



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

OPENING STATEMENT BY HON. ALICE WAHOME, EGH, CABINET
SECRETARY FOR LANDS, PUBLIC WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT DURING THE THIRD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF
UN-HABITAT ON 25TH NOVEMBER 2025, NAIROBI, KENYA

Chairperson of the Executive Board, H.E. Mr. Sebastian Groth, Madam Executive
Director, Ms. Anacláudia Rossbach,
Distinguished Members of the Executive Board, Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government and the People of the Republic of Kenya, I extend a warm welcome to all distinguished delegates and participants to Nairobi — the headquarters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the United Nations Office in Nairobi. It is a great honour for Kenya to host the Third Session of the Executive Board at this important juncture in our collective pursuit of sustainable urbanization and adequate housing for all.

This session's agenda reflects the breadth and depth of UN-Habitat's critical mandate — from the consideration of the 2024 annual report on the implementation of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan for the period 2020–2025; to receiving an update on the structure and division of responsibilities for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the period 2026–2029; considering the proposed draft monitoring framework for the Strategic Plan 2026–2029;

and reviewing the draft work programme and budget for 2026, among other agenda items. These deliberations come at a pivotal time as Member States strive to accelerate progress on the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Kenya commends the Executive Director, Ms. Anacláudia Rossbach, for her leadership in advancing UN-Habitat's reform agenda, promoting transparency, accountability and results-based management, and ensuring that the Organization remains responsive to the priorities of Member States. We also commend the Secretariat for its continued dedication to delivering technical support and normative guidance that inform evidence-based policymaking around the world.

Distinguished Delegates,

Allow me to take this opportunity to recall Kenya's recent engagement in the global dialogue on housing. Together with France, Kenya had the honour of serving as Co-Chair of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All, established under Resolution 2/7 of the UN-Habitat Assembly. That joint co-chairmanship formally concluded on 23rd October 2025, following the successful completion of the Group's second session here in Nairobi. We believe that the process led to increased knowledge and participation among Member States on issues of adequate housing. In addition, we take pride in the progress achieved under that partnership, which culminated in the preparation of draft recommendations on social housing, informal settlements, tenure security, and housing finance. The Working Group is expected to continue its work through 2028

to finalize recommendations for the 2029 Habitat Assembly. Kenya remains committed to supporting the continuation of this important work under the next phase of leadership.

Excellencies,

Kenya is implementing several programmes to advance the human right to adequate housing, which is guaranteed by the country's Constitution. The primary initiatives are the Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) and the Kenya Slum Upgrading Programme (KENSUP), which focus on providing accessible, safe, and dignified housing and improving living conditions for low-income populations. The National Government, with support from the World Bank, has also been providing assistance for the development of urban areas, cities, municipalities, and informal settlements through the Kenya Urban Support Programme (KUSP), the Kenya Informal Settlements

Improvement Programme (KISIP) and the Kenya Informal Settlement Redevelopment Project (KISRP).

Other related initiatives include the formulation and implementation of the National Housing Policy (Sessional Paper No. 3 of 2016), which provides a framework to enable low-income households to access housing and basic services. The Government also encourages private sector investment in affordable housing through various incentives intended to increase overall housing supply.

These programmes and initiatives collectively aim to ensure that the constitutional right of every Kenyan to accessible and adequate housing is realized, with particular focus on vulnerable and low-income populations.

Distinguished Delegates,

As the Executive Board begins its deliberations, Kenya reaffirms its unwavering support for UN-Habitat and its mission. We encourage Member States to continue strengthening the Organization's financial sustainability, deepening partnerships with local and regional actors, and ensuring that its normative outputs are effectively translated into concrete action at the local level.

As Host Country, Kenya remains a steadfast and reliable partner, committed to providing a conducive environment for UN-Habitat's operations and for the constructive engagement of all delegations.

Let us approach this session with renewed commitment and a shared vision of inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements for all.

Thank you.