

69th Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Programmatic, Budgetary and Administrative Matters of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat - 15 October 2025

Intervention - Philippines

Thank you, Madam Chair.

The Philippines thanks the UN-Habitat and the Philippines country office for this report and for over three decades of partnership, from the inception of Local Shelter Planning Guidelines in the 1990s to our joint implementation of the 2024–2028 UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). This collaboration has contributed to managing rapid urban growth and building resilience against natural disasters and climate change.

We are pleased to note the Report's recognition of the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 as a key framework that integrates the SDGs and climate change considerations into our national development trajectory. This alignment demonstrates our commitment to the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches in implementing the New Urban Agenda.

We appreciate the UN-Habitat for its work in post-disaster and post-conflict recovery. The Social Tenure Domain Model has enhanced tenure security following Typhoon Haiyan and the Marawi conflict, providing national and local governments with a robust policy tool.

We also appreciate the ongoing "Blue-Green Recovery" project for the Sama-Bajau indigenous community in Surigao City, which advances innovative approaches to secure sea-tenure while promoting nature-based solutions and circular-economy principles.

On climate resilience, tools such as the Provincial Climate Risks Diagnostics and the Urban Planning and Design for Climate Resilience have supported risk-informed planning across multiple provinces, supporting our Risk Resiliency Programme led by our Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The Healthy Oceans and Clean Cities Initiative has supported the marine litter action plans in six pilot cities and fostered localization of our National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Reduction, and Management of Marine Litter (NPOA-ML).

On SDG localization, Surigao City's first Voluntary Local Review (VLR) has inspired further localization: Surigao del Norte is preparing the country's first provincial VLR, and the Caraga Region has endorsed development of provincial VLRs across its five provinces, demonstrating how communities can lead in SDG-based planning.

Together with UN-Habitat, the Philippines organized the inaugural Philippine Urban Forum in 2023, to promote multi-stakeholder engagement and coordination in support of sustainable urbanization and the Philippine New Urban Agenda.

At the national level, efforts continue to harmonize local land use and development planning and to strengthen implementation and monitoring. Advancing the digitalization of land use and urban planning processes remains a priority.

In recognition of UN-Habitat's work, the Philippines has doubled its contributions to the Program.

Looking ahead, we look forward to continued collaboration with UN-Habitat, including exploring support for the Pambansang Pabahay Para sa Pilipino (4PH) Program to address our critical housing deficit, and for building climate- and disaster- resilient sustainable human settlements where cities become hubs of innovation, inclusive development and shared prosperity.

Thank you.