



2024 Nineth Bureau Meeting of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat

Hybrid format – Monday, 25 November 2024

14:00-16:00 hrs. East Africa Time (EAT)

Statement by the Executive Director

(Draft of 21 November 2024)

SLIDE 1: Title slide

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 second session of the Executive Board
 - a. Status of documentation
 - b. Status of the draft outcomes to be considered by the Executive Board
 - c. Bureau meetings during the session
3. Continuation of discussions on the next elections of officers of the Bureau of the Executive Board.
4. Status of preparations for the first session of the open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All.
5. Any other matters.

SLIDE 3: AGENDA ITEM 2 (TITLE SLIDE): - Status of preparations for the 2024 second session of the Executive Board

- a. Status of documentation**
- b. Status of the draft outcomes to be considered by the Executive Board**

c. Bureau meetings during the session

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,

A very good afternoon to you all.

It is a pleasure to see you all once again.

Thank you for your support this morning during the briefing we just had on the preparations for the Executive Board and particularly on the expectations for that session.

I want to thank you all very much for all your guidance so far in the preparations for the upcoming second session of the Executive Board.

Mr. Chairman,
Let me now focus on subitems of agenda item 2a, 2b and 2c

SLIDE 4: 2a. Status of Documentation

Excellencies,

On subitem 2a, I wish to confirm that the preparation of the pre-session documents for the up-coming session is now complete, and the documents have been made available on the website. In line with rules of procedure, Member States were duly informed on 7 November 2024 about the availability of documents.

The in-session documents that are expected to aide any decision making have also been finalised and made available on the website.

These include:

- i. Report on the Financial status of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme as at 30 September 2024
- ii. Report on the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum
- iii. Report on the preparations for the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly
- iv. First draft of the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029

Slide 5: 2b Status of the draft outcomes to be considered by the Executive Board

Excellencies

On subitem 2b. as requested by the Bureau during the meeting held on 18 October 2024, the Secretariat shared the technical inputs with Member States on 18 October 2024 and again on 13 November 2024 in preparation for the meeting of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary, and administrative matters (PBA) held on 20 November 2024.

The technical inputs covered four draft decisions as follows:

- i. Draft decision 2024/[A]: Implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2025; The work programme and budget for 2025 and 2026; Financial, budgetary and administrative matters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); and Implementation of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the findings of its review of the management and administration of UN-Habitat.

ii. Draft decision 2024/[B]: Implementation of the normative and operational activities of the UN-Habitat; reporting on the programmatic activities of the Programme in 2024, implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities.

iii. Draft Decision 2024/C: Update on the implementation of resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly and preparations for its resumed second session.

iv. Draft decision 2024/[D]: Methods of work of the Executive Board and the workplan of the Executive Board for 2025.

In this regard it is a great pleasure to have H.E Mr. Pedro Leon Cortes Ruiz Permanent Representative of Colombia and Chair of ad hoc working group on PBA. I am sure he will update the Bureau on the first informal consultation on the draft decisions held on 20 November 2024.

Slide 6. 2c. Bureau meetings during the session

Mr. Chairman

To conclude my briefing on agenda item 2. I wish to share that as is practice, it is recommended that the Bureau meets during the session of the Executive Board as follows:

- Day 2: 5 December 2024 in the morning from 8am to 8.45am
- Day 3: 6 December 2024 in the morning from 8am to 8.45am.

Prior to the above proposed meetings, we propose that the Bureau meets on Monday, 2 December 2024 from 1.00 pm to 1.45pm to address any issues that may arise between now and then, should that be required. This timing has been changed from the afternoon to lunchtime at the request of the Chair of the ad hoc working group on PBA in consultation with the Chair of the Executive Board. This is in order to allow more time for informal consultation on draft decisions.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Back to you.

Slide 7: 2d. Update by the Chairs of the ad hoc working groups of the Executive Board outcomes

1. *Update by H.E Mr. Pedro Leon Cortes Ruiz, Permanent Representative of Colombia to UN-Habitat and Chair of ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary, and administrative matters.*
2. *Update by Mr. António Miguel Luís, Deputy Permanent Representative of Portugal to UN-Habitat and Chair of the ad hoc working group on the development of a Stakeholder engagement policy.*
- *Upcoming Informal Consultations on the draft outcomes prior to the session :*
 - *Wednesday, 27 November 2024 (both morning and afternoon).*
 - *Monday, 2 December 2024 (both morning and afternoon).*

Slide 8: (TITLE SLIDE): Agenda item 3;. Continuation of discussions on the next elections of officers of the Bureau of the Executive Board.

Slide 9. 3a. Decision of the Executive Board on 8 June 2023 on the term of the current Bureau.

The Executive Board at the 2023 second session held on 8 May 2023, **pursuant to decision 2/3 of the UN-Habitat Assembly, agreed to the extension**

of the terms of office of the current members of the Executive Board until the closure of the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, in 2025.

This therefore implies that the term of the current Members of the Bureau of the Executive Board will technically end on **30 May 2025**, which is the day that the resumed second session is expected to close.

Slide 10: Rule 9.1 and 9.3 of the rules of procedure on elections

Provisions of the rules of procedure, specifically Rule 9 on elections of the Bureau.

Rule 9.1 says as follows:

- The Executive Board shall, at its first regular session each year, elect from among its members, taking into consideration the need to ensure equitable geographical representation, a Bureau comprising a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur, who shall **hold office until their successors are elected.**

Rule 9.3 is as follows

- The offices of **Chair and Rapporteur shall rotate each year** to a different regional group. Each regional group shall occupy the office of Chair and Rapporteur once during a period of five years.

Slide 11: Options for election of the next Bureau

The options in relation to the next Bureau, for your consideration and further discussion among your regional groups are as follows:

1. The Executive Board can **decide to only rotate the position of the Chair and the Rapporteur at the first session of 2025** to be held in

March 2025 and then elect the full Bureau two months later, immediately following the elections of the 36 Members of the Executive Board in May 2025 by the UN-Habitat Assembly. Bearing in mind, this could change if those elected in March are not elected to the Executive Board as Members in May.

OR:

2. The Executive Board **can decide to wait and elect new Members of the Bureau of the Executive Board, two months** later, immediately following the elections of the 36 Members of the Executive Board in May 2025 by the UN-Habitat Assembly.

In option 1 where only a rotation happens, the regional groups holding the position of the Chair and rapporteur will have continuity in representation in those positions upon elections in May.

IN ADDITION: In both these scenarios, the Bureau may need to recommend that a second session of the Executive Board in 2025 be held immediately after the UN-Habitat Assembly elects the 36 Members of the Executive Board for purposes of only electing the Bureau of the Executive Board.

The contrary would mean that an election is held only at a second session to be held in the last quarter of 2025 which means that the term of the current Bureau would have extended beyond what is anticipated in the decision of the Executive Board taken on 8 June 2023.

Slide 12: Composition of the Current and the next Bureau

The expected composition of the next Bureau as you can see on the screen is as follows:

CHAIR: Western European and Others State (WEOG)

VICE-CHAIRS:

1. Asia – Pacific States
2. Eastern European States
3. Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC)

RAPPORTEUR: African States

Slide 13: Option 1 on rotation of the Chair and Rapporteur at the first session of 2025 in March 2025 – What to note

Under Option 1 where rotation of the Chair and Rapporteur takes place at the first session of 2025 in March 2025, the following is to be noted:

1. NIGERIA will chair the first session of 2025 in March 2025
2. Rotation will be done at the final plenary of that first session.
3. FRANCE will then take over, and lead the preparations for the second session of 2025 proposed to be held in May.
4. FRANCE will then chair the second session in May 2025
5. FRANCE will remain the rapporteur until final plenary of the first session in March 2025
6. The WEOG Member elected in May 2025 continues with the tenure of WEOG as Chair until first session of 2026
7. The Member of WEOG elected in May 2025 will then Chair the third session of 2025 and first session of 2026
8. NIGERIA will assume the position of Rapporteur for second session in May 2025, upon the rotation.
9. Africa Member elected in May 2025 will continue with the tenure of Africa as Rapporteur until the final plenary of the first session of 2026

Slide 14: Option 2: Election of the Bureau at Second session of 2025 in May 2025 - What to note

Under Option 2 when the Executive Board waits for the full election of the Bureau to take place at the second session of 2025 in May 2025, the following is to be noted:

1. Nigeria will chair the First and second sessions of 2025 in March and May 2025 and the composition of the Bureau remains as currently is until May 2025 and the composition of the next Bureau also remains the same with WEOG a Chair and Africa as rapporteur.
2. The WEOG Member elected in May 2025 will then Chair the third session of 2025 and the first session of 2026

Slide 15: Alignment of elections of the Bureau fully achieved at first session of 2026 (March)

In either scenario, full alignment of the elections of the Bureau with the rules of procedure will take place from the First session of 2026, when elections would be held at each first session of the year and the rotation of the Chair and Rapporteur would also happen with each election.

The expected composition until 2029 is shown on the screen.

Bureau of the Executive Board 2025-2026	Bureau of the Executive Board 2026-2027 (Elected at final Plenary of first session in 2026)	Bureau of the Executive Board 2027-2028 (Elected at final Plenary of first session in 2027)	Bureau of the Executive Board 2028-2029(Elected at final plenary of first session in 2028)
Chair	Chair	Chair	Chair
WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHERS – WEOG	ASIA PACIFIC STATES	EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES	GRULAC
Vice-Chairs	Vice-Chairs	Vice-Chairs	Vice-Chairs
Asia-Pacific States	WEOG	Asia-Pacific States	Eastern European States

Eastern European States	GRULAC	African States	Asia-Pacific States
Latin American and Caribbean States	African States	WEOG	African States
Rapporteur	Rapporteur	Rapporteur	Rapporteur
African States	Eastern European States	GRULAC	WEOG

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

To conclude on the highlights under this item, the two options we are proposing and which do not preempt any other options that Member States may recommend are as follows:

The Bureau may recommend:

1. The Rotation of the position of the Chair and the Rapporteur at the first session of 2025 to be held in March 2025 and followed by the election of the full Bureau two months later, immediately following the elections of the 36 Members of the Executive Board in May 2025 by the UN-Habitat Assembly.

OR:

2. That the Executive Board waits to elect new Members of the Bureau of the Executive Board immediately following the elections of the 36 Members of the Executive Board in May 2025 by the UN-Habitat Assembly.

Slide 16 (TITLE SLIDE): Agenda item 4: Status of preparations for the first session of the open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All.

SLIDE 5: Slide 9 (TITLE SLIDE). : Agenda item 5; Other matters

1. Discussion on the request by Egypt for a hybrid session of the Executive Board and the intergovernmental expert Working Group on adequate housing for all and, clarification based on current policy on UN intergovernmental Meetings –