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**Follow-up to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda
and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements
Programme (UN-Habitat)**

Follow-up to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), June 2024–June 2026

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The present report, submitted pursuant to paragraph 31 of General Assembly resolution [79/214](#), provides an update on the implementation of the resolution and an overview of the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) since the issuance in 2024 of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and strengthening of UN-Habitat ([A/79/606](#)).

The report provides an overview of UN-Habitat work in supporting the implementation of the New Urban Agenda through its normative and operational activities at all levels, leveraging partnerships within the United Nations system and beyond.

* [A/81/150](#).

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I. Introduction

1. The present report, submitted pursuant to paragraph 31 of General Assembly resolution [79/214](#), provides an update on the implementation of the resolution since the issuance of the 2024 report of the Secretary-General ([A/79/606](#)).
2. Over the reporting period, which spanned its strategic plan periods 2020–2025 and 2026–2029, UN-Habitat supported the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (General Assembly resolution [71/256](#)) through its normative and operational activities, partnerships and programme delivery at the global, regional, national and local levels, including through strengthened collaboration across the United Nations system. A renewed focus on housing, land and basic services in the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029 provides further pathways towards inclusive, resilient and sustainable development.
3. The year 2026 marks the midpoint of the implementation period of the New Urban Agenda (2016–2036), which presents an important opportunity to assess progress, identify gaps and accelerate action. It offers a platform for renewing political commitment to adequate housing and sustainable urbanization and strengthening collective efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The present report contributes to assessing progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda by highlighting the key results of the reporting period and priorities for the next decade of implementation while underscoring the need to move from policy commitments to implementation at scale.

II. UN-Habitat governing bodies

A. United Nations Habitat Assembly, the Executive Board and the Committee of Permanent Representatives

4. During the reporting period, the United Nations Habitat Assembly convened its resumed second session on 29 and 30 May 2025 in Nairobi, with 116 Member States and observers represented (see [A/81/8](#)). The Assembly adopted the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2026–2029 and decided that its third session would be held from 25 to 29 June 2029, in Nairobi.
5. The Executive Board continued to provide oversight on the implementation of the strategic plan, work programme, normative and operational activities and reviewed the status of implementation of United Nations Habitat Assembly resolutions and financial, budgetary and administrative performance. It convened two sessions in 2024 (6–8 May and 4–6 December) and three sessions in 2025 (25–27 March, 30 May and 25–27 November). In 2026, the Board held its first session on 21 and 22 April, while the second session is scheduled for 24 and 25 November. The Board also approved the annual work programme and budget of UN-Habitat for 2025 ([HSP/EB.2024/16](#)) and 2026 ([HSP/EB.2025/21](#)).
6. The Committee of Permanent Representatives met for its third open-ended meeting from 26 to 28 May 2025 to consider the draft outcomes of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, in preparation for its resumed second session.

B. Addressing the global housing crisis: strategic plan for the period 2026–2029

7. Consistent with the governance arrangements under General Assembly resolution 77/173, entitled “Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)”, adopted on 14 December 2022, the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029 was prepared by the UN-Habitat Executive Board and endorsed by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its second session, in Nairobi in May 2025. The plan has a core focus on housing, land and basic services and constitutes the Programme’s response to the global housing crisis, which affects an estimated 3.4 billion people living in inadequate housing, including 1.1 billion living in slums or informal settlements and over 300 million experiencing homelessness.¹

8. The core focus is pursued across three impact areas (equitable and inclusive prosperity for poverty eradication; environment and climate action; and preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction) and through five means of implementation (integrated urban and territorial planning, management, investment and finance; participatory multilevel governance and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals; knowledge, data, digitalization and capacity development; partnerships, coalitions, advocacy and communications; and effective resource mobilization).

C. Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All

9. The Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All was established in 2023 pursuant to United Nations Habitat Assembly resolution 2/7 on Adequate Housing for All, by which Member States requested UN-Habitat to refocus its work on housing as an essential condition for implementing the New Urban Agenda. The Expert Working Group is mandated to assess progress, identify best practices and develop policy recommendations to accelerate the universal achievement of adequate and affordable housing.

10. The first formal session of the Expert Working Group, held in December 2024, elected France and Kenya as Co-Chairs. At its second session, in October 2025, the Expert Working Group welcomed global policy recommendations on housing finance, informal settlements, social housing and tenure security; elected Azerbaijan and Somalia as Co-Chairs; and approved a road map for the period 2026–2029. The road map guides technical work on housing related to sustainability and resilience, global monitoring, definitions of informal settlements and homelessness, and integrated housing policies. By June 2026, 72 countries had nominated 189 experts for participation in expert group meetings, intersessional discussions and formal sessions.

11. The Expert Working Group recommendations helped shape the Southern African Development Community (SADC) regional strategy on informal settlements, adopted in early 2026. The Expert Working Group’s work was also informed by the World Cities Report 2026² and the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum, held under the theme “Housing the world: safe and resilient cities and communities”. The work of the Expert Working Group is directly contributing to the implementation of action 6 (c) of the Pact for the Future.

¹ UN-Habitat, *SDG 11 Global Report 2026: Housing at the Centre of Sustainable Cities and Communities* (Nairobi, 2026).

² Available at https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2026/05/wcr_2026.pdf.

III. Update on the financial performance and strengthening of UN-Habitat

12. UN-Habitat is funded through four main sources, namely: (a) the regular budget of the United Nations; (b) the non-earmarked fund of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation; (c) the earmarked trust funds of the Foundation (also known as Foundation special purpose trust funds) for global programmes and regional projects; and (d) the technical cooperation trust funds, which finance subregional and country-specific projects. Across these sources of funding, the total in 2025 decreased by 12 per cent compared with the previous year, from \$224.9 million to \$197.9 million.

13. The total revenue comprised \$16.6 million from the regular budget, \$4.3 million from the Foundation non-earmarked fund, \$51.1 million from the Foundation earmarked fund and \$125.9 million from the technical cooperation fund.

14. Regular budget and Foundation non-earmarked funds are the core funds of UN-Habitat, and amounted to 10.6 per cent of total revenue received in 2025.

15. In 2025, the Foundation non-earmarked fund received contributions amounting to \$3.8 million from a total of 31 Member States, which was one Member State more than the previous year. The highest contribution came from the African region. Unlike in 2024, 2025 saw the participation of all regions, with 15 contributors from African States, 9 from Asia-Pacific States, 3 each from Latin American and Caribbean States and Western European and other States, and 1 contributor from Eastern European States.

16. In its decision 2026/1, the Executive Board requested the Executive Director to continue efforts to strengthen non-earmarked and earmarked funding in accordance with the resource mobilization strategy for the implementation of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2026–2029, and invited all Member States to contribute to the core financial resources of UN-Habitat.

IV. Advancing implementation of the New Urban Agenda

17. UN-Habitat enabled the implementation of the New Urban Agenda globally through its normative and operational activities at all levels and in close partnership with relevant stakeholders, focusing on advancing multilevel and multi-stakeholder implementation for scaling impact.

A. Housing, land and basic services

18. The prioritization of housing by UN-Habitat in its strategic plan for the period 2026–2029 was further reinforced through the Pact for the Future, in which Member States committed to ensuring access to adequate housing for all in line with the Doha Political Declaration of the “World Social Summit” under the title “the Second World Summit for Social Development”, in which housing was recognized as a foundation for dignity, inclusion and opportunity. A high-level round table at the eightieth session of the General Assembly in New York, convened by the President of Kenya, William Ruto, launched a global call to action on adequate and affordable housing, reinforcing housing as a shared global responsibility. Regional initiatives also provided further opportunities, including SADC regional strategy on informal settlements. With respect to homelessness, UN-Habitat supported the second report of the Secretary-General on inclusive policies and programmes to address homelessness (A/80/316), which informed a new General Assembly resolution on homelessness.

19. Work on informal settlements also gained momentum through the implementation of United Nations Habitat Assembly resolution 2/2 on accelerating the transformation of informal settlements and slums by 2030, which outlines 10 key actions to scale up slum transformation, and through recommendations developed by the Expert Working Group in 2025. Over the reporting period, UN-Habitat supported an estimated 17.6 million people in moving out of slum-like conditions and improving their quality of life through the direct implementation of field programmes and support for the development of policies, strategies and programmes. Furthermore, access to basic services was expanded. In 2024, more than 205,000 people living in slums and informal settlements across 27 cities in 19 countries were supported in accessing basic services, including water and clean energy. In 2025, UN-Habitat interventions more broadly enabled more than 2.76 million people to gain access to basic services.

20. UN-Habitat strengthened the capacity of national and local authorities to develop and implement inclusive strategies for adequate housing across regions. For example, in 2024, 14 cities and 2 countries adopted strategies to end homelessness and expand sustainable access to adequate housing. In Eastern Europe and Central Asia, UN-Habitat strengthened local capacities to develop and implement inclusive housing strategies in cities in Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova and Uzbekistan; in 2025, that work continued in those countries and was expanded to Armenia and Georgia. In Asia and the Pacific, UN-Habitat supported the Philippines in advancing its national urban agenda and city-level housing and slum-upgrading strategies, while assisting cities in addressing informal settlements and post-disaster housing recovery. In Latin America and the Caribbean, UN-Habitat also strengthened the regional evidence base through the Housing Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean and supported the implementation of a national affordable housing programme in Brazil, contributing to the expansion of affordable housing while also advancing in situ upgrading and neighbourhood regeneration. In Africa, building on its affordable land and housing in Africa work and its country programmes, UN-Habitat supported national and local authorities in strengthening affordable housing policies and regulatory frameworks. In the Arab States, a conference on the theme “Housing, land and basic services: foundations for resilient and sustainable urbanization in Arab cities”, developed by UN-Habitat and the Arab Urban Development Institute, informed inclusive housing and post-crisis reconstruction strategies at the city level.

21. Programme delivery regarding land rights, including through enhancing urban rural linkages and food security, was also crucial during the reporting period. An extensive data collection and analysis exercise led to progress in reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 1.4.2 on land tenure security, of which UN-Habitat is co-custodian, and of indicators 5.a.1 and 5.a.2 on women’s land rights. The data collected contributed to the *Status of Land Tenure and Governance* report, published in February 2026 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Land Coalition and the Centre for International Cooperation in Agronomic Research for Development.

22. UN-Habitat provided technical and advisory support to over 16 countries across all regions, advancing land governance reforms and influencing policies and practices. In total, about 81,000 households secured improved tenure through official land documentation (43,741 in 2024 and 37,215 in 2025). In Nepal, nearly 24,000 landless and informal settler households obtained temporary land cards. In Iraq, over 1,500 conflict-affected households secured their housing, land, and property rights, which enabled post-conflict recovery and reconstruction efforts. In Lebanon, UN-Habitat conducted housing damage assessments covering 13 municipalities in South Lebanon and in the southern suburbs of Beirut, in collaboration with the United Nations Satellite Centre and the University of Balamand. In the Syrian Arab Republic, a rapid diagnostic of key urban laws informed reconstruction and strengthened tenure

security for millions of displaced and returning Syrians. In Somalia, socioeconomic and spatial data on over 10,000 households in 14 informal settlements was collected and made available to municipalities, leading to the recognition of settlements and to a reduction in forced evictions. UN-Habitat contributed to strengthening tenure security through in situ housing upgrading and land regularization, drawing on its social urbanism and participatory slum-upgrading approaches. This included support to municipalities in Colombia to advance the regularization of informal settlements and strengthen the regional evidence base on land and housing.

23. Significant progress was also achieved in relation to basic services advancing Sustainable Development Goal 6. The Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance supported over 40 water operators' partnerships across more than 20 countries, improving access to safe water and sanitation for over 344,000 people living in low-income communities and training more than 5,000 utilities staff. In Ethiopia, utilities capacity was strengthened through a South-South partnership with the establishment of the Ethiopian Water Operators' Partnership Platform. In Guinea-Bissau, 4,000 families gained access to safe water, which improved living conditions in underserved communities.

24. Additionally, 38 cities improved municipal solid waste management systems, benefiting 5.2 million people. Interventions included technical support and local waste management training in Madagascar, as well as policy and strategy development in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil and Colombia, which advanced circular economy practices and metropolitan waste governance, contributing to the achievement of Goal 12.

25. Zero-waste initiatives have accelerated since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 77/161 in 2022. The Secretary-General's Advisory Board of Eminent Persons on Zero Waste strengthened global momentum by promoting local and national zero-waste initiatives, sharing good practices and advocating city-led action, including through the 20 Cities Towards Zero Waste initiative.

B. Environment and climate action

26. UN-Habitat continued strengthening its activities on environment and climate action, including through the ministerial meetings on urbanization and climate change at the twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. UN-Habitat co-chaired the third ministerial meeting on urbanization and climate change, held on 20 November 2024, which launched the Declaration on Multisectoral Actions Pathways to Resilient and Healthy Cities of the twenty-ninth Conference of the Parties, contributing to efforts to advance the integrated implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Paris Agreement. The fourth ministerial meeting, in 2025, further emphasized the urban dimension of nationally determined contributions and supported implementation at the city-level through high-level dialogues on housing, multilevel governance, science and action, finance, and nature-based solutions.

27. The integration of urban priorities into national climate policies continued to gain momentum, underscoring growing recognition that climate goals cannot be achieved without action in cities. The launch of a three-step guide for strengthening nationally determined contributions in 2025³ supported efforts in countries, including Cambodia, Colombia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Jordan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mali, Mexico, South Africa and Tunisia, to strengthen the

³ See <https://unhabitat.org/seizing-the-urban-opportunity-a-3-step-guide-for-strengthening-nationally-determined-contributions>.

urban dimension of their nationally determined contribution and improve links between national climate commitments and local implementation. This was reflected in the Programme's 2026 report on urban content in nationally determined contributions, which found that approximately 80 per cent of nationally determined contributions included significant urban content.⁴ The report also identified opportunities for strengthening implementation through multilevel governance, urban finance and locally led climate action.

28. Progress was also made in strengthening the science, knowledge and innovation needed to accelerate urban and local climate action. Preparations were advanced through the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change special report on climate change and cities, expected in 2027, as a scientific foundation for policymaking. Global platforms such as the Innovate4Cities conferences in 2024 and 2026 brought together Intergovernmental Panel Climate Change authors, researchers, academics, innovators, policymakers, financing partners and practitioners to foster collaboration, share evidence and accelerate the development of solutions.

29. At the local level, the UN-Habitat flagship programme RISE-UP: Resilient Settlements for the Urban Poor has been its primary vehicle for community-level climate action, with an emphasis on least developed countries and small island developing States. Through an active portfolio exceeding \$200 million across 35 countries, the programme has strengthened the resilience of vulnerable urban communities. Within this broader portfolio, targeted technical support was provided to 23 cities across 14 countries, including Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Comoros, Ethiopia, Fiji, Jordan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Malawi, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Tunisia, leading to the development of vulnerability assessments, action plans and bankable projects.

C. Urban crisis prevention and response

30. UN-Habitat provided normative and operational support in over 25 countries affected by conflict and disasters, prioritizing locally led, area-based approaches, strengthening the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

31. On the normative side, UN-Habitat finalized its global framework on inclusive solutions to urban internal displacement to guide scalable displacement solutions, informing the humanitarian reset led by the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator at the global level and humanitarian coordinators at the country level while proactively strengthening settlements-based approaches. UN-Habitat also launched a comparative review of housing and settlements policies in national strategies for internally displaced persons across Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nigeria and Somalia and supported the inclusion of housing and urban issues in the national durable solutions road map of Colombia. These efforts are aligned with the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement.

32. At the operational level, UN-Habitat delivered crisis response across diverse contexts. In Afghanistan, community-driven shelter and housing, land and property projects continued. In Lebanon, UN-Habitat co-led a task force on debris management, standardized damage assessments and developed standard operating procedures with respect to repair. In Myanmar, it responded to the March 2025 earthquake with rapid needs assessments, emergency water, sanitation and hygiene support, and construction of a school that can be used as a refuge from disasters. In Mozambique, durable solutions were advanced for hundreds of thousands of

⁴ See <https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2026/05/urban-content-in-ndc3.0.pdf>.

internally displaced persons, alongside new urban resilience projects. In Burkina Faso, Colombia, Iraq, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan and Yemen, UN-Habitat advanced solutions to internal displacement through integrated settlement planning, land tenure reform and housing rehabilitation.

33. A multi-stakeholder pledge on climate-resilient sustainable human settlements for refugees and their hosting communities, co-led by the Government of Ethiopia and UN-Habitat at the Global Refugee Forum in December 2023, resulted in draft national action plans. A collaboration between UN-Habitat, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Bank is now in place to support the transformation of refugee camps and sites for internally displaced persons into sustainable human settlements. In November 2025, a technical workshop, entitled “Deep dive into sustainable human settlements in fragility, conflict and violence contexts”, brought together representatives of the Governments of Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritania, Mozambique and Somalia to share valuable lessons and shape country-level action plans.

34. UN-Habitat also supported urban recovery in Ukraine through four interconnected tracks: national-level policy advice; technical support for strategic and territorial planning; knowledge and capacity development; and digital solutions for evidence-based planning. UN-Habitat has provided technical support on the reform of the housing code of Ukraine and contributed to the urban development code. The Ukraine Urban Lab established by UN-Habitat has supported local-level recovery planning in eight municipalities, producing eight city profiles and eight statutory recovery plans. Capacity development activities benefited over 80 local officials and 180 university students.

35. UN-Habitat was requested by its Executive Board in 2023 to produce a comprehensive report on the status of the development of the efforts to reconstruct the human settlements in the Gaza Strip, but was unable to do so due to access restrictions. Nevertheless, UN-Habitat finalized pilot projects for community-driven retrofitting of 70 partially damaged housing units. In addition, three water wells were completed, providing clean water to 275,000 people in Gaza. It also seconded a Housing, Land and Property Adviser to the Office of the Resident Coordinator in the State of Palestine and developed strategic frameworks on housing, land and property rights for the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine.

D. Urban policy, planning and finance

36. UN-Habitat supported urban policy and legislative reforms at the national and subnational levels to 15 countries. This includes the adoption of national urban policies in Jordan, Mozambique and Paraguay and the advancement of policy development in Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Comoros, Egypt, Guinea, Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan. National urban policy pilot projects in Iran (Islamic Republic of), Myanmar and Nigeria expanded access to renewable energy, clean water, sanitation and other basic services. Urban legislation and governance support contributed to reforms in Botswana, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe, as well as the State of Palestine, through rapid legal assessments, benchmarking of planning laws, review of draft legislation and targeted advisory services. In Sierra Leone, for example, the National Country Planning Act, 2025, was enacted to modernize the country’s spatial planning framework.

37. Planning for inclusive cities delivered direct gains with respect to public space and participation. During the reporting period, 194,715 people in partner cities gained access to open public space, including through projects in São Paulo, Brazil, Amman,

Jordan, and Kilifi and Lamu, Kenya. Fourteen cities implemented institutionalized participatory approaches in urban management. The Games for Urban Futures initiative deployed game-based participatory design through the Block by Block methodology in 12 countries, namely Brazil, Ghana, India, Jordan, Kenya, Nepal, the Niger, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam, engaging youth, women and marginalized groups in co-designing public spaces and neighbourhood plans.

38. UN-Habitat also continued working with partners on metropolitan management. In Bogotá, support was provided for metropolitan governance, data-driven planning and delivery of the metropolitan regional strategic plan and observatory. Work on urban-rural linkages and territorial development continued to strengthen coordination with respect to food, energy, water, health, transport and waste policies, including through partnerships supporting food systems and green cities in Kenya and Uganda. UN-Habitat also co-developed with the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, a primer on urban-rural linkages and land in the context of land degradation neutrality.

39. UN-Habitat continued to advocate for financing solutions to reach the local level. At the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Sevilla, Spain, in 2025, UN-Habitat organized a side event entitled “Financing our urban future: scaling up investment in and through cities” to drive concrete action towards closure of the urban finance gap, particularly with respect to housing, infrastructure and basic services. UN-Habitat is a member of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, contributing inputs to relevant country-level capacity-building projects and initiatives related to credit ratings. As part of the Local 2030 Coalition, UN-Habitat actively collaborated with other United Nations organizations on the operational launch of the Sevilla Platform for Action. It is also organizing integrated local financing framework workshops with more than 25 subnational and local governments.

40. Furthermore, the rapid own-source revenue assessment tool was deployed in over 40 local governments. For example, in Costa Rica, assessment diagnostics identified the need for reforms regarding property registration, valuation and collection in three municipalities (Palmares, Sarchi and Atenas). Technical assistance on own-source revenue contributed to an average 300 per cent increase in local revenue in 19 cities in Somalia in projects implemented between 2008 and 2025. This included the establishment of a property tax system that increased own-source revenue collections in Hargeysa to over \$1 million and in Burao from \$58,000 to \$600,000.

41. UN-Habitat also expanded its normative and technical guidance on territorial planning and governance, including through the Our City Plans toolkit for participatory statutory planning by local governments. Urban and territorial renewal and regeneration initiatives, carried out with 51 partner cities across eight countries in the Arab region and Latin America and the Caribbean, were supported by the Our City Plans toolkit, application of the MY Neighbourhood principles and companion training modules.

E. Multilevel governance and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals

42. UN-Habitat advanced multilevel governance and the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals through several initiatives, including as permanent Co-Chair of the Local 2030 Coalition, which strengthened the Coalition’s delivery

and convening power. Through its five constituencies (national Governments; local and regional governments; civil society and academia; the private sector; and youth), the Coalition serves as a bridge between the United Nations and local development partners. The 14 Coalition members collaborate to strengthen broader local stakeholder engagement; build capacities to mainstream localization and coordinate efforts across the United Nations system; scale innovative financing solutions; and improve data availability and multilevel dialogues for sustainable development.

43. Through engagement in key forums, including the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the Summit of the Future, financing for development processes, the Conferences of the Parties to the Rio Conventions and the World Urban Forum, the Coalition has consistently advanced messaging, strengthened engagement with local actors and highlighted examples of territorially grounded solutions. With more than 2,000 local and regional organizations participating in the Coalition's Road to Baku initiative for the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum, UN-Habitat helped position localization as a practical pathway for accelerating inclusive implementation of the Goals. UN-Habitat has also supported the Secretary-General's Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments and its four policy reports, which informed the Pact for the Future, including action 55 (e) on how engagement with local and regional authorities could advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

44. In partnership with the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund, the Coalition has also helped to mobilize finance for Goals localization. As of 2026, more than \$60 million has been allocated to joint programmes on localization across more than 30 countries, leveraging over \$300 million from other sources and piloting innovative tools (the localization blueprint and the Sustainable Development Goals localization marker) to channel finance towards local impact. These efforts are further reinforced through the Sevilla Platform for Action, implemented with Spain and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which promotes financing for local impact.

45. Furthermore, UN-Habitat and the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security of Italy launched the Partnership Platform on Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals to support national Governments in developing national Goals localization frameworks. These frameworks align national priorities with local delivery through integrated policies, institutional mechanisms and financing instruments to reduce the fragmentation of interventions. Within two years, the Platform supported Italy, Senegal and Tunisia in designing their frameworks; engaged nine additional countries (Brazil, Cabo Verde, Costa Rica, Finland, Georgia, Ghana, Jordan, Nepal and Zambia) and four institutional partners; and mobilized over 130 institutions through technical exchanges at major global and regional forums.

46. Through a peer learning series on voluntary national reviews and voluntary local reviews, convened by UN-Habitat and the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security in collaboration with the Local 2030 Coalition, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Economic Commission for Africa, OECD, United Cities and Local Governments and the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments, more than 17 countries and over 130 participants strengthened linkages between voluntary national, local and subnational reviews, advancing review processes as platforms for dialogue, prioritization and collective delivery.

47. Complementing these efforts, the Sustainable Development Goals Cities initiative supported cities worldwide, including through the Sustainable Development Goals Cities global community, a partner-led technical network comprising more than 300 cities from 85 countries, which provides tools and facilitates the sharing of experiences related to data management, strategic planning and local financing. The

Sustainable Development Goals Cities Global Conference was co-organized by UN-Habitat and the Shanghai Municipal People's Government and held in Shanghai in October 2025. The work on Sustainable Development Goals Cities directly contributes to the implementation of action 6 (c) of the Pact for the Future.

F. Knowledge, data and digitalization

48. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat continued to advance global urban monitoring and reporting, resulting in enhanced evidence for policymaking. The 2024 and 2026 issues of the World Cities Report, entitled, respectively, *Cities and Climate Change* and *The Global Housing Crisis: Pathways to Action*, provide comprehensive and robust insights into key global trends while identifying pathways to reinforce policy action. Furthermore, UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, coordinated stakeholder engagement for the 2026 global review of Goal 11 in advance of its consideration at the high-level political forum.

49. In addition, UN-Habitat continued to strengthen global urban data systems, including through the expanded application of geospatial information, Earth observation and artificial intelligence to complement conventional statistical systems. Support was also extended to Member States through the Global Urban Monitoring Framework, which had been applied or piloted by 412 cities worldwide by December 2025. Technical assistance to national statistical offices and local governments was extended to over 40 countries, strengthening urban data systems, including through the integration of census, administrative, geospatial and community-generated data. Furthermore, UN-Habitat, along with the European Union, the World Bank, FAO and OECD, further advanced the implementation of degree of urbanization methodology, enabling the application of harmonized definitions of cities, towns and rural areas for improved global comparability.

50. The Global Urban Data Coalition, convened by UN-Habitat to enable cooperation for improved urban data, has also played a significant role in enhancing multi-stakeholder coordination and advancing harmonized, open and interoperable urban data systems through two dedicated workstreams on informal settlements and urban expansion monitoring. These workstreams have helped to strengthen the capacity of UN-Habitat to deliver data-driven monitoring and implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

51. With respect to digitalization, UN-Habitat, through the United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities, delivered digital innovation solutions that are aligned with the vision of the Global Digital Compact. This included artificial intelligence-assisted mapping of informal settlements across multiple regions; strengthening of digital transformation in urban governance in countries such as Brazil, Egypt, Kenya, Ukraine and the States members of the Central American Integration System, which includes Belize, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama; deployment of geospatial and participatory platforms in Africa, Europe, Asia and Latin America; and the engagement of approximately 5,000 city leaders and practitioners through training and technical support. The United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator also developed guidance on designing “smart city” strategies and the application of geospatial artificial intelligence and supported the preparation of a people-centred “smart city” strategy for Windhoek.

52. UN-Habitat, together with the Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies, also launched the global alliance of Mayors for Digital Cooperation to advance the Global Digital Compact. The alliance supports cities through a dedicated peer-

learning and exchange platform while strengthening shared advocacy on translating global digital principles into local-level action. It held its inaugural assembly at the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum, bringing together over 40 mayors and local leaders.

53. Importantly, UN-Habitat supported the midterm review of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Voluntary national reports submitted by Member States were a key basis, with a total of 40 submitted during the previous cycle (2018–2022) and 70 during the current cycle (2022–2026). UN-Habitat provided dedicated support to Member States with respect to reporting, including through updated technical resources, a learning series, the revamp of the Urban Agenda Platform and wide advocacy and outreach. The Programme organized 41 dedicated events focused on New Urban Agenda monitoring and reporting, reaching over 12,000 participants globally and engaging the United Nations system and global stakeholders

G. Capacity development

54. UN-Habitat continued to scale up its digital learning ecosystem through the UN-Habitat Learn platform, which makes practical urban knowledge more accessible to practitioners worldwide. The platform offers more than 56 self-paced online courses, translating UN-Habitat guidance into practical tools for implementation.

55. A New Urban Agenda-related e-learning course was developed and translated into Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Spanish. As at 18 June 2026, New Urban Agenda-related courses had recorded 11,186 enrolments on the UN-Habitat Learn platform. The New Urban Agenda capacity-building sessions and learning series also delivered 15 learning events in English and French, reaching 1,478 participants from more than 114 countries and promoting peer-learning and knowledge-exchange among urban practitioners. UN-Habitat also launched the publication *Agenda to Action: Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Nine Cities across the Globe*, showcasing implementation experiences to support the localization of the New Urban Agenda.

56. At the regional level, UN-Habitat continued to strengthen institutional and technical capacities. In Latin America and the Caribbean, it helped to advance adequate housing and inclusive, resilient and sustainable urbanization aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda in 16 countries – Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Peru – to benefit more than 50 cities and over 120 institutions and reinforce long-term institutional capacities for sustainable urban development.

57. The World Urban Forum Academy, held at the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum, created an integrated ecosystem linking research, education, digital innovation and urban practice and featured more than 40 partner-led training events. The Academy launched the Housing Primer, an innovative mobile-based micro-learning course jointly developed by UN-Habitat and the United Nations System Staff College. Across its broader learning portfolio, the UN-Habitat Learn platform continued to expand its global reach. During the reporting period, 4,021 learners enrolled in courses offered through the platform, including 1,846 women and 1,899 men, reflecting the Programme's commitment to inclusive and accessible capacity development.

H. Reflections for scaling future impact

58. Over the past two years, key insights from the implementation of the global mandate of UN-Habitat have illustrated that adequate housing serves as a foundational, cross-cutting driver of sustainable cities and the broader Sustainable Development Goals. They also show that achieving lasting impact requires moving beyond isolated interventions towards systemic change: a change that is deeply institutionalized within public policy, robust legislation and sustainable financing mechanisms. Furthermore, accelerating the New Urban Agenda depends heavily on strong multilevel governance, ensuring that national strategies align with local, on-the-ground execution to transform urban environments effectively.

59. To scale these impacts globally, operational approaches must shift towards a consolidated portfolio strategy that bridges diverse geographies and policy entry points, with strong linkages and feedback loops between normative and operational activities. This integrated programmatic approach relies entirely on cultivating and strengthening strategic partnerships, both within the United Nations system and across external sectors. Stronger results have been observed in cases where pooling collective expertise has been possible, as that fosters the deep, structural shifts necessary for achieving the vision of the New Urban Agenda.

I. United Nations system-wide coherence

60. UN-Habitat continued to position sustainable urbanization and adequate housing as a system-wide accelerator for the Sustainable Development Goals, drawing on the United Nations system-wide strategy on sustainable urban development. At the regional level, UN-Habitat aligned efforts with regional governmental, development and financing entities, specifically engaging all five regional commissions and the United Nations regional collaborative platforms and issue-based coalitions. Furthermore, UN-Habitat recently extended support to the African Union Commission in organizing the first and second Africa Urban Forums, the implementation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Sustainable Urbanization Strategy, the annual Forum of Ministers and High-level Authorities of Housing and Urban Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Arab Ministerial Forum for Housing and Urban Development. It also supported the Central American Social Integration Secretariat and the Caribbean Community.

61. At the country level, UN-Habitat closely collaborated with resident coordinators and United Nations country teams to embed urban and housing dimensions in United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and common country analyses. Operating both as a resident agency, where it maintains a country presence and programmes, and as a non-resident agency in countries where it has no physical office, UN-Habitat engaged as a country team member in 101 countries. This dual status enabled it to contribute its normative and technical expertise on sustainable urbanization to United Nations country-level planning and delivery across a broad range of national contexts.

62. The ongoing UN80 Initiative process provides an opportunity to further integrate urban expertise across the United Nations development system, strengthen joint delivery and ensure that urbanization is reflected in system-wide efforts to enhance effectiveness and impact. The Programme's strategic value-add is particularly evident in the reconfiguration of regional structures under work package 6 (regional reset), where it is important to ensure that the urban dimension of sustainable development is fully reflected in any structural realignment and that the Programme's normative and operational capacities are strengthened in service of

Member States. The Programme also brings relevant expertise to work package 8 (expertise on demand) and work package 27 (environment), particularly where these workstreams intersect with sustainable urbanization and the delivery of integrated support to Member States. In addition, UN-Habitat continued consolidating memorandums of understanding and partnership agreements with United Nations entities, including the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the United Nations Environment Programme.

V. Strengthening partnerships and inclusion for impact

A. Global advocacy and partnerships

63. UN-Habitat intensified its global advocacy and convening role to mobilize partners and stakeholders behind the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda. The World Urban Forum has been the principal platform for this engagement. Its twelfth session was convened in Cairo from 4 to 8 November 2024 under the theme “It all starts at home: local actions for sustainable cities and communities”. It brought together over 25,000 participants and led to the adoption of the Cairo Call to Action.

64. The thirteenth session was held in Baku from 17 to 22 May 2026 under the theme “Housing the world: safe and resilient cities and communities”. Convened at the midpoint of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the thirteenth session placed the global housing crisis at the centre of international urban policy dialogue and drew record participation, bringing together over 58,000 participants from 176 countries, including 11 Heads of State, 164 ministers and deputy ministers, and 130 mayors. It featured the first ministerial meeting on the New Urban Agenda, which highlighted housing as a driver of inclusion, economic development and climate resilience and resulted in the Chair’s summary. The Baku Call to Action, developed through an extensive and inclusive months-long global multi-stakeholder consultation process, advocates an assertive, concerted and urgent response to the global housing crises aimed at accelerating the implementation of the New Urban Agenda implementation through 2036.

65. At the regional and national levels, UN-Habitat also supported regional and national urban forums. Progress was further driven through the second Africa Urban Forum, held in 2026, which was focused on housing. UN-Habitat further mobilized awareness and partnerships through Urban October, the month-long campaign that opens with World Habitat Day on the first Monday of October (observed in Querétaro, Mexico in 2024 and Nairobi in 2025) and closes with World Cities Day on 31 October (observed in Alexandria, Egypt in 2024 and Bogotá in 2025). These observances engaged national and local governments, civil society, academia, the private sector, youth and the media around shared urban priorities and generated events in cities worldwide.

66. UN-Habitat strengthened collaboration with international financial institutions and development banks and promoted dialogue on housing, subnational finance and sustainable urban development, including through the International Financial Institutions Working Group on Sustainable Urbanization, co-convened with the World Bank. Operational partnerships were expanded with the World Bank, on urban recovery, resilience and spatial planning programmes; with the African Development Bank, on financed urban planning and infrastructure initiatives; and with the Islamic Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank, on housing, urban services and city-level investments. UN-Habitat also sought to inform the agenda of the Group of

20 through participation at Urban 20 processes on translating city-led initiatives into global action.

67. UN-Habitat has strengthened structured collaboration with the private sector, establishing a private sector consultative group to provide high-level strategic advice to the Executive Director. At a dedicated business and innovation hub at the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum, UN-Habitat expanded engagement with the private sector around scalable solutions for adequate housing and sustainable urbanization.

B. Human rights and social inclusion

68. Human rights and social inclusion remained a central priority for UN-Habitat. It directly supported local and national authorities in empowering women and girls in areas including housing, land rights, water, transport, public space and economic opportunities, assisted more than 25,000 households in Nepal in accessing their land rights and partnered with more than 500 local women in Guinea-Bissau for climate-responsive water management.

69. In line with the Declaration on Future Generations and the urgency of safeguarding the needs and interests of both present and future generations, UN-Habitat supported youth-led development across Bangladesh, Ghana and Kenya through flood resilience mapping and climate action, the establishment of an urban youth council, and plastic waste reduction activities, in partnership with the Mto Wangu Initiative, SERAC-Bangladesh, and the Center for Sustainable Transformation, as part of the Youth 2030 Cities programme, now active in more than 14 cities globally.

70. UN-Habitat strengthened access to inclusive financing through a new memorandum of understanding with the Global Disability Fund, in partnership with United Cities and Local Governments, the Global Disability Innovation Hub, Alwaleed Philanthropies and Accessibility Standards Canada. This collaboration unlocked over \$2.5 million to advance disability-inclusive urban development across the areas of housing, disaster risk reduction, and policy and governance in Canada, Ethiopia, Kenya and Tunisia.

71. These programmatic efforts were reinforced by normative work driven by inclusive and accessible multi-stakeholder processes for the New Urban Agenda midterm review, the global review of Sustainable Development Goals 11 in the run-up to the 2026 high-level political forum and preparations for and outcomes of the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum.

VI. Recommendations

72. **Through its normative leadership, operational support and system-wide partnership, UN-Habitat will continue to support Member States in translating global commitments under the New Urban Agenda into local action. To accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and strengthen UN-Habitat), it is recommended that Member States:**

(a) **Lend their full support to the effective implementation of the Programme's strategic plan for the period 2026–2029, recognizing it as a critical instrument for advancing the Programme's mandate, and remain actively engaged in the review of its progress to ensure continued alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals and the evolving needs of Member States;**

(b) Ensure the adequate and predictable resourcing of UN-Habitat to enable the effective delivery of its normative and operational mandates to support implementation at scale;

(c) Recalling General Assembly resolution [73/239](#), request UN-Habitat, through its Executive Board, to conduct an open, inclusive and transparent review of the United Nations Habitat Assembly and its subsidiary bodies in order to improve their efficiency and effectiveness and to submit proposals for consideration by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its third session, to be held in June 2029, taking into account relevant review recommendations, including those contained in the Joint Inspection Unit report on the review of management and administration in UN-Habitat ([JIU/REP/2022/1](#));

(d) Strengthen implementation of the New Urban Agenda in its next decade, with a focus on closing the adequate housing gap and transforming informal settlements and slums while shifting from isolated interventions towards systemic change that is institutionalized through improved urban policy, planning and finance, multilevel governance and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, including through consideration of relevant recommendations emerging from the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All;

(e) Further consider options presented in the report of the Secretary-General ([A/79/968](#)), which include strengthening existing institutional mechanisms for engagement, revitalizing consultative arrangements within the United Nations system and with local and regional authorities, and enhancing structured engagement through United Nations country teams and reporting processes;

(f) Strengthen urban data, digitalization and geospatial systems and capacities to deliver inclusive, sustainable and resilient urban development, while also leveraging partnerships to accelerate progress, including through the Global Urban Data Coalition;

(g) Support efforts to strengthen United Nations system-wide effectiveness and coherence on sustainable urbanization, including through strengthened coordination in support of the New Urban Agenda, acceleration of efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 11 and local action across all Goals;

(h) Prioritize multi-stakeholder initiatives and partnerships to advance the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda, drawing on the midterm review of the New Urban Agenda and the review of Sustainable Development Goal 11 on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;

(i) Secure adequate investment to drive concrete action towards closing the urban finance gap – particularly in housing, infrastructure and basic services for social inclusion, ending poverty, and environmental sustainability and disaster risk reduction – in line with the New Urban Agenda and while safeguarding the needs and interests of both present and future generations.