

2022 Tenth Bureau Meeting of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat  
Hybrid format – Friday, 9 December 2022  
10:00 am to 12:00 East Africa Time (EAT)  
Statement by the Executive Director  
(Draft 8 December)

SLIDE 0: Title slide

Slide 1: Provisional Agenda

*Adoption of the Agenda led by the Chair*

1. Adoption of the provisional Agenda.
2. Review of the conduct of the just concluded second session of the Executive Board of 2022.
3. Provisional Agenda for the first session of the Executive Board of 2023.
4. Preparation by UN-Habitat of pre-session documents for the 2023 first session.
5. Dates for the second and third sessions of the Executive Board of 2023.
6. Any other matters.

**Slide 2 (Title slide): AGENDA ITEM 2 - Review of the conduct of the just concluded second session of the Executive Board of 2022.**

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,

Good morning, and welcome to this tenth meeting of the Bureau of the Executive Board for the year 2022, our final meeting for the year. I take this opportunity to thank you all very much for your valuable support and guidance throughout 2022.

With regard to the recently concluded session of the Executive Board, I wish to sincerely thank the Members of this Bureau for their guidance in the preparations for the session and for the stewardship of the session itself which led to a very successful outcome.

Mr. Chairman, we as a Secretariat are very grateful to you for the way you conducted the session and brought a very positive tone among Member States.

This Bureau gave us a very important opportunity to highlight the added value of UN-Habitat's work including those related to crises and to showcase our expertise in a manner that has not been done before in any of the Executive Board sessions. I think it was an excellent recommendation coming from Bureau that we include testimonies from our donors, implementing partners and the communities that support our initiatives. For UN-Habitat to meet its full potential, it is not just funds that we need but the active participation from the communities that we work with to scale up sustainable urban solutions. At the local level, this includes city managers, women leaders, youths, the private sector and professional groups.

I also believe this session saw a more active participation and dialogue from Member States during the session and also more flexibility in terms of planning for the sessions in 2023 as reflected in the outcomes, and of course we are grateful that our work programme and budget for the year 2023 was approved. We are already planning for 2023 with the recommended follow-up actions including an updated scalability model for funding up to USD 12 million and in preparing for the 2023 first session of the Executive Board as we will shortly discuss.

Thank you, Excellencies, and once again my sincere gratitude and congratulations on a very successful second session of the Executive Board in 2022.

Back to you Mr. Chairman.

**Slide 3: (Title slide): AGENDA ITEM 3 - Provisional Agenda for the first session of the Executive Board of 2023 to be held from 28 to 29 March 2023.**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

As noted by the Chair, we have shared with the Bureau the document which highlights the proposed provisional agenda for all the expected three sessions of the Executive Board in 2023, in line with Decision 2022/7 of the just concluded Executive Board session. That Decision also requires the Bureau to review the provisional agenda for the first session of 2023.

In this regard Excellencies, our proposal for the provisional agenda for the first session in 2023 is now on the screen and as follows;

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organizational matters:

- a. Adoption of the agenda and the workplan for the first session of 2023;
- b. Adoption of the report on the second session of 2022.
3. Reports of the ad hoc working groups established by the Executive Board.
4. Financial status of UN-Habitat including an updated model for the non-earmarked Foundation budget, subject to various funding levels up to \$ 12 million.
5. Findings of the analysis of the risk related to the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation and overview of earmarked private sector contribution agreements.
6. Working methods of the Executive Board, including a review of the results of the survey after the second session of 2022.
7. The implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, including reporting on the programmatic activities of UN-Habitat in 2022 and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities.
8. Annual report on action by UN-Habitat to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse and to prevent sexual harassment and other misconduct.
9. Consideration and adoption of the outcomes of the session including the provisional Agenda for the second session of 2023
10. Other matters.
11. Closure of the session.

The rationale we used to try and keep the provisional agenda as short as possible to fit within the two days of the meeting from 28 to 29 March 2023, was to try and balance the more substantive items with some administrative items while looking carefully at the requirements of the decisions of the Board.

For example, for item 4 on financial status of UN-Habitat, this is usually a regular item on the agenda of the Executive Board sessions but on this occasion, the number of subitems that usually accompany this particular item have been reduced considering the limited time we have during the first session. The agenda item has therefore been reformulated to enable us present and discuss our financial status with Member States and also include the updated model for the non-earmarked Foundation budget, subject to various funding levels up to \$ 12 million, as requested by the Executive Board in the recent session.

Similarly, a new item on “Findings of the analysis of the risk related to the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation and overview of earmarked private sector

contribution agreements” has been added in response to the request by the Executive Board as part of the outcomes of the recent session.

We have retained the agenda item on normative and operational activities which is also a regular item on the agenda for each session of the Executive Board with a view to continuing the already rich discussions we have been having with Member States. This item will focus on our work as related to crises and the SDGs cities with a particular emphasis on the proposed SDGs certification as an area of increased interest by Member States. This is also part of the outcomes of the just concluded session of the Board which requested me to report to the Executive Board on the need and the possible benefits of the development of the model of SDGs cities certification at the next session of the Executive Board.

Excellencies,

In the document we sent to you prior to this meeting we provided an explanation on each of these items and those that have been taken forward to the second and third sessions of the Executive Board in 2023.

We are ready to answer any questions you may have with regard to our proposals for the provisional agenda of the 2023 first session of the Executive Board.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Back to you.

**Slide 4: (Title slide): AGENDA ITEM 4. Preparation by UN-Habitat of pre-session documents for the 2023 first session.**

Thank you Chair.

Under this item we want to assure you that with a more flexible Provisional Agenda of the first session of the Executive Board in 2023, we will be able to meet the deadlines for preparation of all documents under each item.

However, we have one request that is specifically related to agenda item 5 of the proposed provisional agenda, that is “Findings of the analysis of the risk related to the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation and overview of earmarked private sector contribution agreements.”

Excellencies,

As you would recall the Executive Board noted the possibility of reputational risk resulting from investments by private sector entities, including the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation to the Organisation. Because of this the Board requested me to obtain an analysis of the reputational risk associated with potential investments of the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation and present a report to the Executive Board, detailing the findings of the analysis of the risk at its first session in 2023.

Mr. Chairman, because of the time needed to conduct such an analysis and prepare its report, we wish to request that the document under the related agenda item be availed to the Executive Board in English only. For it to be available in time for the Executive Board in all languages, the analysis and the report itself would have to be completed by 17 January 2023, which would not be practical in our view.

We therefore ask the Bureau to consider recommending that the report on the risk analysis be made available in English only as an information document for the first session of the Executive Board.

We further request that the report on the overview of earmarked private sector contribution agreements which is an additional document requested by the Executive Board for purposes of discussing the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation, be also availed in English only as an information document, being a secondary document under this item.

Excellencies, we remain open to the possibility that these two documents could be provided in the six UN official languages either to the UN-Habitat Assembly at its the second session in June 2023 or to the Executive Board at the third session in November 2023 for further discussion on this topic, should that be required.

Thank you and back to you Mr. Chairman.

**Slide 5: (TITLE SLIDE) AGENDA ITEM 5: Dates for the second and third sessions of the Executive Board of 2023.**

Mr. Chairman  
Excellencies

As you would recall the Executive Board at the last session decided that the second session of 2023 for the election of the Bureau will be held back-to-back to the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly in June 2023 and the third session will be held in November 2023, subject to review by the Bureau.

In this regard Mr. Chairman, having consulted with the UNON Division of Conference Services on this matter and also taking into account the UN global calendar, we wish to propose the following:

1. That the second session of the Executive Board in 2023 be held for half a day, on the margins of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly and in a manner that does not conflict with the plenary meetings of that session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. Excellencies, this is a practice we used at the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly in 2019 during which the Executive Board met for just about an hour to elect its Bureau and the business of the Assembly continued thereafter quite smoothly without any challenges. This approach may infact save costs related to servicing of the session.
2. On the dates of the third session of the Executive Board in 2023, we consulted with the Division of Conference Services and we have been given two options as the dates still available within the month of November 2023. These are 7 to 9 November 2023 and 27 to 29 November 2023. We however took note that the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 28) to the UNFCCC will convene from 30 November to 12 December 2023 and as such, in our view, we would like to recommend for the Bureau's consideration that the third session of the Executive Board should take place **from 7 to 9 November 2023** thereby avoiding any conflicts with the preparations and possible travel by Member States and the Secretariat for COP 28 which begins on 30 November.

Thank you Mr. Chairman  
Back to you.

**Slide 6: AGENDA ITEM 6- (TITLE SLIDE). Any other matters.**

*(To be led by the Chair).*

*ED may react as appropriate.*