



Global Stakeholder Forum Declaration | Resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly

We, the Global Stakeholders, see the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda as our own agendas. Our commitment is to their full realization, and we recognize that this can only happen if we remain at the table as partners in shaping, implementing, and monitoring the pathways to a sustainable urban future.

We represent diverse voices of self-organised stakeholders drawn from business and industries, children and youth, civil society organizations, farmers, foundations and philanthropies, grassroots organizations, indigenous people, local and regional governments, older persons, persons with disabilities, professionals, research and academia, trade unions and workers, and women. We come as members of coalitions and platforms, regional networks, national consortiums, and local and international associations.

We underscore the need for a clear mandate for UN-Habitat, the adoption of a strategic plan that can provide direction, legitimacy, and the mobilization of adequate resources to fulfill this mandate effectively.

Preamble

This declaration represents the collective voice of 603 stakeholders from 125 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 Goal 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities. In the lead up to the 13th World Urban Forum (WUF13) and the tenth anniversary of the NUA (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 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. As a diverse group of global actors, 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. This commitment is reflected in the diverse range of stakeholders represented, including women, children and youth, indigenous peoples, non-governmental and grassroots organizations, slum dwellers, migrants and refugees, subnational governments, workers and trade unions, business and industry, academia and researchers, professional organizations, persons with disabilities, older persons, as well as the coalitions, networks, and umbrella organizations that support and amplify their voices.

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

We, the Global Stakeholders:

- Strongly affirm the vision and direction of UN-Habitat's 2026–2029 Strategic Plan. We commend its bold prioritization of the fundamental human right to adequate housing, basic services and access to land —particularly for those living in slums and informal settlements— and its focus on building inclusive, equitable, resilient, and sustainable social, economic and urban environments.
- Reaffirm our commitment to UN-Habitat as the United Nations' lead agency on sustainable urbanization. Its work is vital in co-producing data, policy, and practice to advance human rights and fulfill global commitments under the SDGs and the NUA. We especially welcome its reinforced alignment with human rights obligations and its focus on “leaving no one and no place behind.”
- Emphasize that the implementation of the Strategic Plan must be context-sensitive. It is essential to adopt locally grounded, gender- and age-responsive, and people-centered approaches. Advancing this work requires



strong partnerships and coalitions that align local action with global goals.

- Highlight the importance given to climate adaptation and mitigation in cities as a key area of work, recognizing the urgent need to act in urban areas, prioritizing informal settlements and vulnerable groups, to address the threats posed by climate change.
- Finally, we underscore that in today's global landscape, the relevance of UN-Habitat's work and mandate is more important than ever, particularly as we work to strengthen multilateral and multi-level cooperation.

Section 2: Support for the Three Impact Areas

We, the Global Stakeholders:

1. Equitable and Inclusive Prosperity for Poverty Eradication

- Recognize that the global housing crisis requires a comprehensive response that addresses root causes and upholds the right to adequate housing for all and the right to the city, essential to inclusive development, social equity, health, environmental and gender justice, as well as poverty reduction.
- Affirm diverse pathways to adequate housing through a continuum of legitimate tenure types—including progressive, rental, rent-to-own, self-managed, non-speculative and self-produced solutions, such as the social production of habitat—as outlined in the NUA along with adequate support infrastructure.
- Support UN-Habitat's role in advocating for the fulfillment of the social and environmental function of land and housing; emphasize the urgency of prohibiting, monitoring, and remedying forced evictions; reinforce the centrality of intersectional approaches that recognise the needs and aspirations of groups across gender, race, ethnicity, age, disability, and sexual orientation; and endorse efforts to decommodify housing through regulatory and non-market approaches, while addressing the impact of dysfunctional land markets on housing affordability and poverty.

- Advocate for inclusive mechanisms that support the exchange, co-creation, and co-implementation of housing policies, programs, and monitoring systems with a multi-governance approach and effective localized finance that leverages land values and public investments in land. Additionally, the strategic involvement of private actors in innovative financing mechanisms is critical for scaling equitable and inclusive solutions.

2. Preparedness, Response, Recovery, and Reconstruction

- Endorse UN-Habitat's comparative advantage in urban crisis response and long-term recovery, and stress the importance of data-driven, locally informed, and community-based recovery and reparation mechanisms that ensure the meaningful inclusion of displaced populations.
- Support current and future efforts by UN-Habitat to empower and assist subnational governments in managing communities, territories, and land use as central to preparedness, response, recovery, and reconstruction to “build back better” and enhance resilience.
- Call for increased investment in community resilience, recognizing communities as key actors in risk assessment and crisis response, and advocate for the co-production of policies and programs to effectively mitigate risks and support recovery at the local level.
- Call on governments, enterprises and investors to vigorously promote the use of green materials in the construction of public spaces to achieve urban resilience.

3. Environment and Climate Action

- Support the vital role of cities and subnational territories in climate mitigation, adaptation, and recovery from loss and damage, and endorse UN-Habitat's leadership in advancing nature-based solutions, circular urban economies, and resilient urban systems and infrastructure. We further emphasize inclusive informal settlement upgrading as a core strategy for both preventive and remedial climate action.
- Emphasize adequate housing as a key nexus for reducing carbon emissions and enabling



effective climate adaptation, and the importance of improving and recovering existing housing stock as a crucial means to address the housing and climate crises.

- Promote collaborative action between governments at all levels and civil society to prevent and recover from climate-related emergencies, disasters, and the negative impacts of unchecked development and rapid urban expansion. Recommend strengthened engagement with grassroots and Indigenous communities to develop contextual climate solutions and inclusive land-use management.

Section 3: Strengthening the Means of Implementation

We, the Global Stakeholders:

- Stress the critical importance of effective stakeholder participation to ensure successful policy implementation at the territorial level, where public and social agencies co-design and co-deliver public value, as stated by the numerous references to ‘stakeholders’ in the resolutions adopted at the First and Second UN-Habitat Assemblies.
- Call for the recognition of UN-Habitat’s central role in generating, disseminating, and demonstrating key concepts, data, and practices that advance human development, social equity, and poverty reduction in partnership with Member States and stakeholders.
- Call for the recognition of the critical value that UN-Habitat brings to the sustainable development of human settlements, in the context of UN80, by providing technical expertise and action on some of our era’s most significant concerns. As such, we emphasize the importance of core funding, country program support, and flexible donor mechanisms to prevent implementation gaps.
- Call for enhanced investments by contributing to entities, including Member States, in (1) integrating urban and territorial planning; (2) infrastructure developing (care infrastructure, transport, social infrastructure, etc.) supporting the daily life of vulnerable groups such as

women, children, young people, persons with disability across different age groups and senior citizens; (3) integrating actions against violence and urban conflicts; (4) promoting participatory multilevel governance and SDG localization; (5) building knowledge, data, digitalization, and capacities; (6) promoting partnerships, coalitions, advocacy, and communication; (7) assuring effective resource mobilization.

- Call for the active involvement of international agencies, the private sector, NGOs, governments, philanthropies, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSRs) and others, to mobilize resources and increase direct, flexible funding to local stakeholder organizations, particularly women-led, grassroots, non-profit and community-based groups, to scale up proven approaches and foster innovation.
- Call to support capacity building at all levels, particularly in local and national governments, community-based organizations, practitioners, and grassroots stakeholders, through professionals’ degrees, knowledge transfer, in-service training, and a long-term investment in institutional resilience and local ownership, involving sustainable development practices.
- 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, and the management and provision of accessible and affordable basic services and infrastructures.
- Call for promoting global to local and local to global knowledge and experience exchange that facilitates peer learning to address common challenges and enhance knowledge for contextually relevant and impactful solutions.
- Call for incorporating community-generated data and participatory accountability mechanisms into official reporting and tracking of land and housing initiatives, stressing gender gaps and social conflicts involving violence.
- Call for promoting stakeholder partnerships to produce information and sex-disaggregated data accuracy, and socialize its dissemination



and application in decision-making and solutions in housing, land governance, public services, and climate resilience.

Section 4: Commitment to Implementation and Monitoring

We, the Global Stakeholders:

- Request support for mechanisms at the local and national levels that improve State Members' capacity for collecting data and reporting towards land and housing commitments. This is in recognition of the gaps in reporting against SDG 11.1.1 and the NUA. Additionally, organizations are encouraging more robust stakeholder engagement in both national and local spheres.
- Ensure robust and formal mechanisms for stakeholder engagement at local, national, and global levels – including national urban forums, municipal planning bodies, and the NUA reporting processes– and encourage the institutionalization of multi-actor territorial platforms to ensure continuity between implementation, civic monitoring, and community feedback.
- Develop horizontal and participatory monitoring frameworks aligned with existing reporting mechanisms under the NUA and SDG indicators, emphasizing transparent information-sharing, mutual feedback loops, and collaboration across sectors in data gathering and production.
- Recognize that local governments play a coordinating and convening role in implementing the 2026–2029 Strategic Plan, inviting all sectors of society to participate in the design of future cities.
- Address the digital divide in the design of future cities, considering the contradiction between the undereducated and the current smart digital governance.
- Call for the vigorous development of community volunteers, allowing young people to join the volunteer team for social and sustainable development from an early age, and enabling retirees to achieve mutual assistance,

thereby building a beautiful partnership among people.

- Ensure access and availability of dynamic data regarding climate, natural hazards, and slow-moving ecological shifts to enable public and social agencies to make better decisions.
- 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

We, the Global Stakeholders:

- 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 and 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.
- Maps, engages and mobilizes diverse types of stakeholders, promoting the leadership of different groups, including women, children and youth, Indigenous peoples, non-governmental and grassroots organizations, slum dwellers, migrants and refugees, subnational governments, workers and trade unions, philanthropies, the media, faith-based groups, business and industry, academia and researchers, professional organizations, persons with disabilities, older persons, as well as the strategic role of multi-stakeholder networks, coalitions and platforms in channeling bottom up leadership, perspectives, contributions and knowledge transfer.



- Call on Member States to ensure the final Stakeholder Engagement Policy reflects the diversity, plurality and autonomy of stakeholders and avoids unnecessary restrictions on access as to strive to minimize redundancies in and across policy initiatives and projects.
- Express their readiness and availability to support such a process, as well as the implementation and refinement of spaces and mechanisms for stakeholder engagement, including the Global Stakeholder Forum, the UN-Habitat Assembly, the WUF13 roadmap, the SDG11 review at the 2026 HLPF, and the assessment of the 10 years of implementation of the NUA.

Call to Action for implementation

We, the Global Stakeholders:

- Recognise the intrinsically complex nature of urban challenges, as well as the need for a transformative multi-level, multi-sector, transdisciplinary approach to transforming human settlements and ensuring equity, poverty reduction and sustainable development for all.
- Accelerate actions to respond to the global housing crisis and guarantee the enjoyment of the right to adequate housing to all, including the maximum use of available resources, stopping forced evictions, and recognizing and supporting diverse tenure types and approaches to housing, specially those that merge land use planning with housing policies, promote the decommodification of housing and land, guaranteeing the fulfilment of their social and environmental function.
- Increase the focus on climate action for all through the betterment of human settlements, steady leadership, maximum use of available resources and prioritising the improvement of existing housing and informal settlements, as well as supporting collaborative solutions towards increasing adaptation and mitigation, as well as preparedness, response, recovery, remedies to housing and land losses and

damages and sustainable and inclusive reconstruction and urban prosperity.

- Emphasize actions around protecting the commons through an intersectional framework that recognizes the contributions of women and girls, children, young and older people, women, diversities, and persons with disabilities, among others, within the urban development activities.
- Advance on the swift adoption of an ambitious Stakeholder Engagement Policy that fulfills the principle of a self-organized stakeholder-engagement mechanism that upholds transparent and timely accreditation processes and enables meaningful participation in agenda setting, policy making, implementation, and oversight of initiatives, programs, and projects in support of UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026-2029 and beyond.
- Encourage people to innovate a variety of financial products, such as issuing green urban development bonds to enhance the capacity of public service platforms.

We call on UN-Habitat to:

- Ensure continued dialogue and formal mechanisms to foster cooperation and collaboration across a broad spectrum of stakeholders, Member States, and UN-Habitat Secretariat and field operations, including robust monitoring, accountability, and structured engagement to support implementation of the resolutions arising from the First and Second UN-Habitat Assembly together with the 2026-2029 Strategic Plan, which recognise stakeholder engagement as being integral to success.
- Leverage and enhance the existing spaces and mechanisms for stakeholder engagement, through substantive and continued models of collaboration based on co-creation through different instances, processes and programmes, such as the Urban Thinkers Campuses of the World Urban Campaign, and those stemming from the resolutions of the last UNHA as the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All, the Informality Task Force and the guidelines on people-centred smart cities.



- Recognize the capacities, knowledge and mobilization scope of different stakeholders, leveraging the role played by knowledge transfer and capacity building to best address community priorities, reduce implementation time and prioritise the strengthening of local and national capacities, including in-service training for those in the public sector, and in secondary and intermediary towns and cities.
- Advance resource mobilization to ensure successful and impactful implementation of the Strategic Plan that supports universal, gender

balanced and inclusive participation of all stakeholders.

The success of the Strategic Plan in contributing to the achievement of the NUA and SDGs will be measured not only by plans written, but by outcomes achieved—and those outcomes will depend significantly on the capacity and inclusion of the diverse stakeholders. Member States and UN-Habitat 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.

