



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME
P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi 00100, Kenya
unhabitat-info@un.org | www.unhabitat.org

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

MEDIA ADVISORY

Muscat to host global observance of World Habitat Day 2026

Nairobi, 1 October 2026 — The global observance of World Habitat Day 2026 will take place on 5 October at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre in Muscat, Oman, under the theme “Adequate Housing for All”.

The observance will focus on the urgent global housing challenge and the need to make adequate housing a reality for all. It will provide a platform to examine policies, partnerships and solutions that can expand access to adequate housing and contribute to inclusive and sustainable urban development.

WHAT: World Habitat Day 2026: Adequate Housing for All
WHEN: 5 October 2026, 10:30–17:20 (GMT+4)
WHERE: Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre, Muscat, Oman

Highlights

The global opening will feature messages from UN Secretary-General António Guterres and Nga Kor Ming, President of the UN-Habitat Assembly and Minister of Housing and Local Government, as well as a welcome address by UN-Habitat Executive Director Anacláudia Rossbach. The programme will also include the signing of development agreements, including international agreements; the presentation of the 2026 UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Awards; and the inauguration of the Expo. In the afternoon, a flagship dialogue will bring together experts and practitioners for a discussion on “Adequate Housing for All”.

The event will be livestreamed on [UN Web TV](#).

Why it matters

Nearly 3.4 billion people lack adequate housing worldwide, highlighting the scale of the global housing crisis. Close to 1.1 billion people live in slums and informal settlements. Adequate housing is fundamental to inclusive and sustainable urban development. World Habitat Day 2026 will highlight the policies, partnerships and practical solutions needed to expand access to adequate housing and advance the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

About World Habitat Day

World Habitat Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1985 to reflect on the state of human settlements and the basic right of all to adequate shelter. First celebrated in 1986, the Day is observed annually on the first Monday of October and serves as a global call to action for inclusive, resilient and sustainable towns and cities.

- END -

About UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat is the United Nations entity responsible for sustainable urbanization. It has programmes in over 90 countries supporting policymakers and communities to create socially and environmentally sustainable cities and towns. UN-Habitat promotes transformative change in cities through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance, and collaborative action. To know more, visit unhabitat.org or follow us on social media @UNHABITAT.

For further information, please contact:

Media Team

UN-Habitat

unhabitat-media@un.org