



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

Hybrid format – Monday, 17 December 2024

13:00-14:00 hrs. East Africa Time (EAT)

Statement by the Executive Director

(Draft of 16 December 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. Review of the conduct of the 2024 second session of the Executive Board.
3. Consideration of the date for the first session of the Executive Board in 2025.
4. Any other matters.

SLIDE 3: AGENDA ITEM 2 (TITLE SLIDE): - 2. REVIEW OF THE CONDUCT OF THE 2024 SECOND SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,

A very good afternoon to you all.

I want to first of all, through you Mr.Chairman, express my since appreciation to Honourable Ahmed Musa Dangiwa, Minister for Housing and Urban Development of Nigeria and Chair of the Executive Board for his stewardship of the Executive Board that led to the success of the second session of 2024.

I am very grateful to each Member of the Bureau for your commitment to the work of the Executive Board and to the organization. I truly appreciate all the guidance you continue to give to me and the Secretariat.

SLIDE 4: Outcomes of the session

The 2024 second session of the Executive Board was my very first session and I must say I was very grateful for the goodwill and support for my tenure. I was also very impressed and encouraged by the rich interventions from Member States that eventually yielded the outcomes the session.

As you are aware, the Executive Board at its second session adopted four decisions as follows, which you can see reflected on the screen.

1. **Decision 2024/5:** Financial, budgetary and administrative matters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); The work programme of UN-Habitat and budget for 2025 and 2026; Implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2025 and preparation of the strategic plan for the period 2026 – 2029; and, Implementation of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the findings of its review of the management and administration of UN-Habitat.

2. **Decision 2024/6:** 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.
3. **Decision 2024/7:** Update on the implementation of resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly and preparations for its resumed second session.
4. **Decision 2024/8:** Methods of work of the Executive Board and the work-plan of the Executive Board for 2025.

We are particularly grateful for the approval of our work programme and budget for 2025 at 4.7 million United States dollars, and for the flexibility of Member States that the non-earmarked budget for 2025 may be increased to 5.944 million United States dollars, should the total non-earmarked revenue for 2024 be at least 5.944 million United States dollars.

I also took note of all the requests by the Executive Board including those related to our normative and operational activities, our efforts to reconstruct human settlements affected by conflict, the briefing on Urban October, implementation of resolutions of the UN-Habitat Assembly in a balanced manner, and the next strategic plan, among others.

In relation to the strategic plan 2026-2029, I want to assure you of our commitment to finalize the draft strategic plan taking into account the inputs of Member States during the second session of the Executive Board of 2024 and the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters. With your support, I am confident that we shall present to you a pragmatic draft strategic plan at the first session of 2025.

I thank you Mr Chairman.
Back to you.

Slide 5: (TITLE SLIDE): Agenda item 3: CONSIDERATION OF THE DATE FOR THE FIRST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD IN 2025

Slide 6:

Excellencies

On this item, you would recall that Executive Board decided that the first session of 2025 will be held for a duration of three days at a date to be decided at the next meeting of the Bureau,

I wish to reiterate the dates available for consideration by the Bureau are as follows:

Option 1: **17 to 19 March 2025**

Option 2: **25 to 27 March 2025**

Option 3: **2 to 4 April 2025.**

Mr. Chairman

These are the dates we have from Conference services based on the global calendar.

Slide 7: Points to consider in determining the dates of the 2025 first session

Excellencies,

While the decision on the dates is fully for the Bureau and Member states to agree on, I wish to state the following for your consideration:

1. There are two key documents that the Executive Board needs to recommend to the Assembly at the first session of 2025. These are: **The draft**

Strategic plan 2026 to 2029 and the Draft Stakeholder engagement policy. It is therefore prudent that the first session of 2025 is held in a **timely manner to allow full processing** of these documents for the Assembly **in the six UN official languages.**

2. It is my hope that **the ad hoc working groups of the Executive Board will advance the work on these documents** to allow the Executive Board to recommend their consideration by the Assembly.
3. In the view of the Secretariat, **any dates beyond March 2025, may jeopardize the timely issuance of the documents to the Assembly,** as Member States must receive all pre-session documents intended for the UN-Habitat Assembly **by 17 April 2025,** in all the six UN languages. Essentially, we must submit these documents to the Division of Conference services by **6 March 2025** for editing and translation, and by **20 March 2025** for translation only.
4. With the understanding that the ad hoc working groups could very well advance the preparations of these key documents and recommend them to the Executive Board, the Board may make **very slight or hopefully no changes during the 2025 first session of the Executive Board.** Any changes at that point hopefully, just a few, may be accommodated by the Division of Conference Services by 20 March 2024. The Executive Board may then focus on the related decision language related to the documents for consideration by the UN-Habitat Assembly.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.

Back to you.

[SLIDE 5: Slide 9 \(TITLE SLIDE\) : Agenda item 4; Other matters](#)