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**Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group
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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

**Presentation of the work to establish a housing knowledge
platform**

Progress towards the establishment of a housing knowledge platform **

Report of the Executive Director

I. Introduction

1. Through resolution HSP/HA.2/Res.7 on Adequate Housing for All, adopted at the second United Nations Habitat Assembly in June 2023, Member States requested the Executive Director to create a publicly accessible, complementary platform containing recently available data on the provision of adequate housing, relevant policies, case studies, tools and best practices and other relevant information that could be provided and used by Member States and stakeholders for the universal achievement of adequate housing for all.
2. Progress on the Housing Knowledge Platform was previously presented through two reports. The first progress report, presented at the first session of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All (OEWG-H or Working Group) in 2024¹, shared findings from a needs assessment report and a survey of relevant existing platforms². The second report, presented at the second session of the Working Group in 2025³, provided a synthesis of the Platform's incremental content development, an overview of its key features and reflections for its future development.
3. The present report provides an update on preparations for the initial launch of the Housing Knowledge Platform⁴ at the third session of the Working Group. Building upon the previous progress reports, it explains the role of the Platform in advancing adequate housing for all, summarizes progress made, describes the content and features expected to be available at launch, and sets out a phased plan for its further development through 2029.

* HSP/OEWG-H.2026/1.

** The present document has not been formally edited.

¹ HSP/OEWG-H.2024/7

² HSP/OEWG-H.2024/INF/6

³ HSP/OEWG-H.2025/3

⁴ Provisional link to the Platform: <https://unhabitat.org/knowledge/housing-platform>

II. Advancing global adequate housing priorities

4. The Housing Knowledge Platform is a resource that can enable progress towards key global development goals and commitments. The impact of housing on broader sustainable urban development is clearly recognized across key frameworks. The global housing crisis, and especially the plight of those living in informal settlements and slums and of people experiencing homelessness, constrains progress towards sustainable cities and communities.
5. Importantly, the 2026 midterm review of the New Urban Agenda clearly recognized the role of housing in shaping sustainable urban development. The Secretary-General, in his report on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda⁵, highlights adequate housing as a catalyst for the next decade of urban transformation and urges Member States to prioritize housing within national development agendas.
6. The Political Declaration to Renew Commitment and Accelerate the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda⁶ adopted at the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the New Urban Agenda further reaffirms the right to an adequate standard of living, including adequate housing. It emphasizes addressing the global housing crisis, informal settlements and homelessness, and improving access to land, basic services and infrastructure.
7. The SDG 11 Global Report 2026: Housing at the Centre of Sustainable Cities and Communities, which informed the review of Goal 11 during the 2026 High-level Political Forum, also underscored the critical role of housing in achieving sustainable urban development. The report shows the global housing crisis as a leading barrier to progress towards sustainable cities and communities and positions housing as a critical enabler for achieving all Sustainable Development Goals. More broadly, the report reiterates that housing remains critical for achieving goals set out in other global frameworks, including the Paris Agreement due to its cross-cutting impact.
8. Furthermore, through the Pact for the Future Member States committed to ensuring access for all to adequate, safe, and affordable housing. The Doha Political Declaration of the Second World Summit for Social Development also reaffirmed the right to an adequate standard of living, including adequate, housing, safe and affordable drinking water, and adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene.
9. The thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF13) further placed housing at the centre with the Baku Call to Action, which underlines the urgency of addressing the global housing crisis through deliberate and swift responses, seeking an integrated approach that connects housing with land tenure, basic infrastructure, transport, and economic opportunity while tackling overlapping threats such as displacement, land speculation, and severe climate vulnerabilities.
10. In this context, the Housing Knowledge Platform has never been more important. By providing access to adequate housing data, evidence-based policies, case studies, operational tools, and normative best practices, the Platform serves as an essential mechanism to operationalize and advance these global commitments.
11. Within UN-Habitat, the Platform remains a valuable means of advancing the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2026–2029 to improve access to adequate housing, land and basic services, including the transformation of informal settlements and slums.

III. Knowledge ecosystem to shape action

12. The Housing Knowledge Platform is envisioned not as a standalone repository but as a broader housing knowledge ecosystem that integrates existing housing initiatives, resources and platforms across both UN-Habitat and its partners and stakeholders. By strategically linking to complementary initiatives, the Platform will avoid duplication, maximize the use of existing investments, and create synergies. In doing so, the Platform aims to transform available resources into a coherent system that accelerates the generation, exchange, and application of housing knowledge to advance housing solutions worldwide. Specifically, the Platform will leverage and interact with the following initiatives of UN-Habitat.
13. First, the Housing Knowledge Platform will be closely linked to the World Urban Forum (WUF) and, in particular, its Practices Hub and WUF Academy, creating a dynamic bridge between global knowledge generation, capacity development, and practical implementation. Through this connection, the Platform will curate and showcase innovative housing practices, lessons learned,

⁵ A/80/696–E/2026/53

⁶ General Assembly resolution 80/291.

policy tools, and case studies presented through the Practices Hub, while also integrating relevant learning modules, training materials, webinars, and expert sessions from the WUF Academy. The linkage will also ensure that housing-related discussions and innovations emerging from successive WUF sessions are systematically captured and made available to a wider audience beyond the Forum itself.

14. Second, the Platform will be connected to the Global Urban Data Coalition's active working groups on slums and informal settlements, and urban expansion and vacant land, which directly link to SDG targets 11.1 and 11.3, thereby ensuring that its knowledge resources are underpinned by robust, standardized, and interoperable urban data. Through this partnership, the Platform will advance access to relevant housing indicators, datasets, methodologies, dashboards, and analytical tools that support evidence-based planning and decision-making. The connection will enable the Platform to draw on the Coalition's efforts to improve the availability, quality, comparability, and accessibility of urban data across countries and cities. This will strengthen the Platform's role in offering data-driven insights to track progress toward housing and urban development goals and make more informed investment and policy decisions.

15. Third, the Platform will serve as a digital knowledge and collaboration partner to the Global Housing Hub, amplifying the Hub's role as a catalyst for adequate and climate-responsive housing solutions. By connecting with the Global Housing Hub, the Platform will help connect global policy dialogue with practical implementation and foster collaboration among housing stakeholders.

16. Fourth, the Platform will leverage UN-Habitat's global awards and recognition programmes, which serve as important mechanisms for identifying, validating, and disseminating innovative housing and urban development practices from around the world. Award nominations and winning initiatives often represent tested solutions that have demonstrated measurable impact, innovation, inclusiveness, and potential for replication across different contexts. By systematically capturing and documenting these practices, the Platform will create a pathway through which award-winning experiences can be translated into practical knowledge products, case studies, lessons learned, and implementation guidance. This connection will directly enrich the Platform's component on practices, ensuring a continuous flow of high-quality, peer-recognized examples that showcase what works in addressing housing challenges, helping to advance replication and scaling of successful housing solutions globally.

17. Fifth, the Platform will support and draw on UN-Habitat's country-level housing work, including the Housing Studios, Housing Profiles and the programmes of regional and country offices, both as sources of context-specific knowledge and as channels through which the resources of the Platform are applied.

IV. Enabling progress towards adequate housing for all

18. WUF13 provided a strategic opportunity to promote the Housing Knowledge Platform and engage a broad range of stakeholders around its key pillars, including the Practices Hub, the WUF Academy, and other components of the emerging housing knowledge ecosystem. The Forum served as an important vehicle for dialogue and exchange with stakeholders, enabling UN-Habitat to showcase the Platform's vision and gather valuable feedback on its design and functionality. Specifically, 171 housing practices were showcased at WUF13, covering 84 countries and various housing themes, and facilitating engagement towards the Housing Knowledge Platform. These interactions generated insights that will inform the Platform's further development, helping to ensure that it responds to user needs and complements existing knowledge initiatives. In addition, WUF13 helped identify new opportunities for partnerships, collaboration, and scaling, strengthening the foundation for a more connected and impactful global housing knowledge ecosystem.

19. Building on this, the Platform has been structured to catalyse action toward adequate housing for all. The Platform synthesizes disaggregated housing data, policy insights, best practices, and actionable tools to drive high-impact, targeted action by Member States and all stakeholders. Consistent with the assessment of existing platforms presented at the first session of the Working Group⁷ and with the mandate to establish a complementary platform, the Housing Knowledge Platform will connect the global and regional housing knowledge platforms maintained by United Nations entities, regional bodies, financial institutions, research institutions and civil society networks. To achieve this, the Platform contains the following key sections, which will be progressively curated based on available resources:

⁷ HSP/OEWG-H.2024/7, section III

- (a) *About*. This section introduces the Housing Knowledge Platform as a central hub designed to accelerate global progress toward adequate housing for all, in direct response to its mandating resolution. It highlights its role in serving Member States and international stakeholders by synthesizing critical resources, such as housing data, policy documents, field-tested case studies, and practical implementation tools, to address key systemic challenges. By consolidating these actionable insights into an accessible, centralized space, the Platform strengthens key policy enablers and equips decision-makers to deliver faster, more impactful housing responses worldwide.
- (b) *News and media*. This section aims to enable active communications and engagement to keep Member States and stakeholders regularly informed and connected. It will deliver regular updates on new housing information releases, upcoming events, and global housing sector milestones, ensuring the Platform provides access to the latest available information and developments. By integrating media updates alongside a community subscription feature for recurring briefings, this section plays a critical role in global advocacy, driving peer exchange and maintaining momentum toward the goal of adequate housing for all.
- (c) *Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All*. In this section, the Platform provides an overview of the OEWG-H established pursuant to UN-Habitat Assembly resolution 2/7, including its mandate, priorities and key milestones. It elaborates on the central areas of work, strategic directions and overall roadmap of the OEWG-H. In doing so, the section connects global policy discussions to Member States action by keeping partners informed and aligned on progress toward the milestones of its road map for 2025–2029⁸ leading to the 2029 United Nations Habitat Assembly.
- (d) *Housing data*. At launch, this section will present a selected set of priority housing indicators, drawing on validated UN-Habitat data and other authoritative sources. Through accessible visualizations and concise explanatory text, it will provide insights into key dimensions of housing at global, regional and national levels, where data are available. It will draw on UN-Habitat’s monitoring and reporting on SDG 11 and the New Urban Agenda and connect with the work of the Global Urban Data Coalition and its over 60 partners. Over time, and subject to available data, resources and technical capacity, the section may expand its range of indicators and data and introduce more dynamic and interactive ways of accessing and exploring them. This section aims to equip policymakers, researchers, and development partners with the evidence base needed to pinpoint systemic deficits and measure progress toward global housing targets.
- (e) *Housing practices*. This section functions as a global solution repository showcasing field-tested, scalable housing initiatives selected for their demonstrated results. Featuring submissions from governments, civil society, academic institutions, and the private sector, it highlights interventions that have successfully improved living standards, strengthened climate resilience, or upgraded informal settlements. Each entry presents practical insights into implementation, funding models, and community engagement strategies, serving as a blueprint for practitioners seeking to replicate proven approaches in their own regions. The pool of housing practices showcased at the WUF13 will form the basis for this, and future integration of proven practices will continue. The Platform will also consolidate practices generated by awards and recognition programmes established by UN-Habitat and its partners.
- (f) *Housing Policies*. This section provides a first-of-its-kind global repository of national housing policies across Member States. In a second phase, the repository will be expanded to relevant legislative frameworks, strategies, and regulatory instruments governing the housing sector, creating a consolidated corpus of policy documents on housing. By bringing together and making these national frameworks more accessible, this section will facilitate cross-country policy learning and provide a resource for navigating and understanding different national approaches to housing policy.
- (g) *Housing learn*. This section aims to enhance skills, institutional technical knowledge, and operational capabilities across housing sector stakeholders. It aggregates manuals, online courses, technical guidelines, tools and other capacity development resources to advance adequate housing for all. This portal bridges the gap between high-level policy design and localized execution for governments and practitioners to effectively implement adequate housing strategies. This is informed by UN-Habitat’s wealth of existing tools and resources spanning the key themes related to adequate housing. In a later phase, a selection of resources from partners will be added to enrich the Platform, enabling users to leverage a broader range of capacity development materials, and practical experiences to strengthen skills, competencies, and institutional capacities for advancing adequate housing.

⁸ HSP/OEWG-H.2025/4

(h) *Housing library.* Here, a virtual repository of UN-Habitat's flagship publications, thematic reports, guidelines, and relevant resources on adequate housing is provided. It curates major knowledge products also indexing them by housing sub-themes and publication types to facilitate easy discovery, targeted searches and user-friendly filtering of relevant resources. It therefore offers a single point of entry for research and global normative guidance on adequate housing. UN-Habitat's existing resources on adequate housing over decades will serve as a starting point, with the aim of incorporating partner resources in a sequenced manner.

(i) *Housing regional and country highlights.* This section features dedicated country and regional pages that present national housing institutional landscapes, national housing profiles, as well as relevant regional platforms and initiatives on housing. In a second phase, the section will aim to map key housing projects, housing actors, and UN work related to housing at country level, further strengthening visibility, connections and opportunities for collaboration across the housing sector. This section brings together information to provide a clear overview of the housing ecosystem in each country and region, helping identify opportunities for cross-country and regional cooperation.

(j) *Housing community.* With the aim to scale impact, this section features housing partners covering a wide range of expertise to advance adequate housing. It provides a searchable and structured overview of organizations working across housing, enabling users to explore actors by type of organization, geographic coverage, housing sub-themes and areas of engagement. By making these organizations and their networks more visible and accessible, this section facilitates connections and matchmaking between partners, initiatives and those seeking relevant expertise, partnerships, technical support, knowledge or other resources to advance housing solutions. It therefore fosters multi-stakeholder partnerships and mobilizes the collaboration required to scale housing solutions globally. This section will also leverage UN-Habitat's stakeholder engagement mechanisms and the WUF as a means of advancing and renewing housing coalitions for action.

V. Innovating for impact

20. Innovation is a necessary strategic catalyst to transform a static knowledge repository into a dynamic resource for systemic change. Progressively, and subject to available resources, the Platform aims to harness innovation and digital technology in several ways aligned with implementation capacities.

21. First, the platform aims to provide innovative content and dynamic analytics. As resources and data availability allow, it will aim to integrate regularly updated, disaggregated datasets with multi-dimensional thematic analysis. Through digital dashboards and localized indicators, it will transform complex data streams into standardized metrics on housing adequacy, affordability, and tenure security. This evidence-based approach provides Member States and key stakeholders with the analytical rigor necessary to diagnose structural deficits and deploy targeted policy responses.

22. Second, the Platform will progressively advance a digital ecosystem and interactive mobilization for action. To translate shared insights into concrete interventions, the Platform will explore ways to foster dynamic digital networking and institutional synergy among housing actors worldwide. This digital space is intended to operate as a global marketplace for collaboration, directly matching local project requirements with international expertise, financing mechanisms, and technical assistance programmes. By enabling partner interaction, peer-to-peer knowledge exchange, and multi-stakeholder mapping, this digital ecosystem will break down institutional silos and mobilize multi-sectoral partnerships necessary to accelerate scalable progress toward adequate housing for all.

23. Third, the Platform aims to connect knowledge to action through capacity building to enhance public sector competence in key operational areas critical for advancing adequate housing. Recognizing that global policy frameworks require robust implementation mechanisms, the Platform deliberately bridges the gap between knowledge and operational execution. It will serve as an interactive capacity-development ecosystem, equipping national and local actors with operational toolkits, technical guidelines, and modular training courses designed to enhance institutional readiness. The capacity-building initiatives will be grounded directly in empirical knowledge and practices, ensuring they are anchored in robust evidence, practical application, and real-world lessons learned.

VI. Roadmap to 2029

24. Over the next three years leading to the third session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly in 2029, at which the body of recommendations of the Working Group will be presented⁹, UN-Habitat

⁹ HSP/OEWG-H.2025/4 para. 12

will continue to advance the Platform as a vehicle of implementing its Strategic Plan 2026–2029. However, the scope, functionality, and long-term evolution of the platform will be contingent upon the availability of adequate financial and technical resources. UN-Habitat will continue to actively mobilize resources to support the Platform's development while strategically leveraging existing and emerging initiatives, networks, and knowledge assets, including those outlined above, to maximize impact and efficiency. At the same time, partnerships will be central to the Platform's success, bringing together complementary expertise, innovation, technology, and financing from a diverse range of stakeholders.

25. Digital technology will also be leveraged to respond to functional requirements including language accessibility, including in the official languages of the United Nations, which may be addressed progressively through automated solutions. By combining dedicated resource mobilization efforts with strategic collaboration and alignment across existing programmes and initiatives, the Platform will be able to expand its reach, deepen its knowledge offerings, and enhance its value as a global public good for housing and sustainable urban development.

26. In this context, by providing housing data and analytics, real-world policy case studies, and housing policy insights, the Platform serves as a dynamic space for connecting global stakeholders with the OEWG-H and its strategic outcomes. Anchored in the commitments of Member States to advance adequate housing for all and the transformation of informal settlements and slums, the Platform also aims to advance both the next decade of action for implementing the New Urban Agenda to 2036 and the final years of implementation of SDG 11. Towards this, the evolution of the Platform is outlined below, subject to available resources.

A. Expansion and scaling (2027–2028)

- (a) Expand the scope of foundational content in the data, practices and policies components.
- (b) Advance the integration of partnerships into the portal, building an active global coalition.
- (c) Explore machine learning tools for automated policy synthesis, analytics, and multilingual processing.
- (d) Offer a Housing Policy Action Toolkit as a dynamic and adaptable resource for enhancing public sector capacities to design and execute actions for adequate housing.
- (e) Launch a digital space to directly link housing actors, matching needs with solutions and technical expertise.
- (f) Build integration with the WUF as a digital resource portal and platform to advance adequate housing.
- (g) Expand the directory of global and regional housing platforms and explore interoperability and data-sharing arrangements with selected platforms.
- (h) Advance the Platform as a UN system wide resource to strengthen collaboration and scaling.

B. Operational maturity and progress review (2029)

- (a) Achieve operational maturity, regularly delivering dashboards to monitor universal progress toward adequate housing.
- (b) Present consolidated global policy insights and platform-driven outcomes to Member States at the third session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, in 2029, for further guidance on progress and future directions.

27. Recognizing existing resource constraints, the Housing Knowledge Platform will follow a phased and progressive development trajectory, while leveraging strategic multi-stakeholder partnerships. To ensure long-term relevance, the Platform is built to remain adaptive and continuously responsive to the evolving needs and priorities of Member States and global stakeholders. A central guiding priority throughout its deployment will be maintaining coherence, integrating, linking, and streamlining existing housing resources, key actors, and institutional initiatives. Ultimately, the Platform remains resolutely impact-driven, translating high-level policy frameworks and global data into practical, scalable actions on the ground.

VII. Issues for discussion

The Working Group may wish to:

- (a) Take note of the progress made in establishing the Housing Knowledge Platform pursuant to resolution HSP/HA.2/Res.7;
- (b) Provide guidance on priority content for the expansion phase (2027–2028), including data, policies and practices aligned with Member State priorities;
- (c) Consider modalities through which Member States, including through their national focal points, may contribute national policies, data and practices to the Platform, and;
- (d) Encourage Member States and partners to support the development of the Platform, in line with the proposed resource mobilization strategy (HSP/OEWG-H.2026/4).