



**Statement of the Delegation of Ukraine during
the third session of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat
under Agenda Item 8
“Efforts to reconstruct human settlements affected by conflict in Ukraine**”
(25-26.11.2025, Nairobi)**

**Mr. Chairperson,
Madam Executive Director,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

Ukraine expresses its appreciation to the Executive Director and the UN-Habitat Secretariat for preparing the report and for the Programme's growing engagement in our country.

UN-Habitat's technical assistance in recovery planning, damage assessments, and cooperation with national and local authorities remains essential as Ukraine continues to deal with the vast destruction of its urban areas and infrastructure.

UN-Habitat's current work in Ukraine is supported by our close partners – Germany, UNICEF, the Slovak Republic and the United States.

And we also express our sincere gratitude for their tangible contributions, which enable the Programme's activities on the ground and help Ukrainian cities begin to recover.

Distinguished colleagues,

Since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 – expanding the armed aggression initiated in 2014 – our country has endured a level of destruction unseen in Europe for generations.

Entire urban landscapes have been levelled.

More than 13% residential buildings – homes, apartment blocks and community facilities – no longer exist in their previous form.

Hospitals, schools, heating networks and water systems have come under repeated attacks, paralysing daily life and leaving entire communities without essential services.

Millions of people have been displaced – one of the largest population displacements in modern European history.

For every Ukrainian, this is not merely a conflict. It is an urban disaster – disaster that has turned functioning cities into empty shells.

Dear colleagues,

And this is why precision of language is not a formality; it is a matter of truth and accountability.

The current draft report uses the phrase “conflict in Ukraine.”

This wording does not reflect the terminology adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council, which have clearly defined the situation as a WAR OF AGGRESSION – a determination explicitly set out in General Assembly resolutions ES-11/1, ES-11/4, ES-11/5, ES-11/6 and ES-11/7, as well as in Security Council resolutions S/RES/2623 and S/RES/2774.

These resolutions form the legal and political framework within which all UN entities, including UN-Habitat, operate.

At the same time, the terminology in the draft is not consistent with UN-Habitat's mandated language.

When addressing contexts of reconstruction or resilience-building, the Programme applies the formulation “areas affected by armed conflict.”

It is a neutral, factual and internationally recognized term that precisely describes the environment in which recovery must take place.

UN-Habitat has a strong record of clarity and accuracy in its reports – whether describing an earthquake in Syria or floods elsewhere.

The same standard should apply when referring to the destruction of cities in Ukraine.

Terminology matters – because clarity is not just linguistic, it is moral and legal.

And it safeguards the legal and factual clarity essential for informed decision-making.

Ukraine therefore respectfully requests that the report be revised to use accurate and UN-consistent wording – specifically “Ukraine affected by conflict.”

For Ukraine, this is not about semantics.

It is about naming reality – It is about reflecting reality as it is – the reality of destroyed cities and people working to rebuild them.

Finally, the Delegation kindly requests that this statement be reflected in the official documentation of the Executive Board.

Thank you!