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**Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group
on Adequate Housing for All
Third session**

Nairobi, 26 and 27 November 2026
Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

**Implementation of the road map for the period 2025–2029
and resource mobilization**

**Proposed resource mobilization strategy to support the work of
the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on
Adequate Housing for All****

I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 2/7 on adequate housing for all, the United Nations Habitat Assembly established the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All (OEWG-H) to make recommendations to the Assembly on policies for accelerating progress towards the universal achievement of adequate housing. The tasks entrusted to the Working Group are to be discharged subject to the availability of resources. The Working Group has no dedicated allocation under the regular budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat): its sessions, meetings, documentation and language services are financed from voluntary contributions and from capacities made available within the Programme.

2. At its second session, the Working Group, in its decision OEWG-H/4, welcomed the road map for its work for the period 2025–2029 (HSP/OEWG-H.2025/4), requested the Executive Director to support the Co-Chairs in its implementation, and encouraged Member States in a position to do so to provide technical and financial support. The present document responds to that decision. It sets out the programme of activities to 2029 (section II), the use of resources for 2026 (section III), the budget requirements for 2027–2029 (section IV) and the approach to resource mobilization (section V).

3. The present strategy is embedded within the resource mobilization strategy for the implementation of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2026–2029 (HSP/EB.2026/6), which provides the overarching framework for resource mobilization across the Programme. It applies that framework to the specific requirements of the Working Group.

II. Programme of activities to 2029

4. The road map provides for an annual cycle in which recommendations are identified by experts at expert group meetings, reviewed by Member States at intersessional meetings and submitted to the formal session for consideration. Intersessional meetings are held in hybrid format with interpretation

* HSP/OEWG-H.2026/1.

** The present document has not been formally edited.

in the six official languages of the United Nations, so that all Member States can participate on an equal footing.

5. The following schedule is proposed for confirmation:
 - (a) Third session: Nairobi, 26–27 November 2026;
 - (b) Fourth session: fourth quarter of 2027;
 - (c) Fifth session: fourth quarter of 2028;
 - (d) Finalization of the report and outcomes of the Working Group: first quarter of 2029, for submission to the third session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly in June 2029.
6. The thematic programme comprises:
 - (a) Review of the draft recommendations on social housing, informal settlements, security of tenure and housing finance welcomed in decision OEWG-H/2, in light of guidance provided by Member States;
 - (b) Revision, following the present session, of the recommendations on integrated housing policies, the definition of homelessness, and housing sustainability and resilience;
 - (c) Continuation towards the fourth session of the workstreams on land management tools, the definition of informal settlements and the housing monitoring framework;
 - (d) No more than two new thematic areas per cycle, selected from the indicative list contained in the road map.
7. Resolution 2/7 also provides for the establishment of a housing knowledge platform alongside the normative work of the Working Group, which makes the recommendations of the Working Group and the practices and data that support them, accessible to Member States, local governments and practitioners. Its development and maintenance to 2029 form part of the programme costed below. Progress is reported in document HSP/OEWG-H.2026/3. In its decision OEWG-H/3, the Working Group encouraged Member States and partners to support the platform with content and with technical and financial resources.
8. The road map also provides for engagement in global and regional processes including the high-level week of the General Assembly, relevant high-level meetings of the General Assembly, the World Urban Forum, the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the regional ministerial bodies on housing and urban development so that the recommendations are contextualized regionally and gain political momentum.

III. Use of resources in 2026

9. The activities of the 2026 cycle are described in the report of the Executive Director (HSP/OEWG-H.2026/2). They comprised an intersessional meeting on housing sustainability and resilience (19 May 2026, at the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum in Baku), an expert group meeting (15 July 2026) and an intersessional meeting (3 September 2026) on integrated housing policies, and the third session. Each step mobilizes the full chain: preparation of background papers and draft recommendations; review and clearance; editing and translation; conference facilities, interpretation and hybrid connectivity; and registration and accreditation.

10. Table 1 sets out the estimated cost of these activities, including direct expenditure and the staff time and technical expertise contributed across UN-Habitat. It reflects the cost of delivery and is distinct from the funding received, which is set out in paragraph 12.

Table 1

Estimated cost of activities in 2026 (United States dollars)

Category	2026
(a) Formal sessions and intersessional meetings: conference facilities, interpretation, hybrid connectivity, registration and accreditation	\$87,418
(b) Technical preparation of documents: development of background papers, summaries of draft recommendations and progress reports, including expert inputs and internal review	\$170,210
(c) Documentation services: editing of pre-session, in-session and post-session documents and, where applicable, translation into the six official languages	\$31,261

Category	2026
(d) Participation support: travel and subsistence for national focal points and delegates from least developed countries and small island developing States	\$50,000
(e) Stakeholder engagement and partnerships: engagement with Member States, partners and relevant stakeholders, including partnership development and coordination	\$61,025
(f) Expert meetings and outreach: expert group meetings, regional consultations, and representation and side events at global and regional events	-
(g) Housing Knowledge Platform: development, content curation and maintenance	\$66,883
(h) Secretariat and coordination capacity: support to the Working Group and its Co-Chairs, including coordination, planning and follow-up	\$206,771
(i) Communications and visibility: development and dissemination of communication materials, digital content, outreach products and information on the Working Group's activities and outputs	\$13,558
Total	\$687,125

11. Core funding mobilized for OEWG-H activities in 2026 amounted to \$266,511. Implementation was also supported by earmarked contributions from the Governments of Germany and China, the secondment of a senior staff member by the Government of France, and support from the Government of Azerbaijan through WUF13, including for the organization of an intersessional meeting. The total estimated value of resources required for OEWG-H activities in 2026 amounted to approximately \$687,000, encompassing both financial requirements and the estimated value of staff time, technical expertise and other institutional and in-kind contributions. This overall valuation should therefore not be interpreted as direct financial expenditure.

12. Costs have been contained: the third session is held back-to-back with the Executive Board, communication materials are reused, and existing facilities and digital platforms are used. Delivery has nonetheless relied on a combination of dedicated contributions, flexible resources and existing institutional capacities, allocated to the most immediate substantive and operational requirements. The secretariat has also drawn extensively on the expertise and staff capacity of other UN-Habitat programmes, branches and offices, where compatible with their respective mandates and workplans. This model does not allow planning over the full cycle and cannot assure delivery of the road map at the planned level. Predictable, multi-year funding and dedicated staff capacity are required.

IV. Budget requirements for 2027–2029

A. Basis of estimation

13. Requirements set out below are costed against the programme set out in section II and assume, for each annual cycle: one formal session; one expert group meeting and one intersessional meeting per active workstream; no more than two new themes; and interpretation and documentation in the six official languages.

Table 2
Budget requirements for 2027–2029 (United States dollars)

Category	2027–2029	2027	2028	2029
(a) Formal sessions and intersessional meetings	\$368,380	\$206,127	\$206,127	-\$43,873
(b) Technical preparation of documents	\$910,630	\$370,210	\$370,210	\$170,210
(c) Documentation services	\$93,783	\$31,261	\$31,261	\$31,261
(d) Participation support	\$300,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
(e) Stakeholder engagement and partnerships	\$183,075	\$61,025	\$61,025	\$61,025

Category	2027–2029	2027	2028	2029
(f) Expert meetings and outreach	\$60,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
(g) Housing Knowledge Platform	\$286,935	\$95,645	\$95,645	\$95,645
(h) Secretariat and coordination capacity	\$620,313	\$206,771	\$206,771	\$206,771
(i) Communications and visibility	\$120,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
Total	\$2,943,116	\$1,131,039	\$1,131,039	\$681,039

14. The total requirement for 2027–2029 is estimated at 2.94 million United States dollars. Of this amount, approximately 800,000 United States dollars is expected to be covered through existing UN-Habitat core-funded staff time allocated to the OEWG-H process, based on the level of core resources mobilized in 2026. Additional contributions and pledges include the gratis personnel provided by the Government of France and support associated with the Baku Urban Award for the Housing Knowledge Platform. The value and availability of these contributions over the period remain to be confirmed. On this basis, the indicative funding gap is estimated at approximately 2 million United States dollars, before accounting for additional confirmed contributions and pledges.

V. Resource mobilization

A. Principles

15. Consistent with resolution 2/7 and the corporate strategy referred to in paragraph 3, resource mobilization for the Working Group rests on four principles, which reflect the corporate priority given to core, multi-year and flexible funding: multi-year commitments, so that the process can plan beyond a single cycle; predictable timing, aligned with the annual cycle; unearmarked or softly earmarked contributions, so that resources follow the priorities set by Member States; and an equitable regional distribution of support.

B. Sources of support

16. Additional extrabudgetary support for the OEWG-H process from Member States is the central pillar of the strategy. Engagement is open to all Member States. The current and former Co-Chairs, the co-sponsors of resolution 2/7 and the signatories of the Call to Action adopted at the High-Level Roundtable of Global Champions on Adequate and Affordable Housing during the eightieth session of the General Assembly may wish the Co-Chairs to play a championing role, advocating for the Working Group and helping to broaden its base of support.

17. Pending predictable dedicated funding, the secretariat will continue to draw on the UN-Habitat housing portfolio where it is aligned with the mandate, strictly within the scope of the relevant donor agreements and in accordance with the applicable financial rules.

18. Philanthropic organizations committed to adequate and affordable housing, international financial institutions, and business partners will be approached for financial contributions, in accordance with United Nations rules and due diligence procedures. Networks of local governments, universities and research institutions will be engaged primarily as technical partners.

19. Member States may also contribute in kind by hosting sessions, expert group meetings or intersessional meetings and by making available research, data, tools and expertise for the thematic workstreams and the Housing Knowledge Platform, or through personnel contributions such as gratis personnel, Junior Professional Officers or United Nations Volunteers.

C. Modalities of contribution

20. Contributions may support the overall programme or specific components, such as thematic workstreams, meetings or the housing knowledge platform, through multi-year, pooled or softly earmarked funding or in-kind contributions, subject to the financial rules and procedures of UN-Habitat. The secretariat will support contributors in identifying the appropriate modality and reporting arrangements.

21. All sources will be pursued in parallel. Engagement will be coordinated between the Co-Chairs, with Member States; the Executive Director, at the high level; and the secretariat, which will identify opportunities, maintain a roster of prospective contributors and ensure follow-up. Global and regional events, including the World Urban Forum, World Habitat Day, World Cities Day and the regional ministerial conferences, will be used to connect substantive engagement with resource mobilization.

D. Prioritization

22. Should resources fall short of requirements, the secretariat will, in consultation with the Co-Chairs, adjust the programme, for example by reducing the number of thematic workstreams, the frequency of expert group meetings and regional consultations, and the scope of outreach. The multilingual character of meetings and documentation will be safeguarded as far as possible.

VI. Reporting and risk management

23. Activities financed under the strategy are aligned with the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2026–2029 and are reported within that framework. The Executive Director will report annually to the Working Group on contributions received, expenditure by category and activities delivered.

24. The main risks are insufficient or late contributions, continued reliance on staff funded under other programmes, fragmentation resulting from tightly earmarked funding and an uneven regional distribution of support. They will be mitigated through early and multi-year pledging, the prioritization set out in section V.D, a preference for flexible funding, personnel contributions to strengthen dedicated capacity, and due diligence in engagement with non-State partners. The strategy will be reviewed periodically in the light of contributions received, delivery of the programme and guidance from the Working Group.

VII. Recommendations

25. The Working Group may wish to:

- (a) Take note of the programme of activities to 2029 as set out in section II and of the budget requirements for 2027–2029 set out in section IV;
- (b) Take note of the resource mobilization strategy set out in section V, and request the Executive Director to implement it in consultation with the Co-Chairs;
- (c) Call on all Member States and partners to provide predictable and, where possible, multi-year financial and in-kind contributions, including by hosting sessions, expert group meetings or intersessional meetings;
- (d) Request the Executive Director to report annually to the Working Group, at its formal sessions, on the implementation of the strategy.