

Statement from Informality Task Force to the Second Session of the Open-ended Inter-Governmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing For All

22 October 2025 | Nairobi, Kenya

Honourable Chair, Madame Executive Director, Distinguished Member State Representatives, esteemed colleagues and friends.

My name is Ariana Karamallis, Global Advocacy and Development Manager at Build Change. I speak today in my function as head of the advocacy initiative of the Informality Task Force, a growing global multistakeholder platform that fosters collaboration between 40 organizations engaged in slum transformation, and that is co-convened by UN-Habitat, the Government of South Africa and Habitat for Humanity International, and hosted by the Cities Alliance.

The Informality Task Force remains a strong example of a multi-stakeholder platform that mobilizes the collective expertise and resources of its members to achieve the ambitious goals set out in *Resolution 2/7 on Adequate Housing for All* and *Resolution 2/2 on Accelerating the Transformation of Slums and Informal Settlements*. We are committed to support governments and key stakeholders in translating connected commitments into tangible action for adequate and scalable housing and settlement solutions.

We are concerned by the recent UN-Habitat data that evidences a reversal of past positive trends in the key regions of future urban population growth, indicating a new rise of absolute and relative numbers of people living in slums and informal settlements. Without decisive action agreed upon today, numbers will rise from currently 1.1 billion slum dwellers worldwide to 3 billion in 2050. To ensure that we safeguard the progress made throughout the past two decades and reach the scale needed to achieve adequate housing for all, the construction of new affordable housing units alone is insufficient—parallel efforts to upgrade and transform informal settlements are essential.

As such, the Informality Task Force wishes to express its strong support for the proposed inclusion of Resolution 2/2 in the work of the Open Ended Working Group, as set out in the Roadmap presented during this second session, given the complementarity of the work on housing with the ten key action areas outlined in Resolution 2/2.

In addition to the draft recommendations produced by the Expert Group Meetings and Intercessional discussions, we would like to encourage member states to also:

- 1) Develop and adopt policies that capture all forms of housing informality, including informal settlements, backyard shacks, and occupied buildings or tenant housing;
- 2) Regulate the speculative dynamics of land and housing markets as root causes of the housing crisis that perpetuate inadequate living conditions;
- 3) Consider all action areas mentioned in the Resolution 2/2; developing policies and programmes that link new affordable housing with integrated upgrading efforts, to foster truly holistic approaches that integrate mechanisms for inclusive governance and collaboration with civil society;
- 4) Enable inclusive stakeholder settings from the onset of development and implementation of housing solutions at national and local levels, and through the Open Ended Working Group's EGMs and Intercessionals;
- 5) Commit to the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Right to Adequate Housing adopted by the Human Rights Council of the General Assembly in 2020; and
- 6) Increase financial, logistical, policy and regulatory efforts to materialise commitments that emerge from this week's dialogue, including through the active establishment of implementation partnerships and accountability frameworks.

By working collaboratively, we can attain the ambitious goal of achieving adequate housing for all for truly sustainable and resilient development that leaves no one and no place behind.

We pledge our continuing commitment and will be happy to engage in further conversations on targeted support we could provide.

Thank you very much.