

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

Second Session

Nairobi, Kenya – 22-23 October 2025



Habitat for Humanity International's verbal Statements to the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All, OEWG-H2

Agenda Item 5: Proposed Roadmap for the work of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group for the period 2025 – 2029

HFHI reactions to the proposed roadmap – As Delivered

Honorable co-chairs, Excellencies,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I join you on behalf of Habitat for Humanity, a global organization based in over 60 countries focused on the construction and facilitation of adequate and affordable housing.

As the representative from Burkina Faso stated earlier today, housing is more than a sector, it is a connector. Housing has been an overlooked component of sustainable development. But, as our research has shown and as member states have attested here, comprehensively improving housing will amplify the impact of investments in health, education, and poverty reduction globally – connecting and catalyzing outcomes across human development.

We greatly appreciate this convening as a novel means to elevate issues of housing in a transboundary way and to develop solutions that can apply to all contexts – we know how ambitious this is.

We celebrate the invaluable leadership of France and Kenya and the development of the first years' roadmap – we also welcome the thoughtful outline of the next two years of work leading to the 2029 recommendations.

As we are actively engaged in the various proceedings of the OEWG, and will remain committed through 2029, we would like to offer seven considerations:

1. As thematic areas for recommendations are refined, we **suggest providing a structured framework** for the package of recommendations. A framework could, for example, elevate the five housing policy regimes, developed as part of the Global Housing Indicators Project and captured in Habitat for Humanity's Global Housing Indicators, including: **housing finance, tenure security, infrastructure, regulations, and subsidies**. This would provide a consistent and tested framework for countries to address housing holistically.
2. We encourage the inclusion of themes that provide **guidance on housing policy tradeoffs**, for example local versus national policies, affordability versus localization, affordability versus spatial integration, and demand versus supply side priorities.
3. We encourage the development of **policy recommendations on instruments** that better support national and local governments' policymaking. Focus could include balanced densification, cross-subsidization, and climate insurance.
4. We offer our effort to create an expanded **Global Housing Continuum** model to promote consistent global language and understanding of the full spectrum of adequate housing needs and solutions, that can support multiple definitions being developed through the OEWG process and as a consistent means of discussing housing interventions.
5. We celebrate the involvement of technical ministries and staff in these dialogues and the work done during the intercessional period to increase diversity of participation. However, **relevant housing, territorial, urban and/or land ministries could be better coordinated and made aware of this process**. We are concerned that in some cases technical ministries remain unaware of these proceedings at the country level and are missing from substantively contributing to the recommendations.
6. We also **urge governments to engage housing-related civil society organizations in their preparation and input**. To date, we are not aware of consultative processes underway at the local or national level with civil society actors and believe this to be a significant gap in ensuring voices of affected populations are effectively captured in both the hurdles and solutions for adequate and affordable housing that will be captured in the final recommendations.

Finally, we believe that this process provides an unprecedented contribution to housing, as housing is elevated as a priority at local and global levels. The work underlying the support to member states in this process is immense, and we congratulate the technical teams at

UN-Habitat for the inclusive preparation for this meeting. We urge governments to invest directly in this process to ensure its success, both as a technical contribution to housing commitments globally, and as an important multilateral process.

Habitat for Humanity stands ready to assist partners or member states seeking to engage local entities where we, or our partners, operate and we look forward to the consensus-driven adoption of the recommendations in 2029.