



UN-HABITAT

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Ninth Bureau Meeting of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat

Monday, 25 November 2024

14:00 hrs – 16:00 hrs East African Time (EAT)

MEETING SUMMARY

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting.

1. Mr. Amadi-Ikpe Chibudhom Roosevelt, Acting Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, on behalf of Hon. Ahmed Musa Dangiwa, Minister for Housing and Urban Development of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chair of the UN-Habitat Executive Board, opened the meeting at 2:08pm EAT.

The following Members of the Bureau of the Executive Board were present:

1. Mr. Amadi-Ikpe Chibudhom Roosevelt, Acting Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to UN-Habitat.
2. H.E. Mr. Silvio Albuquerque, Permanent Representative of the Federative Republic of Brazil to UN-Habitat.
3. H.E. Mr. Pedro Leon Cortes Ruiz, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Colombia to UN-Habitat.
4. Mr. Ronney Almeida e Silva Filho, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Brazil to UN-Habitat
5. Ms. Angelica Gutierrez Galvis, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Colombia to UN-Habitat.

The following Members of the Bureau of the Executive Board were present:

1. H.E. Ms. Ana Filomena Rocha, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Portugal to UN-Habitat
2. Mr. Clément Payeur, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of France to UN-Habitat
3. Ms. Malgorzata Sprawka, Third Secretary at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Poland to UN-Habitat
4. Mr. Mateusz Szymanski, Third Secretary at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Poland to UN-Habitat

The following UN-Habitat Secretariat members were present:

1. Ms. Anacláudia Rossbach, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director
2. Mr. Michal Mlynar, Assistant Secretary-General and Acting Executive Director
3. Mr. Chris Mensah, Secretary to the Governing Bodies
4. Mr. Stephen Slawsky, Director, Management Advisory and Compliance Service
5. Ms. Edlam Yemeru, Officer-in-Charge, External Relations, Strategy, Knowledge and Innovation Division.
6. Ms. Bridget Oballa, External Relations Officer

2. The Chair welcomed all participants to the meeting including H.E. Mr. Pedro Leon Cortes Ruiz, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Colombia and Chair of ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary, and administrative matters (PBA), who would provide an update to the

Bureau on the work of the working group. The provisional Agenda was adopted without any changes and can be accessed [here](#).

Agenda item 2: Briefing on the Status of preparations for the 2024 second session of the Executive Board.

3. The Chair noted that as the 2024 second session of the Executive Board approached, arrangements for the session had advanced for the smooth conduct of the session and there was need for the insights of the Bureau. The Chair therefore welcomed the Executive Director to brief the Bureau on the status of preparations for the 2024 second session of the Executive Board. The Statement by the Executive Director can be accessed [here](#) and the presentation can be accessed [here](#).
4. Upon invitation by the Chair of the Bureau of Executive Board, the Chair of the ad hoc working group on PBA updated the Bureau on the progress of the work of working group specifically on the status of the consideration of the draft outcomes to be considered by the Executive Board at its upcoming session. The statement by the Chair of the working group can be accessed [here](#).
5. The Chair of the ad hoc working group on PBA noted that Member States were still consulting with capitals on all paragraphs and good progress was envisaged in the next meetings. In addition, the Chair of the working group noted that a few changes were made to the schedules of the meetings on 27 November and 2 December 2024 to allow for more time for the working group to discuss the draft outcomes.
6. The Chair of the ad hoc working group on PBA highlighted the possibility of Member States introducing new language regarding different issues that may be contentious during the upcoming session and enquired on the way forward.
7. The Secretariat suggested that the Chair of the Executive Board may use his right as Chair to propose during the first plenary of the Executive Board that any new language introduced in the draft outcomes would only be accepted in the first 24 hours of the session to avoid new contentious issues on the last day of the session which could hinder the adoption of the outcomes. The Secretariat also recommended the appointment of a “*friend of the Chair*” to lead certain negotiations in case contentious issues arise during the consultation which have not been resolved within the negotiation process.
8. The Secretariat noted the recommendation on the need to emphasize that notwithstanding the use of the two examples of Nepal and Jordan in agenda item 7 on “*Implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, including reporting on the programmatic activities of UN-Habitat in 2024 and the implementation of its subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities, and UN-Habitat engagement in countries, territories and areas affected by conflicts and disasters*” they should be reflected as a global strategy of best examples, going region by region. It was also clarified that they were being presented at the request of the Bureau of the Executive Board that requested examples and testimonials of UN-Habitat’s work on the ground be showcased during Executive Board sessions. The Secretariat informed that they would review the paragraph in the draft outcomes to reflect that clearly.
9. The Bureau took note of the progress made in the preparations of the second session of the Executive Board.

10. The Bureau recommended that the ad hoc working group on PBA continues the informal consultations on the draft outcomes of the session under the guidance of the Chair and co-Chair of the working Group.
11. The Bureau recognized the efforts made in advancing the preparation of the draft stakeholder engagement policy and recommended that such efforts continue during and, if needed, after the upcoming 2024 second session of the Executive Board.
12. The Bureau took note of the expected Bureau meetings during the 2024 second session of the Executive Board.

Agenda 3: Continuation of discussions on the elections of officers of the Bureau of the Executive Board.

13. The Chair recalled that at its meeting held on 18 October 2024, the Bureau reviewed the options with respect to elections of the Bureau of the Executive Board in 2025, in accordance with the rules of procedure, and invited the Executive Director to share the options again before the Bureau members shared their feedback following consultations within the respective regional groups on the matter.
14. The Executive Director explained that that the first option denotes that the Bureau of the Executive Board 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 after the elections of the 36 Members of the Executive Board in May 2025 by the UN-Habitat Assembly. She added that the second option could see that the Bureau of the Executive Board elect new Members of the Bureau of the Executive Board immediately after the elections of the 36 Members of the Executive Board in May 2025 by the UN-Habitat Assembly. Subsequently, the Executive Board after the election of the 36 Members in May 2025 by the UN-Habitat Assembly, could meet for the purpose of electing the Executive Board Bureau. She underlined that in either scenario, full alignment of the elections of the Bureau with the rules of procedure will take place only 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 full statement by the Executive Director can be accessed [here](#) and the presentation can be accessed [here](#).
15. The Bureau Member representing the Group of Latin America and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC) noted that the decision by the Bureau on the two options would not affect the Group and informed that the Group was still consulting and was leaning towards the first option.
16. The Bureau Member representing the Western European and Others Group (WEOG) informed that after consultations within the Group and in line with rule 9.3 of the rule of procedures, the Group favored the first option.
17. The Chair recommended that Bureau Members consult further on this matter within their Regional Groups, especially Asia Pacific, Africa and Eastern European Group, and informed that the matter would be discussed at the Bureau meeting scheduled for 2 December 2024.

Agenda 4: Status of preparations for the first session of the open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All.

18. The Chair noted the significant progress made by the Secretariat to ensure the successful convening of the first session of the intergovernmental expert working group on adequate housing for all and invited the Bureau for any inputs, suggestions and clarifications.
19. One Bureau Member recognized the importance of adequate housing in their region and updated the Bureau that they encouraged their regional group to nominate representatives for the upcoming session. The Bureau Member further noted that they nominated a national expert to participate in the session and informed that three additional experts would be nominated to join the session and therefore requested the Secretariat to confirm if there was a limit to the number of representatives per country, and if the meeting was exclusively intended for experts only. In addition, the Bureau Member enquired about the venue of the meeting.
20. The Secretariat confirmed that the session would be technical, and its results would be reflected in a series of processes like the Strategic Plan which focuses on housing and further noted that there was no limit on the number of representatives per country. The Secretariat also confirmed that the meeting would be held in Conference room 2 at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON).
21. Another Bureau member enquired whether the representatives based in Nairobi needed to register to attend the first session of the expert working group.
22. The Secretariat confirmed that permanent missions should register online and send a Note Verbale to the Secretariat confirming their list of delegation participating in the session.
23. Regarding the modality of the first session of the expert working group in terms of online participation, the Secretariat noted that inter-governmental meetings were governed by the United Nations General Assembly instructions and currently there are no means to facilitate a hybrid modality. The Secretariat confirmed that a Microsoft Teams link would be shared with Member States who register to allow them to follow the proceedings online, but online simultaneous interpretation would not be possible as there was no authorization from the United Nations General Assembly.
24. The Chair took note of the inputs and noted that the Bureau remained available to support the Executive Director with any guidance she may require in her final preparations towards the first session of the intergovernmental expert working group on adequate housing for all.

Agenda 5: Any other matters.

25. No matters were raised by Members of the Bureau under this agenda.

**The ninth Bureau meeting of the UN-Habitat Executive Board was adjourned at 3:15 pm
East African Time (EAT).**