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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

PRESS RELEASE

UN-Habitat launches Spanish edition of World Cities Report

Mexico City, 27 October 2026 – The United Nations’ flagship publication on housing – the [World Cities Report 2026: Global Housing Crisis: Pathways to Action](#) – was today launched in Spanish.

“The publication of the Spanish-language edition of the World Cities Report comes at an important moment – we want to bring knowledge closer to decision-makers and work with them to turn recommendations into practical solutions,” the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Anacláudia Rossbach, said at the launch in the Mexican capital.

Produced by UN-Habitat, the *World Cities Report* is a biennial publication that analyses global urban development patterns, challenges, and policy solutions.

Originally presented at the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF13) in Baku, Azerbaijan, in May 2026, the *World Cities Report 2026* gives a comprehensive assessment of the global housing crisis and offers policy recommendations to improve housing affordability, expand access to adequate housing and transform informal settlements and slums.

“Following the midterm review of the New Urban Agenda by the UN General Assembly and WUF13 in Baku, we have a unique opportunity to build on the growing political support to advance adequate housing and to transform informal settlements and slums,” Ms. Rossbach said. “Having a Spanish edition will help make the report’s recommendations more accessible to policymakers, housing practitioners, researchers and communities across Latin America and other Spanish-speaking regions.”

Ms. Rossbach was in the Mexican capital as part of a visit to strengthen strategic alliances in the lead-up to the World Urban Forum and hold meetings with government representatives, youth, civil society and the academic community in Mexico, which will host the fourteenth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF14) in Mexico City in 2028.

WUF was established in 2001 by the United Nations to address one of the most pressing issues facing the world today: rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies, climate change and policies.

Billions affected

According to the *World Cities Report 2026*, up to 3.4 billion people worldwide experience some form of housing inadequacy, including unaffordable housing costs, housing shortages, poor quality accommodation and limited access to basic services such as

water and sanitation. More than 1.1 billion people still live in informal settlements and slums.

With cities expected to accommodate an additional 2 billion residents by 2050, pressure on housing systems is set to increase. Rapid urbanization, rising land values, growing inequalities, demographic changes and climate change are further deepening the crisis, particularly for low-income and vulnerable communities.

“A new social contract for adequate and affordable housing is required – one based on shared responsibility among governments, the private sector and communities to mobilize investment and align the social and economic functions of housing,” said Ms. Rossbach.

The *World Cities Report 2026* emphasizes that the global housing crisis can be addressed through sustained political commitment, effective housing policies, coordinated governance, increased investment and meaningful community participation.

It calls for a fundamental shift in approaches to informal settlements and slums, moving away from eradication and exclusion towards inclusive policies that recognize the contributions of residents, improve living conditions and livelihoods, and support the transformation of informal settlements and slums.

The report also advocates for housing to be placed at the centre of national and local development policies, recognizing that access to adequate housing is essential to reducing poverty and inequality, strengthening climate resilience and advancing sustainable development, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda.

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.

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