



UN-HABITAT

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

President: Miranda Gutiérrez Guzmán

Moderator: Emiliano Gutiérrez Hernández

Conference Officer: Emiliano Nava Arango



WELCOME LETTER TO DELEGATES

Dear delegates, it is a true pleasure for us to participate with you in the 2025 MUNMX. We are thrilled to share this experience filled with learning, collaboration, and meaningful exchange.

The main reasons these models are carried out are to foster diplomatic skills through debate, build confidence, and make connections with others. They promote tolerance, empathy, and respect for different ways of thinking. We are confident that you will make the most of this opportunity and discover things that can be useful in the future. Use your talents and your skills, share your ideas with others, and acquire useful abilities along the way. Know that every member of this event is committed to making your experience enjoyable.

As president of this committee, I invite you to make this a memorable experience; furthermore, I am honored to accompany you throughout this journey and witness your growth until the end of this United Nations model.

This model offers great opportunities to explore new cultures, meet inspiring individuals, solve complex challenges, and strengthen your critical thinking, decision-making skills, and ability to understand situations experienced globally. Other than understanding, it allows us to work together to find solutions to the global issues we face nowadays. We are here to support you every step of the way, so that your role as delegates reaches its full potential.

We believe that young minds like yours belong in these spaces. Together, we will seek solutions, analyze problems with care, and aim to create a positive impact, always guided by ethics and human dignity.

Thank you for your initiative, your commitment, and for choosing this committee. As mentioned before, we will do our best to ensure you feel welcomed, supported, and inspired throughout the event.

Warm regards,

President: Miranda Gutiérrez Guzmán

Moderator: Emiliano Gutiérrez Hernández

Conference Officer: Emiliano Nava Arango

ABOUT THIS COMMITTEE

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme is an organization dedicated to promoting sustainable towns and cities by advocating for adequate housing for all and developing comprehensive approaches to urbanization. The UN General Assembly mandates this organization, as well as being the focal point for all urbanization and human settlement matters within the UN system, working with partners to build inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities and communities.

UN-HABITAT, previously established as the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (UNHHSF), was founded on January 1st, 1975, by the UN General Assembly as the first official UN body dedicated to urbanization. Its task was to assist national programmes relating to human settlements through the provision of capital and technical assistance, particularly in developing countries. On January 1st, 2002, Habitat's mandate was strengthened and obtained an elevated status to a fully fledged programme in the UN system, giving birth to UN-HABITAT(United Nations Human Settlements Programme).

The main goal of UN-HABITAT is to promote transformative change in cities and human settlements through knowledge, policy advice, collaborative actions, and technical assistance by working with over 90 countries. UN-HABITAT is working with a strategic plan (2020-2023) that has a more strategic and integral approach to solve issues that 21st-century cities and other human settlements face nowadays.

One Key initiative the organization is carrying out consists of Members of the alliance signing up to the Urban Crises Charter, which sets out guiding principles for operating in urban areas. Their work together ought to cause a fundamental shift in the way that international and local actors interact with one another when faced with urban humanitarian crises.

The Work of UN-Habitat is governed by three main bodies: the UN General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and the Committee of Permanent Representatives, these last meeting various times a year to monitor the organization's work. The current Executive Director of the organization is Anacláudia Rossbach, who actively contributes to global urban policy discussions.

The organization's Headquarters are located in Nairobi, Kenya. This is the central location for operations management and global efforts coordination in order to promote sustainable towns and cities. UN-Habitat plays a key role in ensuring a better quality of life for everybody in an all-urbanizing world.

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Topic A: Protocols to guarantee the right to housing after natural disasters

Natural disasters create great disruption to housing and livelihoods, imposing challenges to secure the right to adequate housing. According to Charles W. Gould, “Victims of natural disasters encounter a host of human rights violations, including 'unequal access to assistance; discrimination in aid provision; enforced relocation; sexual and gender-based violence’”(Gould C. 2009, p.1). The OHCHR emphasizes that “The right to adequate housing is more than having a roof over one’s head, it is the right to live in safety and dignity in a decent home.”(OHCHR, 2025).

To exemplify the scale of this problem we can mention Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Research done by Harvard states the hurricane caused about “1800 deaths and property loss estimated at \$75 billion.”(Gould C. 2009, p.19) after the hurricane, thousands of low-income families were displaced from their homes and faced a long delay in housing recovery due to systemic inequality, and lack of legal documentation. Cases like this exemplify how disasters often reveal pre-existing systemic weaknesses and failures in guaranteeing adequate housing.

Other than discomfort among those affected, the consequences of inadequate housing are far greater. Research by the Brookings Institution states that after natural disasters, individuals often “lose family members, endure family separation, lose their possessions, and experience trauma and depression” (Ferris E., 2008). This happens especially in marginalized and vulnerable groups, which include: low-income families, indigenous populations, individuals with disabilities, etc. Not only this, but these groups also face additional challenges, such as inaccessibility to aid, legal protection, and systemic inequalities regarding land ownership. If inadequate measures to guarantee housing after a disaster continue, people struggle to rebuild their lives and secure a job, further causing the poverty cycle to enlarge.

The urgency to attend to this matter is growing “as a result of climate change, rapid urbanization and population growth” (United Nations General Assembly, 2011). These factors cause the housing crisis to increase exponentially. Delegates must recognize the proportion of this issue and the risks implied by insufficient protocols. If left unaddressed, the failure to guarantee housing rights after disasters could erode public trust, deepen inequality, and hinder recovery for generations.

Key Questions:

1. How can international frameworks ensure that post-disaster housing responses uphold human rights rather than temporary relief?
2. What role should governments play in preventing long-term displacement and ensuring equitable access to permanent housing?

3. How can vulnerable populations—such as Indigenous communities, migrants, and low-income families—be protected from housing discrimination during recovery efforts?
4. To what extent should housing reconstruction be integrated into climate adaptation and urban resilience strategies?

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Topic B: Challenges and solutions for accelerated urban growth and overpopulation in cities

With urban settlements emerging globally, cities face great challenges to adapt to the rapid development and urban growth while still maintaining the quality of life for citizens. UN DESA (2023, as cited in SDG Review, 2025) “By 2050, the United Nations predicts that cities worldwide will hold 70% of humanity, while the urban population will increase by 2.5 billion people.” With a rapid increase mainly in developing countries, in the same report, it is stated that “Africa and Asia— both still less urbanized than other regions— will have the fastest urban growth rates.”(UNDP, 2017) This rapid urbanisation poses many opportunities; however, it also creates many challenges.

Sustainable urban development faces many challenges, some of which include: Climate change and resource consumption. Cities represent more than 80 percent of the world’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP); however, they also produce 70% of carbon emissions globally. These two factors raise concern over economic instability, infrastructure, and the need for more sustainable cities.

Overpopulation in urban areas enlarges these challenges. According to a Human Development Report, there is an estimate that nearly 40 percent of the population living in urban settlements may be in slums, exacerbating unsanitary conditions and economic disparities. This number is expected to increase significantly if current tendencies continue. Less-developed urban settlements are often vulnerable to flooding due to infrastructure impediments; not only this, but these settlements also have a poor urban infrastructure, further worsening poverty conditions. Big cities like Mumbai are a great example of overpopulation without the proper infrastructure to sustain the population, and threatening the environment.

According to a Human Development Report, “Intergovernmental relationships are also key to successful urbanisation. National, regional and city governments need to be connected and share a similar vision.” (UNDP, 2017). Without collaborative planning and coordinated policy frameworks, a growing risk of deepening inequality and losing their capacity to face future challenges, cities face a great risk. “The world needs inclusive and sustainable urbanisation as a milestone in the path towards socio-economic development”(UNDP, 2017). Delegates must recognize that unregulated urban growth is not just a logistical problem; it is a challenge that affects health, climate, and human rights across generations.

Key Questions:

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3. How can vulnerable populations—such as Indigenous communities, migrants, and low-income families—be protected from housing discrimination during recovery efforts?
4. To what extent should housing reconstruction be integrated into climate adaptation and urban resilience strategies?

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Upload your position paper via the following link. Deadline: October 8th.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/132OHi11B9HAcVXmReO3XLSYZMv655V-g?usp=drive_link

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