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MALAYSIA CALLS FOR URGENT GLOBAL ACTION TO ACCELERATE THE NEW URBAN AGENDA AHEAD OF 2030

Malaysia has called on the international community to **accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA)** and transform global commitments into tangible actions to build more inclusive, resilient and sustainable cities ahead of the 2030 deadline.

Minister of Housing and Local Government of Malaysia and President of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, H.E. Mr. Nga Kor Ming, said the Midterm Review of the NUA this year represents a critical opportunity for Member States to move beyond assessing progress and focus on delivering meaningful outcomes for billions of people living in urban areas.

"A midterm review is meaningless if it merely documents our shortfalls. It must be an inflection point. We have only four years left until 2030," he said.

He called on all member states to **translate political commitments** into concrete action by **addressing the global housing crisis, bridging the urban digital divide, strengthening climate resilience** and ensuring that no community is left behind in the urban development agenda.

"Let the remainder of this decade be defined not by what we planned, but by what we fully implemented," he said during his opening address at the High-Level Meeting on the Midterm Review of the New Urban Agenda at the United Nations Headquarters, here, today.

As President of the UN-Habitat Assembly, Nga reaffirmed Malaysia's commitment to providing practical, inclusive and scalable leadership in advancing sustainable urbanisation globally under the Madani Economy framework.

He highlighted Malaysia's leadership in championing the **Asia-Pacific Urban Action Platform(AP-UAP)** together with regional partners, describing it as a key mechanism to localise the Sustainable Development Goals, facilitate cross-border knowledge sharing and strengthen green infrastructure financing throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

"Member states must resolve to invest more climate resilient infrastructure, for instance, Malaysia has achieved more than 500 millions sq ft of green index buildings and more will be built before 2030." Nga said.

According to him, the region's experience demonstrates that meaningful urban transformation can be achieved through strong political commitment, locally driven solutions and close collaboration among governments, development partners and local stakeholders.

Nga also expressed his appreciation to the President of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Annalena Baerbock, United Nations Secretary-General H.E. António Guterres, Executive Director of UN-Habitat H.E. Anacláudia Rossbach, the UN-Habitat Secretariat, co-facilitators, as well as local and regional governments, civil society organisations and grassroots communities for their contributions in advancing the NUA. He concluded by urging member states to leave the High-Level Meeting with renewed determination to build cities that are inclusive, equitable and sustainable for present and future generations.

"Let us leave this high-level meeting with more than just a renewed declaration, to build cities that leave no one, and no place, behind," he emphasised.

The High-Level Meeting on the Midterm Review of the New Urban Agenda, themed "Delivering Sustainable Urbanization for All: Accelerating and Scaling Implementation of the New Urban Agenda to 2036 Together," is being held from 16 to 17 July 2026 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The meeting brings together UN Member States, senior UN officials, local and regional government leaders, and civil society representatives to review global progress in implementing the NUA and chart the way forward towards sustainable urban development.

Thank you

YB NGA KOR MING
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NEW YORK, 17 JULY 2026

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