



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME
P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi 00100, Kenya
unhabitat-info@un.org | www.unhabitat.org

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Executive Director of UN-Habitat, speech at the Cycling event in Nairobi

Date: 6 June 2023

H.E. Mama Rachel Ruto, First Lady of the Republic of Kenya,
Mr. Jean Todt, Secretary General's UN Special Envoy for Road Safety,
CS Ministry of Youth Affairs, Sports and the Arts, Mr. Ababu Namwamba,
Ambassador Sung-jun Yeo and Ambassador Kimani,
Distinguished government officials, dear excellencies, colleagues, and friends,

A very good morning to you all and a warm welcome.

I am so excited to be here today with you all. Being a cycling enthusiast, the event today is very special to me.

This week, during the United Nations Habitat Assembly, the highest global decision-making body on sustainable urbanization and human settlements is coming together under the theme of "Inclusive and effective multilateralism". Having Member States and all partners present this morning to celebrate cycling as a low-carbon and affordable mobility option, with a considerable potential to reduce inequalities in cities and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change, is a great achievement for us and adds very practical value to the deliberations of the Assembly.

I truly believe that there is a unique window of opportunity to make our transport systems more inclusive. Currently, cycling is gaining more and more importance as a simple solution to complex problems, including road fatalities, climate change, and social inequality. There is a new momentum for cycling in Africa involving many countries such as in Kenya, Botswana, and Ethiopia. Like in Kenya, the cycling movement is often spearheaded by female leaders from the government, civil society, or private sector. This is why I am very inspired by the event today.

I would like to take this opportunity to officially announce our new project titled the "Global Alliance of Cities for Road Safety", which is funded with kind support by the UN Road Safety Fund. We are collaborating in the project with our friends from UN Environment, and I would also like to acknowledge their presence and support in today's event. The aim of the project is to inspire and build the capacity of cities to improve road safety management. It will complement the national policy frameworks on road safety by promoting appropriate local solutions to road safety challenges while contributing to climate goals. I would like to call out to all decision-makers to join this initiative and learn from promising examples and proactive leadership across the continent.

To conclude, I want to thank all the cyclists for joining hands with us on this important agenda. Pamoja tutashinda – together, we will win!

Thank you!