

Tenth Bureau Meeting of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat
Monday, 2 December 2024
13:00 pm – 13:45 pm EAT

Speaking notes for the Chair of the ad hoc working group on PBA

H.E. Dr. Pedro Leon Cortes Ruiz

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Colombia to UN-Habitat

Good afternoon colleagues,

I have the pleasure to update you on the work of the ad hoc working group on programmatic budgetary and administrative matters (PBA) especially the status of the consideration of the draft outcomes to be considered by the Executive Board at its next session.

Following the last Bureau meeting on 25 November 2024, there have been 2 meetings of the ad hoc working group on PBA including a full day meeting on 27 November and this morning, where we have dedicated to the informal consultations on the draft outcomes.

During the meeting on 27 November, a first reading was successfully completed and some paragraphs in draft Decision A were closed.

During the meeting this morning, we continued with draft **Decision B**.

There were discussions on the section (a) Implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat where Member States proposed an additional paragraph regarding UN-Habitat's work in the Gaza Strip, where the views were diverged on whether to add this paragraph or not.

In addition, there were discussions on the paragraph regarding "requests the Executive Director to strengthen the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat at the country and regional levels" and that it can be further merged with another paragraph.

On the section (b) regarding the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum, some proposals were put forward on adding paragraphs relating to World Cities Day and World Habitat Day, as well as changing the title. Discussions are still ongoing.

Furthermore, there were fruitful discussions on the paragraph to consider or integrate the outcomes of the World Urban Forum into discussions of the draft strategic plan and when considering the theme of the Assembly sessions.

Under draft **Decision D**, you may wish to recall that there were discussions on the dates of the 2025 Executive Board sessions as well as how many sessions for next year. I understand these matters will be taken upon at this meeting by the Bureau and I look forward to the guidance.

In addition, one Member States proposed an additional paragraph under section (b) Working methods of the Executive Board that requests “all meetings of the Executive Board, including meetings to provide update on the work of the Programme, must be coordinated with the Executive Board Bureau and chaired by one of its members”, it was supported by several Member States.

Dear colleagues, currently all paragraphs are still open for further consideration and discussion, and I hope that at the next informal consultation we will have a compromised text soon.

Dear colleagues, as I will need to travel to Ethiopia this afternoon, the ad hoc working group agreed to extend the morning session until 1pm and cancel the afternoon session. I will forward the draft outcomes document to the Chair of the Executive Board, to be further worked on during the upcoming Executive Board session.

With that said, I wish to thank you all for the support you have provided.

Thank you Chair, back to you.