



**OPENING STATEMENT BY HON. ALICE WAHOME, EGH; THE  
CABINET SECRETARY FOR LANDS, PUBLIC WORKS, HOUSING  
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT DURING THE GLOBAL  
OBSERVANCE OF WORLD HABITAT DAY ON MONDAY, 6  
OCTOBER 2025, AT THE UN-HABITAT HEADQUARTERS IN  
NAIROBI KENYA.**

**Director General of the United Nations Offices in Nairobi, Ms.  
Zainab Hawa Bangura;**

**The Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Anacláudia Rossbach;**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a profound honour for me, on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Kenya, to welcome you all to the Global Observance of World Habitat Day 2025. It is a source of immense pride that we host this crucial event here at the UN–Habitat Headquarters in Nairobi, our capital city. Your presence is a powerful testament to our shared resolve to confront the challenges of urbanization and to kick off Urban October, a month dedicated to advocacy and action for sustainable urbanization.

Allow me to express my gratitude to the Executive Director, the Secretariat, and all the teams for their tireless efforts in preparing for this important

observance. I also wish to acknowledge the dedication of all Member States, partners, and stakeholders who have travelled from near and far to participate in this observance.

### **Distinguished Delegates,**

Kenya remains steadfast in its support for the UN-Habitat's mandate and vision, as the proud host of this vital agency. Our government has taken bold steps to align national policies with the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. We have prioritized affordable housing, improved urban infrastructure, and the empowerment of communities as key pillars of our national development agenda.

Our vision is to transform our cities into true epicenters of creativity and opportunity for every Kenyan. We are committed to fostering partnerships that ensure residents are not only recipients of services but co-creators of their urban spaces. We are focused on implementing sustainable, transformative solutions that deliver tangible benefits to millions of urban residents.

### **Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates**

This year's theme, ***Urban Crisis Response***, with its specific focus on urban displacement, is incredibly timely. As a nation that has long demonstrated leadership and compassion in dealing with displacement, we are acutely aware of the complex challenges this crisis presents. This theme calls on us to highlight sustainable, scalable, and transformative solutions to urban displacement. Our goal must be to stabilize populations while simultaneously promoting prosperity for all and fostering social cohesion.

This is the very essence of Kenya's experience in championing sustainable urbanization in the region and globally.

Today, we will also celebrate the presentation of the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour to winners who have led in providing solutions to urban crises. Their work will further inspire our collective efforts.

**Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,**

The challenges before us demand renewed multilateralism, robust partnerships, and the active engagement of all stakeholders. As we begin this important observance, let us be guided by a spirit of cooperation and shared purpose. Let us be bold in our vision and unwavering in our commitment to the principles of equity, sustainability, and human dignity. Kenya stands ready to support and to work with all partners in building a better urban future for all. I look forward to your positive engagement in this important observance and wish you all a successful and impactful World Habitat Day 2025.

**I thank you for your kind attention**