

75th Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Programmatic, Budgetary and Administrative Matters of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat

Wednesday, 11 March 2026, 9:00-12:00 Eastern Africa Time (EAT)
Conference Room 9, UNON

Highlights of normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat for the period July–December 2025

1. Activities towards implementation of the strategic plan 2020–2025

Under **Subprogramme 1, ‘Reduced spatial inequality and poverty’**, UN-Habitat hosted intersessional meetings for the Intergovernmental Open-Ended Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All (OEWG-H). It facilitated thematic recommendations on social housing, informal settlements, tenure security, and housing finance and supported the development of new policy recommendations on housing sustainability and resilience, definitions of homelessness and informal settlements, and global housing monitoring framework. Advanced Member State-led policy guidance during the second OEWG-H session refined the draft thematic recommendations on social housing, informal settlements, tenure security, and housing finance which concluded the first annual cycle of work of the OEWG-H in October 2025.

UN-Habitat integrated global best practices and approaches on adequate housing into major economic and social fora by providing technical inputs to G7 and G20 processes and by supporting engagement with the European Commission on the first European Union Affordable Housing Plan. Similarly, UN-Habitat repositioned housing as a foundation of social development at the Second World Summit for Social Development.

UN-Habitat operationalized global norms at the country level through technical assistance in Pakistan (slum upgrading, tenure security, National Land Policy review) and through expanded housing policy support in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

The Global Water Operators’ Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA), in partnership with the International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC) published the *Global Outlook on Water and Sanitation Service Providers: Water for Sustainable Cities*. The outlook assessed how utilities contribute to sustainable urban development and presented new data, identified key gaps, and outlined seven pathways for accelerating progress: governance, finance, climate resilience, innovation and partnerships. It also highlights the achievements of Water Operators’ Partnerships (WOPs) and calls for renewed commitment of stakeholders to strengthen water and sanitation service providers.

UN-Habitat contributed to the preparatory process for the 2026 United Nations Water Conference, co-hosted by the United Arab Emirates and the Republic of Senegal, to be convened in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on 2–4 December 2026. For coherent and coordinated engagement in the Conference, UN-Habitat developed concept papers for six interactive dialogues. The papers position UN-Habitat as a key contributor to global policies on water and sanitation dimensions of human settlements, leveraging on its expertise in housing, slum transformation, land governance, climate resilience, and inclusive service delivery.

Regarding urban mobility, UN-Habitat developed a guide on Integrated Approaches to Financing Sustainable Urban Mobility. The guide offers strategies for own-source revenue generation and external financing streams. The Pan-African Action Plan for Active Mobility was rolled out in five African countries. Cities in Central Asia and the Western Balkans benefitted from technical advice on sustainable mobility planning, while the Global Alliance of Cities for Road Safety (ACROS) expanded its activities to over 50 cities, with 32 cities registered as members of the Alliance.

UN-Habitat supported sustainable mobility projects in 29 cities across 21 countries, advancing safer, more inclusive, and climate-sensitive urban transport systems. Road safety projects were carried out in Kumasi (Ghana), Nairobi (Kenya), Gulu (Uganda), Lagos (Nigeria) and Addis Ababa, benefitting 816,156 people.

Under the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board initiative 'Towards Zero Waste Cities', 20 cities were recognized for local leadership in reducing waste generation, increasing recovery rates, and phasing out open dumping and burning.

At the Assembly of the African Clean Cities Platform (ACCP) in Yokohama (Japan), Member States adopted New Yokohama Action Guidance that set out a shared roadmap to strengthen governance, financing mechanisms, and data systems in solid waste management across African cities. The guidance reinforces commitments to integrated approaches that link waste management with climate action, public health, and livelihoods.

UN-Habitat advanced integrated solid waste management systems across Africa by supporting cities transition towards circular, inclusive, and climate-responsive waste systems. Country operations focused on improving material recovery and working conditions of waste workers. Construction progressed on four Integrated Resource Recovery Facilities (IRRFs) in Harare (Zimbabwe) and Korogocho, Nairobi (Kenya).

Normative and capacity support to municipalities improved data collection on waste management and integrated solid waste management into broader urban development and climate plans.

Under **Subprogramme 2, 'Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions'**, to take forward its advocacy role in global fora following the FfD4 Conference in Sevilla, UN-Habitat continued engaging with the Local 2030 Coalition's Working Group 2 and participated in the Local 2030 Operational Launch of the Sevilla Platform. It also supported scoping missions to Senegal and Tunisia to entrench financial diagnostics at multiple levels of government into the SDG Localization Partnership Platform. UN-Habitat also contributed to the Global Economic Prospects 2026 - 2027 within the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development and to the United Nations Environment Assembly 7 Cities and Regions Summit.

To scale up service offering on Own Source Revenue (OSR), UN-Habitat optimized its online E-Learning Course on OSR and the online Rapid Own Source Revenue Analysis tool. An OSR report for Homa Bay was provided to help disseminate best practices from a county that tripled its revenue within one year. UN-Habitat continued its support to local governments' capacities by training officials from Somalia and Costa Rica.

The Cities Investment Facility (CIF) of UN-Habitat engaged with the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Tunisia to prepare waste management infrastructure projects for private capital investment. UN-Habitat offers technical assistance to these projects in deploying the Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT) and the SDG Assessment Tool which are part of pre-feasibility and feasibility studies. For the Strategic Plan period of 2026-2029, CIF's objective is to leverage financing to

identify, support, and promote sustainable infrastructure projects on housing, land and basic services.

UN-Habitat supported the Water as Leverage programme in Nakuru (Kenya) by advancing prioritized nature-based solutions toward finance-readiness within existing public and climate funding frameworks. A finance and policy workshop strengthened all stakeholders' alignment with public finance systems and grant facilities, including climate funds and intergovernmental financing mechanisms.

Finally, UN-Habitat continued to support subnational governments to strengthen their financial position. Within a joint project with UNECA, UN-Habitat launched a deep dive on User Fee collection within Nairobi's markets as a way of providing more tangible recommendations on fiscal space in six African capital cities. UN-Habitat is also exchanging with UNDP to align the Local Finance Frameworks being developed by both entities.

Under Subprogramme 3, 'Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment', and in line with United Nations Habitat Assembly resolution 2/5 on enhancing the interlinkage between urbanization and climate change resilience, UN-Habitat continued to support multilevel climate action and sustainable urbanization in the lead up to the Conference of Parties 30 (COP30) and COP31. UN-Habitat co-hosted the fourth Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the COP30 Presidency, that convened more than 70 ministers, national representatives, subnational leaders, and institutional partners who addressed interrelated themes such as housing, science, finance, nature, and multilevel governance.

In the Summary of the Chair of the fourth Ministerial Meeting, the Chair, Brazil's Minister of Cities, outlined eight priority actions for aligning urban development and climate policy. These included institutionalizing the Ministerial Meeting in future UNFCCC COPs and expanding urban content in national climate plans, reaffirming that sustainable urbanization and multilevel governance are keys to achieving the Paris Agreement and that the New Urban Agenda provides a tested framework for sustainable and resilient urban development.

UN-Habitat co-convened the Cities and Regions Hub in the COP30 Blue Zone with the COP30 Presidency and the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency. Over 11 days, the Hub hosted 46 events with 25 partners and more than 200 speakers, covering housing, infrastructure, basic services, governance, heat resilience, and urban finance. In its role as secretariat of the Baku Continuity Coalition, UN-Habitat facilitated high-level meetings with successive COP and WUF Presidencies to ensure continuity on urbanization and multilevel climate action.

UN-Habitat launched a knowledge product on the urban content of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), aligned with the NDC 3.0 cycle. The report Urban Content in NDC 3.0 — A global snapshot for COP30 assesses the extent and nature of urban content in NDC submissions and provides an evidence base for engagement with stakeholders.

The Subprogramme further supported programme development across the agency. Adaptation and resilience programming continued to advance, marking the successful conclusion of the RISE UP Flagship Programme under the Strategic Plan 2020-2025. As part of two global projects implemented across 15 cities in 9 countries, the programme strengthened the climate resilience of urban communities through integrated planning, capacity development, and partnership building. The Multilayered Vulnerability Assessment (MVA) remained a core methodological tool, supporting cities in progressing from risk identification to the development of actionable, locally owned Urban Resilience Action Plans (URAPs). To date, six MVAs and six URAPs have been completed. Findings

generated through MVA were operationalized through the Urban Vulnerability Atlas (UVA), enhancing evidence-based decision-making and facilitating communication with local stakeholders.

While the flagship programme was concluded, the RISE UP portfolio continues to deliver impact through ongoing support to cities, focusing on institutionalization, financing readiness, and implementation of resilience actions.

UN-Habitat launched an interdisciplinary Task Force on Vertical Fund Matters in May 2025, which facilitates the re-accreditation to the Adaptation Fund and accreditation to the Green Climate Fund. UN-Habitat has been accredited to the Adaptation Fund since 2015. The accreditation is due for renewal every 5 years. UN-Habitat is currently pursuing re-accreditation for 2025-2030 and waiting for the Adaptation Fund Board's decision in April 2026. UN-Habitat's Adaptation Fund portfolio reaches 20 Least Developed Countries, developing countries and Small Island Developing States and amounts to USD150,051,219 with a proposal pipeline volume of approximately USD60 million. The Green Climate Fund has launched a Revised Accreditation Framework, moving from project portfolio proficiency to fiduciary principles and standards. The UN-Habitat Task Force is developing a small-scale application (up to USD50 million) to the Revised Accreditation Framework, to be submitted in March 2026.

UN-Habitat also strengthened climate action resilience through the Water as Leverage Multilevel Climate Action Programme, advancing integrated urban water resilience solutions, and informed national frameworks, such as the urban river management framework in India.

Under **Subprogramme 4, 'Effective urban crisis prevention and response'**, UN-Habitat is supporting the humanitarian reset, led by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. The Urban Crisis Response and Humanitarian Affairs Section, under the Regional Programme Division, is working with country offices to recalibrate UN-Habitat's added value to the humanitarian system and promotes the settlements-based approach and rapid urban profiling to support area-based coordination. UN-Habitat is now also a member of the new global Shelter, Land and Site Coordination Cluster, led by International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

UN-Habitat continues to support the Global Solutions Working Group's direction on solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs). A comparative analysis of housing, settlements policies and programming in national strategies to address IDP situations is being completed. Housing is a critical component of durable solutions, but its position within national strategies varies in scope, comprehensiveness, and feasibility. The review targets five countries: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Somalia. Preliminary results indicate that housing for IDPs remains inconsistently addressed in displacement affected countries, often overshadowed by short humanitarian responses that focus on emergency shelter rather than long-term humanitarian responses. The comparative analysis will provide actionable principles that inform future programming with an emphasis on the need for context specific approaches embedded within durable and affordable housing systems.

UN-Habitat, together with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Bank and the Government of Ethiopia, held a successful deep dive with six African countries (Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritania, Mozambique, and Somalia) in November 2025 in Nairobi on the use of human settlements approaches to promote more sustainable responses to refugees situations, contributing to overall development benefiting both refugees and host communities. This is in line with the Human Settlements Pledge launched at the Global Refugee Forum in 2023 by the

Government of Ethiopia and UN-Habitat. The results were presented at the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review held by UNHCR in December 2025 in Geneva.

UN-Habitat contributed to the Development Action Platform that scales up action in countries impacted by the Sudan emergency. UN-Habitat participated in the third regional Development Partners Group meeting on the Sudan Refugee Crisis, convened by UNHCR and the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) in November 2025 in Nairobi, that reviewed progress, discussed development financing, and strengthened coordination among partners responding to the crisis.

UN-Habitat continued to advance implementation of the Global Framework for Inclusive Solutions to Urban Internal Displacement. The framework was translated into French, Spanish and Arabic.

UN-Habitat deepened its collaboration with the United Nations Mine Action Service to support joint advocacy, technical guidance, and operational integration in conflict- and displacement-affected areas to prepare for return, local integration, or settlement elsewhere. Key areas of cooperation include housing recovery, tenure security, housing, land and property (HLP) legal and institutional frameworks, participatory land use planning, unexploded ordnance (UXO) risk management in recovery processes, and tailored risk education for affected urban and rural populations. Additionally, UN-Habitat and the Sudan office collaborated with UNMAS Sudan to develop a joint project proposal targeting urban areas in Sudan.

UN-Habitat is working on establishing surge capacity for crisis operations. This included in this reporting period two missions to Palestine to help shape UN-Habitat's support to the response in Gaza. The initial focus was on developing a HLP framework as HLP is critical to successful humanitarian response, recovery and reconstruction.

2. Activities on safety, gender, human rights and social inclusion

UN-Habitat continued to mainstream human rights, gender equality and urban safety across its normative and operational activities to maximize opportunities to deliver human rights and gender equality outcomes.

UN-Habitat participated in the 59th and 60th sessions of the Human Rights Council, engaging in the right to adequate housing, access to basic services and land rights. It also participated in system-wide coordination bodies such as the Call to Action and the Environment Management Sub-group on Human Rights.

UN-Habitat engaged in extensive consultations with stakeholders including those working on gender equality and women's empowerment, the rights of Indigenous Peoples, children and youth, persons with disabilities and the rights of older persons in the preparation of the 13th session of the World Urban Forum (WUF13) to mainstream a rights-based approach at WUF13.

An updated policy and plan for gender equality and the empowerment of women in urban development and human settlements, as a complement to the strategic plan for the same period, is expected to be finalized during Q2 2026. UN-Habitat continued to engage in communication and awareness-raising activities around women and girls in sustainable urban development, including through, for example, engagement in system-wide campaigns such as the 16 days of activism campaign. Internally, UN-Habitat completed the roll out of the UN system-wide Gender Equality Marker (GEM) to track financial expenditures related to gender equality with accompanying guidance.

UN-Habitat participated in the development of UNDIS 2.0, a revised version of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, which will strengthen system-wide reporting across the UN. Progress has been made on UN-Habitat's 2025 UNDIS reporting. For the first time, UN-Habitat has exceeded requirements for its consultation with persons with disabilities and its projects and programme guidelines to implement disability inclusion at all stages of the programme / project cycle. UN-Habitat is developing its disability inclusion strategy and action plan and disability inclusion marker guidelines to further strengthen the agency's implementation of the UNDIS and the CRPD.

Adapted from UN-Habitat's Urban Safety Monitor, the Canada Centre for Safer Communities has developed a localized Community & Urban Safety Monitoring & Evaluation Toolkit. This toolkit enables Canadian municipalities to measure and assess safety within their specific urban contexts.

UN-Habitat continued to advocate for the realization of livable cities for children and youth. The Youth 2030 Cities Programme Model is being developed to support the localization of the SDGs by and for young people. Children and youth pre-WUF13 regional consultations are also being organized by the UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board to advance the development of region-specific recommendations that will be integrated in the WUF13 Global DeclarAction at the upcoming children and youth assembly and roundtable. UN-Habitat also returned its role as a steering committee member of the Global Alliance for Cities4Children to support the implementation of the 2026-2029 Strategic Plan.

3. Technical support and collaboration on data and knowledge

From July to December 2025, UN-Habitat advanced normative and operational activities that strengthen global urban and housing data production, statistical capacity, and monitoring frameworks. Normative work focused on refining methodologies for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators under UN-Habitat custodianship, expanding the global housing statistics programme through collaboration with national statistical systems, and advancing measurement approaches for slums and informal settlements.

Continued technical guidance supported the harmonization of city definitions and the application of integrated statistical–geospatial frameworks to improve data comparability across countries. Progress was also made in developing Quality of Life measurement frameworks, contributing to multidimensional approaches for assessing urban well-being.

Operationally, UN-Habitat delivered technical assistance to Member States to enhance national data ecosystems, operationalize urban data platforms, strengthen urban observatories, and improve the completeness and timeliness of SDG reporting. Engagement through global statistical coordination mechanisms, including the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities and regional statistical commissions, facilitated methodological alignment and promoted partnerships for data-driven monitoring of sustainable urbanization.

The Global Urban Data Coalition was strengthened with two work streams established on slums and informal settlements mapping and vacant land monitoring. The Coalition functions as a multi-partner platform that supports data innovation, interoperability, and access to globally comparable urban datasets. Collectively, these efforts have contributed to improved availability, quality, and use of urban and housing statistics for reporting and feed directly into global reports that are due in 2026.