



STEWARDS OF CHANGE (C.B.O)

Community Based Organization

Sustainable community initiatives:

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Intervention on behalf of Stewards of Change Community-Based Organization

To the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All

Second Session, Nairobi, 22–23 October 2025

Thank you, Co-Chairs, for the opportunity to speak I am Joseph Gathuka Co-Founder Stewards of Change Community based Organization.

The Stewards of Change community-based organization welcomes the proposed roadmap for the OEWG-H's work from 2025 to 2029. We see it as a critical framework for advancing the human right to adequate housing.

We are particularly encouraged by the roadmap's recognition of the need to include diverse voices, specifically mentioning the perspectives of **informal settlement dwellers and marginalized groups**. For this process to be truly transformative, this commitment must be moved from text to tangible action.

In this spirit, we offer three key recommendations:

1. Formalize and Fund Direct Community Participation: The roadmap mentions "additional consultations" and an "informal space." We urge Member States to go further. We call for the formal inclusion of community representatives, including slum dwellers, homeless populations, and housing-rights defenders, as active participants in all thematic streams, not just as occasional witnesses. Dedicated funding must be mobilized to ensure their meaningful participation from the Global South.

2. Center Community-Led Data and Solutions: The proposed **Housing Monitoring Framework** is crucial. However, to be effective, it must integrate **community-generated data**. We, the people living in informal settlements, are the foremost experts on our realities. Our knowledge is essential for defining homelessness, mapping informal settlements, and developing context-specific indicators for housing adequacy. We offer our partnership in this endeavor.

3. Prioritize Thematic Areas with Direct Community Impact: We strongly support the inclusion of **tenure security, informal settlements, social housing, and gender-sensitive housing** as priority themes. We further urge the OEWG-H to prioritize the thematic area of **"Housing in Crisis Contexts,"** as communities like ours are on the frontlines of climate disasters and displacement.



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In conclusion, the success of this roadmap will not be measured by the number of reports produced, but by the tangible improvements in the lives of the most vulnerable. As Stewards of Change, we stand ready to contribute our lived experience, our grassroots knowledge, and our commitment to ensuring that the policy recommendations developed here are grounded in the reality of those for whom they are intended.

Thank you.