



UN-HABITAT

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

First Bureau Meeting of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat

Friday, 31 January 2025, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm East African Time (EAT)

Hybrid Meeting-UN-Habitat OED Boardroom

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 10:00 am EAT.

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

- Mr. Amadi-Ikpe Chibudhom Roosevelt, Acting Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to UN-Habitat.
- Mr. Clément Payeur, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of France to UN-Habitat.
- Mr. Ronney Almeida e Silva Filho, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Federative Republic of Brazil.
- Mr. Adnan J. Khan, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
- Mr. Mateusz Szymański, Third Secretary at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Poland to UN-Habitat (online).

The following UN-Habitat secretariat members were present:

- Mr. Michal Mlynar, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director (online).
- Mr. Rafael Tuts, Director, Global Solutions Division.
- Mr. Erfan Ali, Chief of Staff/ Director a.i. Regional Programme Division.
- Mr. Ulf Bjornholm, Secretary to the Governing Bodies.
- Ms. Shipra Narang Suri, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Executive Director.
- Ms. Bridget Oballa, External Relations Officer.

2. The Chair welcomed all participants to the meeting and the provisional [Agenda](#) was adopted without any changes.

Agenda item 2: Preparations for the 2025 first session of the Executive Board, 25 to 27 March 2025

3. The Chair invited the Deputy Executive Director, who participated online, to brief the Bureau on the status of preparations for the first session of the Executive Board in 2025. The statement by the Deputy Executive Director can be accessed [here](#) and the presentation can be accessed [here](#).
4. One Bureau member underlined the need for flexible timing for delegations observing Ramadan during the 2024 second session of the Executive Board and underlined the need for sufficient time allocation for the agenda item on the implementation of the resolutions.
5. Another Bureau member underlined the importance of allocating sufficient time for consultations ahead of the Executive Board session to finalize draft decisions.

6. Another Bureau member suggested that the lunch break during the Executive Board session be reduced by thirty minutes so that the afternoon sessions as well as evening sessions on informal consultations may end earlier.
7. The Secretariat took note of the comments by the Bureau members and noted the following:
 - a. Due to the UN regular budget crisis, UNON has requested that all intergovernmental meetings in the UN Compound, except for high-level meetings, take place between 9:00 to 12:00 and 13:00 to 16:00.
 - b. The proposed organization of work will be revised taking into account the comments made by Bureau members and an updated document will be shared in advance for the next meeting.
 - c. At least three informal preparatory meetings are scheduled to consider the draft decisions for the Executive Board, and three for the Stakeholder Engagement Policy; if needed, additional meetings may be scheduled.
 - d. Adequate time will be allocated for strategic discussions on important agenda items, including on the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly.
 - e. The ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters (PBA) will be consulted on the draft international guidelines on people centred smart cities on 17 February and 5 March.

Agenda item 3: Consideration and possible recommendation by the Bureau on the rotation of the offices of Chair and Rapporteur in line with rule 9.3 of the rules of procedure of the Executive Board.

8. The chair recalled the previous discussions in the bureau regarding the rotation of the Chair and Rapporteur of the Executive Board and invited the Bureau members to share any updates from their regional groups.
9. Following the discussion, the Bureau recommended that the Secretariat invites the Chairs of the five regional groups in Nairobi and the members of the Bureau of the Executive Board to a dedicated meeting to discuss the rotation of the offices of the Chair and Rapporteur of the Executive Board for the year 2025 in line with the rules of procedure of the Executive Board.
10. The Chair also requested the Secretariat to prepare a background note in support of these discussions, with a view to finding consensus regarding the timing of the rotation among the groups.

Agenda item 4: Roadmap of meetings towards the 2025 first session of the Executive Board including informal consultations on possible outcomes and briefing by the Executive Director to Member States on the status of preparations for the session.

11. The secretariat provided a briefing on the roadmap of meetings toward the first session of the Executive Board for 2025 and beyond. The statement by the Deputy Executive Director can be accessed [here](#) and the presentation can be accessed [here](#).
12. One Bureau member underlined the need for adequate time in the ad hoc working group to discuss the international guidelines on people centred smart cities, with a view to adoption by the UN-Habitat Assembly.
13. The Bureau took note of the key dates within the roadmap and underscored the important role of the ad hoc working group in preparation of the draft outcomes for adoption by the Executive Board at its first session 2025.

Agenda item 5: Consideration of dates for the third session of the Executive Board in 2025

14. The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the available dates to organize the third session of the Executive Board 2025. The statement by the Deputy Executive Director can be accessed [here](#) and the presentation can be accessed [here](#).
15. Based on inputs from the UN Office in Nairobi, the Secretariat presented three alternative dates for consideration by the Bureau; 11-13 November, 18-20 November and 25-27 November 2025, pointing out that the 2025 UN global calendar is busy during this period, including UNFCCC COP-30 taking place in Belem, Brazil, from 10-21 November 2025.
16. Bureau members took note of the alternative dates and the dates of UNFCCC COP-30, and expressed a preliminary preference for the date 25-27 November 2025, while underlining the need for further consultation with the regional groups before taking a decision.
17. The Chair invited Bureau members to further consult with the regional groups about the preferred date, for final consideration at the next meeting of the Bureau.

Agenda item 6 : UN-Habitat’s engagement in key United Nations events in 2025 including Beijing +30, the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4), the World Social Summit and COP 30.

18. The secretariat provided a briefing on UN-Habitat’s engagement in key United Nations events in 2025 including Beijing+30, the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4), the World Social Summit and COP30. The statement by the Deputy Executive Director can be accessed [here](#) and the presentation can be accessed [here](#).
19. One Bureau member welcomed the briefing and provided the following recommendations:
 - a. To include issues of finance for urban development and housing in the framework of the New Urban Agenda.
 - b. In the context of the World Summit for Social Development, to generate synergies across urban development agendas linked to the New Urban Agenda and global efforts to eradicate poverty, reduce multidimensional inequalities and promote social inclusion.
 - c. To Ensure engagement by UN-Habitat at UNFCCC COP30 in Brazil in November 2025, to highlight the urban dimension of climate action particularly in promoting nature-based solutions, sustainable infrastructure, climate finance for cities and targeted support for vulnerable communities and territories.
20. The secretariat took note of the comments and informed the Bureau that the Executive Director has formed an internal task force working on preparing for the FFD4. Regarding COP30, the secretariat was mobilizing all relevant resources to engage, including with regard to promoting nature-based solutions.

Agenda 5: Any other matters.

21. No other matters were raised, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm EAT.