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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

## PRESS RELEASE

# UN-Habitat announces 2025 Scroll of Honour Award winners

**Nairobi, 30 September 2025** – UN-Habitat is pleased to announce the winners of the 2025 UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award, recognizing outstanding contributions to sustainable urbanization and the improvement of urban life worldwide. Established in 1989, the Scroll of Honour is one of the most prestigious awards in the field of sustainable urban development.

This year's winners are selected from 141 nominations spanning Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas. Their initiatives showcase best practices and innovative solutions targeting the most vulnerable and advancing Sustainable Development Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities.

The awards will be presented on World Habitat Day, 6 October 2025, which is observed annually on the first Monday of October. The theme this year is "Urban crisis response." The ceremony will take place at the UN-Habitat headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

"From inclusive housing models to circular food systems, each of the recognized initiatives demonstrates that even in times of crisis, cities can respond with solutions that are inclusive, sustainable, and transformative," said Anacláudia Rossbach, Executive Director of UN-Habitat.

Multiple overlapping crises threaten wellbeing across cities globally. Of particular concern is the global housing crisis we face today. Nearly 3 billion people face some form of housing inadequacy and more than 1.1 billion live in informal settlements and slums and over 300 million being homeless. Progress toward Sustainable Development Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities is falling behind. Without urgent action, growing urban crises – from housing insecurity to climate shocks – will continue to strain cities, drive poverty, and widen inequality.

"The vast majority of SDG targets are tied to how we manage cities and housing is at the centre of SDGs," Rossbach emphasized. "Scaling up transformative approaches like those recognized this year is essential to build resilience and ensure no one is left behind."

### The 2025 UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award winners are:

- **Israel Smart, Jos Plateau, Nigeria** – for his transformative "Hydroponic Farm-in-a-Box," a solar-powered, circular farming innovation built from recycled plastics that tackles food insecurity, unemployment, and plastic pollution while empowering women and youth.

- **Public Works Studio, Beirut, Lebanon** – for its pioneering “Housing Monitor” initiative, the first platform in the South West Asia and North Africa region enabling vulnerable residents to report eviction threats and access legal and social protection, while advancing housing rights and spatial justice.
- **Just a Change, Lisbon, Portugal** – for its volunteer-driven housing rehabilitation model, restoring unsafe homes across Portugal and bringing dignity, safety, and sustainability to vulnerable families through inclusive, community-based action.
- **Clara Marina Brugada Molina, Mexico City, Mexico** – for her visionary “UTOPIAS” model of urban regeneration, reclaiming neglected public spaces to create inclusive hubs for culture, health, education, and care, rooted in equity and community participation.

In addition, a **Special Citation** was awarded to **Gangwon State (IUTC), Republic of Korea**, for strengthening global capacity for sustainable urban development through training and international collaboration.

Through the World Habitat Day theme and the Scroll of Honour Award, UN-Habitat seeks to inspire collaborative dialogue and action on how cities respond to crises with resilience, inclusion, and innovation – accelerating progress towards the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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### **About UN-Habitat**

UN-Habitat is the United Nations entity working for sustainable urbanization. With programmes in over 90 countries, it supports policymakers and communities to create socially and environmentally sustainable cities and towns. UN-Habitat promotes transformative change in urban areas through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance, and collaborative action. To know more, visit [unhabitat.org](https://unhabitat.org) or follow us on X @UNHABITAT.

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