

**3rd Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives of UN-Habitat in
Nairobi – Kenya,**

Islamic Republic of Iran's Opening Statement

May 26, 2025

Excellency, Chairperson,

Madame Executive Director of UN-Habitat

Excellences,

Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, this delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by Egypt on behalf of the G77 plus China and Palestine on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group and appreciates the presidency of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for its leadership on the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the last 4 years.

This delegation takes note of the report of the Executive Director on “The progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda” and acknowledges the UN-Habitat's considerable efforts invested in advancing the implementation of the agenda, particularly in the preparation of the Secretary-General's quadrennial report.

This delegation acknowledges the report on the "Implementation of United Nations Habitat Assembly Resolutions through the Strategic Plan for the period 2026–2029". In this context, we would like to note the difference in the status of implementation of the UN-Habitat Assembly resolutions, emphasize the need for the implementation of all resolutions in light of equity and a holistic and balanced manner and calls on the Secretariat to enhance resource mobilization efforts and ensuring equitable regional funding and support for all member states.

This delegation appreciates the consultative approach in preparing the “Draft Strategic Plan (2026-2029)” to achieve efficient results, particularly its important role in advancing affordable housing, sustainable land use, resilient infrastructure development and the quality of life in human settlements. We expect that different regional and national priorities taken into account in the implementation process of the strategic plan 2026-2029. We also expect that the Strategic Plan consider the need to promote a more equitable and sustainable approach towards countries under unilateral and unjustified sanctions in terms of finance, technology and knowledge transfer, with the aim of empowering these countries to effectively allocate necessary resources and technologies for the implementation of sustainable development and urbanization plans and programs.

My delegation indicates that urban sustainable development goals cannot be achieved without access to international and regional financial resources from all sources, promote the provision, capacity building and transfer of advanced technology, particularly in condition of the Unilateral Coercive Measures and illegitimate illegal sanctions have prevented my country and the other targeted countries to tackling urbanization and infrastructure challenges, and improving urban crises prevention and response and reaching urban development.

This delegation is of the view that the “Draft Guidelines on People-centered Smart Cities shall remain focus on the mandate of the UN-Habitat and not encroaching beyond its mandate, to be mindful of the different positions taken by member states during the informal consultation and adoption of the outcomes. In this regard, we raise our concern on Reference to non-agreed language on “gender-responsive approach”, “gender equality”, and “gender”. Regarding the reference to “human rights”, we reiterate the importance of UN-Habitat adhering to its mandate and avoiding overlap with the mandates of other UN bodies like Human Rights

Council or UN third Committee. In this regard, this delegation stresses the importance of adhering to the use of terminology that has been thoroughly discussed and agreed upon by all Member States.

Regarding “Draft Stakeholder Engagement Policy”, my delegation firmly believes that any progress carried out through active and constructive participation in finalizing the policy, considering all thematic areas, and in light of equity particularly take into consideration the interests and concerns of all countries particularly fundamental principle of national sovereignty, which must be preserved under all circumstances. We believe in preserving the rights of member states to object to any nominated NGOs.

This delegation believes that the UN-Habitat as an international body mandated for Urban and Infrastructure development has a very prominent responsibility in taking all the necessary actions in stopping the crimes and attacks on the urban infrastructures and destruction of human habitat in Gaza and Lebanon by the Zionist Regime and plan for rehabilitation and reconstruction activities in the said countries the soonest possible time. UN Habitat should in collaboration with other UN agencies to constantly monitor and report such crimes and invasions on urban critical infrastructures and civilians and pushing for accountability of those criminals.

Thank you, Mr. Chair