



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

**OPENING STATEMENT BY AMB. NAKHUMICHA WAFULA, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO UN-HABITAT, DURING THE SECOND SESSION OF THE OPEN-ENDED INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPERT WORKING GROUP ON ADEQUATE HOUSING FOR ALL (OEWG-H2), HELD FROM 22-23 OCTOBER 2025, AT UNON HQ, NAIROBI.**

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**Honourable Co-Chair,**

**Honourable Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat,**

**Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,**

**Technical Experts, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

- 1.** I take this opportunity, on behalf of the people and the government of the Republic of Kenya, to extend a very warm welcome to all of you. Your presence here today is not merely an attendance; it is a powerful demonstration of our collective and unwavering resolve to confront one of the most pressing global challenges of our time: the progressive realization of adequate housing for all.
- 2.** Allow me to acknowledge our steadfast partner in this crucial endeavor, the Government of France, and my fellow Co-Chair. Our shared chairmanship over this Working Group, an intergovernmental partnership anchored by two nations deeply committed to sustainable urbanization, is a testament to the renewed multilateralism required to tackle complex global issues.
- 3.** I also wish to express my deepest gratitude to the Executive Director and the entire UN-Habitat Secretariat for their tireless efforts in providing the necessary technical and logistical support to the Working Group.



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## **Distinguished Delegates,**

4. This Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group (OEWG-H) was established by the UN-Habitat Assembly through Resolution 2/7 in 2023. This resolution recognized the critical need for a coherent global strategy.
5. Globally, UN-Habitat estimates that between 1.6 billion and 3 billion people currently lack adequate housing. This crisis directly undermines the core promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, specifically SDG Target 11.1.
6. Equally, our mandate here, culminating in recommendations to the UN-Habitat Assembly at its third session in 2029, is about human dignity and the fundamental right to an adequate standard of living. This Group is tasked with compiling best practices, mapping support, and proposing a new, robust framework for measurement.

## **Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates**

7. This Second Session of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All is a critical juncture, marking the culmination of the initial roadmap set out under our joint French-Kenyan chairmanship. Since the first session in December 2024, our experts have achieved significant momentum across four priority thematic areas:
  - i. **Definitions:** Experts have proposed broader, more inclusive international definitions for adequate housing (integrating Sustainability), informal settlements, and homelessness.
  - ii. **Integrated Policies:** We have examined best practices in Social Housing, diverse forms of Tenure Security, and strategies for the upgrading of Informal Settlements, focusing on solutions that ensure affordability and prevent displacement.
  - iii. **Monitoring and Data:** Substantial progress has been made on the proposed Global Housing Monitoring Framework, which will necessitate the collection of highly disaggregated data to track progress on adequate housing.



iv. **Financing:** Draft recommendations focus on how to increase access to financing resources, covering the crucial roles of International Development Banks, private-public partnerships, climate financing, and innovative community investment mechanisms.

**8.** These consolidated recommendations represent the collective wisdom and initial blueprints for the global guidelines we aim to deliver to the Assembly.

**Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,**

**9.** As the host country and a current Co-Chair, Kenya remains steadfast in its support for the UN-Habitat mandate. Domestically, the realization of adequate housing is a non-negotiable pillar of our national development agenda. We are implementing policies to deliver safe, sustainable, and affordable housing to improve livelihoods and spur economic growth, transforming our cities into true centers of opportunity.

**10.** Distinguished Delegates, the task immediately before us during this session is pivotal. We need to:

- Endorse the consolidated recommendations drafted by the intersessional working groups.
- Develop and adopt a roadmap for 2026 and subsequent years.
- Nominate the new Co-Chairs for the next phase

**11.** Let the spirit of collaboration that has defined the French-Kenyan Chairmanship guide our discussions. Let us be guided by the principles of equity, sustainability, and human dignity. The recommendations emerging from this process will inform the implementation of the Pact for the Future and help shape the post-2030 agenda.

**12.** Finally, Kenya stands ready to continue supporting and working with all partners to build a better urban future for all. I urge your positive and active engagement to ensure this session is both successful and impactful.

**ASANTENI SANA.**