



## UN-Habitat Assembly

India is elected to the Executive Board of the first **UN-Habitat Assembly** at the Plenary Session of the Assembly being held in **Nairobi**.

- **The theme:** for the UN-Habitat Assembly is "**Innovation for Better Quality of Life in Cities and Communities**".
- **UN-Habitat:** is the United Nations programme working towards a better urban future. Its mission is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.
  - **Mandated** by the **UN General Assembly in 1978** to address the issues of urban growth, it is a knowledgeable institution on urban development processes and understands the aspirations of cities and their residents.

### The outcome of the UN-Habitat Assembly

- **Contributions:** of more than \$152 million towards making cities more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, by the member countries.
- Communities, cities or towns that improve their solid waste management and reduce their waste management expenditure will be publicly recognised as '**Waste-Wise Cities**'.
  - The initiative asks communities, cities and towns around the world to "**rethink, reduce, recycle, refuse and reuse waste**".
- The **strategic plan** of the UN human settlements programme for the period 2020–2025 is presented. The plan aims to advance sustainable urbanisation as a driver of development and peace, to improve living conditions for all.
- Participating nations also presented their statements on efforts to promote the **New Urban Agenda (NUA)** and sustainable urban development.
  - Asian and African countries like India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Rwanda and Uruguay presented an overview of the national policies and practices.
  - Venezuela suggested considering **social housing** as an important **public good**.
  - Korea stressed the potential of **artificial intelligence** and **virtual reality** technology to address urban problems.

### UN-Habitat

- The United Nations Human Settlements Programme is the United Nations programme for human settlements and sustainable urban development.
- It was established in 1978 as an outcome of the **First UN Conference on Human Settlements and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat I)** held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976.
- UN-Habitat maintains its **headquarters** at the United Nations Office at **Nairobi, Kenya**.
- It is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.
- It is a member of the **United Nations Development Group**. The mandate of UN-Habitat derives from the **Habitat Agenda**, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996.

▪ The **twin goals** of the Habitat Agenda are:

- Adequate shelter for all.
- The development of sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world.

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