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**United Nations Habitat Assembly of the
United Nations Human Settlements Programme
Resumed second session
Nairobi, 29 and 30 May 2025**

Proceedings of the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its resumed second session

I. Organization of the session (agenda items 1–5)

A. Opening of the session (agenda item 1)

1. The resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (UN-Habitat Assembly) was held at the headquarters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in Nairobi on 29 and 30 May 2025.
2. The session was opened at 10.40 a.m. on Thursday, 29 May 2025, by Enrique Javier Ochoa Martínez, President of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

B. Opening statements

3. Opening statements were delivered by the President of the UN-Habitat Assembly; António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, via video message; Philémon Yang, President of the General Assembly, via video message; Bob Rae, President of the Economic and Social Council, via video message; Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris; Anacláudia Rossbach, Executive Director of UN-Habitat; and Alice Wahome, Cabinet Secretary for Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development of Kenya.
4. In his opening remarks, Mr. Ochoa Martínez recalled that, in decision 2/2, the UN-Habitat Assembly had decided to adjourn its second session so as to better align the planning cycle of UN-Habitat with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. At the current resumed second session, the Assembly was tasked with adopting several important decisions, in particular on the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2026–2029 and on the international guidelines on people-centred smart cities.
5. He said that, since 2019, his delegation had presided over the UN-Habitat Assembly, guided by two overarching principles. The first principle reflected his Government's unwavering commitment to multilateralism and a strong belief in the United Nations and its role in harnessing international cooperation and fostering international peace and security. The second principle was rooted in the UN-Habitat mandate to support cities and human settlements, with a view to ending poverty, reducing inequalities, promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, achieving gender equality and contributing to environmental goals, including on climate action. At a time of budgetary constraints and growing scepticism among the public and some world leaders about the merits of international

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cooperation and the United Nations, UN-Habitat could leverage its influence on the ground to demonstrate the real value of multilateralism. The Assembly, too, could show countries and their leaders that they could trust in the United Nations system. There was an urgent need to translate policy into action. His own Government had committed to the implementation of urban development projects, including building more than 1 million homes in the coming years, in particular for young people. Doing so was critical to ensure social justice, achieve gender equality and leverage the potential of cities, young people and migrants.

6. The text of the Secretary-General's message is reproduced in annex III to the present proceedings.

7. In his statement, delivered via video message, the President of the General Assembly highlighted urbanization as a defining trend of the current time. With urban systems coming under even greater pressure from the climate crisis, conflicts and natural disasters, the resulting challenges demanded swift, coordinated and bold action. Cities had the potential to be places of opportunity and innovation, and housing formed the very foundation of that potential. Adequate, affordable housing was more than just shelter; it offered dignity, security and opportunity, and laid a solid foundation for sustainable development and peace. That understanding was reflected in the proposed strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2026–2029, which would strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to support Member States in promoting inclusive, liveable and sustainable cities. In that regard, success would require collective action, including by governments, civil society, the private sector and communities, to ensure that no one was left behind. In closing, he urged participants to transform challenges into opportunities and to build cities that served as engines of prosperity, resilience and equity for generations to come.

8. In his statement, delivered via video message, the President of the Economic and Social Council said that sustainable urbanization and adequate housing lay at the heart of the mandates of both the Council and the UN-Habitat Assembly. Increasing urbanization meant that the fate of sustainable development was directly linked to that of cities and human settlements; for that reason, the Council had convened a special meeting on sustainable urbanization and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in April 2022. The upcoming midterm review of the Agenda's implementation would also provide an excellent opportunity to critically assess progress in that regard. The new strategic plan of UN-Habitat offered a robust approach to advancing sustainable cities and human settlements, and its focus on adequate housing, land and basic services was both timely and essential. The preparations for the World Social Summit, to be held in November 2025, would provide an opportunity to position housing at the core of the global social development agenda. As part of the preparatory process, he planned to convene a dialogue on adequate housing at the annual meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development. The Summit itself would be an opportunity to reimagine development and commit to leaving no one behind. In closing, he expressed his commitment to working with participants and UN-Habitat to ensure that adequate housing and sustainable urbanization received full recognition for their role in building inclusive, just and resilient societies.

9. The Executive Director of UNEP commended the long-standing collaboration between UNEP and UN-Habitat, which was being renewed through the Greener Cities Partnership and would be strengthened by the Sustainable Cities Impact Programme. The UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2026–2029 would help to promote adequate and resilient housing, protect land resources, ensure the provision of basic services and support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, while also seeking to enhance biodiversity and protect the environment, and was consonant with the aspirations of the UNEP medium-term strategy for the same period.

10. Noting that the mandates of UNEP and UN-Habitat were distinct but mutually reinforcing, she highlighted four areas of alignment. First, she stressed the benefits of urban development that gave priority to nature, which could reduce emissions, provide protection in the form of shade and flood barriers, and improve inhabitants' mental health. Second, construction, which accounted for a third of global emissions and waste, was an important area in which the work of UN-Habitat advanced environmental goals. Waste was the third point of overlap and, in that regard, the upgrading of the conference facilities at the headquarters of UNEP and UN-Habitat in Nairobi was an example of the low-waste construction that cities should embrace. Fourth, as 70 per cent of climate solutions were in the hands of subnational authorities, the benefits of collaboration with cities and local governments were clear; UNEP was working with UN-Habitat to promote the inclusion of action by cities in the nationally determined contributions that Member States were preparing in advance of the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Belém, Brazil, in November 2025. As cities expanded, their environmental impact increased, and as climate change intensified, more city dwellers would be exposed to extreme

heat, water scarcity and rising sea levels. She therefore urged participants to approve the strategic plan and help to prepare the world for a more sustainable and liveable future.

11. Ms. Hidalgo praised UN-Habitat for championing dialogue between cities, national Governments and civil society for nearly 50 years. Far from being in competition with States, cities were their partners and allies. Indeed, as the level of government closest to the people, cities were the first responders when crises hit – including those resulting from heat waves, flooding, pollution and inequality – and were key to solving those issues. As acknowledged in the Pact for the Future, global transformation required local action, but cities needed international funding to accelerate their transitions. Urban policies were the building blocks of the collective future: investment in public transport and active mobility cut emissions; developing affordable and social housing fought poverty and benefited the economy; and creating safe, green public spaces protected the vulnerable.

12. Cities should also be part of shaping the global agenda they were vital to enacting. At a time when multilateral institutions faced major challenges, the necessary reform of global governance should involve cities, the success of whose diplomacy, particularly with regard to climate action, had been demonstrated. Inviting participants to mark the tenth anniversary of the Paris Agreement on climate change at an event in Paris on 23 June, she said that cities – including her own, which had reduced air pollution by 40 per cent over the past decade – were delivering on the Agreement. Emphasizing the importance of granting every child, family and community a fair chance in sustainable cities that were resilient and economically attractive, she welcomed the discussion at the resumed second session on refocusing the work of UN-Habitat towards access to housing.

13. In her statement, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat outlined several important milestones that had been reached in the implementation of UN-Habitat Assembly resolutions, such as the development of international guidelines on people-centred smart cities and the launch of a global action plan to accelerate the transformation of informal settlements and slums by 2030. She said that the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly was a moment for collective reflection and an opportunity to renew political will and forge consensus on the future of the world's cities and communities. In an increasingly complex global landscape, the organization's current strategic plan, covering the period 2020–2025, had enabled UN-Habitat to support housing reconstruction in conflict-affected areas, advance climate-resilient infrastructure in vulnerable regions and strengthen its own capacity to innovate, build partnerships and respond swiftly to emerging needs.

14. The proposed strategic plan for the period 2026–2029 sought to address an urgent and universal challenge, namely the global housing crisis, which, if left unattended, would continue to undermine efforts to reduce poverty, advance equality and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Currently, more than 2.8 billion people did not have adequate housing, with over 1 billion living in informal settlements and more than 300 million unhoused. The situation was exacerbated by the loss of housing to climate disasters and conflicts. In the new strategic plan, housing, land and basic services were placed at the heart of the UN-Habitat mandate. Anchored in international human rights law and global commitments, such as the Pact for the Future, it was aimed at delivering impact where it mattered most. Cities were bearing the brunt of multiple overlapping crises, such as conflict, displacement and the impact of climate change, in particular in the global South, and were providing refuge and safety to the displaced. The role of UN-Habitat in supporting urban recovery and housing reconstruction was more vital than ever. The world was on track to exceed the 1.5°C global warming threshold; without decisive climate action in cities, the chances of achieving Goal 11 on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, along with its target 11.1 – by 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, and upgrade slums – were in serious jeopardy. She therefore urged the Assembly to adopt the strategic plan so that UN-Habitat could take decisive action to tackle the global housing crisis and ensure sustainable urbanization.

15. At a time when the multilateral system was under increasing pressure, the UN80 Initiative sought to reimagine the United Nations on the basis of the principles of innovation and impact. UN-Habitat had taken important steps in that regard, including by enhancing financial oversight, streamlining human resources and boosting transparency and efficiency through the use of digital tools. Its greatest impact was on the ground, however. Over the past year, it had advanced sustainable urban development in more than 100 countries, including by improving access to clean water, helping to shape inclusive housing policies, deploying nature-based water solutions and clean energy, and supporting climate-responsive urban planning in various countries across every region. Those efforts reflected the unwavering commitment of UN-Habitat to achieving sustainable urban transformation. Partnerships with other United Nations entities and collaboration with international financial institutions were crucial to UN-Habitat efforts to address urban and environmental challenges. She expressed appreciation for the timely core contributions received from Member States and welcomed

the support of new and returning donors. She encouraged Member States to consider increasing their non-earmarked contributions so that UN-Habitat could continue to serve as a means for the world to overcome the global housing crisis, preserve the environment and build thriving communities and cities, while leaving no one – and no place – behind.

16. Welcoming participants to Kenya, Ms. Wahome said that the level of participation in the resumed second session demonstrated a shared resolve to face the challenges and seize the opportunities of urbanization over the coming decade. Expressing the hope that the Assembly would conduct its business with respect for its rules of procedure, she said that the items on the agenda were not of merely procedural importance, but were fundamental to the continuing effectiveness, credibility and impact of the work of UN-Habitat.

17. Rapid urbanization, with over half of the world's population living in urban areas, brought huge opportunities for economic growth, innovation and cultural exchange, and it also presented complex challenges, including rising inequality, inadequate housing and environmental degradation. The Government of Kenya had taken significant steps to align national policies with the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, prioritizing affordable housing, improved urban infrastructure and the empowerment of communities. Indeed, the Government's affordable housing programme, with 170,000 housing units under construction and another 200,000 in the pipeline, was raising living standards for the people of Kenya and had created over 200,000 jobs. Environmental stewardship was another priority for her Government, which, among other things, was engaged in cleaning up the Nairobi River, incorporating consideration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in urban and territorial planning, and championing climate-resilient urban planning.

18. The challenges were significant, but not insurmountable, and she underlined the importance of implementing the resolutions adopted by the Assembly at previous sessions, which, she said, were crucial to delivering tangible benefits to millions of urban residents. Urging bold vision, pragmatic action and unwavering commitment to equity, sustainability and human dignity, she expressed the hope that the work of the Assembly would resound beyond the conference rooms and shape the future of cities and communities around the world.

C. High-level dialogue

19. At the 2nd plenary meeting, a high-level panel discussion was held, followed by a high-level debate. A summary of the panel discussion and the debate is set out in annex IV to the present proceedings.

D. Attendance

20. The following 116 Member States of the UN-Habitat Assembly were represented: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

21. Observers to UN-Habitat for the Holy See, the Sovereign Order of Malta and the State of Palestine also participated.

22. The following United Nations bodies were represented: International Organization for Migration, United Nations Development Programme, UNEP, United Nations Population Fund, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and World Bank.

23. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: European Union, League of Arab States and Shelter Afrique.

E. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 2)

24. At the 1st plenary meeting, in accordance with rule 13 of its rules of procedure, the UN-Habitat Assembly adopted the following agenda, on the basis of the provisional agenda (HSP/HA.2/12):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Report of the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
4. Report of the Bureau on credentials of representatives.
5. Election of the members of the Executive Board.
6. Strategic plan for the period 2026–2029.
7. Adoption of the outcomes of the session.
8. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the third session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
9. Election of officers of the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
10. Other matters.
11. Closure of the session.

F. Organization of work

25. At the 1st plenary meeting, the Assembly approved the proposed organization of work, as outlined by the President, including a high-level dialogue on the theme “Adequate housing for all” under agenda item 6 on the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029.

G. Report of the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (agenda item 3)

26. At the 1st plenary meeting, Mr. Ibrar Hussain Khan (Pakistan), speaking in his capacity as Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, provided an overview of the work of the Committee at its third open-ended meeting, in preparation for the current session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. The Chair’s summary of the proceedings was set out in document HSP/OECPR.2025/[--], while the procedural report of the meeting was contained in document HSP/OECPR.2025/[--].

27. During its meeting, the Committee had held substantive discussions on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, UN-Habitat Assembly resolutions and the strategic plan for the period 2020–2025. It had received an update on the outcomes of the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum, held in Cairo in November 2024, and on the preparations for the Forum’s thirteenth session, to be held in Baku in May 2026. The Committee had prepared a number of draft recommendations and decisions for the consideration of the Assembly. Following intensive deliberations, the Committee had reached consensus on a draft decision on the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2026–2029 and on an accompanying document, which contained proposed changes to the draft strategic plan set out in document HSP/HA.2/13. In the light of those extensive consultations, he encouraged the Assembly to consider adopting those documents without further changes. Despite significant efforts, consensus had eluded the Committee with regard to the draft decision on the international guidelines on people-centred smart cities. The draft decision still contained bracketed text for consideration by the Assembly; he expressed the view that, with additional informal consultations, an agreement was within reach.

28. Finally, the Committee had agreed on the dates and provisional agenda of its fourth open-ended meeting, to be held from 14 to 18 June 2027, and elected the new members of its Bureau to serve for the period 2025–2027. The seat for the Eastern European States remained vacant, however, until an agreed candidate could be nominated and approved by means of a silence procedure.

29. The UN-Habitat Assembly took note of the report of the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

30. The Assembly agreed to convene informal consultations, to be led by Dampsey Bediako Asare (Ghana), with a view to resolving the outstanding issues in the draft decision on the international guidelines on people-centred cities.

31. At the 3rd plenary meeting, on the morning of Friday, 30 May 2025, the representative of France, speaking in his capacity as Chair of the Executive Board, explained that a communication dated 15 May 2025 containing the final version of the draft stakeholder engagement policy had been circulated among States members of the Board for adoption by means of a silence procedure. The silence procedure had been broken by four member States, for which reason the draft policy had not been adopted by consensus by the Board and thus could not be submitted for consideration and possible adoption by the Assembly at the current resumed session, as was requested by the Assembly by decision 2/4.

32. The UN-Habitat Assembly took note of the reports of the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and of the Chair of the Executive Board.

H. Report of the Bureau on credentials of representatives (agenda item 4)

33. At the 3rd plenary meeting, on the morning of Friday, 30 May, the President reported that, in accordance with paragraph 2 of rule 17 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, the Bureau had received and examined the credentials of representatives and alternate representatives attending the resumed second session of the Assembly submitted by Member States. As at 29 May 2025, 37 Member States had submitted formal credentials in original form issued by the Head of State or Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat. A further 78 Member States had submitted information on the appointment of their representatives to the Assembly to the Executive Director by means of a scanned copy in electronic form of formal credentials signed by the Head of Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs, or by means of a scanned copy of a letter or note verbale, including from the Permanent Mission concerned or by means of another form of official communication. A total of 78 Member States had not communicated any information regarding their representatives to the Executive Director.

34. The Bureau recommended that the Assembly accept the credentials of the Member States.

35. The Assembly accepted the credentials of the Member States.

I. Election of the members of the Executive Board (agenda item 5)

36. At the 3rd plenary meeting, the UN-Habitat Assembly elected by acclamation the 36 members of the Executive Board, in accordance with the distribution of seats described in the report on the work of the Open-ended Working Group established by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/226 (A/73/726), which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 73/239, and rule 24 of the rules of procedure, as follows: 10 seats for the African States; 8 seats for the Asia-Pacific States; 4 seats for the Eastern European States; 6 seats for the Latin American and Caribbean States; and 8 seats for the Western European and other States.

37. Accordingly, the UN-Habitat Assembly elected the representatives of the following Member States to serve as members of the Board for the period 2025–2029:

(a) From the African States: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Djibouti, Egypt, Mozambique, Nigeria, Somalia and Zimbabwe;

(b) From the Asia-Pacific States: China, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Japan, Pakistan, Republic of Korea and United Arab Emirates;¹

(c) From the Eastern European States: Azerbaijan, Russian Federation, Slovakia and Ukraine;

(d) From the Latin American and Caribbean States: Barbados, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay;

(e) From the Western European and other States: France, Germany, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye and United States of America.

38. The President explained that a member of the group would assume the position of Chair of the Board.

¹ Based on communication from the regional group of Asia-Pacific States, it is expected that the United Arab Emirates will be a member of the Executive Board for the period 2025–2027 and thereafter will be replaced by Malaysia for the period 2027–2029.

II. Strategic plan for the period 2026–2029 (agenda item 6)

39. At the 2nd plenary meeting, the President of the UN-Habitat Assembly, introducing the item, convened a high-level dialogue on the theme “Adequate housing for all: a focus on the next strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2026–2029” and drew attention to a concept note on the theme (HSP/HA.2/13/Add.1) that had been formulated to guide the session deliberations.

40. The high-level dialogue began with introductory remarks by Thani Mohamed-Soilihi, Minister of State for Francophonie and International Partnerships of France, and Alice Wahome, Cabinet Secretary for Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development of Kenya, who together moderated the dialogue. The Vice-Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of China, Dong Jianguo, the Mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo, the Governor of Nairobi, Johnson Sakaja, and the President of the National Council for Territorial Development of Chile, Paola Jirón, then participated in a high-level panel discussion that was chaired by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Anacláudia Roszbach. Representatives of Member States and observers were then given an opportunity to deliver statements on the theme of the high-level dialogue. Contributions were made by 1 deputy prime minister, 24 ministers, 5 vice-ministers, 19 government representatives and 2 partners.

41. A summary of the high-level dialogue by the President of the UN-Habitat Assembly is set out in annex IV to the present proceedings.

42. In her reflections on the discussion, the Executive Director noted that, although countries were using a wide range of models to support the provision of adequate housing, those models were based on common principles and forward-looking approaches related to climate, social inclusion, economic aspects and building alliances. Countries had a strong interest in participating in information exchange and in collaborating at the global and regional levels, as well as bilaterally, and had demonstrated that, in many cases, housing had been placed at the centre of national development plans.

43. In closing, the co-moderator noted that the dialogue had enabled a rich exchange of information, in particular regarding funding issues and possible solutions, the importance of strong regulatory and legal frameworks, the value of data capture and analysis, the need for leveraging the use of technology, and the importance of sound housing design and sustainable housing development.

III. Adoption of the outcomes of the session (agenda item 7)

44. At the 4th plenary meeting, on the afternoon of Friday, 30 May 2025, the President of the Assembly invited the Assembly to consider a draft decision entitled “Strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2026–2029”, set out in a conference room paper. The draft had been recommended for adoption by the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its third open-ended meeting, on the understanding that the Executive Director would introduce a limited number of consensual changes to the original draft, as submitted by the Executive Director, as agreed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its third open-ended meeting, and as outlined in a conference room paper.

45. The representative of the United States of America requested a vote on the draft decision based on the view that the draft decision did not enjoy consensus.

46. The President said that the secretariat had confirmed that quorum had been established for the vote. The vote would take place by show of hands, in accordance with the rules of procedure.

47. A vote by show of hands was taken on the draft decision, which was adopted by 105 to 2, with 1 abstention.

48. Following the adoption of the decision, the representative of Egypt, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, in explanation of vote, welcomed the inclusive consultative process led by the Executive Director in Nairobi during the drafting of the draft decision and called for the continuation and strengthening of that approach under the guidance of Member States. The strategic plan reflected a range of views and priorities and was aligned with key areas set out in the Assembly’s resolutions. He stressed the importance of implementing the strategic plan through regional action plans that effectively addressed diverse regional priorities and delivered tangible improvements in cities and human settlements, particularly in developing countries. He reiterated the group’s call for a robust monitoring and evaluation framework, guided by the recommendations and assessments of the current plan, including the review conducted by the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

49. Speaking in his national capacity, also in explanation of vote, the representative of Egypt congratulated the Assembly on the adoption of the strategic plan, while voicing concern that, for the

first time, a vote had been called on one of the Assembly's outcomes. He expressed the hope that the vote would not undermine the work of UN-Habitat and appealed for renewed solidarity among countries to restore the spirit of consensus that had traditionally characterized the Assembly's work.

50. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation had participated actively and constructively in the consultations and negotiations on the draft strategic plan, recognizing it as an important mechanism for addressing global urbanization challenges and enhancing crisis prevention, infrastructure development and international cooperation. In a spirit of compromise, his delegation had joined the consensus on the decision. However, it remained seriously concerned about the inclusion of language that had not been agreed and that exceeded the Programme's mandate, including politicized references to human rights and gender, as well as to the Pact for the Future. Matters relating to human rights should be addressed in the relevant forums of the United Nations in Geneva and New York, while UN-Habitat should remain focused on its technical mandate.

51. He reiterated his country's reservations regarding the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 5, as well as regarding the Pact for the Future and its annexes. He said that his country would not accept any elements of those documents that conflicted with its national laws, religious and cultural values, and moral norms. National instruments would remain the sole reference for domestic policies. Inadequate attention had, moreover, been given in the strategic plan to the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures, which hindered economic and social development and the realization of human rights in developing countries. He requested that his statement be reflected in the official report of the meeting.

52. The representative of the United States of America, speaking in explanation of vote, expressed disappointment that, for the first time in the proceedings of UN-Habitat, consensus had not been reached on a substantive matter. Owing to the Assembly's inability to reach agreement on the draft strategic plan for the period 2026–2029, she had called for a vote and had voted against the decision. UN-Habitat should remain focused on its core mandate to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities. Her delegation could not support the draft strategic plan, as it failed to meet the minimum conditions for its endorsement. Concerns included the characterization of climate change as a root cause of threats to human settlements instead of focusing on concrete environmental risks such as air and water quality, wildfires and rising sea levels. The lack of clarity and actionable focus in the plan's third impact area was also regrettable. She rejected the 2030 Agenda, saying that it advanced a programme of soft global governance inconsistent with the sovereignty of States, and was therefore disappointed that the strategic plan had not been delinked from that framework. She also objected to problematic references to concepts such as diversity, equity and inclusion, and to gender ideology.

53. The representative of Argentina, speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation had voted against the decision as its repeated requests for the removal of references in the text of the draft strategic plan to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals had gone unheeded. The 2030 Agenda was a non-legally binding instrument and each Member State retained the sovereign right to implement its elements as it saw fit. Argentina advocated a renewed vision for the strategic plan, grounded in the belief that sustainable human development was best achieved through private investment, open markets and a favourable investment climate. His country would continue to support UN-Habitat initiatives that upheld fundamental rights, such as freedom and private property, and affirmed its intention to continue working with the Programme in areas consistent with its national vision for development.

54. The representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, speaking in explanation of vote, said that her delegation was pleased to join the consensus on the decision and welcomed the focus in the draft strategic plan on sustainable and inclusive urban development. The removal of references to gender-based violence, which remained a serious barrier to safe and inclusive cities, particularly for women and girls, was, however, regrettable. While accepting the compromise for the sake of consensus, her delegation remained firmly committed to addressing gender-based violence and expected UN-Habitat to integrate gender equality and safety into the plan's implementation.

55. The representative of Mexico, speaking in explanation of vote, expressed concern over the unnecessarily politicized process surrounding the approval of the strategic plan – a technical document prepared by the secretariat and aligned with the Assembly's mandate. She also regretted the breakdown of the "Nairobi spirit", which had characterized cooperation within UN-Habitat since 1997. While supporting the adoption of the strategic plan, her delegation lamented the questioning of key, pro forma references to human rights, climate action, gender equality and the fight against

gender-based violence – principles that were central to the New Urban Agenda, the 2030 Agenda and the Pact for the Future, all of which had been adopted by consensus. All Member States must strive to ensure that Nairobi did not become the weakest link in the United Nations system and must redouble their efforts to strengthen links between the global North and the global South in support of people, the planet and shared prosperity.

56. The representative of Brazil, speaking in explanation of vote, welcomed the consensual adoption of the strategic plan, recognizing the constructive engagement and flexibility of delegations and the leadership of the Executive Director in preserving an inclusive and forward-looking vision. The plan successfully integrated key priorities, including access to adequate housing, secure tenure, access to basic services and the transformation of informal settlements, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda. The cross-cutting principles reflected in the plan, particularly human rights, were essential for the establishment of equitable, resilient and inclusive cities. To strengthen the autonomy and delivery capacity of UN-Habitat and to ensure the plan's success, States must provide predictable and adequate financing and increase their non-earmarked contributions to the Programme. He reaffirmed his country's full commitment to supporting the implementation of the plan and to the key role of UN-Habitat in sustainable urban development.

57. The representative of Colombia, speaking in explanation of vote, expressed satisfaction at the adoption of the new strategic plan. It was regrettable, however, that agreement had not been reached on certain provisions, including on gender-based violence. While the spirit of Nairobi had been compromised by the lack of unanimous agreement, it should be recognized that, despite their often very divergent views, Member States had successfully reached consensus on other key issues addressed in the strategic plan.

58. At the 4th plenary meeting, on the afternoon of Friday, 30 May 2025, the President of the Assembly invited the Assembly to consider for adoption the draft decision entitled "Approval of the International Guidelines on People-Centred Smart Cities", as set out in a conference room paper.

59. Following a suspension of the meeting to allow the finalization of the draft decision prior to its adoption, the representative of Ghana informed the Assembly that, regrettably, it had not been possible to reach consensus on the text of the draft decision.

60. As proposed by the President, the Assembly took note of the presentation by the Executive Director of the draft international guidelines on people-centred smart cities.

61. The following two decisions, as adopted, are set out in annex II to the present proceedings.

<i>Decision</i>	<i>Title</i>
2/6	Strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2026–2029
2/7	Dates and provisional agenda for the third session of the UN-Habitat Assembly

62. At the 4th plenary meeting, on the afternoon of Friday, 30 May 2025, the UN-Habitat Assembly adopted the present proceedings on the basis of the draft that had been circulated and on the understanding that it would be completed and finalized by the Rapporteur, working in conjunction with the secretariat.

IV. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the third session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (agenda item 8)

63. At the 4th plenary meeting, on the afternoon of Friday, 30 May 2025, the UN-Habitat Assembly adopted a decision on the dates and provisional agenda for the third session of the Assembly as set out in a conference room paper. Decision 2/7 is set out in annex II to the present proceedings.

V. Election of officers of the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly (agenda item 9)

64. Pursuant to rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, at its 3rd plenary meeting, on the morning of Friday, 30 May, the Assembly elected the following Member States to serve as members of its Bureau from the end of the final plenary meeting of its resumed second session until the end of the final plenary meeting of its third session.

President:	Malaysia
Vice-President:	Ethiopia
Rapporteur:	Mexico

65. Two positions of vice-president remained vacant pending the nominations of the representatives of the Eastern European States and of the Western European and other States.

66. The President announced that the Asia-Pacific States had endorsed the candidature of Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates for the position of President of the UN-Habitat Assembly for the period 2025–2029, on the understanding that Malaysia was to hold office for a duration of two years over the period 2025–2027, while the United Arab Emirates was to hold office for a duration of two years over the period 2027–2029.

VI. Other matters (agenda item 10)

Global Stakeholder Forum

67. One representative, speaking on behalf of stakeholders, drew attention to the third meeting of the Global Stakeholder Forum, convened online by UN-Habitat on 22 and 23 May 2025. While acknowledging efforts to develop a stakeholder engagement policy, the stakeholders regretted that it had not yet been possible to achieve consensus on a draft policy to guide action in that area and emphasized the importance of continued stakeholder engagement to advance negotiations to that end. A number of participants speaking on behalf of observer entities urged the adoption of a robust stakeholder engagement policy that respected self-organization, ensured meaningful participation, particularly of local governments and grass-roots women's groups, and secured direct, flexible funding for community-based initiatives. They highlighted the importance of collaborative planning, gender-responsive approaches and reliable local data in advancing equitable, sustainable urban development.

VII. Closure of the session (agenda item 11)

68. In a closing statement, delivered on behalf of William Ruto, President of Kenya, Ms. Wahome reaffirmed her country's strong commitment to the work and mandate of UN-Habitat and announced the President's pledge to triple Kenya's financial contribution to UN-Habitat, reflecting the country's long-standing role as host of the Programme and its dedication to global urban development. The President also proposed the formation of a group of global champions on adequate and affordable housing to accelerate the implementation of UN-Habitat Assembly resolution 2/7 on adequate housing for all.

69. Ms. Rossbach thanked the President of Kenya, William Ruto, for his steadfast support to the Programme and for announcing a threefold increase in the country's financial contribution to UN-Habitat.

70. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the session was declared closed at 7.05 p.m. on Friday, 30 May 2025.

Annex I**Outcomes adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its resumed second session**

<i>Decision</i>	<i>Title</i>
2/6	Strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2026–2029
2/7	Dates and provisional agenda for the third session of the UN-Habitat Assembly

Annex II

Decisions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its resumed second session

Decision 2/6: Strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2026–2029

The United Nations Habitat Assembly,

Recalling its decision 2/1, adopted at its second session, in June 2023, in which it requested the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, in consultation with the Executive Board, to start preparations for the development of the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029,

Welcoming the consultative process undertaken in Nairobi by the Executive Director to prepare the draft strategic plan for the period 2026–2029 in an open and inclusive manner, and calling for the continuation and enhancement of this practice in the future work of UN-Habitat, under the purview of Member States,

Taking note with appreciation of the consultations held in other relevant United Nations forums and regional forums, as well as with stakeholders, including at the local level, and with other United Nations entities to ensure a coherent approach towards sustainable urban development across the United Nations system,

Having considered the draft strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2026–2029 submitted by the Executive Director to the Executive Board during its first session of 2025 and the recommendations of the third open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives,

1. *Approves* the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029;²

2. *Requests* the Executive Director:

(a) To submit to the Executive Board for consideration and possible approval at its third session of 2025 a monitoring framework in line with a results-based management approach for the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029, with concise, specific, time-bound, systematic and measurable performance indicators for tracking progress in achieving the outcomes and outputs of the strategic plan, ensuring accountability, transparency, and prioritization for resource allocation for monitoring and reporting functions;

(b) To submit to the Executive Board, for consideration and possible approval at its first session of 2026, an updated resource mobilization strategy;

(c) To continue strengthening the implementation of results-based management in all the programmes, projects, policies and activities of UN-Habitat;

3. *Invites* all Member States in a position to do so to consider contributing to the core financial resources of UN-Habitat, which are indispensable to enable UN-Habitat to successfully fulfil its mandate, carry out its programmes for promoting socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements, and implement its strategic plan.

² HSP/HA.2/13.

Decision 2/7: Dates and provisional agenda for the third session of the UN-Habitat Assembly

The United Nations Habitat Assembly

1. *Decides* that the dates of its third session shall be 25–29 June 2029;
2. *Also decides* that the provisional agenda for its third session shall be as follows:
 1. Opening of the session.
 2. Adoption of the agenda.
 3. Report of the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
 4. Report of the Bureau on credentials of representatives.
 5. Adoption of the report of the Executive Board.
 6. Election of members of the Executive Board.
 7. Activities of UN-Habitat, including the implementation of resolutions adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its previous sessions.
 8. Review of progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
 9. Reports on the World Urban Forum.
 10. Dialogue on the special theme of the third session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
 11. Strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2030–2033.
 12. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the fourth session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
 13. Adoption of the outcomes of the session.
 14. Election of officers of the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
 15. Adoption of the report of the session.
 16. Other matters.
 17. Closure of the session.

Annex III

Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its resumed second session

Excellencies,

Dear friends,

I am pleased to send my greetings to this Second United Nations Habitat Assembly as you resume your session in Nairobi.

You gather as our world and cities face challenges on all fronts – accelerated by conflicts, the climate crisis, rising inequalities and growing geopolitical divides.

This Assembly is about coming together to help find solutions, adhering to shared values, and strengthening our work as the UN marks its 80th anniversary.

You recognize a core truth:

We can't build a liveable world if people don't have a place to live.

Yet 2.8 billion people around the world lack adequate shelter – stuck in informal settlements, slums or no home at all.

The Pact for the Future underscores the urgency – calling for universal access to adequate, safe, and affordable housing.

The Strategic Plan that you are taking up in Nairobi reaffirms that housing is a human right. It is a public good. And it is crucial to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Your Strategic Plan offers a pathway to helping advance dignity, safety, opportunity.

I wish you every success.

Together, let's keep working to ensure that everyone, everywhere, has a place to call home.

Thank you.

Annex IV

Summary by the President of the UN-Habitat Assembly of the high-level dialogue on the theme “Adequate housing for all: a focus on the next strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2026–2029”

A. High-level dialogue

1. The high-level dialogue on the theme comprised introductory remarks by the Minister of State for Francophonie and International Partnerships of France, Thani Mohamed-Soilihi, and the Cabinet Secretary for Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development of Kenya, Alice Wahome, who acted as co-chairs for the session. The four panellists for the session were the Vice-Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of China, Dong Jianguo, the Mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo, the Governor of Nairobi, Johnson Sakaja, and the President of the National Council for Territorial Development of Chile, Paola Jiron. The panel discussion was chaired by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Anacláudia Rossbach.
2. Mr. Mohamed-Soilihi commended the inclusive and ambitious approach taken in formulating the draft strategic plan for the period 2026–2029. The plan rightly repositioned access to adequate, affordable and sustainable housing at the heart of the work of UN-Habitat. Housing must be recognized not as a privilege, but as a fundamental right – a pillar of human dignity, social inclusion and sustainable urban development. Although progress had been made, 2.8 billion people still lacked access to adequate housing, with 1.2 billion living in informal settlements and 300 million estimated to be homeless. Those most affected were often the most vulnerable, including women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, displaced persons and refugees.
3. An intergovernmental expert working group on adequate housing, co-chaired by Kenya and France, had recently been established. The working group, which comprised some 200 experts, had first met in December 2024 and provided a unique opportunity for collaborative reflection. He encouraged all Member States to actively contribute to its work, which would produce operational recommendations and inform future editions of the biennial *World Cities Report*. Addressing housing challenges required more than simply increasing supply. Legal, financial and institutional frameworks and tools also needed to be strengthened. National experiences had underscored the importance of integrated approaches that combined land planning, robust construction standards and access to basic services such as schools and transport while also taking into account local social norms. A housing policy that operated in isolation from infrastructure planning was unlikely to meet real needs.
4. The intergovernmental expert working group and the new strategic plan offered valuable opportunities to share experiences, avoid missteps and develop more effective solutions. Access to adequate housing was a universal aspiration, and through shared commitment and respect for diversity, Member States could advance together towards that common goal.
5. Ms. Wahome said that the high-level dialogue was taking place at a critical moment, as millions of people around the world continued to live without secure, affordable and adequate housing. The aim of the dialogue was to galvanize political will, foster innovative partnerships and advance the implementation of the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2026–2029, with a focus on transforming informal settlements and expanding access to land and basic services.
6. Adequate housing must be recognized as a fundamental human right and a catalyst for sustainable urban development, poverty reduction, job creation, climate resilience and crisis recovery. Shared knowledge, inclusive policy frameworks and enhanced collaboration among governments, civil society, the private sector and development partners would be essential in realizing a future in which all people could enjoy the dignity of a safe and adequate home.
7. Her country, Kenya, was proud to co-chair, alongside France, the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on adequate housing for all. With the support of UN-Habitat, the working group had made significant progress, and its next session would be held in Nairobi on 22 and 23 October 2025. Concluding her remarks, she welcomed the distinguished panellists and said that she looked forward to a productive exchange moderated by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat.
8. Ms. Rossbach underscored the critical importance of the theme of the high-level dialogue at a time when nearly 3 billion people still lacked access to adequate housing, secure land tenure and basic services and more than 1 billion people lived in informal settlements and slums. Conflict and

climate-induced displacement continued to push millions into increasingly precarious living conditions. Adequate housing must be recognized as a human right and a vital foundation for eradicating poverty, resolving crises and achieving the global community's climate goals. Decisive action by governments and urban leaders was needed to achieve those goals. The draft strategic plan for the period 2026–2029 placed housing, land and basic services at the core of the work of UN-Habitat. It would strengthen collaboration between the Programme and Member States while supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda, in line with international human rights law. Strong political commitment and financial support would, however, prove critical in the plan's implementation. In closing, she stressed that the high-level dialogue was an opportunity for Member States to discuss the challenges they faced, their housing priorities and successful practices that could advance the goal of decent housing for all.

9. In response to questions from the moderator on how adequate housing policies could contribute to poverty reduction and support local economic development and job creation, and how China had pursued such objectives while fostering partnerships between local government and the private sector, Mr. Dong outlined three core strategies adopted by his Government.

10. First, rural housing safety had been a cornerstone of his country's poverty reduction efforts. Renovating dilapidated housing in rural areas was treated as a basic public service and a form of social assistance. Housing safety had been ensured for more than 23 million poor households, with over 310 billion yuan allocated by the central Government, with additional funding provided by subnational authorities. Every renovation was closely monitored to ensure quality, safety and seismic resilience.

11. Second, China had expanded access to affordable housing for new urban residents and moderate-income working-class populations. Housing units were sold at cost with minimal profit margins. By the end of 2024, over 32 million affordable housing units had been built or allocated, improving housing conditions for more than 100 million people. A further 1 million units were planned for 2025.

12. Third, the Government had carried out large-scale renovation of dilapidated and unsafe urban housing since 2008, targeting structurally compromised units, shanty towns, and substandard dwellings. By the end of 2024, more than 74 million housing units had been renovated, significantly improving the living conditions of more than 150 million urban residents, with a further 500,000 units planned for 2025.

13. Housing policy had also stimulated job creation and economic development. Since the country's 1998 housing commercialization reforms, the real estate and construction sectors had grown rapidly, generating more than 80 million jobs. The real estate sector employed more than 16 million people, and the construction sector nearly 58 million. China had also developed replicable post-disaster housing reconstruction models, integrating environmental protection and sustainability principles, as seen in responses to the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake, the 2010 Yushu earthquake and the 2023 Jishishan earthquake.

14. In response to a question from the moderator concerning the priorities and comprehensive strategies adopted by the city of Paris to address its housing needs while also addressing climate change concerns and social inequality, Ms. Hidalgo emphasized the need for political will and a holistic approach to address the housing crisis. Housing must be recognized not only as a question of human rights and dignity but also of societal cohesion and economic development. In Paris, social and affordable housing had been treated as a central political priority since 2001, with 800 million euros allocated in 2024 alone. The proportion of social housing in the city had increased from 13 per cent to 25 per cent during that period, enabling a socially mixed population to remain in central areas and supporting essential workers, including nurses, taxi drivers and public service employees.

15. The city had set a target of 35 per cent social and affordable housing, to be reached by 2040, and had adopted innovative strategies, including delinking land ownership from buildings and offering housing to young people and families at subsidized rates. With the support of the national Government and the European Commission, the city had also introduced regulatory measures to address the speculative impact of the real estate market. Many Parisian families were spending more than 40 per cent of their income on housing, a fact that underscored the urgent need for legislative tools to counteract excessive pricing.

16. Emphasizing the importance of multilevel governance, Ms. Hidalgo drew attention to the recent creation of a housing-focused European Commission portfolio and a coalition of mayors from across Europe working to align municipal programmes with national and European initiatives. That three-tier alliance – local, national and regional – was critical to advancing meaningful reforms. She concluded by underscoring the emotional and societal importance of efforts to provide decent housing,

noting that families benefiting from new social housing often reported a transformative impact on their children's education and well-being.

17. Mr. Sakaja said that rapid demographic change and the growth of cities in the developing world, particularly in Africa, meant that urgent action was needed to ensure that cities provided their inhabitants with adequate, affordable and sustainable housing. In response to a question from the moderator concerning the opportunities and challenges of placing housing at the centre of development policy, Mr. Sakaja described the housing strategy of Kenya as a deliberate, politically courageous decision, led by the country's President, to prioritize dignity and hope for citizens through large-scale housing programmes. In Nairobi alone, 60,000 units were under construction, with over 200,000 nationwide. Housing was framed not merely as shelter but as an integral component of economic, social and environmental development.

18. The recent handover of some 1,000 housing units to families from informal settlements had been transformative for beneficiaries' dignity and self-worth. Housing investments were directly linked to employment creation across multiple trades and had contributed to a nearly 47 per cent decline in crime in affected neighbourhoods. He underscored the urgency of action given his country's youthful population and the need to address joblessness, urban poverty and inequality.

19. Nairobi's population increased from 5 to 7 million during the day owing to commuters travelling into the city for work. That dynamic had implications for the environment and emissions, which the authorities sought to mitigate through climate-smart, green and circular urban planning. All new public and private sector construction projects in Nairobi needed to comply with updated construction and sustainability standards. The Nairobi authorities had established successful partnerships with the private sector, including in connection with \$650 million in development projects involving nine housing estates, with the city authorities providing land in exchange for housing units and revenue-sharing arrangements.

20. Ms. Jiron, responding to a question about how territorial development and mobility policies could support the provision of adequate housing for all in Latin America, said that the National Council for Territorial Development, which she chaired, advised the President of Chile on the implementation of national urban, rural and territorial policies. The Council, comprising 49 members from government, civil society, academia and the private sector, aimed to foster multi-stakeholder collaboration. Chile was seeking to adopt a territorial approach to urban development, moving away from rigid models to more dynamic and relational planning that accounted for spatial continuity, diversity and multidimensionality.

21. She highlighted five key aspects of her country's experience in seeking to provide decent housing to its inhabitants. First, the national housing policy, developed over 40 years, had shifted towards a more integrated approach, connecting housing with services, employment and infrastructure to reduce inequality. A major innovation had been the move from an individual application model to a territorial needs-based model involving cross-sectoral tools. Second, Chile had sought to reform its national investment evaluation system to focus on territories and long-term, interconnected planning rather than isolated projects. The recent climate change law had enabled changes to financing methodologies and encouraged public-private alliances. Third, urban-rural relations were viewed as a continuum, particularly in efforts to address land issues in urban peripheries, combat land speculation and manage climate-related risks. Fourth, given the complex drivers of informality, informal settlement strategies must go beyond housing upgrades to include densification, regeneration and integrated services. Fifth, it was important to address care needs and services in urban planning. The national care system of Chile aimed to localize care services and link them with housing, education, health services and other basic infrastructure. In closing, she stressed that climate change and countries' rapidly ageing populations meant that it was time to radically rethink how cities were designed and lived in.

B. High-level debate

22. In the ensuing discussion, ministers and other high-level representatives of countries delivered statements addressing the theme of the session, "Adequate housing for all: a focus on the next strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2026–2029". Statements were also delivered by representatives of other United Nations entities, major groups of stakeholders and non-governmental organizations.

23. Many representatives expressed support for the draft strategic plan for the period 2026–2029.

24. Many representatives said that adequate housing was a fitting focus for the draft strategic plan, as adequate housing was not merely about having enough places for people to live but brought with it a wealth of other benefits, not least poverty reduction and human dignity.
25. Many representatives provided details regarding the progress achieved in projects at the national and subnational levels that were intended to close the housing gap, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 11, but noted that more work remained to be done to close the gap completely, although one representative said that her country was on track to exceed the provision required to meet current housing needs at the national level. Some representatives said that their countries were focusing on housing for specific marginalized or vulnerable groups, including those currently in informal housing, those working in the informal sector, Indigenous people, older people, people living with disabilities, households headed by women, families with young children, low-income families and young people.
26. Several representatives drew attention to the significant opportunities for job creation linked to adequate housing, including through fostering simple, innovative solutions that leveraged local labour and materials, providing professional training and equipping young people with valuable skills. A number of representatives also highlighted that job creation as a result of housing policy was not always linked directly to construction; other sectors, such as finance, would require additional human resources, and the provision of the housing itself would stimulate rural economies and bring development directly to underserved communities, helping to ensure that no one was left behind.
27. Many representatives noted the importance of strengthening climate resilience through housing. There was a need in particular for housing that was more suitable in the face of rising temperatures, water scarcity and flooding, as well as natural disasters. Regarding the opportunities for climate action within their national housing policies, several representatives noted that those included both climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, such as the use of local and sustainable materials, especially for older housing stock; the decarbonization of construction; and the integration of renewable energy systems, comprehensive waste management, rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling.
28. The provision of adequate housing was also highlighted by a number of representatives as a key element of crisis recovery, both from natural disasters and from armed conflict. Adequate housing was central to post-conflict recovery, providing safety for displaced persons, including those internally displaced and returning diaspora, as well as being an opportunity for building back better. It was also important to consider restoring damaged property records and expanding access to cadastral services, ensuring legal security and social stability for returnees. One representative also underscored the importance of empowering local communities to participate in the planning and development of housing projects as an integral part of crisis recovery, in order to ensure that solutions were tailored to their specific needs and preferences and to involve young people in rebuilding their country, while another noted the need to strengthen the link between housing and sustainable recovery. Stressing that crisis recovery was not something that a country could achieve on its own, a number of representatives drew attention to the fact that financial and economic blockades were a major obstacle to providing adequate housing, as they affected both access to financing and cooperation. The burden placed on neighbouring countries that provided refuge during times of crisis also needed to be considered.
29. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, noted the challenges presented by urbanization. It was a particular problem for small island developing States, and in areas of a country where no additional land was available, sometimes requiring the development of brownfield sites and land readjustment, as well as urban densification. Urbanization required careful management in order to prevent conflict between urban development and biodiversity, create safer places to live, preserve cultural heritage, promote regeneration and renovation, provide the necessary infrastructure for all and ensure that neighbourhoods were inclusive and improved quality of life for all rather than exacerbating existing inequalities.
30. When considering overall approaches to adequate housing, representatives referred to a range of principles upon which their national policies were based. Those included a human rights-based approach; a data-driven approach to assessing need; a gender perspective; a people-centred approach; adequate housing as a catalyst for social justice; a multisectoral approach; the need for housing to be culturally appropriate; a flexible approach to incorporating technologies such as artificial intelligence and the Internet of things; housing policy as part of a national strategy to become an upper middle-income country; improved social cohesion through mixed-use and mixed-income neighbourhoods; and a regional and differentiated approach to reducing the housing deficit that ensured historically vulnerable populations were prioritized. A number of representatives said that affordable housing was at the centre of their overall development agenda, and one representative

cautioned that the issue of adequate housing could not be addressed in isolation from the overall housing market.

31. Many representatives referred to the need to update and strengthen regulatory and legal frameworks at the national level and the progress they had made in that regard, in areas such as climate-smart and sustainable building standards, mortgages, and land and property rights, including facilitating land ownership for cooperative projects and regulating multi-unit developments.

32. With regard to funding, many representatives drew attention to the growing importance of public-private partnerships as part of their national policies. Examples of successful policies included tax incentives and fast-track approval that drove private investment in affordable and quality housing, contributions of land from private companies, mobilizing private investment at the subnational level, working with private companies on a government scheme to regularize informal settlements, and encouraging the use of escrow accounts to increase the stability of project financing.

33. It was important for countries to create a favourable environment for investment and have access to innovative funding mechanisms, including climate and multilateral funds, and to adopt flexible and low-cost housing models. There needed to be a participatory and integrated approach, strengthening governance and inclusive partnerships, with national Governments acting as enablers by mobilizing communities, financial institutions and developers through trust-based collaboration. One representative of a partner noted, however, that housing remained severely underfunded from official development assistance, despite the significant gains to be made, in particular in relation to improved health and education, which in turn led to longer life expectancy.

34. Many representatives provided details of government financial support schemes for home ownership and rental support, such as subsidies, credit guarantees, long-term mortgages with low interest rates, and financing that took into account religious considerations of residents. One representative drew attention to community-managed savings schemes, which enabled households to improve their living conditions while strengthening social cohesion and local ownership, and another representative said that a significant source of financial support in his country was provided to citizens by the diaspora.

35. A number of representatives underscored the importance for Governments of monitoring the price of land in their countries and keeping land speculation under control. One representative noted that housing tended to be a private-led sector focused on high-cost housing and therefore innovative strategies were needed, such as land value capture and reinvestment, and land banking using government land.

36. Regarding partnerships, a number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, provided details of projects through which they were providing support to other countries, in the form of knowledge exchange, technical cooperation and city-to-city partnerships, as well as projects to help people to remain in their homeland, and to help rural repatriation and integration.

37. One representative highlighted the need for both vertical cooperation, with other countries, and horizontal cooperation, between government, civil society, communities and development partners, and a number of representatives noted the importance of bilateral cooperation, in particular South-South cooperation, and regional cooperation.

38. A number of representatives expressed thanks to UN-Habitat for specific support provided at the national level regarding adequate housing.

39. A key partnership for governments with regard to adequate housing was with citizens themselves and should include dialogue with communities and grass-roots organizations regarding housing design and planning in order to fully understand the diverse needs in society and provide meaningful solutions. A number of representatives said that their governments supported citizens in constructing their own homes, including by providing the necessary infrastructure and prototype house designs that could be shared with communities. One representative said that the provision of microcredits and technical assistance had enabled families in her country to improve their own homes. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, noted the need for social inclusiveness and community engagement, with one suggesting empowering residents to govern their own neighbourhoods through a community-based resilience initiative, and another highlighting the importance of supporting cooperative and community housing initiatives. One representative noted the need to encourage and promote the culture of saving among citizens, ensuring that spending was sustainable.

40. Decentralization was therefore vital, allowing local governments to take a leading role, including in providing land and supporting local-level implementation of housing projects. A representative of a partner said that local and regional governments were calling for more powers to enable them to better regulate the real estate market, and for more funds to improve public housing stock. She noted that market deregulation, commodification and increasing competition for real estate had often become a great burden for neighbourhoods, causing serious distortions in their social fabric, and cautioned that it was critical to remember that evictions were not acceptable and therefore ways to avoid them must be put in place.

41. Lastly, several representatives underscored that developing countries in particular had a need for capacity-building, financial and technical assistance, including for updating outdated legislation, and knowledge transfer, including at the regional and local levels.
