



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME
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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

MEDIA ADVISORY

High-level dialogue on housing on the margins of the 2025 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

New York, 18 July 2025 — The President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Bob Rae of Canada, in collaboration with UN-Habitat, the United Nations entity responsible for housing, sustainable urban development and human settlements, are organizing a **High-Level Dialogue on Adequate Housing for All** at the ECOSOC Chamber at UN Headquarters in New York. The Dialogue will take place on the margins of the 2025 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development on 22 July 2025.

The Dialogue will examine the global housing crisis and explore how inclusive housing solutions are a cornerstone of sustainable human development. It will also highlight how secure and affordable housing can accelerate progress across multiple Sustainable Development Goals — from poverty reduction and health to gender equality, climate action, employment opportunities and resilient urban growth. These discussions will set the stage for the upcoming Second World Summit on Social Development.

WHAT: High-Level Dialogue on Adequate Housing for All
WHEN: Tuesday, 22 July 2025, 13:15–14:45 EDT
WHERE: ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations Headquarters, New York
WHO: Convened by UN-Habitat and the President of ECOSOC

Key Speakers:

- **Amina Mohammed**, UN Deputy Secretary-General
- **Robert Rae**, President, UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- **Lok Bahadur Thapa**, President-elect, UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- **Anaclúdia Rossbach**, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN-Habitat
- **Patty Hajdu**, Minister of Jobs and Families, Canada
- **Beatrice Karago**, Deputy Permanent Representative to UN-Habitat, Kenya
- **Anne Hidalgo**, Mayor of Paris, France
- **Maria Clara Muzzio**, Deputy-Chief of Government, City of Buenos Aires, Argentina
- **Rola Dashti**, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)

- **Claver Gatete**, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- **Tatiana Molcean**, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- **Coleen Volk**, President and CEO, Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Canada
- **Anar Guliyev**, Chairman, State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture (SCUPA), Azerbaijan
- **Abdulaziz bin Nasser Al-Khalifa**, Secretary-General, National Planning Council, Qatar

As both a basic human right and a driver of economic opportunity, health, education, and social justice, adequate housing and secure land tenure are vital for economic stability, reducing vulnerability, and promoting equity – especially in countries with developing or fragmented welfare systems. They also foster the inclusion of young people and support intergenerational equity.

“We are living through a global housing crisis that is worsening by the day. Nearly 3 billion people lack access to adequate housing, secure land, and even the most basic services like water and sanitation. And 1.1 billion people live in informal settlements and slums,” says Anacláudia Rossbach, Executive Director of UN-Habitat. “If left unaddressed, this crisis constitutes a humanitarian emergency.”

Housing is central to human development and social welfare, shaping both lives and physical environments while significantly influencing socioeconomic progress, and is key to advancing many of the Sustainable Development Goals.

“Housing is where economic opportunity, human well-being, and social protection intersect. It is where development happens or fails. Adequate housing provides the stability that people and families need to access education, pursue livelihoods, and participate fully in society. It is a foundation for health, safety, and dignity. Without it, poverty deepens, inequality widens, and the promise of urbanisation as a force for sustainable development is lost” says Bob Rae, President of ECOSOC. “Yet, despite this, housing is too often treated as a commodity rather than a basic right, or as an isolated sector rather than a driver of sustainable development. This is a missed opportunity that we cannot afford as we face overlapping crises of poverty, inequality, and climate change”.

The Dialogue will convene ministers, development leaders, housing practitioners, and advocates to explore policy innovations and partnerships that are shifting outcomes for the urban poor – placing housing at the centre of global conversations on sustainable development, peace, and inclusive growth.

About UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat is the United Nations entity responsible for sustainable urbanization. It has programmes in over 90 countries supporting policymakers and communities to create socially and environmentally sustainable cities and towns. UN-Habitat promotes transformative change in cities through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance, and collaborative action. To know more, visit unhabitat.org or follow us on social media @UNHABITAT.

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