secretariat was in a position to support 28 delegates from Least Developed Countries to attend the Assembly.

4. High-Level Opening

- The high-level opening of the resumed session heard statements from:
 - H.E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations – via video
 - H.E. Mr. Philémon Yang, President of the United Nations General Assembly – via video
 - H.E. Mr. Bob Rae, President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council – via video
 - Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme
 - Hon. Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris (Special Guest)
 - Ms. Anacláudia Rossbach, The Executive Director of UN-Habitat
 - Hon. Alice Wahome, Cabinet Secretary of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, Kenya
- Plans to receive His Excellency William Ruto, President of Kenya, to attend the closing of the session were cancelled at the last minute.

5. High-Level Dialogue on Adequate Housing

- A High-Level Dialogue on Adequate housing was held on the afternoon of the first day of the Assembly, Presided over by the President of the Assembly and co-chaired by France and Kenya.
- The Dialogue was opened by a high-level panel and benefited from contributions from 1 deputy prime minister, 24 ministers, 5 vice ministers, 19 government delegations and 2 UN-Habitat partners.
- Delegates welcomed the UN-Habitat 2026–2029 Strategic Plan and engaged in a rich debate that reaffirmed adequate housing as a cornerstone for human dignity, equality, sustainable development, poverty eradication, job creation, and inclusive urbanization.
- A variety of housing delivery models were presented, with broad agreement on the need to integrate housing with infrastructure, mobility, services, and livelihood opportunities to create livable communities. Speakers stressed the need to respond to rapid urban growth through densification, sustainable land use and smart planning.
- Securing equitable land tenure, especially for women, Indigenous peoples and marginalized communities, was highlighted as essential for sustainable and equitable housing systems.
- The financial dimension of the housing crisis was a key concern. Delegates underscored the importance of inclusive, scalable financing instruments that align with broader urban development strategies to ensure sustainability, equity, and impact at scale.
- The importance of collaborative, multilevel governance and strong partnerships was also highlighted. Delegates called for the active engagement of households, communities, local authorities, civil society, and the private sector in scaling up housing solutions. Cooperation through multilateral initiatives, regional forums, and bilateral partnerships was recognized as a catalyst for innovation and knowledge exchange.
- Housing was consistently recognized as a cornerstone for post-crisis recovery, durable solutions, conflict resolution and peacebuilding, and climate-resilient housing emerged as a core priority for long-term environmental sustainability and resilience.

6. Stakeholder Engagement

- A Global Stakeholder Forum preceded the OECP, and was very well attended, with 603 stakeholders participants from 125 countries.
- The Forum issued a joint declaration for the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, available [here](#).
- Stakeholders also delivered several statements at the closing of the Assembly.

7. Special Events and other events

- While the short timeframe and focus on unfinished business did not allow for traditional side events organized by Member States and partners, the secretariat organized and facilitated several “special events”, closely linked to the agenda and outcome of the Assembly. The titles of these events were:
 - Multilevel Governance for SDG Localization (28 May)
 - How to uphold the principles and actions of the People-Centred Smart Cities Guidelines (28 May)

- Briefing on the dialogues with Member States and stakeholders related to the report of the UN Secretary-General to the 79th session of the General Assembly on Action 55 (e) of the Pact for the Future (28 May)
- High-level panel on refugees and urban displacement (29 May)
- Briefing on Urban Climate and Environment – New Milestones and Opportunities for 2025 and beyond (29 May)
- Quito + 10 towards the High-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on the New Urban Agenda (29 May)
- Donor Appreciation & Resource Mobilization Luncheon (30 May)
- The secretariat also organized a World Urban Forum exhibition adjacent to the meeting premises.
- More information on these events is made available [here](#) and a summary of the events is available [here](#).

8. Communication

- The refreshed UN-Habitat Assembly branding was prominently used throughout the resumed session. The UN compound in Gigiri, Nairobi, was fully branded for the event.
- Four plenary sessions and press events were livestreamed via UN Web TV from Nairobi (viewership data will be available later).
- A high-level opening press conference featured the President of the Assembly (Mexico), the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, and the host Government (Kenya).
- Additional media briefings were held on 29 May:
 - ***Roadmap to COP30 and WUF13*** with representatives from Brazil (COP30), Azerbaijan (WUF13), UNEP, and ICLEI
 - ***Social Housing Hub and City-to-City Cooperation*** featuring the Mayor of Paris, the Governor of Nairobi, the French Minister for Multilateralism, and the Executive Director of UN-Habitat
- High-quality photo and video materials (almost 1000 unique downloads in 2 days) from the Assembly are available via UN-Habitat's Digital Asset Management Platform: [Resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly](#).
- Media advisories: 6 issued; Press releases: 4 official press releases distributed; Online features and news stories: 9 online news stories produced and published; Regional housing impact stories: 3 impact stories published.
- Media presence: 24 media outlets attended the Assembly. Initial coverage includes 79 news items (full list available in the link [here](#)); ahead of the Assembly – the Nation newspaper (Kenya) published a media supplement with the statement from the Executive Director and representatives of the host country.
- **Social media performance (29–30 May 2025):**

Platform	Audience	Growth (unique users)
Facebook	108,046	+305
Instagram	100,430	+591
LinkedIn	264,829	+1,842
X (Twitter)	133,550	+120

9. Preparatory process

- The preparatory process for the UN-Habitat Assembly was extensive;
 - 4 informal retreats organized by the secretariat and in the presence of the Executive Director to prepare the draft strategic plan for the period 2026-2029.
 - 7 meetings of the Working Group on Programmatic, budgetary and administrative issues, most of which considered matters relating to the Assembly.
 - 31 meetings of the ad hoc working group on the development of a stakeholder engagement policy, and several informal meetings on the same topic in the form of a “Friends of the Chair” group.
 - The first 2025 meeting of the Executive Board considered several matters relating to the Assembly (the strategic plan and the Stakeholder Engagement Policy).
 - 4 informal consultations meetings under the CPR were held in preparation for OECPR-3.
 - The third meeting of the Open-ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR-3) prepared the outcomes of the Assembly.
- No Committee of the Whole was established; negotiations on outstanding issues during the UN-Habitat Assembly was undertaken in the form of informal consultations lead by the Ambassador of Ghana.
- All working documents for the assembly were made available in all official UN languages at least six weeks in advance of the meeting, in line with the rules of procedure.

10. Budget

- The estimated expenditures for OECPR-3 and UNHA-2.2 were about USD 272,000, which was well within the budget and the available cash resources.
- Due to the recent austerity measures facing the UN and UN-Habitat, UNHA-2.2 was run on a minimalistic budget, focusing entirely on the basic services (documentation, translation, conference rooms, internet and IT access, web-tv, very basic branding of the venue, etc).
- For UNHA-3 and OECPR-5, which will be held as a 1+1 week of conference sessions with an expected attendance of 5-7000 delegates, dozens of side events, VVIP participation etc, the costs are estimated to be significantly higher, and UN-Habitat will prepare a full cost estimation in due time.
- The secretariat may put also forward a proposed dedicated UNHA-3 budget to be considered for approval by the Executive Board, to facilitate resource mobilization for the next Assembly.