

United States: Explanation of Vote (As delivered May 30, 2025)

The United States is disappointed that today, for the first time in UN-Habitat proceedings, consensus could not be reached on a substantive matter. In light of the Assembly's inability to reach consensus on the draft strategic plan for UN-Habitat, the United States had no other option but to call for a vote and vote "no" on the decision.

UN-Habitat, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities. As the lead agency within the UN system for urbanization and human settlements, its core mission is to address the challenges and opportunities of contemporary cities and human settlements.

The United States believes UN-Habitat must focus on its core mandate and that it can improve its performance in so doing. We have been clear that the United States cannot support a strategic plan that veers from this essential focus and does not include at least the minimum changes to the draft plan required for U.S. support.

We find ourselves unable to support the current strategic plan due to its rigid casting of climate change as a root cause of threats to human settlements rather than focusing on specific environmental threats directly relevant to human settlements, such as threats to clean air and clean water, wildfires, floods, drought, and sea-level rise. We are disappointed that we could not agree to a recasting of the proposed third impact area in the strategic plan away from vague terms to one focused on specific, actionable development objectives, rather than broad, overarching agendas.

Further, as the United States has stated consistently across multiple UN fora, we have rejected the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as they advance a program of soft global governance inconsistent with the sovereignty of states, and we are disappointed that the strategic plan was not delinked from this

framework, and instead, as drafted, proposes to further advance SDGs through UN-Habitat's work to localize SDGs.

Lastly, as drafted, the strategic plan includes problematic references to concepts like diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and gender ideology.

By concentrating on its fundamental purpose, UN-Habitat can achieve the strongest and most effective plan possible.