

Concept Note

Regional Housing Discussions on the Margins of the Second Session of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All



Background

The Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All (OEWG-H) was established pursuant to resolution 2/7 on adequate housing for all, adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat Assembly) at its second session, held in Nairobi from 5 to 9 June 2023. In that resolution, the UN-Habitat Assembly decided to establish an open-ended intergovernmental expert working group to consider and make recommendations to the Habitat Assembly in 2029 on the development and content of policies for accelerating progress towards the universal achievement of safe, sustainable, adequate and affordable housing.

At the first session of the Open-Ended Working Group on Housing, held in December 2024, the Regional Directors provided reports as part of the agenda item on UN-Habitat's Programme of Work.

Building on this intervention, and as part of the preparations for the second session of the OEWG-H (22–23 October 2025), UN-Habitat Regional Programme Division and Regional Offices will convene regional technical consultations on housing on 21 October 2025 at UN-Habitat Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

Held on the margins of OEWG-H2, these consultations will provide space for participants to familiarize themselves with the outcomes of the OEWG-H intersessional meetings and reflect on their relevance to the regional contexts.

The discussions will also serve as a platform to address region-specific housing challenges and bring forward potential proposals under Agenda Item 5, with a view to identifying housing themes for the OEWG-H's future work. The OEWG-H2 programme and related session documents can be accessed [here](#).

Objectives

The regional discussions aim to:

1. Examine regional housing challenges, priorities, and opportunities;
2. Share experiences and lessons learned among Member States and partners;
3. Contextualize OEWG-H outcomes and unpack selected recommendations according to different regional contexts;
4. Highlight ongoing housing work, envisioned outcomes, and priorities outlined in the Regional Roadmaps for the implementation of UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026-2029, with a focus on housing, land, and basic services;
5. Identify priority topics to inform the agenda of future OEWG-H sessions.

Participation

Participants will include representatives from Member States, Permanent Missions, UN entities, experts, and other stakeholders engaged in housing and sustainable urban development.

Thematic Scope

The regional dialogues are aligned with UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026–2029, in particular its strategic focus on housing, land, and basic services, which emphasizes adequate housing as a driver of sustainable urban development, social inclusion, and resilience. The discussions will also draw on regional roadmaps for the implementation of the Strategic Plan, ensuring that each region's priorities and specific contexts are reflected.

Each regional discussion will therefore be designed around themes corresponding to the priorities of the respective regions, contributing to both the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the outcomes of the OEWG-H. Depending on regional contexts, the regional discussions may choose to explore one or more thematic housing issues (e.g. national housing policies, rental housing; housing and climate resilience; housing in crisis contexts; housing and water management; housing and waste management; enabling land management tools for housing provision; women's access to housing; housing for old persons and youth, etc.).

ARAB STATES

For the Arab States, the discussion will focus on the Regional Housing Profile, developed under the regional programme *"Advancing National Housing Profiles and Housing Strategies in Selected Countries in the Arab Region."* Aligned with the Global Housing Strategy, the Arab Strategy for Housing and Sustainable Urban Development 2023, and national priorities, this Profile provides a comprehensive assessment of the housing sector in participating countries. The session will serve to present its key findings, gather feedback and additional input from participants, and open the floor for further dialogue on priority interventions, challenges, and opportunities for advancing adequate and affordable housing in the Arab region.

- **Language:** Arabic
- **Time:** 13:00 – 15:00 EAT
- **Venue:** Conference Room 9
- [Online participation link](#)

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

For Latin America and the Caribbean, the discussion will connect ongoing regional dialogues on adequate housing scheduled throughout 2025 with the work of the OEWG-H. Particular emphasis will be placed on housing and climate change, which will be central to COP30 in Brazil, and on resilient housing and resilient cities, a key focus of the forthcoming Ministerial MINURVI Meeting in Barbados. The session will explore how these regional priorities can inform and reinforce the OEWG-H deliberations and contribute to the regional implementation of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026–2029.

- **Language:** English/ Spanish Interpretation TBC
- **Time:** 16:30 – 18:30 EAT
- **Venue:** Conference Room 9
- [Online participation link](#)

ASIA PACIFIC

For Asia and the Pacific States, the discussion will focus on the Regional Roadmap for the implementation of UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026–2029, especially the priority needs related to housing. Asia and the Pacific Region has common challenges such as housing affordability and frequent natural disasters. However, the Region is also one of the most diverse regions socio-economically and culturally as well as from the context of urbanization and demographics. By gaining more granular insights from the participants, the session aims at deepening our

understanding of challenges and opportunities for promoting adequate housing for all. Mutual understanding among the participants is also expected to facilitate regional collaboration.

- **Language:** English
- **Time:** 14:00 – 16:00 EAT
- **Venue:** Conference Room 10
- [Online participation link](#)

WESTERN EUROPE, EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

For Western Europe, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia, the discussion will focus on affordable and energy-efficient housing in the context of green transition and post-crisis recovery. The session will highlight innovative policy and financing approaches for improving housing quality, energy performance, and resilience, particularly in countries affected by economic or humanitarian challenges. Participants will exchange experiences on integrating housing policies with broader climate and urban development agendas and explore opportunities for regional cooperation and knowledge exchange to advance sustainable and inclusive housing solutions across the region. The outcomes of the discussion will also inform the Regional Roadmaps for the implementation of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026–2029 and its Strategic Focus on Housing, Land and Basic Services, at the regional level.

- **Language:** English
- **Time:** 13:00 – 15:00 EAT
- **Venue:** Conference Room 14
- [Online participation link](#)

AFRICA

For Africa, the session will build on the outcomes of the first session of the OEWG-H, focusing on achieving affordable housing for all. Discussions will center on land and housing policies, financing mechanisms for affordable housing, and partnership models that can accelerate delivery at scale. The session will provide a platform for participants to review the outcomes of the OEWG-H intersessional meetings and reflect on their relevance to the regional context. It will also serve to address region-specific housing challenges and bring forward potential proposals under Agenda Item 5 of the second OEWG-H session, with a view to identifying priority housing themes for the Group's future work. The outcomes of the discussion will further inform UN-Habitat's work and the Regional Roadmap for Africa, strengthening the alignment between global deliberations and regional priorities.

- **Language:** English
- **Time:** 13:00 – 15:00 EAT
- **Venue:** Conference Room 13
- [Online participation link](#)

Proposed Agenda

1. Introduction and Opening Remarks
 - Welcome and introduction by the Regional Director/ Representative from Regional Office
 - Overview of objectives of the regional discussion and linkage with the OEWG-H
2. Regional Presentations
 - Key housing challenges, opportunities, and policy priorities
 - Overview of ongoing housing work in the region, priority actions and envisioned outcomes as set out in the regional roadmap.
3. Interactive Discussion
 - Exchange of perspectives among participants
 - Identification of common themes, regional priorities and opportunities for regional collaboration
4. Recommendations and Way Forward
 - Summary of key messages and recommendations
 - Proposed topics for the next sessions of the OEWG-H