



MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UN-HABITAT ASSEMBLY

H.E NGA KOR MING
HONOURABLE MINISTER
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MALAYSIA

30 MAY 2025 (FRIDAY) | 3.00 P.M
UNON, NAIROBI, KENYA

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Karibou.

1. It is with deep humility and profound responsibility that I accept the Presidency of the UN-Habitat Assembly on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group. Malaysia is honoured by the trust and pledges to serve with fairness, transparency, and unwavering determination.
2. I extend my sincere gratitude to all Member States for your confidence and support. My appreciation also goes to Mexico for its exemplary leadership, and to the Executive Director and the entire UN-Habitat Secretariat for its tireless work in advancing the Habitat Agenda.
3. We take on this role as the President **together with our esteemed colleagues from the United Arab Emirates**. This shared commitment symbolises **regional solidarity** and our commitment to urban sustainability. Together, we will ensure this Assembly **bridges global ambition with local realities**.
4. In the spirit of this truth, I'd like to share a **Swahili proverb** - "***Umoja ni nguvu, utengano ni udhaifu***" which means, **unity is strength and division is weakness**. Today's urban challenges - rapid urbanisation, housing insecurity, and socio-economic inequality, demand more than technical solutions. They **require strong multilateral organisations** that can only come when **member states work well together**. **No nation, no city, no community** can navigate these challenges **alone**.
5. Realising the need for ever greater global and transnational cooperation, I believe in the principle of 4Ps: People-Public-Private-Partnership. We are stronger together when we continue sharing knowledge, foster partnerships, and ensuring that no one and no place is left behind in our urbanising world.

6. During my term as President of the Assembly, **let us strengthen UN-Habitat as a platform for thinking and doing**. Let us ensure that the voices of local governments, women, youth, civil society, and vulnerable communities are taken into consideration when we develop policies and design action plans.
7. To **strengthen multilateralism** and the Habitat Agenda, both Malaysia and the UAE **call upon member states to redouble efforts to implement the New Urban Agenda**. We hope that you will continue to support the call for a High-Level Meeting on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda especially as 2026 marks ten years after its adoption at Habitat III in Quito.
8. We too, look forward to playing an active role at the **13th session of the World Urban Forum in Baku, Azerbaijan** in May next year, where we hope to scale up the Habitat agenda to further propel urban solutions.
9. We are also pleased to **offer to host a Joint Bureau meeting in Penang, Malaysia on the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Conference of Ministers of Housing & Urban Development this October**. This will provide an opportunity for joint bureaus to assess the impact of the Assembly and align their support with the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026-2029.

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates
Ladies and gentlemen,

10. The fate of our cities will shape the fate of humanity. Let me take this opportunity to reiterate once again our support for the Strategic Plan with **adequate housing as its centre-piece**. For us, this forms a solid bedrock for the provision of basic services and land tenure security. More importantly, it informs other Habitat-related thematic focus areas including **Zero Waste, urban renewal and other inclusive development policies**.

11. Malaysia, in co-presidency with the UAE, stands ready to lead with integrity, inclusivity, and with steadfast dedication to the principles of the United Nations. In line with this partnership, I am reminded of a Malay proverb, “***Bulat air kerana pembetung, bulat manusia kerana muafakat.***”
12. Just as water finds its shape through the channels that guide it, humanity’s greatest challenges - **climate resilience, equitable cities, and inclusive development** can only be solved through deliberate, united frameworks. **UN-Habitat** stands as that vital **conduit** that brings us together to **align our policies, innovations, and political will**.
13. **From the streets of Nairobi to the neighborhoods of Kuala Lumpur**, the test of our era is clear: **Will we build walls or bridges? Will we compete or collaborate?** Let our answer be the legacy of this assembly, a commitment to **consensus** that **transforms dialogue into tangible progress**.
14. Together, let us **shape cities that are not just sustainable, but just**. Not **just smart**, but **inclusive**. Not just **resilient**, but **united**. Thank you, and may we return to our nations with the courage to turn consensus into action. Let us bring faith, hope and love to this world.

Asante sana, syukran jazilan, thank you very much.

(756 words)