



Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to UNEP and UN- Habitat

Statement by

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The First session of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat for the year 2026

UN-Habitat Headquarters, Nairobi

21 to 22 April 2026

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

**Mr. Chair, Your Excellency Madam Executive Director,
Distinguished delegates, Members of the Executive Board,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am honored to address the First Session of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat for 2026 on behalf of the delegation of Iran.

Allow me at the outset to express my appreciation to the Executive Director for the comprehensive report of the first session of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat 2026.

I want to thank UN-Habitat for its continued leadership in advancing sustainable urbanization and inclusive human settlements. The challenges facing our cities today— unilateralism, serious risks to global peace and stability, and grave breaches of International law and the UN charter, rapid urban growth, climate change, and widening inequalities—require collective action and renewed commitment to the principles of multilateralism.

As you all are aware, on 28 February, the regime of the United States of America and the Zionist Israeli regime -two nuclear-armed aggressors- committed an unprovoked and unlawful act of aggression against the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Such cowardly aggression



Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to UNEP and UN- Habitat

resulted in the martyrdom of Iran's distinguished national and religious supreme leader. Through this unlawful and reprehensible aggression, the regimes of the United States and Israel crossed yet another red line of breaching international law and norms.

In continuation of their war crimes, the aggressor forces have deliberately targeted civilian infrastructure, including schools, universities, medical centers, rehabilitation and emergency centers, residential areas, industrial and energy facilities, historic and cultural sites, traditional bazaars, and museums.

The most tragic of these atrocities was the attack on a school in Minab, which claimed the lives of 168 innocent children. Numerous other cities and regions across Iran have suffered severe destruction and loss of life.

Mr. Chair,

These acts of aggression represent not only a violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, but also a direct assault on the principles of humanity and the right of all peoples to live in peace and dignity. The destruction of homes, schools, and vital infrastructure undermines the very objectives of UN-Habitat, which is mandated to promote sustainable urbanization and inclusive human settlements. Instead of building resilient cities, our people are forced to endure displacement, trauma, and devastation.

Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates,

Below, I briefly outline some of the damages and losses inflicted by these aggressive acts:

- Attacks on 5 oil and gas storage facilities and warehouses containing parts and equipment essential for the construction of renewable power plants,
- 1,050 instances of damage to electricity infrastructure, including substations and transmission lines,
- Destruction of 125630 civilian structures nationwide, comprising 100.000 residential units and 23.500 commercial units.
- Attacks on 889 Academic centers, including 120 schools,



Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to UNEP and UN- Habitat

- Attacks on 2 docks and port facilities,
- Attacks on more than 12 stadiums and sports complexes,
- Destruction of 339 hospitals, medical centers, pharmaceutical facilities, health clinics, and emergency units,
- Attacks on 20 branches of the Red Crescent Society
- Attacks on 92 Ambulances.
- Attacks on 3 relief helicopters
- Attacks on 204 drinking water supply facilities, transmission lines, and distribution networks, including the desalination plant on Qeshm Island, which provided drinking water to 30 villages,

My delegation calls upon this Executive Board to recognize the gravity of these crimes and to ensure that UN-Habitat's work remains firmly anchored in the principles of justice, accountability, and solidarity. We urge the UN-Habitat and the international community to condemn these acts of aggression unequivocally, to mobilize humanitarian assistance for the affected populations, and to reaffirm the sanctity of civilian life in all circumstances.

In this regard, it is imperative that Member States, together with UN-Habitat, extend comprehensive technical and financial assistance to the victims and to the relevant Iranian authorities to assess, rehabilitate, and restore the civilian infrastructure devastated by the aggressors. Such support is essential to alleviate human suffering, rebuild communities, and uphold the principles of justice and solidarity enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Iran reaffirms its commitment to multilateralism and to the mission of UN-Habitat. Despite the aggression we face, we stand ready to work constructively with all Member States to advance the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. We believe that resilience, inclusivity, and justice must guide our collective efforts to build cities that are engines of prosperity and dignity for all peoples.

Thank you.