

REVISED STATEMENT BY KENYA – HABITAT@50 COMMEMORATION

Mr. President,

Thank you for giving me the floor on this important agenda item. As host country to UN-Habitat, Kenya attaches particular importance to the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, scheduled to be organized next year.

We believe that this commemoration will provide a strategic opportunity to strengthen UN-Habitat for the future, while enabling Member States and stakeholders to reflect on achievements, consolidate lessons learned, and chart a forward-looking vision for sustainable urbanization. It will also allow us to take stock of the outcomes of the recent high-level meeting of the General Assembly in July 2026 on the mid-term review of the New Urban Agenda, the Call to Action on Adequate and Affordable Housing adopted at the margins of the 80th Session of the General Assembly in September 2025, as well as the deliberations of the World Urban Forum.

Guided by paragraph 20 of the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the second session of the Habitat Assembly, and paragraph 28 of General Assembly resolution 79/214, and in consultation with the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Kenya wishes to offer the following preliminary proposal for the Habitat@50 commemoration:

1. The commemoration should take place in Nairobi, Kenya, in mid-2027, with participation at the level of Heads of State and Government, as well as Ministers.
2. It should be convened back-to-back with the fourth Open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR-4), scheduled for 14–18 June 2027, possibly as a high-level segment at the conclusion of the OECPR session.
3. The commemorative segment should feature general statements and high-level panel discussions, taking stock of achievements over the past 50 years and articulating a vision for the future of UN-Habitat.
4. The main outcome could be a Chair's Summary, serving as a forward-looking contribution to the third session of the UN-Habitat Assembly in 2029, the "Beyond 2030" process expected to commence in 2027, and the implementation of the UN80 initiative.
5. While the high-level segment would be a one-day event, the commemoration could be integrated throughout the OECPR week, including formal agenda items, informal side events with Member States, civil society and private sector partners, exhibitions, and site visits.

This approach offers several advantages:

- **Broad ownership and participation:** Linking the commemoration to OECPR-4 ensures intergovernmental ownership, predictable participation at ministerial and head-of-state level, and rich engagement by stakeholders.
- **Timeliness:** The commemoration would take place one year after the mid-term review of the New Urban Agenda, providing inputs to UN-Habitat Assembly-3 in 2029 and to the Agenda 2030 process.
- **Effectiveness and efficiency:** Organizing the commemoration alongside OECPR-4 will yield significant cost savings compared to a stand-alone event, while ensuring institutional anchoring within UN-Habitat's governance framework and established rules of procedure.

With regard to the consultative process envisaged by the General Assembly resolution, Kenya suggests that this joint Bureau could provide helpful guidance. Informal consultations might be convened under the leadership of the CPR Chair and Bureau, as part of the preparations for OECPR-4.

Kenya further recognizes that successful organization of a high-level commemoration will have financial implications, particularly in relation to high-level participation, communications, side events, and the inclusion of developing countries. We therefore encourage Member States to consider voluntary contributions and invite the Secretariat to develop an early and comprehensive resource mobilization strategy, identifying both UN Regular Budget resources and voluntary funding, with particular attention to supporting participation from Least Developed Countries and other developing nations.

We look forward to hearing the views and guidance of Member States on this proposal, as a basis for a draft concept note and roadmap towards the commemoration.

Thank you, Mr. President.