



UN-HABITAT

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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

## PRESS RELEASE

# UN-Habitat aims to drive urban recovery efforts in Ukraine

**Kyiv, 17 May 2024** — UN-Habitat has officially announced its presence in Ukraine, signifying the Organization's continued commitment to supporting urban recovery in conflict-affected regions. This announcement was made during a visit by Michal Mlynár, Acting Executive Director of UN-Habitat, marking the first-ever visit by a UN-Habitat Executive Director in the country.

The establishment of UN-Habitat's presence in Kyiv is a collaborative effort with the Ministry for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development of Ukraine and signals a strategic partnership aimed at addressing urban recovery challenges in Ukraine, particularly in areas affected by conflict.

"The establishment of the UN-Habitat office in Kyiv reflects our unwavering commitment to assisting Ukraine in its urban recovery journey," stated Michal Mlynár during the official ceremony.

"We are delighted that UN-Habitat is now joining and will support the ongoing recovery efforts in Ukraine," remarked Deputy Minister Nataliia Koslovska from the Ministry for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development.

The visit by the UN-Habitat Executive Director also signifies the official launch of collaboration between UN-Habitat and two local governments in the Kyivska region (Makariv and Borodianka). This collaboration aims to facilitate sustainable urban recovery initiatives, supported by the United Nations Country Team and other key stakeholders.

"Through the collaboration with UN-Habitat, we are hopeful that we will be able to engage in a more effective recovery for both communities and regions, by enhancing the collaboration with the neighbouring municipalities," commented Anatolii Karbovsky, Deputy Mayor of Makariv.

Since initiating work in Ukraine in December 2023, UN-Habitat has been actively engaged in supporting the government's efforts towards the recovery of affected cities and towns. Key focus areas include the housing sector reform and the revision of Ukraine's urban planning code. UN-Habitat will also be developing an urban recovery framework for Ukraine, providing essential guidance for sustainable recovery at the local level.

"The urban recovery framework will serve as a roadmap for building back better, ensuring that Ukrainian cities are more resilient and inclusive," emphasized Mr. Mlynár.

“We are grateful for UN-Habitat’s support in our efforts to rebuild our city and provide essential services to our residents,” expressed Iryna Zakharova, Acting Mayor of Borodianka.

Discussions during the visit also focused on the integration of digital solutions to support urban recovery processes. The United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities (UNITAC), a partnership between UN-Habitat, the United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology, and HafenCity University Hamburg, is expected to play a crucial role in Ukraine’s digital transformation, enhancing data systems for improved land management, local statistics, and government communication.

The ongoing conflict in Ukraine has resulted in significant damage to infrastructure, including a 10 per cent reduction in housing stock and substantial losses in municipal services. UN-Habitat’s work in the country will contribute to enhance spatial planning at the local level and build capacity for a sustainable urban recovery.

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#### **About UN-Habitat**

UN-Habitat is the United Nations entity responsible for sustainable urbanization. It has programmes in over 90 countries supporting policymakers and communities to create socially and environmentally sustainable cities and towns. UN-Habitat promotes transformative change in cities through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance, and collaborative action. To know more, visit [unhabitat.org](https://unhabitat.org) or follow us on X @UNHABITAT.

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