Chapter 9:

Closing the Adequate Housing Gap

The different chapters of the World Cities Report 2026 have repeatedly highlighted the scale and complexity of the global housing emergency. The severity of the challenges faced today, in developed and developing countries alike, are the product of multiple intersecting crises. These are underpinned by a number of structural drivers, including rising unaffordability, inadequate living conditions, widespread displacement and the growing prevalence of informal urbanization. These pressures are compounded further by demographic shifts, growing inequality and vulnerability to climate shocks.

Nevertheless, while undeniably daunting, these challenges can still be resolved through a holistic and integrated approach that places housing at the centre of public policies. This requires urgent, bold cross-sectoral and coordinated action across all levels of governance – national, provincial, local and supra-national – and involving a full spectrum of stakeholders, including the private sector and community groups. Isolated sectoral interventions or the construction of new housing will on their own remain ineffective without this broader strategic framework.

Housing outcomes are shaped by an array of factors, including infrastructure investments, basic services, land use planning, urban policy, institutional capacity, participatory governance and financial mechanisms. When these resources are mobilized in a synchronized manner, it becomes possible to tackle housing inadequacy at scale. With this in mind, drawing on the learning and analysis throughout this report, this closing chapter summarizes some key universal principles and accelerators for systemic change. While housing solutions needs to be tailored to their specific contexts, the following framework offers a common roadmap for inclusive and sustainable housing outcomes:

- *Transformative pathways for action:* This section outlines the foundations of a rights-based approach to housing that embraces the diversity of needs and aspirations among different groups, with a particular focus on the role of tenure regularization, renter protections and informal urbanization in creating an enabling environment (Section 9.1).

- *Triggering systemic change:* Having established the broad principles and priorities for action, this section outlines the key drivers to realize better housing outcomes, spanning integrated planning and land use, inclusive financing, participatory governance and digitalization (Section 9.2).

- *Advancing global development goals through adequate housing:* This section examines the potential knock-on benefits that positive housing outcomes can bring to development and well-being, with a particular focus on poverty reduction, climate resilience and displacement (Section 9.3).

- *Concluding remarks on the role of multilateral cooperation in housing:* This section concludes the chapter with a brief discussion of the ways forward presented by international partnerships, in line with global development agendas.

A sustainable community embracing clean energy and eco-friendly living © Shutterstock

9.1 Transformative pathways for action

The evident failure of the global housing system to deliver adequate, affordable housing has highlighted the need to move away from "business-as-usual" approaches and embrace an alternative vision of how housing should be delivered. While conventional housing policies, particularly those dominated by market-led solutions, are in many cases excluding the poorest and most vulnerable urban residents, this section outlines some key principles to expanding access equitably. This approach, grounded in human rights principles, focuses on the opportunities to expand the supply of adequate housing through diversification, increased protections and meaningful engagement with the informal sector.

9.1.1 Embracing a rights-based approach to housing

The housing crisis is rooted in the systematic denial of human rights. Adequate housing is currently out of reach for between 1.6 and 3.4 billion people across both developed and developing countries. If left unchecked, this threatens the very fabric of sustainable development, undermining social inclusion, economic stability and environmental resilience. Solving the global housing crisis is a pre-requisite to achieving the future of cities and human settlements envisioned in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 and the New Urban Agenda (NUA).

The economic role of housing should not come at the expense of its social function. While housing is a productive sector of the economy, capable of driving household resilience and national development through employment generation and private investment, it is first and foremost a human right. The social function of housing to support poverty reduction, health, education and climate resilience must be reinforced by leveraging its potential to support inclusive economic development, rather than speculative investment. The key challenge is not only to increase housing supply, but to ensure that needs and demand are matched through the provision of housing that is culturally appropriate and situated close to work, schools and other amenities.

9.1.2 Diversifying housing solutions to meet different needs

To function effectively, housing systems need to combine diverse strategies that encompass incremental development, social rental stock and other options widely used by low-income households. This includes the state-facilitated delivery of housing by the private sector, informal settlement upgrading, regulated rental markets and an expanded supply of social, cooperative and limited-profit housing. Supporting self-built and incremental models is particularly critical in cities and regions where informal construction constitutes a major share of total housing provision.

Strengthening flexible housing solutions is essential. It is critical to build housing stock that is adaptive enough to respond to the changing needs of different social groups, particularly in a context of climate change, ageing populations and large-scale urban migration. This requires a dual approach that combines construction and upgrading: the housing crisis will be resolved not only through the development of new housing, but also through the improvement and renovation of dilapidated stock in informal settlements and low-income neighbourhoods.

Asphalt paving crew working on a residential street in Kebumen, Indonesia © Shutterstock

Temporary housing solutions, integrated into broader strategies, can play a crucial role. This is especially important to meet the immediate needs of specific vulnerable groups such as students, temporary workers and displacement-affected populations who might otherwise find themselves without any form of shelter. While site-and-services schemes have proven effective, they require complementary elements – including legal frameworks, basic infrastructure, technical support and flexible financing – to achieve truly adequate housing outcomes. Transitional housing and displacement camps should not be used as a substitute for lasting solutions, however, as they may otherwise risk locking inhabitants into long-term housing inadequacy.

9.1.3 Expanding supply through tenure regularization and renter protections

Unlocking the supply of affordable land for development and upgrading remains critical to solving the housing crisis. This requires targeted policies to support the delivery of basic infrastructure and developable land, especially for lower income groups in rapidly growing cities. As many informal settlements are situated on public land, governments have a central role to play in enabling civil society organizations and local communities to develop secure, sustainable settlements in appropriate urban locations.

Affordable-housing and tenant-rights activists protest downtown against the commodification of housing, Toronto, Canada © Shutterstock

Tenure security is a central determinant of adequate housing. Land regularization drives and the expansion of land records – including through fit-for-purpose land administration approaches – have proven effective in increasing tenure security and unlocking household investments in home improvements and resilience building. This is particularly the case in informal settlements where the risk of eviction had previously discouraged significant expenditure: consequently, protection against forced removals and mortgage foreclosures can help contribute to the diversification of housing solutions through incremental improvements or upgrading.

Strengthening the regulation of rental markets can increase access to adequate housing. This should include clarifying the rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants, with well-defined and functioning mediation and dispute resolution mechanisms. Accompanying instruments, such as caps on rent increases in some cases and long-term leases, can improve affordability. Enhanced regulation of rental markets should also be complemented by conducive policies to expand rental supply through increasing land availability and public and private investment.

9.1.4 Leveraging informality as a housing solution

Informal settlements and incremental housing development should be recognized as legitimate avenues for providing access to adequate housing and driving inclusive economic development. More than 1.1 billion people presently live in informal settlements, reflecting both the scale of unmet housing needs and the capacity of households and communities to respond through self-organization and hybrid growth. Their widespread invisibility in policy and decision-making processes, besides exacerbating their exclusion, also represents a significant missed opportunity to harness the energy and ingenuity of these processes for positive housing outcomes.

At the same time, the physical, social and economic deficits often associated with informal settlements should be urgently addressed. These can be alleviated through integrated approaches that combine multidimensional poverty reduction and income support with the provision of services, infrastructure and tenure security. Public investment should prioritize the provision of core infrastructure – in particular, water, sanitation, electricity and access roads – while enabling households to complete the construction of their homes through incremental processes supported by adequate financing mechanisms and technical assistance.

Whenever possible, policies should prioritize comprehensive in situ upgrading of informal settlements that also integrate them into broader urban systems. Rather than promoting resettlement elsewhere – a process that can be both economically and emotionally devastating for those displaced – the provision of essential infrastructure, public spaces and livelihood assistance can transform the lives of residents while retaining access to their existing livelihoods and social connections. This can be advanced through citywide, multisectoral and participatory strategies that support inclusive urban planning and governance arrangements that incorporate, rather than penalize, informality.

Participation and co-production are central to these processes. Housing policies must be co-designed and implemented alongside residents, ensuring that communities possess the political recognition, institutional support and accessible financing required to shape their own development. Similarly, data and knowledge production should be co-produced, empowering communities to define and transform their own settlements.

9.2 Triggering Systemic Change

Systemic change requires the strategic realignment of institutional frameworks and a harmonized approach that combines integrated urban planning, inclusive financing, multi-level governance and digital data collection. It represents a shift from reactive, symptomatic interventions toward a transformative model that addresses the root causes of the crisis. While different levels of governance have an important role in shaping this strategic realignment, the particular pathways evolve in context-specific ways. This section outlines how a holistic response across a range of areas can deliver better housing outcomes.

9.2.1 Enable integrated urban planning and inclusive land use

Integrated planning and land use is key to ensuring that housing development is coordinated with the provision of infrastructure, transport systems, public services and livelihood opportunities. Fostering close coordination among the agencies responsible for these different sectors enables more efficient resource allocation and improved policy coherence. Strengthening public capacity, particularly at the city level, to guide land development, manage land values and ensure the provision of serviced land is also critical to the effective functioning of housing systems.

Housing development with recreational space in Edinburgh, Scotland © Shutterstock

Urban planning should be underpinned by a recognition of the social and environmental functions of land, in line with the NUA. This requires scaling up inclusive land use solutions such as special development areas, inclusionary zoning, public green space and land banks with dispensations for pro-poor housing. Priority should be placed on the inclusiveness, transparency and efficiency of land management systems, capitalizing on the demonstrated value of innovative approaches including fit-for-purpose land administration, new spatial technologies and community-led property registration drives.

Spatial strategies should promote compact urban development, mixed land use, infill development and connectivity. A shift is required from isolated housing projects in city peripheries, especially those which result in urban sprawl, toward integrated neighbourhoods and communities where transit corridors incorporate affordable units through inclusionary zoning and the strategic use of land. Furthermore, these interventions should aim to strengthen connections with other neighbourhoods and the wider city through improved mobility and accessibility.

Participatory planning that incorporates local knowledge and priorities strengthens policy effectiveness, ensuring that development is driven by community needs and aspirations. Recognizing community-based organizations as planning actors in their own right, with statutory powers to negotiate land use, allocate housing, manage assets and enforce long-term affordability, can help ensure more inclusive outcomes.

Inclusive planning must be accompanied by social safeguards and gender-responsive measures to protect vulnerable groups from displacement. This necessitates mandatory anti-displacement actions, such as securing tenure alongside infrastructure upgrades and prioritizing in situ improvements. Planning norms should be tailored to reflect the specific realities of slums, informal settlements and incremental housing. Furthermore, planning agencies should adopt a gendered perspective to identify, understand and address inequalities and remove the barriers for women's participation.

9.2.2 Scaling up inclusive housing finance systems

Housing finance systems need to be well integrated into national and international finance systems and protect borrowers from shocks, while making finance more widely available and cheaper. This requires finance instruments to move beyond conventional models to embrace alternative housing finance solutions, addressing structural constraints through credit enhancement, disciplined financial behaviour, smarter expenditure targeting and controls. Governments can also work with private developers to establish land value capture instruments that can use leverage increases in land value to cross-subsidize social and affordable housing programmes.

Financial systems should be reoriented to support the full diversity of housing needs and pathways. Simply expanding conventional mortgage models, based on formal employment, documented income and titled land, are insufficient to address the realities of large segments of the population. Private developers, small-scale builders and civil society organizations can all play crucial roles in housing delivery with the appropriate financial mechanisms in place. To achieve this, however, requires a flexible and inclusive financial ecosystem with an array of domestic finance and subsidy mechanisms for different stakeholders. In addition to targeted assistance for vulnerable groups, for instance, blended finance and de-risked loans can help mobilize private sector investors who might otherwise be unwilling to take on the perceived risks of low-income housing provision.

A diversity of tenure arrangements should be formally recognized and integrated into national financial frameworks. This includes informal, customary and collective rights to cater to residents of informal settlements and in new urban peripheries. Land registration and titling processes should be simplified and decentralized to facilitate lending for these diverse solutions, aimed at expanding formal affordable finance across the housing spectrum. When supported through tenure security and simplified regulations, the informal sector can become a key partner in advancing inclusive housing delivery. Tax reliefs, subsidies and risk-sharing mechanisms can incentivize finance institutions and developers to extend their terms to previously unreached populations.

A protest banner hanging from Hofwonen social housing apartment block complaining about poor conditions and high rent prices in Loosduinen, The Hague, the Netherlands
© Andrew Balcombe

The prevalence and impact of informal employment must be recognized in mainstream financing systems. Banks, lenders and developers must adapt to the reality that a significant proportion of society either works in the informal sector or is self-employed. Innovative risk assessment methods, including the use of alternative data, can help evaluate repayment capacity more accurately and should be complemented by borrower education and protection mechanisms.

9.2.3 Strengthen multi-level governance, participation and institutional capacities

Effective housing delivery depends on coordinated governance across all levels. Governments can play a central role in enabling integrated housing systems that mobilize the capacities of different stakeholders, supported by regulatory frameworks, targeted subsidies and risk-sharing mechanisms aligned with social objectives. Strengthening multilevel governance structures for housing delivery is therefore essential. Clear institutional responsibilities, shared financing mechanisms and lead coordinating bodies can support more effective implementation.

Governments should prioritize housing in national development and across sectoral policies. While housing policies serve as critical instruments, a cross-sectoral approach to housing is needed given its cross-cutting links across all sectors. When housing is treated in isolation, policies often fail and opportunities are lost. Mainstreaming housing across all government sectors is necessary because housing is a systemic driver of health, economic growth and environmental sustainability, while achieving adequate housing necessitates actions across sectors.

Transforming housing systems requires sustained political commitment over time. Because housing systems are capital-intensive and evolve slowly, reforms must extend beyond electoral cycles and be anchored in a clear recognition of the social, economic and environmental functions of housing. Housing policies must therefore be rooted in long-term mandates and coherent institutional frameworks. These should be capable of coordinating land policy, planning, infrastructure and financial regulation over the long term.

Strengthening the role of local governments in decision-making is essential to ensure that decision-making processes reflect realities on the ground. Local governments are best positioned to integrate housing with land use, infrastructure, services, employment and climate adaptation, but frequently lack the authority or resources to do so. However, in addition to clear mandates and predictable funding, cities also need to have adequate technical capacity in place to develop their own housing strategies. Local planning agencies need to be equipped with the skills and authority to implement policies, enforce standards and manage increasingly complex urban development processes.

A construction worker at the site of free houses for the poor, which is a government program in Tangerang, Indonesia © Shutterstock

Participation should be embedded as a core governance principle in addressing adequate housing. Structured engagement with communities and civil society strengthens policy legitimacy, improves responsiveness to lived realities, and helps integrate cross-cutting priorities such as health, gender equality, climate resilience and demographic change.

9.2.4 Enhance data collection and digitalization

Robust housing data systems are essential for evidence-based policymaking and effective monitoring. Given persistent gaps, strengthening housing data for planning, decision-making and capturing the broader dimensions of adequacy is a key priority to inform policy adjustments over time. Monitoring systems should track outcomes across different demographic groups to ensure that policies respond to those most in need. This includes developing gender-disaggregated data on mobility, time use and access to services, as well as broader indicators related to access to jobs, public space and essential services.

An improved evidence base on conditions in informal settlements is urgently needed. With many marginalized or low-income communities largely excluded from official data collection, this requires approaches that are grounded in local realities. In particular, the co-production of knowledge and research through participatory processes – such as the use of community mapping tools to document spatial conditions, service gaps and tenure arrangements – can help inform planning and decision-making. These approaches, led by communities themselves, can improve the accuracy, relevance and legitimacy of data systems, particularly in contexts where conventional data sources do not adequately capture the complexity of informal settlements.

Digital technologies offer new opportunities that should be leveraged. When used appropriately, with the active engagement of communities themselves, these tools can promote more accurate data collection, improved construction methods and real-time monitoring of housing conditions to support evidence-based policy design. At the same time, data and technology can support the development of more innovative and inclusive housing finance systems, enabling better targeting of financial instruments and improving system efficiency. For instance, geospatial technologies and digital land registries can be used to promote more transparent land administration processes or map multi-layered vulnerabilities.

9.3 Advancing Global Development Goals through Adequate Housing

Many of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development cannot be achieved if people lack adequate housing. Adequate housing is not just shelter – it is essential for health, education, dignity, safety and social inclusion and therefore a foundation for human dignity, security and well-being. In particular, addressing the global housing crisis is essential in order to tackle three key global challenges: poverty, climate change and displacement.

Community members building a low cost house as a team in Soweto, South Africa © Shutterstock

9.3.1 Affordable housing as a tool of poverty reduction

Housing unaffordability is a critical barrier to poverty reduction. Inadequate housing and informal settlements are one of the most visible symptoms of failed development. However, while high housing costs – both the direct costs of purchasing or renting a property, but also indirect costs such as heating, maintenance and transport – are a major factor in pushing poor urban residents into informal or inadequate housing, the impacts extend far beyond this. With so much of their limited income going towards rent, repayments and upkeep, many low-income households are forced to divert essential resources away from nutrition, healthcare and education, with little prospect of accumulating savings.

Delivering affordable housing requires reducing costs to the poor though strategic planning. Increasing the availability of well-located, serviced land is essential, as land can constitute a significant share of housing costs, particularly in high-value urban areas. This requires transparent and well-regulated land, planning and regulatory systems to promote the strategic use of public land for affordable housing. Compact, mixed-use urban development that places housing near places of work and education is an enabler of housing affordability, as it reduces time and cost of daily commutes. Recycling and the use of locally produced materials, supported by technical and financial support to enable self-construction, can also help lower overall costs.

Both demand- and supply-side interventions are needed to support the expansion of adequate housing models for the vulnerable. Demand-side assistance, including housing benefits, subsidies or mortgage support programmes, should be carefully aligned with broader housing policy objectives and supply side interventions. Expanding supply-side models – whether through new construction or upgrading, renovation or adaptive reuse of existing buildings – should be calibrated to improve effective access to adequate housing for vulnerable households.

9.3.2 Aligning housing with climate resilience and sustainability objectives

Housing is a critical pillar of climate action, generating significant emissions while also itself exposed to the effects of natural disasters and other impacts. Given its role as both a contributor to emissions and a key site of climate risk, housing policies must be aligned with climate mitigation and adaptation strategies. Sustainable and climate-resilient housing therefore requires a transformation in how housing is produced, inhabited and governed.

Reducing the carbon footprint of housing requires a whole-life approach, addressing direct, indirect and embodied emissions. Measures include improved energy efficiency, the use of low-carbon construction materials, the adoption of circular economy protocols and the integration of housing into broader infrastructure and waste management systems.

Retrofitting existing housing stock offers significant opportunities to improve both climate mitigation and adaptation. Adaptive reuse, renovation and vertical extensions can also reduce the need for new construction and limit environmental impacts.

Local knowledge is key to promoting climate-resilient housing. Particularly in informal settlements, which often concentrate the highest climate risk, dedicated climate strategies should build on residents' knowledge and agency. Traditional, vernacular, community-based and Indigenous building techniques also provide valuable resources for climate adaptation and should be integrated into housing strategies.

Climate action must not exacerbate inequality and avoid displacement. By building on principles of justice and prioritizing vulnerable populations when developing climate resilience interventions, the risk of "green gentrification" and other exclusionary impacts can be avoided. When well-implemented, environmentally sound planning can also deliver improvements to equity and well-being. For instance, compact, mixed-use development not only reduces emissions and infrastructure costs by optimizing land use and reducing energy demand for transportation, but also improves access to services and opportunities.

9.3.3 Housing the displaced at a time of global rises

Housing is a key factor in crisis response and recovery. A growing number of displaced people seek refuge in urban centres, adding to the unmet demand for housing and often competing for the same options as other vulnerable residents. Ensuring that urban systems work for all, including the displaced, is crucial for social and economic sustainability. Area-based approaches that address the needs of both displaced and host communities can support social cohesion while strengthening local housing systems.

Integrating displacement prevention and response into local housing strategies can improve infrastructure provision, housing availability and service delivery. To this end, a spatial understanding of displacement and the leveraging of multi-stakeholder platforms to coordinate citywide responses is critical. Urban profiles and recovery strategies that involve governments and humanitarian actors allow for the prioritization of resources to accommodate new residents. This ensures that humanitarian aid contributes to long-term development and increases the capacity of local governments to supply services without creating parallel systems. Strengthening coordination between humanitarian and development actors can also improve the sustainability of responses.

Building back better is essential in areas where post-crisis reconstruction is needed. This entails the identification and reduction of risks, preparedness, financial protection and resilient reconstruction. Temporary shelter solutions should also be planned with longer-term sustainability in mind: displacement is increasingly protracted and settlements often become permanent low-income neighbourhoods. Plans should therefore allow for the transformation of emergency provision into sustainable settlements through incremental upgrading and land regularization. Further, temporary shelters should be part of overall area-based housing strategies.

Flood affected people receiving relief in Feni District, Bangladesh © Shutterstock

Local governments play a central role in supporting both host and displaced communities through planning, service provision and housing regulation. They are best placed to oversee localized approaches – such as community-led housing, cash-for-rent or repairs – and ensure these are distributed fairly and transparently. Rental markets play a key role in accommodating displaced populations and require regulatory frameworks that ensure accessibility and stability.

9.4 The Role of Multilateral Cooperation in Closing the Gap

Adequate housing is increasingly shaped by global dynamics that extend beyond national jurisdictions. This includes financial flows, climate change, demographic change, displacement, technological transformation and evolving labour markets. These interdependencies require renewed multilateral cooperation capable of addressing housing not only as a national policy domain, but as a shared global challenge requiring coordinated action across levels of governance and sectors of the economy. At a time of geopolitical turbulence and global fragmentation, the need for this shared cooperation is more urgent than ever.

In this context, addressing the global housing crisis requires strengthened multilateral cooperation. With that in mind, the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All (OEWG-H) is a key milestone (Box 9.1). Though only recently created, its work demonstrates the potential of multilateral cooperation to support coordinated policy development, improved data and monitoring systems, and facilitate exchange of experience across diverse national and city contexts. While international frameworks recognize adequate housing as a human right and as a central component of sustainable development, implementation has often remained fragmented across sectors and governance levels. Strengthened multilateral development cooperation can help align policy approaches, support institutional capacity and ensure that progress towards adequate housing contributes to broader social, economic and environmental objectives.

This could not be more timely, given that global progress on SDG 11 remains significantly off-track, with progress towards many targets stagnating, reversing or largely static. The mid-term review of the progress of the NUA by the UN Secretary General also illustrated gaps in implementation, despite progress made in policy adoption. As the deadline for the SDGs in 2030 approaches rapidly, and the world looks ahead to the second decade of implementation of the New Urban Agenda (2026-2036), adequate housing is an indispensable foundation for progress in implementing both frameworks. Ultimately, upholding housing as a human right is the foundation to achieving these aims

Box 9.1: Promoting multilateral action on housing: The Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All

Established by the United Nations Habitat Assembly in 2023, the OEWG-H represents an important step towards strengthening global coordination on housing. The OEWG-H provides the first dedicated intergovernmental platform to collectively address structural housing challenges and develop policy guidance capable of supporting national and local action. It enables Member States to exchange experience, identify shared priorities and develop recommendations reflecting diverse institutional and economic contexts.

Collective reflections on the global housing crisis can advance collective action. The OEWG-H has made progress across key thematic areas that reflect core dimensions of housing systems. Since its first session in 2024, the group has addressed issues such as housing finance, social housing, informal settlements and tenure security. Several key issues have been highlighted through this, including the importance of strengthening non-market housing approaches, supporting in situ upgrading of informal settlements, recognizing the continuum of tenure rights, and expanding inclusive housing finance mechanisms that combine public investment, private resources and community-based solutions. These thematic areas provide an initial framework for integrated housing policy development and reflect the need to address housing systems in a comprehensive manner.

One priority for the OEWG-H is strengthening the global knowledge base on housing policy. Work is underway to establish a global housing knowledge platform that will support the exchange of data, tools and policy practices, as well as peer learning across countries. Improved monitoring frameworks are also being developed to address persistent gaps in housing data, including in relation to affordability, tenure security, informal settlements and homelessness.

However, advancing global multi-stakeholder collaboration is critical. The global housing crisis requires concerted efforts from international, regional, national and local actors. Through intersessional consultations and expert meetings, the OEWG-H has engaged a broad range of stakeholders. National and local governments, development institutions, civil society organisations, financial actors and academic experts have all been involved. This multistakeholder approach reflects the recognition that housing outcomes depend on coordinated action across public, private and community actors. It also supports stronger alignment between global commitments and national policy processes.

The development of forthcoming global guidelines could help strengthen action on adequate housing action. As the OEWG-H progresses towards the development of global guidelines to be considered by the United Nations Habitat Assembly in 2029, it provides an opportunity to strengthen international cooperation to build a more coherent and effective housing system and reinforce housing as a central element of sustainable development policy. The roadmap for the period 2025–2029 provides a structured framework for further development of recommendations and monitoring tools, including work on sustainability and resilience dimensions of housing, improved definitions of homelessness and informal settlements, and strengthened global housing indicators. The nature of the process allows Member States to progressively refine policy guidance and adapt approaches to evolving housing challenges.

A housing development equipped with rooftop solar panels and hydrogen boilers for energy efficiency, Selby, UK © Shutterstock