

**United Nations
Office at Nairobi
(UNON) –
Services to the
United Nations
Human
Settlements
Programme
(UN-Habitat)**



**Presentation to the Committee of
Permanent Representatives**

September 2026

United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) – Who We Are

UNON was established in **1996** within the broader context of organizational and management reform to **strengthen the UN** presence in Nairobi, to **eliminate duplication of administrative** services and redundancies of administrative posts, ensure better use of resources, **achieve economies of scale** and improve the administrative support provided to **UNEP, UN Habitat and other UN entities** requiring services in Nairobi.

the UN's only
Headquarters in
the Global South

the third-largest
Secretariat duty
station

the largest inter-
agency service
provider in the UN.



Strategically located in Kenya, UNON is a vibrant Service Hub committed to enabling UN operations. UNON's mission is to deliver efficient, client-oriented services to support the UN's work globally.

UNON improves its efficiency through service restructuring, reducing reporting lines, merging of functions and responsibilities, repurposing positions, and strengthening services for common administrative platforms

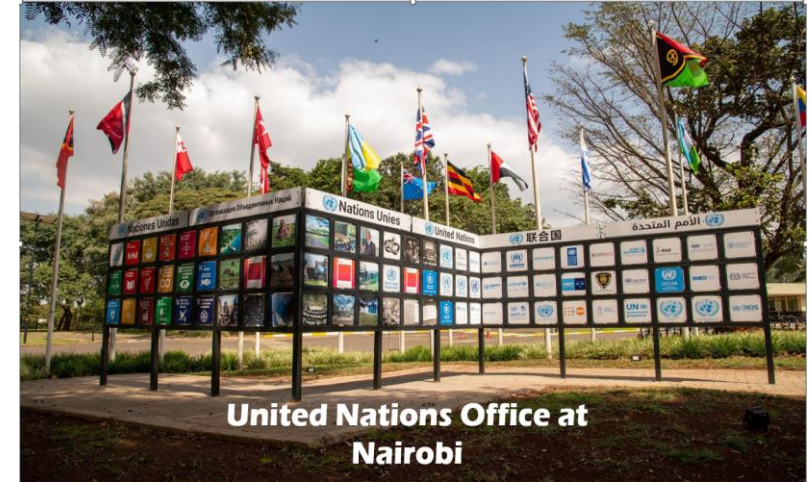
UNON increases donors' impact and UN programmes' focus on deliverables, through common administrative platforms that eliminate fragmentation of administrative functions, help UN programmes reprioritizing financial resources and shifting from fixed administrative costs to variable operational costs

UNON offers cost-efficient services that factor economies of scale, facilitate cost-benefit and comparative analysis, and is based on actual usage, transparent, and based on number of transactions, or adjustable numbers of subscribers

UNON Common Administrative Platforms – Nairobi and the Africa Region



UNON Roles to support the UN Efficiency Agenda and Reform Initiatives



UN Reform Initiatives Supported by UNON

Resident
Coordinator system
transition to UN
Secretariat 2020-
2023

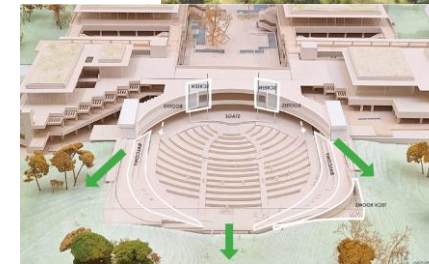
Kenya Common
Back Office 2024

UN80 Common
Administrative
Platform 2027-2028

Relocation of UN
entities to low-cost
duty stations 2026

UNON – Facilities Management Services to the UN Complex in Nairobi

- a. In 1972, the Government of Kenya made available to the UN a 100-acre land in Gigiri, Nairobi, and 40 acres more were made available in 1984. Temporary facilities (the A to J blocks) were constructed in 1975 (by UNEP), and office buildings (the M to T blocks) for the permanent headquarters of UNEP and UN Habitat and the UN conference facilities were completed in 1984.
- b. Additional office blocks (U to X) were completed in 1994, and the current offices of UNEP and UN Habitat (at NOF blocks) were completed in 2011. The office blocks M to X were renovated and new office buildings were built and completed in 2025. Currently, UNON is undertaking the project to upgrade the conference facilities, which will be completed in 2029.
- c. A Common Services unit was established in 1984 (jointly from the services previously provided by UNEP and UN Habitat) to provide, inter alia, the facilities and grounds management of the UN complex in Nairobi. The Common Services unit was later expanded into the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) in 1996.
- d. The UN complex in Nairobi also offers conference services, safety and security services, information centre, fuel station, commissary, medical clinic, events centre, and wellness centre.



UNON – Common Back Office Services to UN Entities in Kenya

- a. With over 50 UN entities, the UN Gigiri Complex in Nairobi is amongst the largest and most institutionally complex UN presences in the world. The global, regional, and country-focused UN entities co-located within the UNON compound, and the presence of a UN Resident Coordinator, contribute to mandates spanning humanitarian response, development, administration, peace support, and peace operations. This unique one-campus ecosystem fosters collaboration, policy coherence, and coordinated programmatic impact.
- b. As of August 2026, there are over 95 offices of the UN Secretariat, Agencies, Funds and Programmes as well as specialized agencies operating across or from Kenya, including UN regional offices, as well as some UN operations for Somalia, Sudan, peacekeeping, and Special Political Missions. There are over 6000 UN personnel in Kenya. Over 5,000 of these UN personnel are based within the UNON complex.
- c. Nairobi is the first pilot of the Common Back Office (CBO), a key component of the UN Efficiency Agenda which is a core pillar in the UN Secretary-General's Management Reform. The common back-office services include host country services, medical services, information technology, transport services, travel, visa and shipment services, mail and pouch services, archives, logistics, training, local recruitment, and local procurement.



UNON – Global Administrative Services

a. UNON was established in 1996 within the broader context of organizational and management reform to strengthen the UN presence in Nairobi, to eliminate duplication of administrative services and redundancies of administrative posts, ensure better use of resources, achieve economies of scale and improve the administrative support provided to UNEP, UN Habitat and other UN entities requiring services in Nairobi.

b. UNON supports the programme implementation of the Resident Coordinator System, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme globally. Under a memorandum of understanding and specific service arrangements, UNON provides the Nairobi-based headquarters and globally dispersed offices of UNEP and UN-Habitat with a full range of administrative and other support services. In total, UNON provides administrative services (HR management, recruitment, training, travel services, payroll, payments, treasury, accounting services, financial reporting, procurement) to United Nations entities in 166 countries. UNON also prepares the audited financial statements of UNEP and UN Habitat and the financial reports to UNEP and UN Habitat donors.

c. As part of the UN80 Initiatives, UNON is preparing to strengthen the common administrative platform for the UN Secretariat entities in Kenya and the Africa region, which aims to further consolidate further administrative functions that can be delivered more efficiently on a regional level.

Division of Administrative Services



A/79/5/Add.9



United Nations

United Nations Human
Settlements Programme

**Financial report and audited
financial statements**

for the year ended 31 December 2023

and

Report of the Board of Auditors

General Assembly
Official Records
Seventy-ninth Session
Supplement No. 5I

The United Nations at 80

**Building our future
together**

UNON – Financial Management Services to UN-Habitat

A shared-services partnership combining operational scale, financial stewardship and continuous capability development.

DELIVER AT SCALE

End-to-end support across grants and implementing partners, UNDP SCA, vendor and UNOPS payments, travel, accounting and reporting.

197

ACTIVE IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

1,607

ACTIVE / OPEN AGREEMENTS

4,732

GRANTS MANAGED

STRENGTHEN STEWARDSHIP

Standardised controls, financial oversight and coordinated problem-solving. Financial statements preparation and audit responses, and implementation of audit recommendations support.

9,080

UNDP Payroll and Payments Transactions

7,495

UNON AP PAYMENTS

BUILD CAPABILITY TOGETHER

Regular finance forums, lessons-learned exchanges, targeted briefings, Standard Operating Procedures - regular updates and revisions and job aids, support translation of policy and process changes into practical learning for UN-Habitat teams.

1,302

TRAVEL CLAIMS & RECOVERIES

1,527

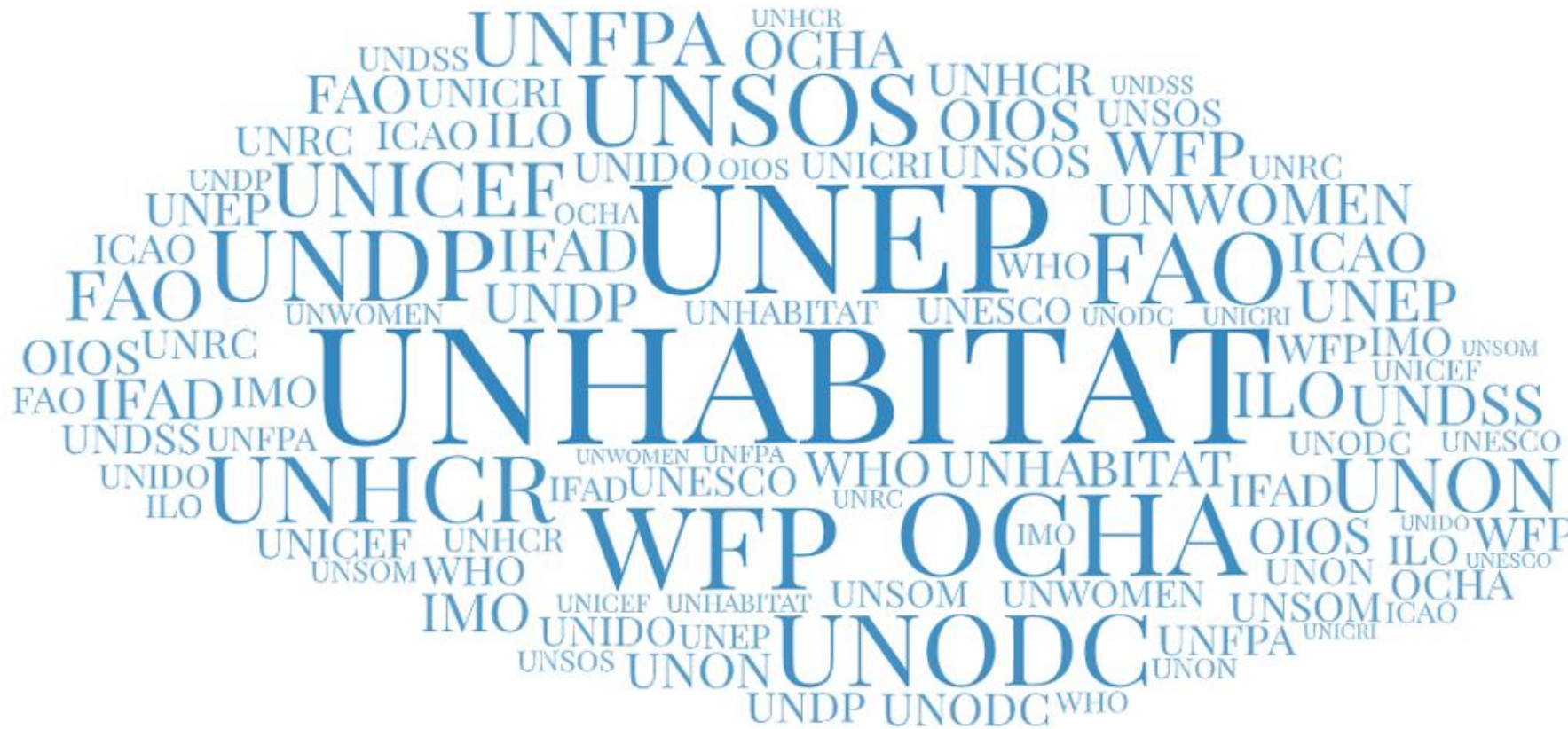
TICKET PAYMENTS

UNON enables reliable delivery today while supporting UN-Habitat capability for tomorrow.



**United
Nations**

United Nations Office at Nairobi



UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE NAIROBI

Division of Administrative Services