



**UNITED
NATIONS**

HSP/OEWG-H.2026/INF/5



UN-HABITAT

**United Nations
Human Settlements
Programme**

Distr.: General
15 October 2026

Original: English

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

Nairobi, 26 and 27 November 2026

Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

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

Summary of the report on National Housing Policies: A global perspective**

Note by the secretariat

1. This document summarizes some of the findings and key recommendations in the report entitled “National Housing Policies: A global perspective”, prepared by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), which is made available as an information document for the third session of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All, to be held in Nairobi on 26 and 27 November 2026. The report also contributes to the development of a Housing Knowledge Platform.
2. The report establishes the first global database of National Housing Policies (NHP). With the support of UN-Habitat country offices, information on National Housing Policy was collected for 159 countries, and 64 dedicated National Housing Policy documents were analysed in detail through an artificial intelligence (AI) supported methodology with human review.
3. The report finds that nearly half of surveyed countries have a dedicated National Housing Policy in place, and in total nearly two thirds have some form of national policy on housing. The report further examines their alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda, the human right to adequate housing, their coverage of the dimensions of adequate housing and their thematic priorities and concludes with a set of recommendations.
4. The key recommendations outlined in the report are as follows:
 - (a) Around half of countries currently lack a dedicated National Housing Policy that is multisectoral and is easily accessible. Countries should strongly consider the preparation and adoption of a National Housing Policy, as an anchor for a broader integrated housing policy framework, and consider how it can be used as a tool to analyse, set out goals, implement, and coordinate housing production and management. Countries should periodically update their NHPs to keep them relevant;
 - (b) Depending on the context, National Housing Policies are organized in different ways, but it is important that they should be formulated in a coordinated manner to other policies,

* HSP/ OEWG-H.2026/1.

** The present document has not been formally edited.

including National Urban Policies and National Housing Acts. Countries should aim to align goals, reduce overlap and eliminate conflicting policy approaches. For National Housing Policies to be effective, it is important that their strategies are aligned with, and grounded in a strong legal basis, such as a National Housing Act;

- (c) Housing is a complex and interrelated sector. National Housing Policies therefore need to address the varied dimensions of adequate housing in a comprehensive manner, including adequate attention for the cultural adequacy of housing, and housing sustainability. Countries that have sectoral policies on aspects of housing, land and urbanization (around one quarter of countries) are encouraged to embed these into more comprehensive frameworks;
- (d) Half of National Housing Policies explicitly reference the Sustainable Development Goals, while more than one third reference the New Urban Agenda. To ensure consistency with global commitments and help reduce reporting burden at the national level, countries are encouraged to better link their National Housing Policies to global commitments. If well developed, National Housing Policies can be a key accelerator for implementation of the New Urban Agenda in the next 10 years;
- (e) Countries are encouraged to systematically review their National Housing Policies against the recommendations of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All on integrated housing policies, social housing, informal settlements, housing finance and tenure security, as well as further identified themes up to 2029. Countries are encouraged to take part in the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All work on integrated national housing policies, which situates National Housing Policies within the wider set of housing policy instruments. Where gaps exist, National Housing Policy revision processes provide an opportunity to integrate these normative advances. UN-Habitat stands ready to support countries in this process through technical assistance and the Housing Knowledge Platform.
- (f) The report also recommends undertaking further research and analysis in eight areas of strategic importance.

5. The report is complementary to the background paper on Integrated National Housing Policies (HSP/OEWG-H.2026/INF/4), which considers dedicated National Housing Policy within the wider housing policy framework of strategic, legislative, operational and institutional instruments. Grounded in a systems approach to housing, the background paper explores how housing policy instruments such as a National Housing Policy needs to be integrated vertically, horizontally, spatially and temporally with other instruments. Countries are encouraged to systematically review their National Housing Policies against the recommendations of the OEWG-H.

6. Countries are invited to share their National Housing Policy documents with UN-Habitat, including relevant revisions and updates, so these can be included as part of the database, and used to inform on-going normative work and used to support peer-to-peer learning.

7. The full version of the report “National Housing Policy: A global perspective” is made available at https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2026/10/national_housing_policies.pdf.