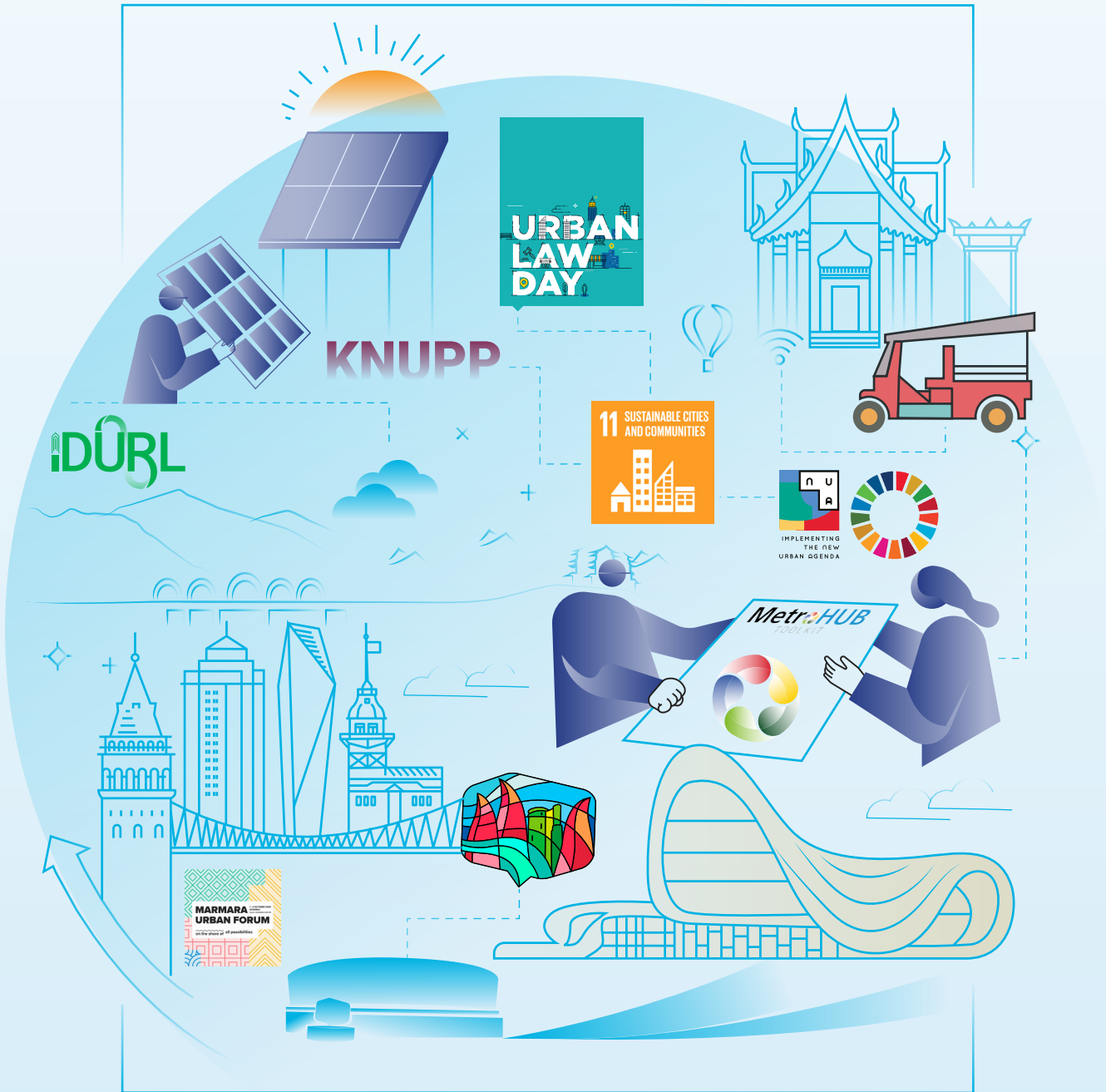




UN-HABITAT

POLICY AND LEGISLATION SECTION

Annual Report 2025



PLS Annual Report 2025

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Note on Section naming: This report covers activities undertaken during the 2025 reporting period, when the team was officially named the *Policy, Legislation and Governance Section (PLGS)*. In December 2025, an organizational realignment took place, and the Section was renamed the *Policy and Legislation Section (PLS)*.

For consistency and clarity, this report uses the name *Policy and Legislation Section (PLS)* throughout.

Foreword

The year 2025 was one of delivery and transition for the Policy and Legislation Section. With the adoption of UN-Habitat's new Strategic Plan 2026–2029, our normative focus was further refined and strengthened under the Agency's leadership. This Annual Report reflects the progress achieved through close cooperation with Member States, partners, and colleagues across UN-Habitat.

Throughout the year, the Policy and Legislation Section (PLS) supported national and subnational governments in strengthening the policy and legislative foundations of sustainable urban development. Our team helped advance policy processes, inform housing and planning law reforms, and reinforce governance systems to promote inclusion and resilience. Notable results include the completion of demonstration projects in I.R Iran, Myanmar, and Niger State-Nigeria, translating these frameworks into direct benefits by improving energy access, water and sanitation services, and learning environments for thousands of people. We also supported legal reform processes in Botswana, Costa Rica, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, and Sierra Leone, to name a few.

Our metropolitan management work continued with partners, applying evidence-based approaches to metropolitan planning, circularity, and multilevel governance, including the release of knowledge products and participation in key convening events. We also deepened our engagement on urban-rural linkages and territorial development, responding to the need for integrated solutions that connect economic, social, and environmental systems.

Technical cooperation efforts were enriched by new knowledge products, guides, and comparative analyses that expanded the global evidence base and provided guidance to support national and local decision-makers in their own policymaking. Capacity development remains central to our mandate- in 2025, PLS convened four Community of Practice sessions, delivered two Urban Law Days, strengthened metropolitan learning through the MetroHUB capacity development programme, and collaborated with academic partners to provide specialized training. Our e-learning platforms continued to reach a diverse global audience, reinforcing the importance of accessible, high-quality learning for practitioners and policymakers.

These achievements were made possible through strong partnerships and dedicated teamwork. I extend my appreciation to our government counterparts, donors and development partners, academia, UN agencies, and colleagues across the Organization, and I thank the team for their commitment and professionalism throughout this transition year. I would also like to convey special congratulations to Remy Sietchiping on his lateral move to the UN-Habitat New York Liaison Office, for building the strong team that delivered the 2025 results.

We look forward to building on the progress of 2025 and strengthening cooperation to promote more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable urban futures.



Fiona McCluney

Chief, Policy and Legislation Section



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Acronyms

AMB	Barcelona Metropolitan Area
CEPA	Committee of Experts on Public Administration (United Nations)
CICG	China International Communications Group
CoP	Community of Practices
CURLA	Centre for Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
GDAR	Global Diet and Activity Research
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
IALS	Institute for Advanced Legal Studies
IDURL	International Dialogue on Urban-Rural Linkages
KAS	Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
KRIHS	Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements
MARUF	Marmara Urban Forum
MeTTA	Megacity Think Tank Alliance
MetroHUB	UN-Habitat's Global Programme Supporting Sustainable Metropolitan and Regional Development
MMU	Marmara Municipalities Union
MOLIT	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (Republic of Korea)
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NUA	New Urban Agenda
NUP	National urban policy
NUPP	National urban policy programme
OECD	Organisation for Economic Development and Cooperation
PAU	Pan African University
PLS	Policy and Legislation Section
POLIMI	Polytechnic University of Milan
RMBC	Bogota-Cundinamarca Metropolitan Region
RMIT	Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
ROAF	UN-Habitat Regional Office for Africa
ROAP	UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
ROLAC	Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
ROAS	Regional Office for Arab States
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UM6P	Mohammed VI Polytechnic University
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
URL	Urban-rural linkages
VMR	Voluntary Metropolitan Reviews
WFMC	World Farmers' Market Coalition
WMD	World Metropolitan Day
WUF	World Urban Forum

Executive summary

In 2025, the Policy and Legislation Section (PLS) expanded its global reach and deepened its contributions to sustainable urban development across all thematic areas. As UN-Habitat concluded the Strategic Plan 2020-2025, PLS consolidated major achievements in urban policy, urban legislation, metropolitan management, and urban-rural linkages, while laying the groundwork for the new Strategic Plan 2026-2029, where the Section's work will play a central role in advancing adequate housing, land and basic services.

58 activities across 35 countries (technical cooperation projects, capacity development initiatives and advocacy efforts).



a. Leveraging tools and normative approaches

PLS supported country-level initiatives that strengthened national and subnational capacities and improved outcomes for cities and communities.

In **Niger State, Nigeria**, aligned with the Niger State Urban Policy, solar-powered systems provided 5,000 litres of clean water daily for 2,500 people.



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In **Myanmar**, close to 8,000 people benefited from improved access to renewable energy, water, and enhanced education services through the provision of solar systems, solar-powered pumps, and solar energy installations in schools. This initiative directly supports the Myanmar National Urban Policy (NUP) priority areas of *Infrastructure and Service Provision and Urbanization, Environment and Climate Change*.



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In **Cambodia**, the finalized 'Smart City Action Plan for Preah Sihanouk Province' was disseminated during the year to advance a people-centered smart city approach



SMART CITY ACTION PLAN FOR PREAH SIHANOUK PROVINCE

2024-2028





© UN-Habitat

In **I.R Iran**, translating Iran's NUP objectives into practice, a 30kW solar system was installed in Tehran benefiting 2,250 residents and training 450 youth on maintenance.



PLS Applied a range of MetroHUB toolkits to strengthen metropolitan management in **Barcelona** (Spain), **Bogota** (Colombia), **Boston** (USA), **Marmara** (Türkiye), **Montreal** (Canada), **Nairobi** (Kenya) and **Seoul** (Republic of Korea).

Urban policy and related frameworks development and implementation continued in **Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Egypt, Mozambique, Paraguay, Saudi Arabia** and **Senegal**.



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In **Botswana**, the rapid assessment of the 2013 Planning Law is guiding the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture on the specific amendments required to modernize the legislation.



Reforms progressed in **Costa Rica, DRC, Malaysia, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Ukraine**, and **Vietnam**, supported by legal reviews, diagnostics and policy advisory.

In **Sierra Leone**, the **Town and Country Planning Act, 2025** was enacted, modernizing the spatial planning and governance framework.



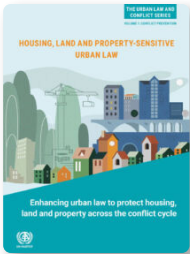
© UN-Habitat

PLS tools, capacity initiatives and advocacy efforts on urban-rural linkages reached partners in **China, Ethiopia, Italy** and **Kenya**

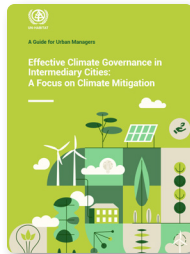
b. Expanding the global evidence base

PLS released **17+ knowledge products**, reinforcing UN-Habitat’s role as a provider of global standards, tools and evidence-based guidance.

Key publications included:



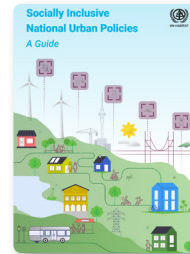
Housing, Land and Property Sensitive Urban Law



Effective Climate Governance in Intermediary Cities: A Focus on Climate Mitigation



Methodological Guide for Voluntary Metropolitan Reports (building on VMRs developed for Guadalajara, San Salvador and Valle de Aburra)



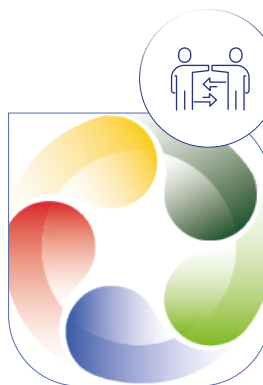
Guide on Mainstreaming Social Inclusion into National Urban Policies

c. Capacity development - Building skills that drive transformation

PLS enhanced capacities through diverse platforms:

Two Urban Law Days

event held advanced legal knowledge on housing focusing on energy-efficiency and AI.



MetroHUB global training enhanced metropolitan planning skills in **Canada, Colombia, Korea, Spain, Türkiye, and the United States.**

A risk management in urban policy implementation

workshop provided guidance to country offices on how to counter risks and ensure optimal impacts.

Community of Practice

Four Community of Practice

sessions fostered cross-regional learning and exchange on policy, legislation, governance and urban-rural linkages.





Lectures at **UM6P, Shanghai University, Tongji University, and Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University** engaged academics on urban-rural linkages and territorial development topics.

d. Partnerships - Working better, together

Partnerships remained central to PLS delivery in 2025:

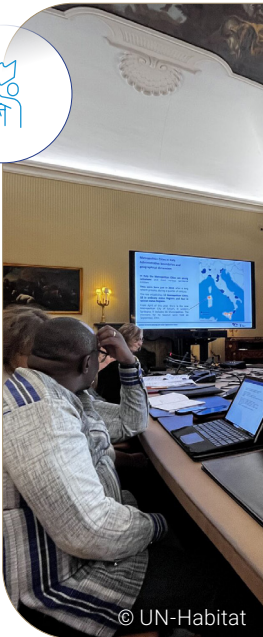


Quarterly multilateral consultations were held with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT) of the Republic of Korea, the 8 participating country offices and various other stakeholders.



Collaboration with the China International Communications Group (CICG) boosted global visibility of the International Dialogue on Urban-Rural Linkages, reaching over **one million** people through social media and conventional media platforms.

The launch of the **MetroHUB Centre on Metropolitan Dynamics** at Politecnico di Milano strengthened metropolitan cooperation, research and diplomacy. The MetroHUB programme also steadily continued its long-standing partnership with Barcelona Metropolitan Area among other partners.



Continued engagement with the Konrad Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) Economy Africa Programme to implement Phase II of the Urban Law for Resilient and Low Carbon Urban Development Project.



The continued collaboration with **academic institutions, governments** and **other actors** enabled joint delivery, co-authorship, capacity building and wider dissemination of tools and insights.

e. Advocacy - Elevating urban and territorial priorities globally

PLS shaped global conversations through major advocacy platforms, organizing, co-organizing or participating in 20+ events, including the **World Metropolitan Summit**, **Marmara Urban Forum**, and the **International Dialogue on Urban-Rural Linkages 2025**. Across these events, PLS advanced discussions on governance, policy coherence, climate resilience, metropolitan diplomacy and territorial development, reinforcing the role of integrated territorial approaches in achieving the SDGs.



Marmara Urban Forum
(4th Edition- 2025)



World Metropolitan Summit



International Dialogue on
Urban-Rural Linkages 2025



2025 in Review

As UN-Habitat concludes its 2020-2025 strategic cycle, the Policy and Legislation Section (PLS) presents its Annual Report for 2025. This sixth edition builds on the tradition established in 2020, presenting progress made and results achieved by PLS and its partners globally and across key thematic areas: **urban policy, urban legislation and governance, metropolitan management, and urban-rural linkages.**

About this report

The 2025 report demonstrates PLS contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and reflects alignment with the **UN-Habitat Strategic Plan** and other organizational priorities, showcasing the impact on partners and beneficiaries, including governments and their communities. Building on the 2024 edition and previous annual reports, the 2025 report:

- » Highlights milestones, trends, and comparative progress.
- » Presents progress on new and ongoing projects, normative tools and knowledge, capacity-building initiatives, and advocacy efforts undertaken in 2025.
- » Outlines PLS priorities for 2026 in line with the new UN-Habitat strategic plan (2026-2029) and the SDGs and NUA.

Purpose and value

The PLS Annual Report remains a **key knowledge product**, consolidating achievements and making information accessible internally and externally. This annual reporting process also serves as **institutional memory** at section level. The report complements the UN-Habitat Annual Report and other organizational knowledge materials by providing more detailed analysis and insights into PLS' specific contributions to the Organization's mandate and strategic priorities. The report is intended for:

- » Governments and communities benefiting from PLS projects, normative tools, knowledge products, and advocacy and capacity-building efforts.
- » Donors and development partners supporting implementation of initiatives.
- » UN-Habitat personnel, for internal knowledge sharing, institutional memory, visibility and partnerships.
- » Practitioners, researchers and other stakeholders in the urban and territorial development space.
- » External public audience interested in UN-Habitat's work.

Structure

This 2025 report begins with an introduction chapter which situates PLS within the UN-Habitat strategic context and outlines the section's contributions to the outcome areas of the strategic plan and priority areas for 2025. The report then delves into the key achievements for 2025, highlighting the country-level progress and results, tools and knowledge disseminated, capacity development initiatives, and the impact of key advocacy efforts. The report then reviews PLS partnerships in 2025, highlighting new partnerships formed and progress made from existing ones. The section's financial performance is then visually highlighted, followed by the concluding insights and 2026 priorities as UN-Habitat transitions into the new Strategic Plan (2026-2029).

Aligning with the UN-Habitat Strategic Context

For UN-Habitat, 2025 has been a year of significant progress, marked by key achievements and milestones, as well as valuable opportunities and challenges that shaped our approach. Throughout the year, UN-Habitat's Policy and Legislation Section (PLS) continued to advance the Organization's mandate by driving implementation of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan (2020-2025) and actively contributing to the agency's strategic priorities.

I. Finalizing the Strategic Plan (2020-2025)

Throughout the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan period, PLS advanced projects, technical advisory support, knowledge products, and advocacy initiatives that contributed to at least six of the twelve outcome areas outlined in the Plan. PLS also worked closely with more than 12 organizational units across UN-Habitat to accelerate and complete its implementation. During this period, PLS served as the lead focal point for two of the four Drivers of Change, namely Policy and Legislation and Governance, reinforcing its central role in advancing the Organization's globally.



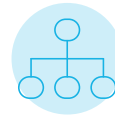
Integrated implementation: Partnered with 12+ UN-Habitat units to finalize the Strategic Plan's 2020-2025 cycle.



Leadership in Drivers of Change: Served as the Lead Focal Point for two of the four Drivers of Change: Policy and Legislation and Governance.



Broad strategic reach: Delivered results across at least 50% of all outcome areas (6 of 12) through projects, knowledge products and advocacy efforts.



Multi-level impact: Scaled technical assistance, capacity development and advocacy initiatives across global, regional, and national levels.

Figure 1. PLS contributions to the Strategic Plan 2020-2025

II. Contributing to the UN-Habitat Priority Areas 2025

Similar to 2024, UN-Habitat maintained its focus on accelerating the implementation of the SDGs and the NUA through prioritizing five thematic areas as critical drivers of sustainable urban development: **Adequate Housing, Climate Action, Localization of SDGs, Urban Crisis Response, and Financing Urban Development.**¹ These priorities built on earlier efforts to expand from three priority areas in 2023.

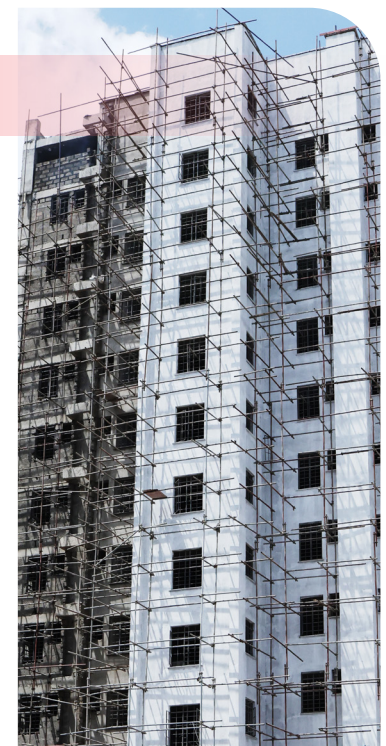
Throughout the year, several PLS projects, technical advice, advocacy initiatives, normative tools, and knowledge products were closely aligned with these thematic priorities. Below are examples of how PLS contributed to advancing each of the priority areas in 2025:



Adequate Housing

PLS elevated the global housing mandate by convening strategic dialogues and fostering key partnerships. Notable engagements included **a special event** on National Urban Policy during the Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All and two Urban Law Day events

¹ United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), *Development of the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029- Report of the Executive Director*, 2024, available at: https://UN-Habitat.org/sites/default/files/2024/03/hsp-eb.2024-5_-report_on_the_strategic_plan_2026-2029.pdf



focused on **AI-driven Legal Solutions for Housing** and **Effective Urban Laws for Sustainable and Eco-Friendly Housing and Construction**. Additionally, PLS contributed **strategic insights** to the International Housing Conference organized by Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, reinforcing the nexus between law, policy, and housing.



Cities and Climate Change

Climate featured significantly in PLS work in 2025, reflected across **six organized or co-organized events (including an event on Digital Solutions for Climate-Smart Cities)**, at least **three publications** (for instance a **Technical Guide on Climate Governance for Intermediary Cities**) and various legal assessments that support climateresponsive urban development such as in Costa Rica.

Localizing the SDGs

PLS contributed to **SDG localization** through a Community of Practice session, and a guide on Voluntary Metropolitan Reports (VMR) aimed at monitoring SDG localization at the metropolitan level.



Urban Crisis Response

PLS bridged the **normative-operational nexus** by supporting urban recovery in **Palestine, Syria, and Ukraine** through technical cooperation, while launching the **Urban Law and Conflict Series (Vol. 1)** during the Third Arab Land Conference to center urban law and HLP rights as tools for conflict prevention.



Financing Urban Development



PLS, in collaboration with the UN-Habitat Cities Investment Facility and Morocco Office organized a two-day urban finance masterclass in Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P) Rabat to support policymakers and relevant stakeholders in unlocking significant capital flows for inclusive and sustainable urbanization projects.



Change Pathways 2025

In 2025, PLS supported governments through an integrated approach to advancing urban and territorial development. Its work focused on four core areas: providing technical support at the country level, strengthening capacity across regions, expanding knowledge and practical tools, and driving change through advocacy. Together, these efforts contributed to bridging the gap between policy commitments and implementation, advancing more inclusive and resilient urban systems.

Implementing tools at country level

In 2025, PLS maintained a strong presence across all regions, delivering technical support and policy guidance that strengthened institutional frameworks and advanced integrated urban and territorial development. Through a combination of global programmes, regional initiatives, and country-focused projects, PLS drove reforms in urban legislation, reinforced governance approaches, supported inclusive urban policies, and promoted metropolitan management and urban-rural linkages as key components of territorial development. These efforts were complemented by capacity-building, knowledge exchange, and demonstration projects that translated policy into tangible impact for stakeholders and communities worldwide.

I. Global and multi-country programmes

a. Phase II of the Korea-funded national urban Policy programme

The Korea-funded National Urban Policy Programme (K-NUPP) continued to drive progress in strengthening national and subnational urban policy frameworks, strengthening capacities and raising awareness, and advancing demonstration projects across five regions. Through collaborative efforts with governments, UN-Habitat country offices and other partners, the programme focused on deepening implementation, enhancing accountability, and preparing for its next phase of growth. These actions reinforced the role of national urban policies as a cornerstone for sustainable urbanization and set the stage for expanded impact in the years ahead.

Global highlights:

- » **Programme governance strengthened:** Three main donor consultations held led to strengthening the programme's strategic direction, cooperative partnerships, knowledge exchange, reporting, and resource mobilization. The reporting modality has also been refined to improve knowledge sharing and reporting, reflecting feedback and the demand for peer learning.

- » **Impacts on the ground:** achieved noteworthy milestones through people-centered demonstration projects which delivered clean water, sanitation, renewable energy, and educational improvements to over 300,000 residents in Niger State-Nigeria, 600 households and 800 students in Myanmar, and 2,250 residents including 450 students in Iran, proving how well-designed interventions transform lives at scale.
- » **High-level dialogues facilitated and partnerships strengthened:** A Republic of Korea delegation, led by the Urban Policy Bureau of MOLIT, visited Nairobi during UNHA 2.2 and held a bilateral meeting with the Executive Director of UN-Habitat. Both MOLIT and UN-Habitat reaffirmed their ongoing cooperation within the programme, emphasizing capacity building and impactful outcomes.
- » **Evaluation initiated:** Mid-term independent evaluation of Phase II commenced to provide informed delivery of the programme.
- » **Delivery enabled:** The 3rd and 4th budget instalments were made to participating countries, accelerating demonstration projects implementation and policy outcomes.
- » **Phase III under advanced discussion:** UN-Habitat and the Republic of Korea initiated a dialogue on the potential launch of K-NUPP Phase III, which is anticipated to focus on housing- aligning with the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026–2029. This reflects continued donor confidence and stronger partnership.



Country-level highlights

Phase II countries

Azerbaijan, currently transitioning between feasibility and diagnosis phase of NUP, progressed by preparing policy briefs on areas including urban health, mobility, urban rural linkages and public spaces, strengthening collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Swiss Government, and expanding advocacy ahead of the Thirteenth Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF13) to be held in Baku (May 2026). Cooperation with the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academic University (ADA) supported public space mapping and capacity building for the State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture (SCUPA), while a national policy expert was recruited to support implementation.

Cambodia finalized the Smart City Action Plan and maintained quarterly coordination through the Smart City Working Group. Additionally, two demonstration proposals were completed- on smart waste management and access to basic services in informal settlements in Preah Sihanouk Province. Capacity building and advocacy progressed through for example, participation in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Urban Forum.

Egypt advanced its NUP by identifying entry points for people centered smart city approaches and formulating an advisory committee with the government stakeholders to expedite the implementation , while strengthening advocacy through a study visit to Germany and a side event at the Second World

Summit for Social Development (WSSD2). Feasibility work continued for demonstration projects in Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta under K-NUPP and the Korea City Network (K-City Network). Additionally, the English version of the NUP is in the final stages of preparation for publication.

Mozambique operationalized its Urbanization Policy through a simplified handbook which was widely disseminated, while a Digital Urban Transformation Mapping and Assessment Report, alongside procedures for safe school zones were finalized. These tools support two planned demonstration projects in Pemba and Maputo with the Ministry of State Administration and Public Function (MAEFP), the Ministry of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources (MOPHRH), the World Bank and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

Paraguay's National Urban, Housing and Habitat Policy (PNUVH) also made progress through development of the implementation plan (PLANUVH) with ministries, civil society organizations (CSOs), the private sector and academia. Also, the Paraguay urban policy process advanced through a high level engagement between the UN-Habitat Executive Director and the Vice Minister of Urban Planning. A demonstration project proposal on public spaces in Guarambare is nearing completion to operationalize people centered NUPs.



Phase I countries

I.R Iran completed a renewable energy demonstration project in Tehran that installed a 30-kilowatt solar system benefiting 2,250 residents and trained 450 youth on maintenance at a vocational high school.

In Myanmar, a renewable energy demonstration project was carried out in four villages: Taung Pyo, Me Ta Naw, Ohn Arr, and Lone Kong in Taung Gyi, Southern Shan State. The project provided offgrid solar systems to 800 households (3,430 people) and distributed household solar lights to 600 households (2,376 people). A solarpowered water pump and a 6.0 kW solar system were installed at Pyinnyar Monastic School, which improved the learning environment and digital literacy

for students by increasing access to computers and strengthening administrative processes. In addition, 1,105 residents and students received training on how to operate and maintain the solar systems. In total, the project benefited **nearly 8,000 people**.

Niger State, Nigeria - Building on previously implemented projects in Niger State, a demonstration project was completed in Kpakungu, Minna that improved sanitation and hygiene through construction of modern toilets and bathrooms and installation of a solar powered borehole with a water tank supplying 5,000 litres of water daily. The intervention benefits 2,500 residents through improved access to clean water and safer hygiene facilities.



Household solar distribution in Taung Pyo village, Myanmar © UN-Habitat

From Policy to Impact: Improving Lives through Renewable Energy in Taunggyi, Myanmar.

In Myanmar, unreliable electricity has continued to limit opportunities for education, livelihoods, and community well-being. Through the Korea-funded National Urban Policy Programme (K-NUPP), UN-Habitat piloted renewable energy solutions in Taunggyi Township that directly address these gaps while supporting national priorities for sustainable and resilient urban development.

The project installed solar systems in households, schools, and community facilities, while more than 800 community members received training on system operation, maintenance, and basic energy management, all benefiting close to **8,000 people**.

In **Me Ta Naw village**, for example, where families previously relied on candles that were costly and unsafe, solar power systems were distributed to 203 households (902 people). The new lighting improved safety, productivity, and income generation. One resident, Ms. Ma Nan Chew Lay, who supports her family through farming and tailoring, can now sew several extra hours each evening. This has increased her income and reduced monthly expenses by about 50,000 MMK, demonstrating how renewable energy supports livelihoods and resilience for low-income households.

At **Pyinnyar Ooyinn Monastic School**, home to 755 students, chronic water shortages and unreliable electricity had disrupted learning and daily operations. With a solar-powered water pump and a 6.0 kW off-grid energy system installed, the school now benefits from year-round supply of clean water and also benefits from stable electricity. Seventy-six students now participate in weekly computer classes, and the school saves about 200,000 MMK per month in electricity costs.

These results demonstrate how renewable energy solutions can turn policy commitments into practical impact. The initiative closely aligns with priorities under Myanmar's National Urban Policy, supports the New Urban Agenda, and contributes to Sustainable Development Goals 7, 11, and 13 while offering scalable models for resilient, inclusive development in Myanmar and other similar contexts.



Installation of solar panels in Pyinnyar Ooyinn Monastic School, Taunggyi-Myanmar © UN-Habitat

b) MetroHUB Global Programme:

In 2025, UN-Habitat continued its collaboration with metropolitan authorities and other partners in its efforts to enhance the management of functional territories. Building on the progress made in 2024, which included consolidating the Agency's metropolitan work under the MetroHUB Global Programme and signing key partnership agreements, 2025 focused on continuing technical cooperation with the growing MetroHUB partners. Efforts prioritized strengthening institutional capacity, expanding knowledge-sharing platforms, and advancing metropolitan diplomacy to promote the metropolitan approach as a cornerstone of sustainable development.

Key highlights 2025

1. Driving circularity in Bogotá's waste management

In 2025, UN-Habitat supported Bogotá's transition toward a metropolitan circular economy through targeted governance and technical advisory.

- » In March, an Expert Group Meeting convened stakeholders to strengthen metropolitan waste strategies and launched the **International Bureau of Experts on Solid Waste Management**, creating a global platform for knowledge exchange and innovation in circular waste management.
- » Technical guidelines were developed to **scale Bogotá's circular solid waste management model** to metropolitan and regional levels, ensuring alignment with the Metropolitan Regional Strategic Plan and promoting replicability across territories.

2. Consolidating regional integration and knowledge exchange in Bogota

Collaboration with the **Bogotá-Cundinamarca Metropolitan Region (RMBC)** delivered transformative results in metropolitan management, including data-driven planning.

- » In September, a technical workshop at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) strengthened RMBC's capacity in metropolitan management and evidence-based decision-making, informed the Strategic Plan, and enhanced the Observatory for Metropolitan and Regional Dynamics, while opening cooperation opportunities with U.S. metropolitan institutions.
- » In November, **Phase I** of the collaboration between PLS and RMBC was completed through two major engagements:
 - * A **knowledge exchange** with Montreal's Metropolitan Community (10-13 November) provided actionable insights on governance, financing, and participatory planning, which informed RMBC's Strategic Plan and Observatory while reinforcing international cooperation.
 - * The MetroLab event "**Data and Voices Connecting the Region**" (20-21 November) marked the formal completion of Phase I, delivering RMBC's first **Metropolitan Regional Strategic Plan (PERM)** and the **Observatory of Metropolitan and Regional Dynamics**, laying the foundation for inclusive metropolitan integration.



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c) **Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages through Regeneration (SURLR)**

Launched on 1 April 2025, UN-Habitat, in collaboration with Shanghai University (SHU), is implementing this project on Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages through Regeneration (SURL-R). The project positions urban-rural linkages as a driver of regeneration and inclusive growth through structured knowledge products, capacity development, and advocacy initiatives.

Key highlights 2025:

» **Knowledge generation:** the call for *“International Outstanding Practices on Urban Regeneration”* was launched in June 2025 and later relaunched in October 2025. This resulted in the collection of 107 submissions, of which 77 were evaluated as eligible, having met all the requirements. Among the 77 eligible submissions, 66 came from Asia, 6 from Europe, 4 from Africa and 1 from Latin America.

Out of the submissions from China, Beijing emerged as the most active city with 14 entries. Through a competitive independent review process, experts narrowed the field to 30 shortlisted and 10 final recommended practices. These results are being finalized for dissemination via both partners’ official knowledge networks.

» **Capacities strengthened:** UN-Habitat delivered lectures to over 60 master’s and PhD students at SHU and is actively supporting the scoping and definition of a training and leadership programme on urban and rural

regeneration.

This initiative is designed to strengthen the capacities of local stakeholders while creating a platform that bridges academic research and practical implementation, fostering collaboration between academia and practitioners where relevant.

» **Advocacy and visibility enhanced:** The partnership advanced joint outreach through participation in the *Shanghai Urban Regeneration Roadshow* and a World Cities Day event organized by the Shanghai Municipal Government and its partners.

107

Total global applications

77

Valid applications

17

Coverage countries & regions

39

Coverage cities

22.08%

Ratio of international applications



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II. In-country technical assistance

UN-Habitat through PLS also provided targeted technical assistance to national and local governments, supporting legislative reforms, strengthening governance approaches, and promoting inclusive urban policies tailored to country contexts.



Participants engaging during a public participation session to validate and collect feedback on the Concept of the Spatial Planning and Territorial Development Code of Ukraine © UN-Habitat

Here are the key in-country highlights:

Botswana - UN-Habitat (PLS) supported the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture to initiate reforms of the **2013 Planning Law**, delivering a **rapid legal gaps analysis** and **international benchmarking** that guided the amendments needed to update and strengthen the planning framework. The Ministry endorsed the assessment and requested UN-Habitat's facilitation of stakeholder consultations, ensuring inclusivity through the Pula Institute of Town Planners.

Costa Rica - UN-Habitat (PLS) and Fordham University in partnership with other stakeholders supported Costa Rica through a Green Climate Fund-financed project titled *"Increased resilience of urban development and infrastructure in Costa Rica through the development of an adaptation construction code."* The project aims to strengthen the climate resilience of critical infrastructure in Costa Rica by establishing an effective construction code, with a particular focus on housing, water and sanitation systems, and road transport infrastructure. PLS and Fordham University prepared the *"Rapid Comparative Legal and Policy Analysis on Climate Resilience*

in 12 Countries: Key Focus on Water and Sanitation; Road and Transportation; and Housing Sectors" report to assist national and local stakeholders in Costa Rica by highlighting relevant and inspiring legal models adapted to the country's legislative, socio-economic, cultural and institutional context.

Democratic Republic of Congo - UN-Habitat provided **substantive review of nine subsidiary legislations** under the Urban Planning and Construction Code and harmonized the bilingual (English/French) **benchmarking analysis**. A **guide for ex-ante urban law impact assessment** was also advanced, and the project self-evaluation refined to strengthen analytical quality.



Malaysia and Costa Rica - The **Governance Diagnostic Tool** was **piloted in Penang**, enabling municipal officials to assess governance performance. A diagnostic report with **short and medium-term recommendations** will guide improvements in the governance of Penang. The tool was also instrumental in supporting the municipalities of Sarchi and Palmares, Costa Rica to initiate urban governance reforms.

State of Palestine (Ramallah) - As part of the project on Safe, Inclusive and Climate Resilient Cities: Ramallah, Palestine, PLS reviewed the Ramallah **Strategic and Resilience Plan (2023-2026)** and improved a childfriendly public space assessment. Two **analytical reports** with actionable recommendations, grounded in the UN-Habitat-UNICEF guidance and other inspiring child-responsive practices were finalized. Additionally, a training workshop was delivered to demonstrate child-responsive public space policies and planning with the aim of elevating Ramallah as a leader in localizing the SDGs..

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - Technical support towards the **Spatial Planning Act (SPA)** reform and **National Urban Policy (NUP)** development continued in 2025 through targeted policy advisory, technical reviews, and two high impact knowledge exchange workshops, which strengthened **governance approaches, role and responsibility mapping, and stakeholder engagement strategies.**



In addition, the delivery of **benchmarking case studies** (Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, South Korea, Spain (Catalonia)) informed the drafting of the SPA and NUP.

Senegal - PLS reviewed the first draft of the diagnosis of the National Urban Policy, providing substantive feedback and guidance which were inserted in the final version to be discussed during the next committee meeting.

Sierra Leone - The PLS technical review supported **enactment of the Town and Country Planning Act, 2025**, which will drive the modernizing of the urban governance framework and support **integrated territorial planning.**

Syria - PLS delivered a rapid diagnostic of key **urban laws (Law No. 10 and Law No. 23)** to inform reconstruction, restitution, and secure tenure as part of the European Union-funded Joint Programme on Housing, Land and Property (Phase II). This will strengthen tenure security for millions of displaced and returning Syrians.

Ukraine - PLS reviewed the **concept for a new Urban Planning Code (Spatial Planning and Territorial Development Code)**, providing **substantive feedback** which was integrated into the revised draft. The PLS team also supported **public consultations**, strengthening transparency and stakeholder engagement. Continued technical engagement will guide legislative design through ex-ante impact assessment and stakeholder participation in the next phase.

Vietnam - Under the **institutional strengthening and capacity-building project**, UN-Habitat supported the review of technical reports on urban management and planning laws and prepared an executive summary of five urban law reports developed by the Urban Development Agency. These outputs, along with policy briefs, informed national dialogues such as the **Vietnam Urban Forum** on urban legislation and planning reforms.

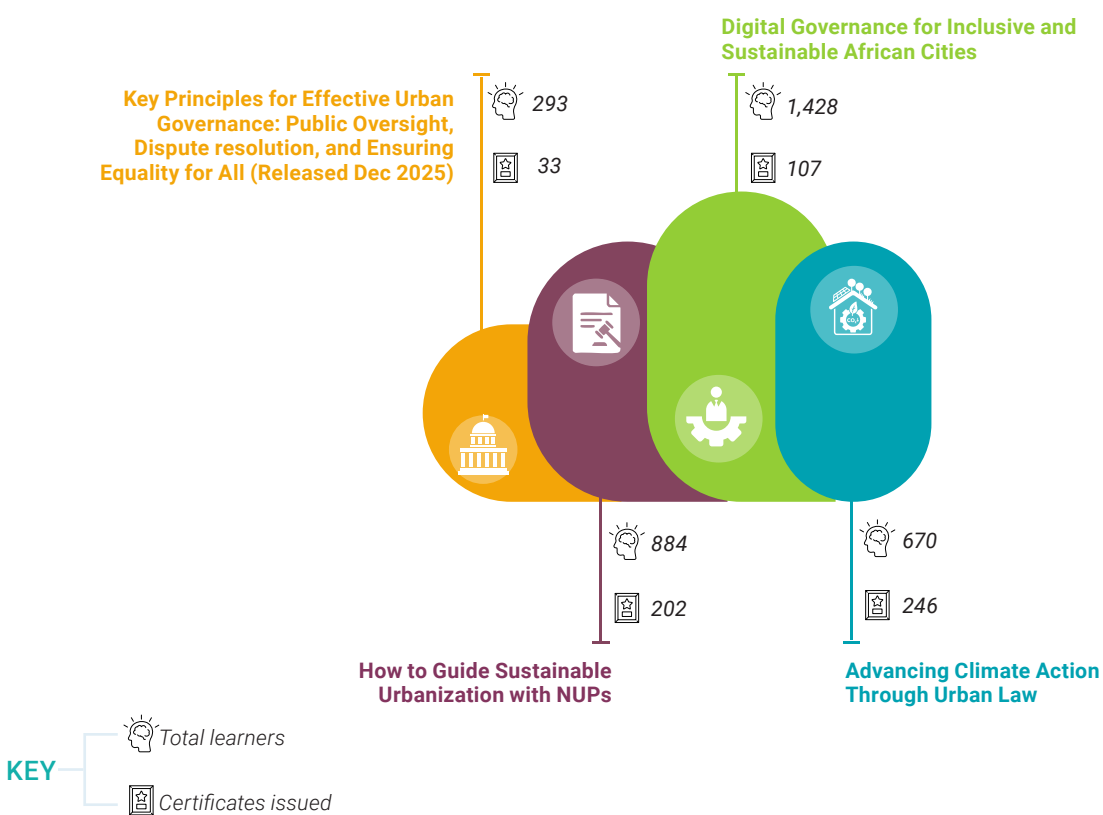
Enhancing capacity across regions

I. Capacity development tools

In 2025, UN-Habitat through PLS continued to expand access to high-quality capacity development tools, offering specialized e-learning courses on key thematic areas of urban policy, urban law and governance. These courses served as a practical resource for urban actors worldwide, enabling self-paced learning and strengthening technical expertise in these thematic areas. By combining normative guidance with interactive content, the courses contributed to building institutional capacity, improving policy implementation, and fostering informed decision-making at local and national levels.

Here is what we found from the e-learning tools:

Figure 2. Key numbers from PLS e-learning tools



II. Capacity development initiatives

a. MetroHUB Global Capacity Development Programme

In 2025, PLS advanced metropolitan management through the MetroHUB Global Capacity Development Programme, building on progress from 2024. Over the year, MetroHUB delivered multiple training sessions and courses, enabling participants from **France, Italy, and Spain** to enhance their expertise in metropolitan management through four dedicated capacity development sessions.

For example, on 9-10 July 2025 in Barcelona, UN-Habitat delivered the course *“Metropolises in an Unstable World: Security, Resilience and Transformation,”* organized by the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona (AMB) in collaboration with the Barcelona Institute of International Studies (IBEI). The training brought together metropolitan actors and experts to explore strategies for resilience and governance in the face of global uncertainties.

Key milestone

On 30 October 2025, UN-Habitat and Politecnico di Milano (POLIMI) launched the **MetroHUB Centre on Metropolitan Dynamics** during a high-level dialogue at the Metropolitan City of Milan headquarters. Convened ahead of the 2025 World Cities Day, the event brought together global leaders, metropolitan networks, and academia to launch the centre, and promote knowledge diplomacy and strengthen multilevel governance for sustainable metropolitan development.

The Centre, situated at POLIMI serves as a global platform for:

- » **Capacity-building** through metropolitan learning circles for practitioners and officials
- » **Policy dialogue** fostering international cooperation and metropolitan diplomacy
- » **Research-practice interface** translating knowledge into actionable solutions

This milestone reflects a strong UN-Habitat-POLIMI partnership and sets the stage for future collaboration, including expanding the MetroHUB network, advancing joint research, and promoting governance models that integrate ecological, digital, and social dimensions of metropolitan management.



b. PLS Community of Practice 2025

In 2025, the PLS Community of Practice (CoP) continued its established role as a key platform for dialogue, knowledge sharing and collaboration. Through **four** interactive sessions, the CoP engaged **315 participants** from across UN-Habitat and other partner organizations externally, fostering discussions and peer-learning on various thematic entry points.

In addition, the PLS CoP was involved in **two** co-creation sessions for initiatives on integrated development planning and national urban policy. These gatherings provided space for exchanging experiences, hearing contextual perspectives, and showcasing results achieved through partnerships with PLS, thereby strengthening collective learning and impact.

What worked best in 2025:

- » **Enhanced external engagement-** Increased participation of external partners enriched discussions with diverse perspectives and highlighted the tangible benefits of collaboration with UN-Habitat.
- » **Strengthened internal synergies-** Many sessions were co-hosted with other UN-Habitat sections and offices, fostering integrated approaches and improving internal collaboration.
- » **Prioritizing interactive dialogue-** By reducing the number of speakers and presentations, sessions allowed more time for active participation, deeper discussions, and meaningful knowledge exchange

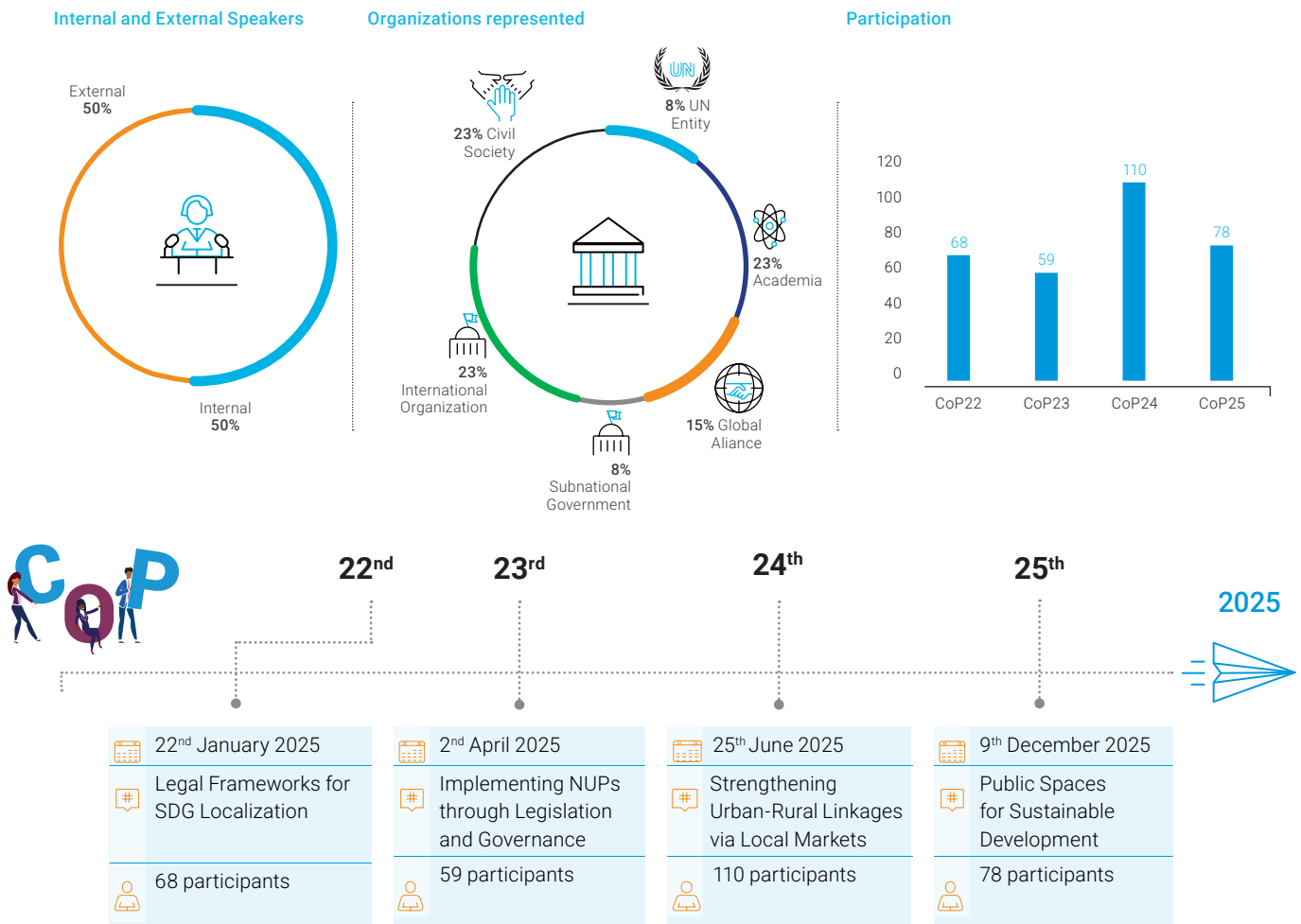


Figure 3. PLS 2025 COP highlights

c. Urban Law Days 2025

Urban Law Day, a well-established biannual event organized by UN-Habitat in collaboration with leading academic partners, continues to serve as a space for discussions on urban law and governance. In 2025, this gathering once again brought together experts, practitioners, and scholars for two dynamic sessions.

This year's sessions attracted **135+** participants from diverse regions, fostering rich discussions on legislative frameworks and governance strategies essential for sustainable urban development.

The themes for 2025 reflected pressing global priorities:

- Effective Urban Laws for Sustainable and Eco-Friendly Housing and Construction, and**
- AI and Urban Law: Bridging the Adequate Housing Gap.**

By maintaining this biannual gathering, Urban Law Days not only deepen the understanding of urban legal systems but also strengthen the global commitment to creating inclusive, resilient, and sustainable cities.



IALS
URBAN LAW DAY
JULY 2025



FORDHAM
URBAN LAW DAY
OCTOBER 2025

Effective Urban Laws for Sustainable and Eco-Friendly Housing and Construction- Attended by 85 participants, the first ULD of 2025 focused on advancing sustainable and eco-friendly housing through effective urban laws. The event showcased global inspiring practices, emphasized phased and inclusive legislation, and highlighted urban law’s role in driving energy efficiency, resilience, and innovation. Key messages included promoting nature-based and circular solutions and strengthening international collaboration for climate-smart urban development.

AI and Urban Law: Bridging the Adequate Housing Gap- The second ULD of 2025, attended by 50 participants explored how artificial intelligence can support housing policy and planning while safeguarding human rights, equity, and sustainability. Discussions highlighted opportunities such as predictive analytics and agent-based modelling, alongside risks like bias, privacy concerns, and environmental impacts. Speakers and participants emphasized the need for rights-based governance frameworks, inclusive data practices, and ethical standards to ensure AI advances adequate housing while reducing inequality.

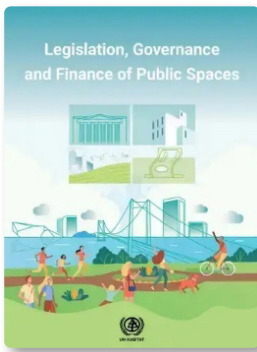
Expanding knowledge and tools for action:

The PLS portfolio of global and context-specific knowledge products grew significantly. This expanded UN-Habitat’s evidence base for standards and norms that help governments and partners tailor solutions to local realities, driving sustainable urban and territorial development. In 2025, UN-Habitat, through PLS and its partners, launched **17+** new tools, reports, newsletters

and other publications, reinforcing policy and legislative frameworks and advancing territorial development through metropolitan management and urban-rural linkages- building on the knowledge materials produced in 2024. Here are insights emerging from dissemination and application of these knowledge products:

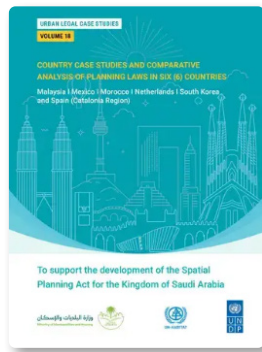
Insight 1: Strengthened legal and governance tools can enable more effective, resilient, and inclusive urban transformation

Strengthening legal and governance frameworks remained a cornerstone of PLS’s normative support to Member States in 2025. PLS generated new legal and governance tools designed to help countries and cities translate global agendas into practical action. This year’s publications examined, for example, how strengthened legislative instruments, governance mechanisms, and legal diagnostic processes can support governments to address aspects such as Housing, Land and Property Rights (HLP), planning, social inclusion, and climate change. The knowledge produced also underscored the role of legal and institutional reforms in strengthening conflict prevention and recovery, to ensure that governance frameworks can address risks, reduce vulnerabilities and promote stability in rapidly urbanizing contexts.



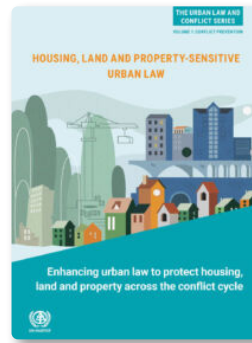
[Urban Law and Conflict Series, Volume 1: HLP-Sensitive Urban Law \(Conflict Prevention\)](#)

- offers guidance on enhancing legal systems to protect housing, land, and property rights throughout the conflict cycle.



[Country Case Studies and Comparative Analysis of Planning Laws in Six Countries](#)

(Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, South Korea, Spain- Catalonia region) - comparative assessment to guide planning system reforms.



[Legislation, Governance and Finance of Public Space](#)

- Analysis of legislative, governance and financing frameworks shaping sustainable public space systems.



Urban Legislation Review for SDGs (formerly *SDG Cities Legal Checklist*)

- updated review methodology to assess legal barriers to SDG-aligned urban development and integrate legal diagnostics from an SDGs lens. Planned piloting in *Fiji, Kenya and Samoa*

Insight 2: Metropolitan management and collaboration are advancing as key enablers of sustainable urban development

In 2025, PLS advanced the global conversation on metropolitan management through various knowledge products. Metropolitan regions continue to demonstrate their growing importance as governance spaces where multiple actors (local authorities, research institutions, civil society, and regional organizations), converge to address shared urban challenges and co-develop solutions. The year’s publications highlight effective approaches to shape resilience, heritage protection, circular economy transitions, and SDG localization at the metropolitan level.



[Global Urban Lectures Season 7: Metropolitan Heritage](#)

– A video lecture on metropolitan heritage, produced with the Heritopolis Society and Catholic University of Santiago.



[Heritopolis Working Papers, Volume 2: The Role of Heritage in Localising SDGs in the Metropolis](#)

– New research on heritage as a metropolitan governance asset.



[Including Waste Pickers in Metropolitan Waste Management](#)

– Addressing inclusion, circularity and climate action through metropolitan solid waste systems.



[Voluntary Metropolitan Reports \(VMR\): Methodological Guide](#) – A practical framework for preparing metropolitan SDG reports and accelerating multi-scalar action.



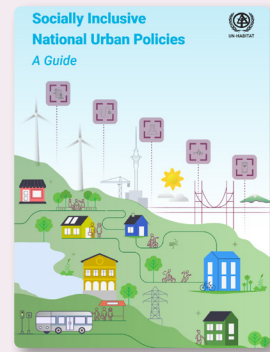
[Policy Brief: Metropolises Facing an Unstable World: Security, Resilience and Transformation](#) – Insights from a 2025 seminar with AMB and IBEI.



[Metropolitan Diplomacy](#) - provides an overview of metropolitan diplomacy as an emerging field of action for metropolitan areas in global governance.

Insight 3: Urban policy remains an overarching coordinating framework for sustainable urban development

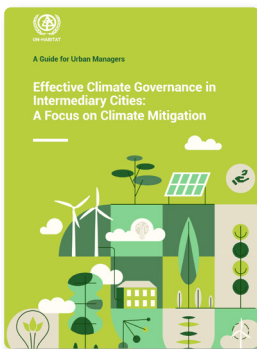
Urban policy continued to play a central role in aligning national and subnational development agendas, guiding urban investments, and enabling multi-sectoral collaboration. PLS’s work in 2025 reaffirmed the value of national and subnational urban policy frameworks as instruments for coherence, territorial planning, and inclusive governance. The 2025 publication highlighted for the need and process of developing socially inclusive urban policies.



[Socially Inclusive National Urban Policies – A Guide](#) - A guide on how to mainstream human rights and social inclusion into national urban policy processes.

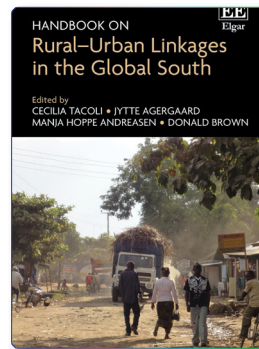
Insight 4: Integrated territorial approaches are strengthening urban-rural linkages to enhance resilience and equity.

Territorial approaches and stronger urban-rural linkages continued to gain prominence in 2025. PLS publications this year emphasized the need for integrated planning that connects rural and urban communities through economic, social, and environmental flows. New research highlights the role of digital tools, food systems planning, and territorial governance in promoting resilience and equity across the urban-rural continuum.



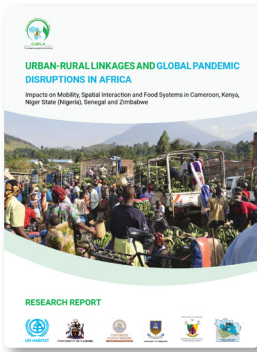
[Technical Guide on Climate Governance for Intermediary Cities](#)

- Practical guidance for urban managers on strengthening climate governance in intermediary cities.

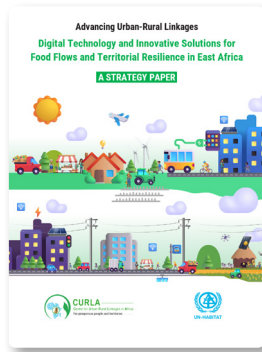


[Elgar Handbook on Urban-Rural Linkages in the Global South](#) -

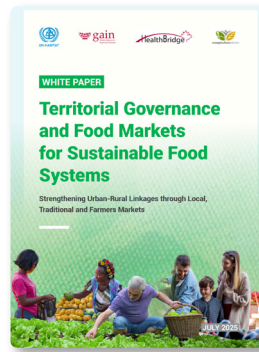
Featuring UN-Habitat’s chapter on the (re) emergence of territorial approaches.



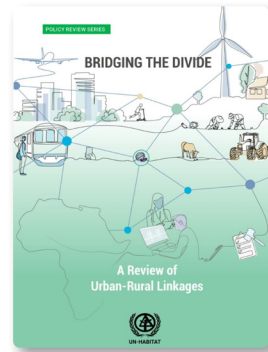
[Urban-Rural Linkages and Global Pandemic Disruptions in Africa](#) - Evidence on COVID-19 impacts on food, mobility and supply chains.



[Digital Technology and Innovative Solutions for Food Flows and Territorial Resilience in East Africa](#) - A strategy paper for digitally enabled territorial food systems.



[Territorial Governance and Food Markets for Sustainable Food Systems](#) - Policy and governance insights for food system transformation.



[Policy reviews on Urban-Rural Linkages \(Burkina Faso, DRC, Mali and Senegal\)](#) - assessment of national policies through an urban-rural linkages lens, highlighting their effectiveness and relevance to key development issues.

Newsletters:

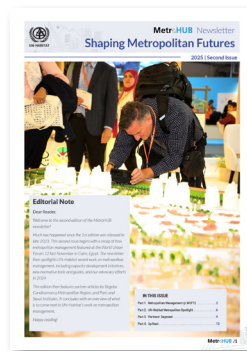
PLS also produced a series of thematic newsletters to keep partners updated about progress and emerging insights. These newsletters created space for partners to share their contributions through brief articles, written interviews and other inputs that highlighted ongoing work and lessons from the field.



[Issue 1: Urban Legislation and Governance Newsletter](#) (Jan - June 2025)- presents highlights of technical support to countries, spotlight on events such as Urban Law Days, and provides an overview of UrbanLex Database



[Issue 2: Urban Legislation and Governance Newsletter](#) (July - Dec 2025)- presents more UN-Habitat developments on legislation and governance, new tools and knowledge products, and a partner think-piece on Egypt's fixed rent dilemma



[MetroHUB Newsletter: Issue 2](#) – Shares UN-Habitat updates on metropolitan management in 2025, as well as partner contributions on diverse metropolitan topics.



[9th Urban-Rural Linkages Newsletter](#) - A summary of UN-Habitat's work on urban-rural linkages in the second half of 2025, featuring policy lessons and country experiences, as well as partner contributions on diverse urban-rural linkages topics.

Driving change through advocacy

In 2025, PLS strengthened global and regional advocacy to advance integrated governance, urban policy, metropolitan management, and urban-rural linkages. Through high-level forums, expert dialogues, and strategic partnerships, PLS delivered impactful engagements enhanced multilevel cooperation, informed policy reforms, and accelerated the localization of global agendas.

Special feature: Resumed Second Session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly

In May 2025, the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (UNHA 2.2) was held in Nairobi. Central to the outcomes was the **adoption of UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026-2029**, which places housing, land, and basic services at the core of inclusive, climate-resilient, and equitable urban transformation, particularly for communities affected by climate change, conflict, and inequality. Executive Director Anacláudia Rossbach emphasized that the plan is ambitious yet realistic, calling on Member States to uphold their commitments and sustain their support to achieve transformative results. The Assembly concluded with a renewed global commitment to addressing the global housing crisis and advancing sustainable urban development.

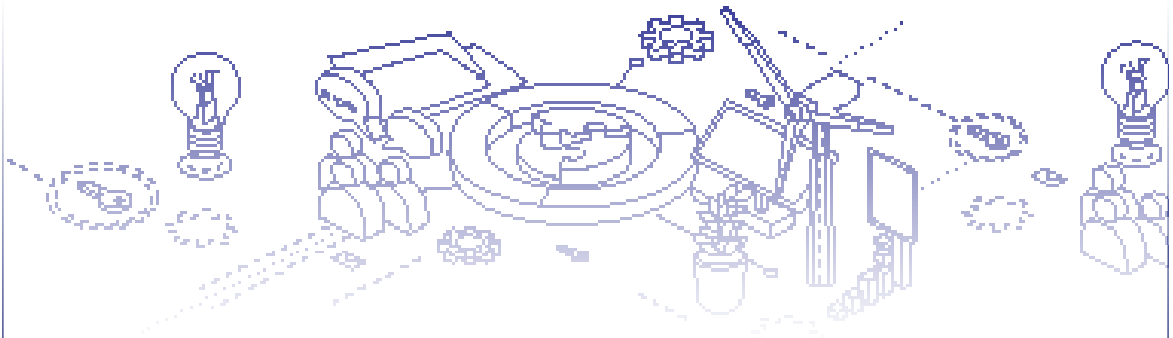
For PLS, UNHA 2.2 also focused on continued engagement with Member States and partners; notably, the Executive Director engaged with the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport to explore a potential Phase III of the KNUPP programme, which would embed UN-Habitat's strategic priorities - housing, land, and basic services - into forthcoming national urban policy support processes.



I. Spotlight events (organized or co-organized)



Metropolitan Management:



Expert Group Meeting on Digital Metropolises | Barcelona, 20 – 21 January 2025

As part of the MetroHUB global programme, PLS co-organised an expert group meeting with the Barcelona Metropolitan Area (AMB). The two-day session explored metropolitan data governance, including open data practices, private sector data use, and algorithmic transparency. Participants also discussed key insights to inform the International Guidelines on People Centred Smart Cities, focusing on how digital tools can support more inclusive and accountable metropolitan systems. As part of the meeting, a site visit to the Barcelona Supercomputing Center was conducted to observe advanced digital infrastructure in practice.



Expert Group Meeting on Metropolitan Planning and Finance for Adequate Housing | Istanbul, 1 October 2025

© MARUF Communications Team

Along the sidelines of the Marmara Urban Forum 2025, UN-Habitat through PLS co-organized an expert group meeting on Metropolitan Planning and Finance for Adequate Housing. The meeting focused on how metropolitan level policies can strengthen universal access to adequate housing, using the seven dimensions of adequacy as a guiding framework. Participants reflected on ways to embed housing priorities within broader metropolitan management strategies and exchanged insights on practical approaches that can enhance equity, sustainability, and wellbeing in urban communities.



World Metropolitan Summit |
Barcelona, 14 - 17 October 2025

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With more than **220 participants representing 100 delegations** from around the world, the World Metropolitan Summit provided a unique platform to cross-share metropolitan knowledge and experiences, identify best practices, strengthen partnerships, and further the metropolitan perspective beyond 2030. Marking the 10th anniversary of the European Metropolitan Authorities Forum, the Summit advanced a shared vision for mission-oriented, adaptive, and distributed metropolitan governance. The Summit also culminated in endorsement of the **Barcelona Metropolitan Declaration** by **43** metropolitan representatives, calling for integrated territorial approaches to tackle metropolitan issues including housing, mobility, climate, and digitalization. UN-Habitat played a key role in shaping the Summit's conceptual foundation, emphasizing the importance of multilevel governance and the provision of public goods, and also actively participated through delivering opening remarks, and speaking in various side events.



Urban Policy:



Unlocking Housing Solutions through National Urban Policies |
Nairobi, 23 October 2025.

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This special event was held during the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All, convening over 100 participants. The session highlighted how National Urban Policies (NUPs) can align housing with national development priorities, to improve housing outcomes. Insights from the third edition of the Global State of National Urban Policy report (2024) revealed progress, with 75 per cent of surveyed countries having urban policy alignment mechanisms with housing policies, though gaps remain in social housing and urban-rural linkages. Country examples from **Finland, Kenya, Morocco, and Paraguay** showcased innovative approaches, including Finland's Housing First model reducing homelessness by almost 70 per cent, Morocco's "Cities Without Slums" benefiting over 68,000 households, and Kenya's constitutional commitment to housing as a right. The event concluded with a call to reinforce policy coherence, inclusive planning, and international collaboration to achieve adequate housing for all.

Read more here: [Unlocking Housing Solutions](#)



Legislation and Governance:



Digital Solutions for Climate-Smart Cities | Virtual, 04 November 2025.

During the World Bank Law, Justice and Development Week, PLS hosted a session titled “**Digital Solutions for Climate-Smart Cities: The Law and Climate Change Toolkit.**” The event gathered approximately **40** participants and highlighted the transformative role of UN-Habitat’s Urban Climate Law Module in promoting low-carbon urban development. Featuring compelling case studies from Colombia and Malawi, presented by representatives of the University of Michigan and the High Court of Malawi, the discussion demonstrated how robust legal frameworks and digital tools can enable cities to implement effective climate action and advance sustainable urban futures.

Read more here: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2025/11/04/digital-solutions-for-climate-smart-cities-the-law-and-climate-change-toolkit>



Urban-Rural Linkages:



First International Green Cities Conference | Rome, 14-15 October 2025

© UN-Habitat

The First International Green Cities Conference brought together global urban leaders and partners to advance integrated solutions for greener, more resilient, and inclusive cities. The event showcased progress, facilitated knowledge exchange, and strengthened partnerships, while marking two milestones: the launch of the FAO Green Cities Principles and Criteria and the adoption of a **Conference Communiqué** for presentation at the World Urban Forum in Baku in May 2026. PLS underscored the importance of linking spatial planning, food systems, climate action, housing, land management, and basic services. During the conference, PLS moderated a session on transforming agrifood systems, highlighted city-level innovations, and presented joint work with FAO in Mozambique and Jordan, reaffirming its commitment to deepening collaboration to scale the Green Cities Initiative.



International Dialogue on Urban-Rural Linkages | Songyang, 3 - 6 November 2025

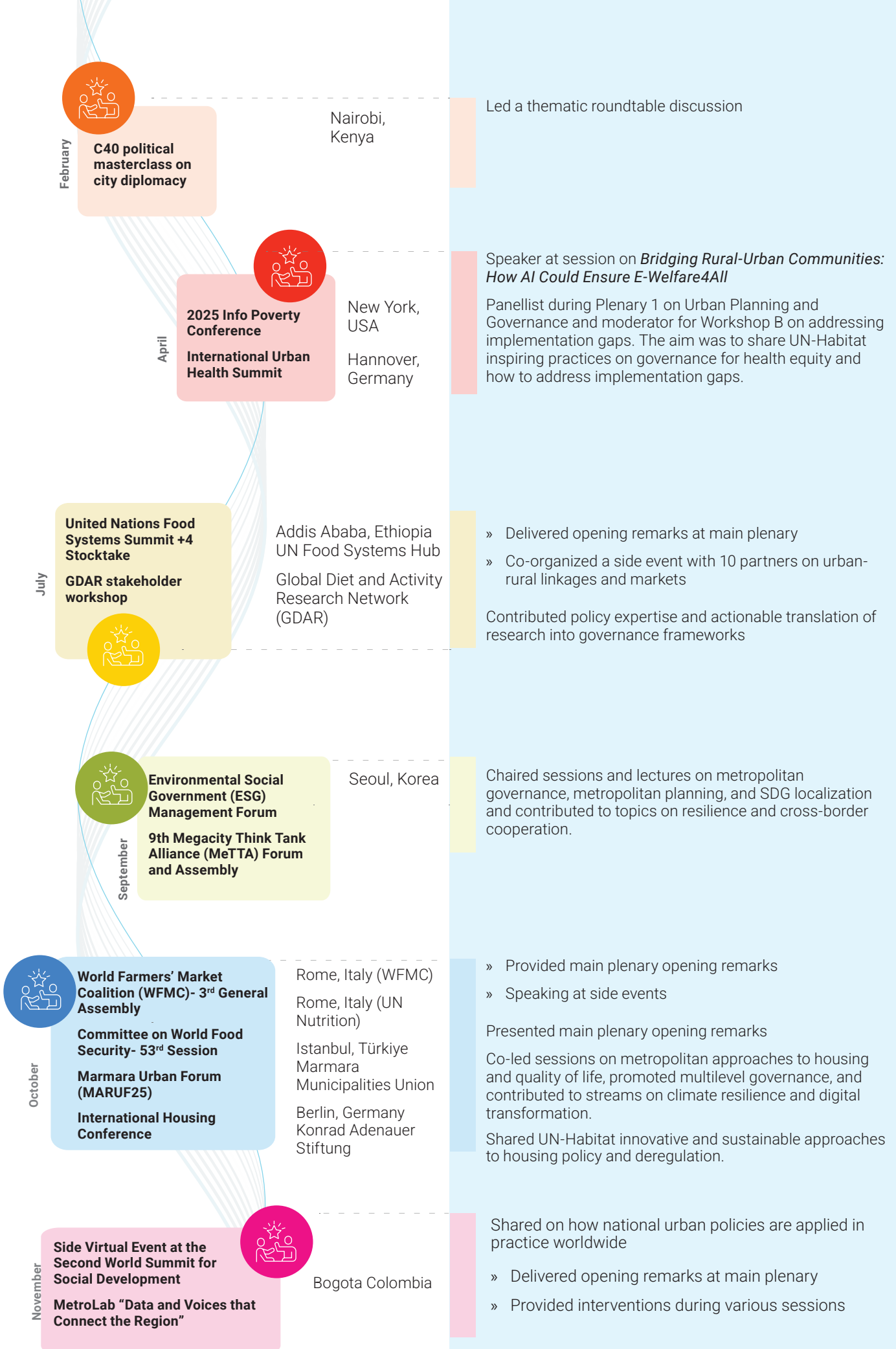
© CIG

The 2025 International Dialogue on Urban-Rural Linkages (IDURL), held in Songyang County, China, brought together over **120** participants from 15 countries to explore inclusive and sustainable territorial development. Co-organized by UN-Habitat and the China International Communications Group, the event theme was enhancing urban-rural linkages through **culture, housing and basic services**. The three-day Dialogue which attracted over 1 million views via diverse media platforms showcased Songyang’s integrated approach to cultural heritage preservation, adaptive reuse, and modern service delivery, including revitalized water systems and transformed public spaces. Parallel workshops during field visits highlighted global best practices in heritage-led revitalization of housing and public spaces, basic services provision, and cultural preservation, emphasizing that urban and rural areas are complementary rather than competing. The Dialogue reaffirmed UN-Habitat’s call to bridge the urban-rural divides through innovative, culturally grounded strategies that promote dignity, identity, and opportunity for all.

Read more here: [IDURL 2025](#)

II. Other key engagements (Events Participated)

Throughout the year, PLS advanced advocacy by participating in diverse platforms. In Nairobi, PLS represented UN-Habitat in a C40 Masterclass on city diplomacy and engaged youth climate leaders through legal advocacy labs, while in Germany, PLS distilled policy and legal approaches during international conferences on urban health (Hannover) and housing (Berlin). PLS also made contributions to global dialogues including the UN Task Force on Food Systems in Geneva, the Info Poverty Conference in New York, and the International Urban Health Summit in Hannover. Regional forums such as the Marmara Urban Forum (Istanbul) and the MeTTA Forum and Assembly (Seoul) amplified PLS’s advocacy efforts on metropolitan management, while the Green Cities Conference in Rome and WorldFMC General Assembly reinforced collaboration on food systems and territorial development.





Partnerships that Drive Progress

In 2025, PLS partnerships accelerated policy and legislative reform, strengthened metropolitan cooperation, and advanced urban-rural linkages through formal agreements and joint delivery with governments, academia, city networks, as well as internal units within UN-Habitat. These collaborations generated important outcomes, including improved governance approaches, stronger institutional engagement and capacities, and enhanced knowledge exchange and advocacy at global, regional, and country levels; reinforcing PLS's role in driving inclusive and integrated urban development.



Joint knowledge production: Co-authored publications and policy briefs shaping global agendas.



Collaborative implementation: Partner-driven projects advancing reforms and strategies.



Visibility: Contributions to partner-led articles and events expanding reach.



Capacity building initiatives: Training sessions and technical exchanges for diverse stakeholders.



High-level advocacy: Representation at global platforms to amplify UN-Habitat's mission.

Figure 4. Outcomes of PLS partnerships

Internal collaborations

Continuing with the spirit of collaboration within the Agency, in 2025, PLS strengthened its partnerships across sections, branches, and regional and country offices that enabled integrated delivery and alignment of organizational priorities. PLS engaged in 11 joint initiatives, channelling resources to 5 units and receiving support from 6. This approach enhanced synergy, optimized resources, and reinforced PLS's role in driving coherent, system-wide results.

2025 Outgoing Agreements (PLS to other Units)	
Project title	Organizational unit
Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages through Regeneration	Planning, Finance and Economy Section and Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Phase II of the project on Strengthening the capacities of the DRC Ministry of Urban Planning and Housing to develop an effective legal framework for urban development and construction	Regional Office for Africa
National Urban Policy of Senegal	
Phase II of the National Urban Policy Programme: Developing NUPs and Smart City Strategies- Azerbaijan; Cambodia; Egypt; Mozambique and Paraguay	Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific; Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean; Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia; Regional Office for Africa
MetroHUB Global Programme	Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

Table 1. Table 3: Outgoing in-house agreements


2025 Incoming Agreements (From other units to PLS)	
Organizational unit	Project title
Urban Basic Services Section	Scaling Citywide Inclusive Sanitation Service Systems (CWIS)
External Relations, Strategy, Knowledge, and Innovation Division	Urban-Rural Linkages work package
Urban Practices Branch	BMI Project on Urban Policies
Regional Office for Arab States – Syria Country Programme	Urban Law Diagnostic and Review for the EU-funded Joint Programme on Housing, Land and Property Issues- Phase II
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific	Legislative and governance support to the Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building for Sustainable Urban Development” (ISCB) project in Vietnam.
Ukraine Country Office (Europe)	Concept of Urban Development Code: Towards Inclusive and Resilient Urban Recovery in Ukraine and Just Transitions – Digital Tools and Capacity for Inclusive, Smart and Resilient Urban Recovery in Ukraine.
Regional Office for Arab States	Support to The Spatial Planning Reform and Visual Appeal Program in Saudi Arabia. Enabling Systemic Municipal & Planning Reforms and Providing Implementation & Capacity Building Support for the Sustainable Urbanization of Saudi Cities”.
	Child-Friendly Ramallah City Project

Table 2. Table 4: Incoming in-house agreements

External collaborations

Externally, PLS worked closely with national and subnational governments, UN agencies, international organizations, academia, and research institutions to advance sustainable urban development. These partnerships delivered tangible outcomes, **including joint relevant and responsive knowledge products, enhancement of institutional and human capacities, and expanded policy support.** While some collaborations successfully concluded after achieving their objectives, several continued to deepen, and new alliances were established to expand reach and impact across regions. In 2025, PLS formalized or renewed 3 new external partnerships, creating opportunities for joint delivery, knowledge co-production, and resource mobilization to scale impact in the next programming cycle.

Agreements reached in 2025

Partner	Description of agreement
 Barcelona Metropolitan Area (AMB)	<p>This is a renewal of the long-standing partnership between AMB and UN-Habitat. The main aim is to further strengthen the metropolitan approach to sustainable development. Some of the areas of collaboration included the World Metropolitan Summit, contribution to people-centred smart city guidelines, metropolitan policy integration guidance, technical inputs to Barcelona’s Voluntary Metropolitan Review, and academic contributions to the annual metropolitan governance course with the Barcelona Institute for International Studies (IBEI)</p>

 China International Communications Group (CICG)	<p>UN-Habitat and CICG collaborated in 2025 to co-organize the 4th International Dialogue on Urban-Rural Linkages in Songyang, China. Continuing with this engagement, plans are underway to co-organize a similar event in China in 2026.</p>
 KAS Regional Programme Economy Africa	<p>The UN-Habitat and KAS Regional Programme Economy Africa cooperation agreement supports Phase II of the urban law for resilient and lowcarbon development project, which uses a threetiered normative approach that combines global case studies, country-level pilot testing in two African contexts, and regional capacity-building. Together, these activities will generate comparative insights, identify legal reform accelerators, and develop practical pathways for climatesmart urban legislation, culminating in a South-South learning and exchange event.</p>

Table 3. Table 5: Agreements formalized or renewed in 2025

Special feature: Partnering with academia for knowledge and capacity development

Academia remained a key PLS partner in 2025, driving knowledge co-creation and capacity-building. To enhance the collaborations beyond research, the partnerships focused on developing practical tools, integrating research into policy processes, and delivering specialized training for policymakers, students and other actors. These alliances ensured PLS initiatives were informed by up-to-date research while offering real-world learning opportunities for the next generation of urban leaders.

Here are the key institutional level partnerships highlights with academia in 2025:

Academia partner	Description of collaboration
	<p>Having renewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2024, in 2025, UN-Habitat and POLIMI launched the MetroHUB Centre on Metropolitan Dynamics, marking years of collaboration to strengthen metropolitan management and innovation.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">© UN-Habitat</p>



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

Kenya

Following the launch of the Centre for Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa in 2023, there has been continuous knowledge development and consultation to support the operationalization of the Centre



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Shanghai University

China

In advancing the [establishment of friendly relations in 2024](#), in 2025, UN-Habitat and Shanghai University signed an MoU. This paved way for co-implementing the project on *strengthening urban-rural linkages through regeneration*. This collaboration also enabled the launching of a global call for practices, capacity-building for students, and joint advocacy at key events in China.



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Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P)

Morocco.

The Centre for Territorial Innovation and Smart Performance, developed by UN-Habitat and UM6P, was launched in 2024. In 2025, UN-Habitat (PLS) and UM6P signed an agreement to foster collaboration on urban and territorial development, embed UN-Habitat guidelines in academic programmes, co-develop research on innovative urban design and rural-urban linkages, and deliver capacity-building through training and knowledge-sharing events.











Pan African University (PAU) of the African Union

Proceeding the signing of a Letter of Intent in 2023, the partnership has strengthened capacity building and knowledge sharing initiatives through guest lectures. Ongoing development of an MoU will scale up operationalization of the partnership in key focus areas like research, capacity building, knowledge sharing and advocacy



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 <p>Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (University of London, UK)</p>	<p>PLS continued its long-standing partnership with IALS to organize the 12th Urban Law Day focusing on effective urban laws for sustainable housing and construction</p>
 <p>Urban Law Centre, US</p>	<p>PLS renewed its partnership agreement in 2025 to advance research and academic knowledge in urban law through joint development of normative studies, comparative case analyses, and innovative legal methodologies, complemented by capacity-building via symposia, workshops, and networking events. An Urban Law Day focused on AI and digital solutions to address the adequate housing gap was organized on World Cities Day.</p>
	<p>PLS continued its collaborative efforts with University of Michigan through advocacy at the World Bank's Law, Justice, and Development Week, showcasing success stories from the joint implementation of the Urban Climate Law Module in Colombia and demonstrating how well-designed legal frameworks can drive transformative climate action in cities.</p>
 <p>Stellenbosch UNIVERSITY South Africa</p>	<p>In partnership with Stellenbosch University, PLS drafted the preface for the Edward Elgar Volume on Cities and Climate Change Law and conducted training to students on the importance of urban in promoting sustainable urban development. The session equipped learners with how international public law and domestic constitutional law (especially the sub-branch of local government law), respond to specific urban challenges.</p>
 <p>ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY Egypt</p>	<p>The partner provided a think-piece titled: "Egypt's fixed rent dilemma: Finally resolved?" which critically analyzes the impacts of Egypt's new rental Law (Law No. 164 of 2025).</p>
 <p>UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM UK</p>	<p>PLS launched a new partnership that leverages normative and capacity-building approaches to advance safe, inclusive, and resilient cities for children and youth through effective legal and policy frameworks.</p>
 <p>North-West University (South Africa)</p>	<p>PLS renewed this partnership to sustain a joint research agenda on urban law and governance, organize Urban Law Days as a global dialogue platform, enrich UrbanLex with jurisdiction-specific legal resources, and integrate UN-Habitat's e-learning on climate action into academic curricula.</p> 



 <p>Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements (KRIHS), Republic of Korea</p>	<p>The Global Development Partnership Center (GDPC) of KRIHS provides education, consulting, and planning support for developing countries based on KRIHS' expertise in national territorial development. Building upon a MoU signed between KRIHS and UN-Habitat during WUF12 in 2024, the partners have cooperated in various ways especially in NUP through K-NUPP, Urban-Rural Linkages, and Metropolitan Management. KRIHS will be hosting KRIHS World Campus (capacity development and training course) online in 2026, and will be collaborating with UN-Habitat, following successful implementation of the 2024-2025 cycle.</p>
 <p>Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), Australia</p>	<p>The RMIT project team has undertaken three previous evaluations of the K-NUPP and related projects. The mid-term evaluation of the second phase of K-NUPP commenced in November 2025, drawing on the team's experience in undertaking urban policy projects evaluation.</p>

Table 4. Table 6: Highlights from partnerships with Academia

PLS appearances in partner materials

Building on its strong presence in partner-led publications in 2024, PLS continued to amplify UN-Habitat's voice in 2025 through strategic contributions to knowledge platforms. By sharing case studies, research insights, and thought leadership, PLS sustained visibility and deepened collaboration, reinforcing shared goals for sustainable urban development.



14th Inquiry to Member States on Population and Development- As part of this global inquiry, PLS represented UN-Habitat in providing technical contributions to Module II on *Spatial Distribution and Urbanization*. UN-Habitat also transmitted the inquiry to its Member States. These efforts help to monitor progress on SDG 11.a.1, to which UN-Habitat is focal point within the UN system.



[Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\) report:](#) PLS engaged with IPCC authors working on the Special Report on Cities and Climate, sharing relevant knowledge materials and literature, and contributed to the drafting process through technical review of the draft report.



Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Policy Paper- PLS contributed to the CFS [Policy Recommendations on Strengthening Urban and Peri-urban Food Systems to Achieve Food Security and Nutrition in the context of Urbanization and Rural Transformation](#). This policy brief was then endorsed during the 53rd session of CFS in Rome, Italy.



[24th Session of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration:](#) Based on the theme **"Governance and institutional perspectives on advancing sustainable, inclusive, science and evidence-based solutions for the SDGs"**, PLS provided two high-level written contributions to Agenda item 6: Role of Governments in ensuring transparency and accountability of artificial intelligence systems in public administration and Agenda item 9: Leveraging key advances in building strong institutions and governance for climate action, focusing on clean energy transition.



Research paper on the UN-Habitat SDG diagnostic tools- PLS provided comments to this research paper from the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS), Erasmus University Rotterdam, which reviews the strengths and gaps identified in UN-Habitat diagnostic tools (governance, planning, and mobility). The report features feedback from 92 participants from La Rioja (Argentina), Rotterdam (Netherlands, for Italy), and San Andrés Cholula (Mexico).



Springer Handbook on Urbanization in the Global South: PLS coordinated the drafting of Section 7 of the Chapter on Effective Governance for Sustainable Urban Spaces in the Global South.

In their own words

In 2025, PLS partners shared their perspectives and experiences, reflecting the strength of collaboration in advancing sustainable urban development. PLS also received numerous acknowledgements on behalf of UN-Habitat, for the partnerships, underscoring the value and impact of our joint efforts. These messages inspire us to continue building strong alliances for inclusive and resilient cities.

A woman wearing a wide-brimmed straw hat and a dark jacket over a pink shirt is smiling and holding several blue boxes of solar lights. The boxes are labeled 'LED' and 'EcoLight'. In the background, there is a building with a sign in Burmese script.

Implementation of pilot project as part of Myanmar urban policy

Before the solar light was installed, I had to sew by candlelight late into the night, which was difficult, costly, and unsafe. Now, with reliable solar lighting, I can work longer hours at night without worry, save money, and earn more to support my family.

Me Ta Naw Village Resident

Previously, only a few of us could join computer lessons because there was not enough power. Now we all can learn computer skills together, use the internet for our studies, and even explore online courses after class. It makes me feel more confident about my future and gives us opportunities that were not possible before.

Grade 10 student, Pyinnyar Ooyinn Monastic School

A woman wearing a blue headscarf and a blue dress is looking towards the camera. In the background, there is a public toilet building with a sign that reads 'FEMALE/MATA' and 'PUBLIC TOILET'. The ground is dirt and there is some trash scattered around.

Implementation of pilot project as part of the Niger State-Nigeria urban policy

Living without public access convenience was one of our biggest challenges in Kpakungu. Our women and girls suffered the most, often waiting until night to relieve themselves, thus putting their lives in danger. The block of [washrooms] built through the support of UN-Habitat has restored our sense of dignity in this community, as we now have access to a safe sanitation facility that makes us feel respected as human beings.

(Kpakungu Resident)

Partner remarks from the International Dialogue on Urban-Rural Linkages 2025



Working with UN-Habitat has been a great experience. The International Dialogue on Urban-Rural Linkages (IDURL) was very enriching, and I have also collaborated with UN-Habitat through initiatives like Urban Labs. While IDURL was excellent, there is a need to deepen engagement with academia to share cases such as Songyang more widely across the globe.

Adapted from interview with Madina Junussova - University of Central Asia

Thank you to UN-Habitat for organizing the Urban Law Day. A key takeaway from Urban Law Day is, first, that effective legal frameworks are essential for building inclusive, sustainable, and resilient cities, as they govern critical aspects such as land use, housing, transport, and environmental protection. Second, urban laws must be people-centered and developed through participatory processes that reflect the voices of marginalized communities ensuring access to justice, simplifying legal language, and empowering local governments to implement and enforce these laws effectively.

Geralda Habitein, Autonomous Bougainville Government, Papua New Guinea



Participant remarks from the UN-Habitat-IALS Urban Law Day

Anonymous learner giving feedback on the Urban Governance Course: Key Principles for Effective Urban Governance: Public Oversight, Dispute Resolution, and Ensuring Equality for All

I appreciated how this course translated the SDGs into practical, field-relevant guidance on inclusive, accountable, and effective urban governance. It was well structured, easy to follow, and highly engaging, combining clear concepts with real-world examples that strengthened my understanding of how cities can plan, finance, and deliver services more equitably. The materials reflected current thinking and emerging good practices, especially on participation, transparency, partnerships, and data-informed decision-making. Most importantly, the course offered concrete tools and insights that I can apply directly to improve urban programming and strengthen local governance outcomes.





Financial Performance

Overview

In 2025, PLS sustained the funding position achieved in 2024, ensuring continued delivery of initiatives across urban policy, legislation and governance, metropolitan management, and urban-rural linkages. Existing agreements continued to finance key activities, enabling progress on the section's work and reinforcing donor confidence in PLS's ability to deliver results.

Acquisition- A notable achievement was the acquisition of *Phase II of the Urban Law for Resilient and Low-Carbon Urban Development Project*, which will strengthen legal frameworks for climate-responsive urbanization.

Top contributors 2025

The 2025 PLS budget demonstrated strong collaboration with key partners, with funding from the Republic of Korea remaining the major contributor, providing substantial resources that supported advancement of urban policy initiatives. Significant contributions from the Bogota-Cundinamarca Metropolitan Region and in-house agreements with the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States and the External Relations Division also reinforced external and internal partnerships.

Academic engagement continued through Shanghai University's support for urban-rural linkages and regeneration, while other notable contributors included the Bogota Special Administrative Unit of Public Services, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Barcelona Metropolitan Area, and additional in-house agreements. This diversified funding structure enabled PLS to maintain momentum on various initiatives and strengthen its capacity to deliver integrated urban solutions globally.

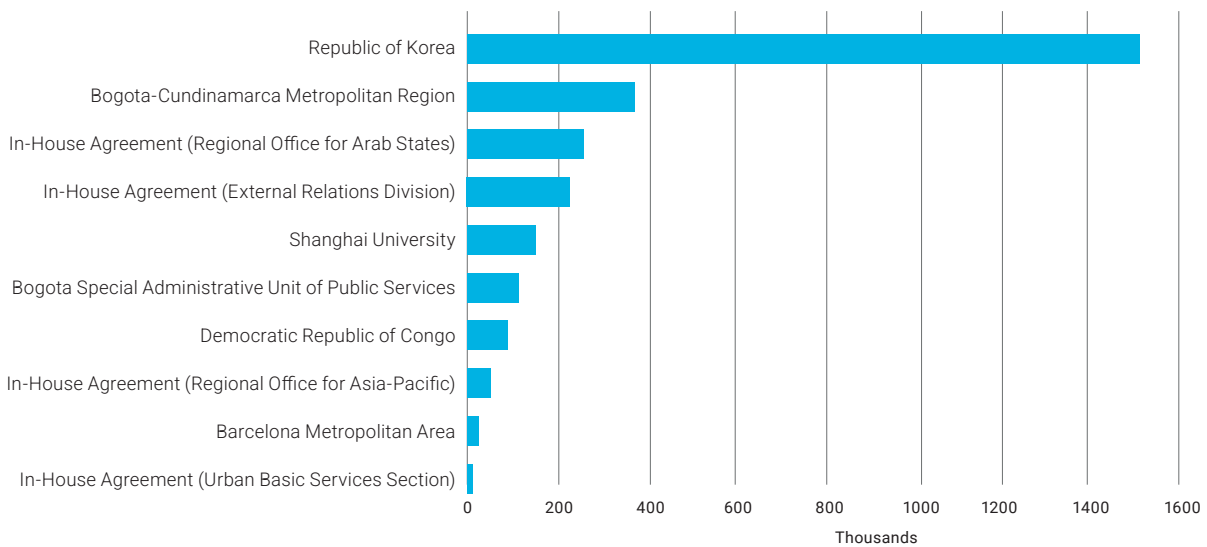


Figure 5. Top PLS contributors 2025

Budget implementation by thematic area

Urban Policy accounted for **57%** of the 2025 PLS budget implementation, up from **42% in 2024**, reflecting sustained investment in National Urban Policy development. Metropolitan Management accounted for **19%**, up from **6%** the previous year, demonstrating expanded work on metropolitan governance with partners in Europe and Latin America. Urban Legislation & Governance represented **11%**, from **29%** in 2024, while Urban-Rural Linkages stood at **5%**, compared to **17%** in 2024, as activities consolidated following the earlier SURL-R scale-up. Multi-thematic initiatives comprised **8%**, up from **4%** in 2024, supporting integrated approaches across multiple thematic areas of the Section.

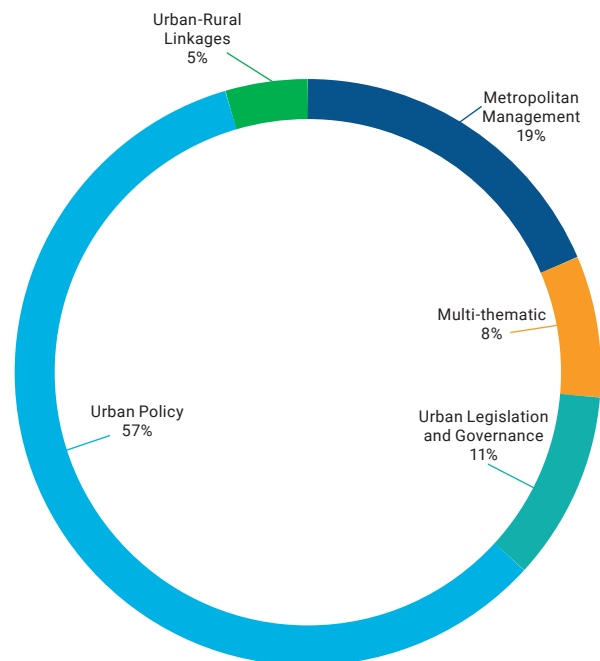


Figure 6. Budget implementation by thematic area

Budget implementation by partner category

In 2025, funding from national governments represented **54%** of PLS budget implementation, up from **42%** in 2024, signalling deeper country-level collaboration. In-house agreements accounted for **22%**, down from 44% last year, as implementation shifted toward externally led delivery while retaining targeted internal integration. The PLS budget proportion from subnational governments was at **19%**, compared to **8%** in 2024, reflecting the additional metropolitan management projects and other initiatives implemented at the local level. Academia contributed **5%**, with partnerships focused on research, capacity-building and advocacy

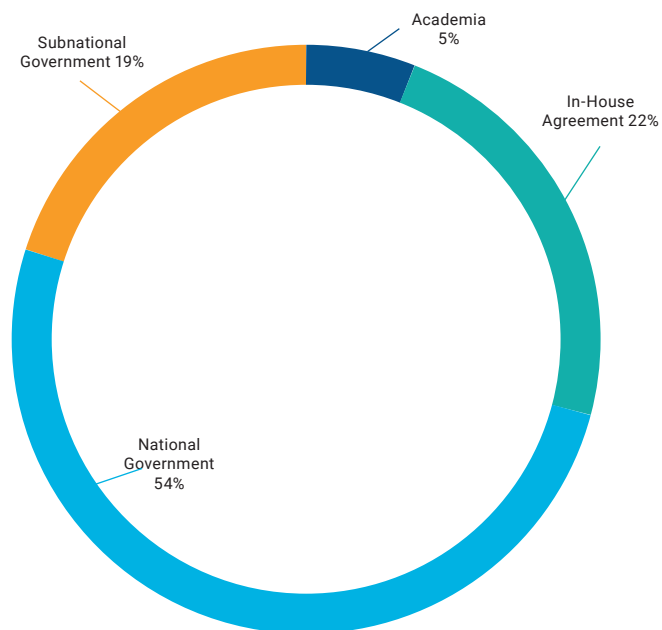


Figure 7. Budget implementation by partner category



Looking Forward to 2026

The achievements of 2025 provide a strong foundation for the next phase of the Section's work. At the global level, UN-Habitat will continue contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda, and other global frameworks such as the **Pact for the Future**, the **Global Digital Compact**, and the **Declaration on Future Generations**.



Renewed strategic focus

The year 2026 marks the start of UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026-2029, which responds to the global housing crisis and interlinked challenges of poverty, inequality, climate change, and crises. The Plan positions housing, land, and basic services at the centre of its implementation, enabling inclusive prosperity, resilience, and recovery. It is structured around five Means of Implementation: integrated urban and territorial planning and finance; participatory multilevel governance and SDG localization; knowledge, data, digitalization, and capacity development; partnerships and advocacy; and effective resource mobilization.

To deliver on these priorities, organizational adjustments have been introduced. The **Policy, Legislation and Governance Section (PLGS)** has transitioned to the **Policy and Legislation Section (PLS)**, sharpening its focus on normative work, legal frameworks, urban policy development, metropolitan management and urban-rural linkages while continuing to collaborate closely with thematic units and regional offices.

Outlook 2026

I. Technical cooperation

In 2026, PLS will continue applying normative tools and knowledge products to support national and subnational governments and partners. Key initiatives to be advanced include:

- » **Phase II of the KAS-funded Project on Climate Urban Law**, strengthening legal frameworks for climate-responsive urban development in two Sub-Saharan African countries, having successfully concluded Phase I in Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe.
- » **Establishing milestones and advancing the discussion for the subsequent Phase of K-NUPP**, for which preparatory discussions are underway.
- » **Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages through Regeneration (SURL-R)**, sustaining research capacity development and knowledge exchange.
- » **MetroHUB Global Programme**, expanding metropolitan management tools and peer-to-peer learning platforms.

While some projects have reached their conclusion in 2025, several other ongoing projects will advance steadily to achieve the expected outcomes.

II. Advocacy and outreach

Advocacy remains one of the key pillars of engagement. PLS will maintain strong global advocacy through flagship events, including:

- » **World Urban Forum (WUF13)** in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- » **Urban October** and related campaigns.

The Section will also continue to co-organize and participate in partner-led events; all geared towards achieving the sustainable development agenda.

III. Knowledge and capacity development

In 2026, PLS will scale knowledge and capacity development by disseminating new normative products. Key ones include two global reports on metropolitan management and on urban-rural linkages, normative guides addressing social inclusion and on integrating housing in national urban policies, and Volume II (**Emergency Response**), Volume III (early recovery) and IV (reconstruction) of the series on [Housing, Land and Property \(HLP\)-Sensitive Urban Law](#). Additionally, PLS will refine the existing e-learning tools to be more fit-for-purpose while also aiming to develop more e-learning courses.

Capacity development will continue to be delivered through the various initiatives such as MetroHUB capacity development programme, Urban Law Days and Community of Practice sessions. PLS will also collaborate on 2026 KRIHS World Campus to strengthen capacity building and global learning, by providing four online courses on NUP, URL, Metropolitan management and people-centered smart cities. In addition, research, knowledge and capacity building will be key pillars of the newly established Centres with partners, including the Centre for Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa and the MetroHUB Centre for Metropolitan dynamics.



Policy and Legislation Section Annual Report 2025

The 2025 Annual Report of the Policy and Legislation Section (PLS) presents a year of steady progress in advancing sustainable urban development. Through diverse initiatives and collaborative partnerships with donors, development partners, and countries, UN-Habitat through PLS has continued to strengthen policy, legislative, and governance frameworks at national and subnational levels. The report also identifies emerging priorities that will guide the Section's work in 2026, supporting global efforts toward the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.



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