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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

PRESS RELEASE

UN-Habitat announces 2026 Scroll of Honour Award winners

Nairobi, 2 October 2026 — UN-Habitat today announced the five winners of the 2026 UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award, with the awardees hailing from Brazil, Myanmar, Pakistan, Tunisia and the United Kingdom.

“This year’s winners prove that the global housing crisis is not beyond our reach – whether they are expanding affordable homes in major cities, turning waste into building materials or giving displaced and Indigenous communities a secure place to live, each of them puts people and their right to a home at the centre of urban development,” said the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Anacláudia Rossbach.

Launched in 1989, the award recognizes individuals and institutions whose work contributes to improving adequate housing, sustainable urbanization and urban life, and to advancing the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This year, UN-Habitat received 101 nominations from across Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas.

The five winners reflect the range of approaches needed to advance adequate housing and sustainable urban development – from innovative building materials and affordable housing to housing solutions for communities affected by displacement and conflict, and culturally appropriate housing for Indigenous communities.

The awards will be presented on 5 October 2026 at the Global Observance of World Habitat Day, hosted by the Sultanate of Oman at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre in Muscat.

This year’s observance is held under the theme ‘Adequate Housing for All,’ highlighting the importance of adequate housing as a foundation for inclusive, sustainable and resilient cities.

The efforts of this year’s winners come at a time when the need for action on housing remains acute. In its *World Cities Report 2026*, UN-Habitat estimates that up to 3.4 billion people lack adequate housing. At the same time, the *SDG 11 Global Report 2026*, published by UN-Habitat with partners from across the United Nations system, indicates that the world remains far off track to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11,

with the number of people living in informal settlements and slums having grown by more than 130 million since 2015, to over 1.1 billion.

“Housing underpins progress across the Sustainable Development Goals, yet billions of people are still lacking a safe and affordable home,” Ms. Rossbach said. “With only four years left until 2030, we must act and scale up solutions like these. I congratulate this year’s winners and thank all those who took the time to submit nominations.”

The 2026 UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award winners are:

- **Housing NOW (Bago, Myanmar)**, for its pioneering contribution to advancing adequate, affordable and resilient housing for communities affected by conflict, displacement, poverty and disasters in Myanmar.
- **Abdelmalek Ghannem (Bizerte, Tunisia)**, for his pioneering construction solutions that transform local and mining residues into innovative, affordable and climate-resilient building materials.
- **Aldeia do Espirado – Tekoa Ara Hovy (Maricá, Brazil)**, for establishing Brazil’s first municipal Indigenous village and providing secure, culturally appropriate housing, essential services and legal land tenure.
- **Punjab Housing and Town Planning Agency (Lahore, Pakistan)**, for its significant contribution to expanding access to adequate, safe and affordable housing for low-income households.
- **Mayor Sadiq Khan (London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)**, for his leadership in advancing affordable and sustainable housing as well as inclusive and climate-resilient urban development in London.

The New Urban Agenda is a global action-oriented framework adopted by world leaders at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Quito, Ecuador, and endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 2016. It sets global standards and provides a shared vision for sustainable, inclusive, safe, and resilient urban development.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a universal action plan adopted by all UN Member States in 2015 to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity for all people. At its heart are 17 SDGs, of which SDG 11 focuses specifically on the future of urban areas, where more than half of the world’s population currently resides.

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

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