

## **2024 second Bureau Meeting of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat**

Hybrid format – Friday, 15 March 2024

10:30-12:00 hrs. East Africa Time (EAT)

### **Statement by the Acting Executive Director**

*(Draft of 13 March 2024)*

#### **SLIDE 1: Title slide**

***(NOTE FOR Acting Executive Director: Dear AED, this agenda will just be projected )***

#### **Slide 2: Provisional Agenda**

*Adoption of the Agenda to be led by the Chair.*

1. Adoption of the provisional Agenda.
2. Status of preparations for the 2024 first session of the Executive Board including:
  - i. Update on the documentation for the session.
  - ii. Technical inputs into the proposed draft outcomes of the session.
  - iii. Confirmation of the dates for the 2024 second session of the Executive Board.
- Proposed, iv Date of the Briefing by the Acting Executive Director on Preparations for the session” ( COMMENT: to be added at the time of adoption of the agenda)**
3. Update on the impact of the United Nations liquidity crisis on the work of UN-Habitat.
4. Update on the joint meeting of the Bureaux of the UN-Habitat Governing Bodies in Mexico.
5. Any other matters
  - a. Proposed field visit to Mozambique.

**NOTE FOR AED.**

*Here under agenda item 1 on adoption of the Agenda, the Chair will give you the floor to propose the addition of subitem 2 (iv) on “Date of the Briefing by the Acting Executive Director on Preparations for the session”. Below is your proposed statement in this regard.*

Mr. Chairman

Excellencies

Good morning and a warm welcome to you all.

With regard to the provisional Agenda for this meeting, I wish to propose a fourth sub item under agenda item 2 which is on “**Date of the briefing by the Acting Executive Director on Preparations for the session**”, for your kind consideration.

I thank Mr. Chairman

Back to you.

**Slide 3: AGENDA ITEM 2 (Title Slide)- Status of preparations for the 2024 first session of the Executive Board including:**

- i. Update on the documentation for the session.**
- ii. Technical inputs into the proposed draft outcomes of the session.**
- iii. Confirmation of the dates for the 2024 second session of the Executive Board.**
- iv. Dates of the Briefing by the Acting Executive Director on Preparations for the session”**

**Slide 4: (i) Update on the documentation for the session.**

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide a quick update to the Bureau on our preparations towards the upcoming first session of the Executive Board for the year 2024.

I would like to report that our preparation are proceeding smoothly.

We are very grateful for the guidance you gave us during the Bureau meeting held on 2 February 2024 which enabled us to proceed accordingly.

Since then, we have sent out the Convocation note to Member States to ensure that delegations save the dates for the session and to take note of the agenda.

We have also prepared the formal Notification and Provisional Agenda for the session which are currently under translation and will be ready for transmission to all Member States in the six official UN languages by 25 March 2024, which will be at east 42 days prior to the session as required by the Rule 3 of the rules of procedure of the Executive Board.

We have also focused on preparing all the necessary pre-session documents following your guidance to keep these brief but without losing the substance required.

You would recall that I notified you of the potential impact of the regular budget deficit on the upcoming session, particularly in relation to the documentation for the session. I am please to report today that we have been in close contact with the Division of Conference Services and they are satisfied that the pre-session documents which have already been submitted and which are currently in editing and translation are reasonable and will be covered through the available regular budget resources.

As you will see in our Agenda for today, we will later during this meeting brief you on the impact of the Regular Budget on UN-Habitat.

To summarize on subitem 2(i), we have made very good progress in terms of documentation for the upcoming session and we are confident that the documents will be

availed to Member States in the six UN official languages four weeks prior to the session by 8 April 2024 as required by rule 6.8 of the rules of procedure.

**Slide 5: ii. Technical inputs into the proposed draft outcomes of the session.**

Coming to the second subitem on the technical inputs into the proposed draft outcomes of the session, I wish to inform the Bureau that we are currently putting together the technical inputs that will form the basis for informal consultation prior to the session in the month of April 2024.

As you can probably already tell from the provisional Agenda of the upcoming session of the Executive Board, this upcoming session will be more of updates to Member States on various items including the status of the draft work program and budget for 2025, the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, the preparation of the strategic plan 2026 to 2029, and WUF 12, among others. For these updates, the Executive Board may take note and make any recommendations accordingly.

There are, however, one or two matters on which we would require specific guidance in the form of concrete decisions from the Executive Board.

One is on the implementation of Resolution 2/7 of the UN-Habitat Assembly on “Adequate housing for all”. An update on this resolution will be shared as part of the agenda item on update on all resolution adopted by the UN-Habitat Assmebly. Specifically, as required the UN-Habitat Assembly, the Executive Board is required to decide on date and agenda for the first session of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All.

In addition, the Executive Board may need to consider one of the three options being presented to operationalize the SURGe initiative in line with the request by the UN-Habitat Assmebly in Resolution 2/5 on “Enhancing the interlinkage between urbanization and climate change resilience “. Resolution 2/5 expects “the Executive Director to inform the Executive Board, and subsequently develop options and recommendations for operationalizing the SURGe initiative as a meaningful institutional arrangement for the Executive Board to consider”.

In this regard we are most grateful for your very active engagement and feedback during the meetings of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters that have so far been held on these matters which are helpful to us as we prepare to adequately brief you at the upcoming session of the Executive Board. We believe that these meetings are also positive for the adequate preparations by Member States towards the session, including in the discussions at the scheduled informal consultations on the draft decisions prior the session.

Our request today on this subject is that you allow us to finalize the technical inputs into the draft decisions taking into account the feedback we are getting from Member States during the ad hoc working group meetings and also any recommendation that the Bureau may make.

**Slide 6: iii. Confirmation of the dates for the 2024 second session of the Executive Board.**

Coming to the final subitem of Agneda item 2 regarding the dates for the second session of the Executive Board, we have made further consultations with the Division of Conference Services and their very considered advise is that the session should be held from 4 to 6 December 2024, given the very busy schedule in the last quarter of the year. They further noted that those servicing the second session of the Executive Board including interpreters will need to travel back to Nairobi following the COP 29 which takes place at the end of November 2024 and which they are also servicing.

Our recommendation is therefore that the second session takes place from 4 to 6 December 2024.

**Slide 7: iv Dates of the Briefing by the Acting Executive Director on Preparations for the session”**

Mar Chairman

Let me thank you and the Bureau for including this fourth subitem of agenda item 2 which relates to the requirements of rule 6.10 of the rules of procedure that we brief Member States of the preparation for the session and matters to be covered under each agenda item at least two weeks prior to each session.

In this regard I recognize the Bureau had already approved at the meeting held on 2 February 2024, the date of 22 April for this briefing on the preparations for the session including matters to be covered under each agenda item of the session.

I however wish to request for the kind consideration of the Bureau to reschedule the briefing from 22 April 2024 to 26 April 2024 to enable me to complete an official mission that is also quite important for our work. I apologize in advance if this may be of any inconvenience to Member States and I recognize that this potential change will make the briefing to take place slightly less than the two weeks required by the rules. I do hope for your kind understanding on this matter.

Mr, Chairman, Excellencies

As I conclude on this agenda item, I would also like to state that we are set to open registration for the session on 25 March 2024 and this will be closed on 2 May 2024

I thank you Mr. Chairman, back to you.

**Slide 8: AGENDA ITEM 3: Update on the impact of the United Nations liquidity crisis on the work of UN-Habitat**

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,

On agenda item 3, as requested during the meeting in February, under this item we will brief you on the impact of ongoing liquidity challenges on the work of UN-Habitat.

With your permission Mr. Chairman, I will now ask Stephen Slawsky, Director, Management Advisory and Compliance Service to brief the Bureau.

**Slide 9: Update on liquidity Crisis (By Stephen)**

**Slide 10: AGENDA ITEM 4: Update on the joint meeting of the Bureaux of the UN-Habitat Governing Bodies in Mexico.**

Excellencies

As you know the joint meeting of the Bureaux of the Governing Bodies of UN-Habitat will take place next week from 21 to 23 March 2024.

Since our last meeting we have stepped up coordination with the Government of Mexico in their capacity President of the UN-Habitat Assmebly and host of the meeting, all towards a successful meeting.

In this regard we have shared with you the Programme for the meeting as well as the Information and logistical note.

This week on Wednesday we shared with you the background documents to enable your preparations for the meeting.

We very much look forward to your participation as we begin the preparation for the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly in May 2025, which as you know will be preceded by sessions of the Executive Biard and an open-ended meeting of the CPR.

We are very grateful for those delegations that have already confirmed their participation in the joint Bureaux meeting.

We are also very grateful to the Government of Mexico for the support including resources that are being extended to ensure a fruitful meeting,

On this item, perhaps we can take a bit of time to listen to Members of the Bureau in case you have any questions related to the joint Bureaux meeting including on logistics and protocol arrangements.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
Back to you.

## **Slide 11: AGENDA ITEM 5 Any other matters.**

*(to be led by the Chair)*

*(AED raise any other matters here starting with the field trip to Mozambique)*

### **Field trip to Mozambique**

Under this agenda item on other matters, I have a quick update regarding the proposed field visit by Members of the Governing Bodies to Mozambique.

We now have a formal confirmation from the Government of Mozambique, welcoming Member States for the field trip and proposing that it takes place within the period of 3 to 14 June 2024.

We are in touch with them and will proposing a 4 to 5 day widow in that period, We are also working with the Government to identify the exact locations within Mozambique for the Field trip. For now, locations on the table include the cities of Maputo, Beira and Pemba where UN-Habitat has active programs.

Over the past 17 years, UN-Habitat has diligently developed and executed a comprehensive country program in Mozambique aligned with the priority areas delineated by the Government of Mozambique, development partners, and global development agendas.

Currently, UN-Habitat Mozambique operates through three key program pillars:

- Sustainable Urbanization
- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Climate Change Adaptation, and Security of Land Tenure and Affordable Housing.

In the next few weeks or so we will send out formal communication to Member states requesting them to save the dates and participate in the field trip.