



## **Ministerial Luncheon on the occasion of the High-Level Meeting on the Midterm Review of the New Urban Agenda (NUA)**

**Delegates' Dining Room, United Nations Headquarters, 16 July 2026, 1:15pm – 2:45pm**

*“Charting the Way Forward: Delivering on the Promise of the New Urban Agenda from the Midterm Review”*

### **Overview**

The Midterm Review of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) provides a critical opportunity to assess progress made since its adoption, identify persistent implementation gaps, and renew political commitment to sustainable urbanization as a driver of sustainable development. The midterm review confirms that while normative frameworks, policy alignment, and global recognition of urban issues have advanced, implementation has not kept pace with the scale and urgency of today's urban challenges. Most notably, the global housing crisis continues to deepen, with persistent constraints in financing, local capacity, multilevel governance, and data systems limiting delivery and weakening on-the-ground impact, particularly for vulnerable populations.

The Midterm Review of the NUA offers a platform to consider the findings of the review, identify practical accelerators for implementation, and strengthen partnerships needed to deliver measurable results through 2036. The next decade represents a critical window to translate commitments into action and ensure that urbanization fulfills its transformative promise for current and future generations. The Political Declaration of the Midterm Review is expected to offer concrete policy recommendations and practical solutions that will enable all countries to accelerate progress on sustainable urbanization and housing, underscoring the urgency to move from commitments to implementation at scale over the next decade. This includes repositioning adequate housing as a foundation for dignity, inclusion, resilience, prosperity and climate action, while strengthening multilevel governance, integrated territorial planning, local capacity, sustainable financing systems and partnerships that can accelerate delivery and measurable impact on the ground. Discussions on UN80 also present an opportunity to align these efforts with more integrated, effective and impact-oriented approaches across the UN system.

To maximize engagement among high-level representatives from Member States, senior leaders from local and regional authorities, the private sector, civil society, youth, academia, and the United Nations system, Poland and Zimbabwe, as Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of UN-Habitat, Sustainable Urbanization and the New Urban Agenda, together with Kenya and UN-Habitat, will convene a Ministerial/High-Level Luncheon on the margins of the High-Level Meeting.

The Ministerial luncheon will provide a space for focused and forward-looking discussion on delivering sustainable urbanization for all, including the actions, partnerships, financing mechanisms, and multilevel governance approaches required to accelerate implementation of the NUA over the next decade.

## **Format**

The Ministerial Luncheon will feature “Leaders’ Roundtables that will provide participants with the opportunity to engage in focused discussion on key implementation priorities for the next decade of the New Urban Agenda. Each table will include 8-10 participants and will be supported by a facilitator from the Secretariat’s team responsible for capturing key recommendations and implementation priorities back to the room.

The session aims to foster a practical and action-oriented exchange that helps identify pathways for scaling implementation, strengthening multilevel governance, mobilizing financing, accelerating housing delivery, reinforcing climate resilience and supporting inclusive urban transformation aligned with global agendas.

## **Themes**

The Theme for the Leaders Roundtables will be as follows:

- Adequate and affordable housing as a Catalyst for Social Inclusion
- Multilevel Governance and Localizing the New Urban Agenda
- Integrated Urban Planning and Territorial Development
- Financing sustainable urbanization at Scale
- Climate- and Disaster Resilient Housing and Urban Development
- Informal Settlement, Upgrading and Inclusive Urban Services
- Urban Recovery, Displacement, Fragile Contexts and Peacebuilding
- Data Digital Transformation and Smart urban Futures
- Partnerships and Coalitions for Accelerated implementation

## **General Guiding Questions**

The following questions provide general guidance on areas of discussion across the Roundtables:

- What transformative actions, partnerships and implementation accelerators can drive measurable progress on sustainable urbanization over the next decade?
- How can governance, financing and institutional systems be strengthened to accelerate implementation and improve delivery at all levels?
- What innovative financing approaches can help scale affordable housing, resilient infrastructure and climate-responsive urban development, particularly in vulnerable countries and cities?
- How can housing be better integrated with transport, infrastructure, services, livelihoods, climate action, disaster risk reduction and territorial development to support more inclusive and resilient communities?
- What practical measures can empower local governments, communities, civil society and grassroots organizations to play a stronger role in implementation and delivery?
- How can science, innovation, digital technologies and data systems support more effective urban planning, decision-making and accountability?

- What actions are needed to ensure that women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, displaced populations and other vulnerable groups benefit from inclusive urban transitions and are not left behind?
- How can international cooperation, partnerships and coalitions be strengthened to translate commitments into implementation at scale through 2036?
- In the context of UN80 and the role of the United Nations system, what are the critical partnerships at the global, regional and country levels that should be leveraged to accelerate implementation of the New Urban agenda and maximize collective impact?

The event is by invitation only. For further information or to indicate interest, kindly contact [habitatny@un.org](mailto:habitatny@un.org).