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UN-HABITAT

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

PRESS RELEASE

UN-Habitat launches Housing Knowledge Platform to help address global housing crisis

Nairobi, 27 November 2026 — UN-Habitat has launched the Housing Knowledge Platform, an online resource bringing together housing data, policies, and practical solutions from around the world to help countries address the global housing crisis.

“Wherever I go, I see innovative and practical solutions to the housing crisis. The solutions are out there, and more and more governments are placing housing higher on their political agendas. What we need now is to harness this momentum and accelerate action,” said the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Anacláudia Rossbach.

“The Housing Knowledge Platform will help countries and cities learn from each other, identify solutions that work and turn knowledge into action – this is an important step towards making adequate housing a reality for more people, especially more than 1 billion still living in informal settlements and slums,” she added.

The platform was launched in Nairobi, from 26 to 27 November, during the third session of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All.

According to UN-Habitat’s World Cities Report 2026, up to 3.4 billion people worldwide lack adequate housing. The crisis is driven by multiple factors, including climate change, conflict and growing inequality, which are worsening housing conditions and leaving more people vulnerable to displacement.

Countries and cities are developing responses to these challenges, but valuable knowledge and experience remain scattered across institutions, reports and websites, making them difficult to find, access and apply.

Connecting knowledge with practical solutions

The Housing Knowledge Platform features global housing data, national policies, publications, training resources and examples of housing solutions from different countries. It also connects users with organizations and networks working on housing.

By making evidence and practical experiences more accessible, the platform supports knowledge exchange and helps countries and cities draw on lessons from other contexts and adapt solutions to their own housing challenges.

The platform responds to Resolution 2/7 on Adequate Housing for All, adopted by Member States at the second United Nations Habitat Assembly in 2023. It contributes to UN-Habitat’s Strategic Plan 2026–2029, which places adequate housing, land and basic

services for all at the centre of its work.

The platform also supports the work of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All – the first intergovernmental body established by the United Nations dedicated to adequate housing.

The Working Group brings together more than 250 experts from 106 Member States to examine key housing challenges, advance international cooperation and develop policy recommendations on adequate housing for all. Its work will contribute to recommendations to be presented to the UN Habitat Assembly in 2029.

The Housing Knowledge Platform will continue to expand, incorporating new data, policies, practical solutions and learning resources from around the world.

Explore the Housing Knowledge Platform: unhabitat.org/knowledge/housing-platform

Access photos from the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Adequate Housing for All: OEWG-H3 photo portal

About UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat is the United Nations entity responsible for sustainable urbanization. It has programmes in over 90 countries supporting policymakers and communities to create socially and environmentally sustainable cities and towns. UN-Habitat promotes transformative change in cities through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance, and collaborative action. To know more, visit unhabitat.org or follow us on social media @UNHABITAT.

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