



## **2025 second Meeting of the Bureau of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat**

Hybrid format – Friday, 6 March 2025

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

### **Statement by the Executive Director**

*(Draft 4 March 2025)*

#### **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. Preparations for the 2025 first session of the Executive Board to be held from 25 to 27 March 2025:
  - a. Organization of work to consider Ramadhan.
  - b. Status of documentation for the session.
  - c. Registration for the session.
  - d. Status of the draft outcomes to be considered by the Executive Board.
3. Dates of the second and third sessions of the Executive Board and elections of the next Bureau.
4. Consideration of dates and possible arrangements for second 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): Preparations for the 2025 first session of the Executive Board to be held from 25 to 27 March 2025:**

- a. Organization of work to consider Ramadhan.**

**b. Status of documentation for the session.**

**c. Registration for the session.**

**d. Status of the draft outcomes to be considered by the Executive Board.**

***Agenda items 2 a)-2c)***

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

A very good morning to you all.

It is my pleasure to join you all at this second meeting of the Bureau of the Executive Board for the year 2025.

Let me first apologize for not being able to join you at the 2025 first meeting of this Bureau held on 31 January due to official assignments outside Nairobi. I regret that the time difference also did not allow me to join you online.

I am, however, most grateful for your guidance provided at that meeting and also at the subsequent consultations with the Chairs of the regional groups, which I am aware was very productive. Those meetings have ensured that we are well guided in terms of moving forwards our preparations for the upcoming 2025 first session of the Executive Board. I thank Michal for ably representing me and the organization at those meetings.

**Slide 4: Item 2a. Organization of work to consider Ramadan**

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

With regard to agenda item 2a, you may recall that the Bureau at the last meeting on 31 January 2025 discussed the proposed organization of work for the upcoming session - which was largely acceptable to the Bureau.

However, the Bureau requested the secretariat to further explore if the organization of work could be further adjusted, taking into consideration the religious season of Ramadhan. In this regard, we propose to adjust **the timing for plenary meetings** as follows:

- Morning plenary meetings will remain from **9 am to 12 noon**:
- Afternoon plenary meetings will be held from **1.30pm to 4,30pm**:

As a consequence, the timings of the **informal consultations** on the draft outcomes during the session have also been adjusted as follows:

- Lunchtime informal consultations will run from **12 noon to 1 pm**.
- The evening informal consultations - with the exception of the final day - will run from **4.30pm to 5.30 pm**

We have reached out informally to some delegations who have previously been vocal on this issue, and they have expressed support for this approach.

We would welcome further guidance from the Bureau on this adjusted programme, so that we can finalize and share the structure with all Member States.

**(Revised) Proposed organization of work for the first session of 2025 of the Executive Board (25–27 March 2025)**

| <i>Day/date</i>              | <i>Time (UTC + 3)</i>    | <i>Agenda item</i>  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Tuesday,<br/>25 March</b> | 9 a.m.to 12 noon         | 1. Opening of the session.<br>2. Organizational matters:<br>(a) Adoption of the agenda and the workplan for the first session of 2025;<br>(b) Adoption of the report of the Executive Board on the work of its second session of 2024.<br>3. Reports of the chairs of the ad hoc working groups.<br>4. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters. |
|                              | <i>12 noon to 1pm</i>    | <i>Informal consultations on draft outcomes.</i>  |
|                              | 1.30 p.m.to 4.30pm       | 5. Update on the draft work programme of UN-Habitat and the draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2026.   |
|                              | <i>4.30pm to 5.30 pm</i> | <i>Informal consultations on draft outcomes.</i>  |

| <i>Day/date</i>                | <i>Time (UTC + 3)</i>    | <i>Agenda item</i>   |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Wednesday,<br/>26 March</b> | 9 a.m.                   | 6. Update on the preparation of, and possible recommendation of, the draft strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2026–2029.<br>7. Briefing on the Sustainable Cities and Communities Foundation.   |
|                                | <i>12 noon to 1pm</i>    | <i>Informal consultations on draft outcomes.</i>   |
|                                | 1.30 p.m.to 4.30pm       | 8. 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.<br>Update on the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly.  |
|                                | <i>4.30pm to 5.30 pm</i> | <i>Informal consultations on draft outcomes.</i>   |
| <b>Thursday,<br/>27 March</b>  | 9 a.m to 12 noon         | 9. Implementation by UN-Habitat of the reform of the development system and management of the United Nations.<br>10. Action by UN-Habitat to strengthen protection against sexual or any other type of exploitation and abuse and against sexual harassment in the workplace.<br>11. Annual report on action by the Executive Director to update and improve the internal management, policies and procedures of UN-Habitat. |
|                                | <i>1.30 noon to 1pm</i>  | <i>Informal consultations on draft outcomes.</i>   |
|                                | 2 p.m.to 4.30pm          | 12. Consideration and adoption of the outcomes of the session, including the provisional agenda for the second session of 2025.<br>13. Other matters.<br>14. Closure of the session  |

## Slide 5: Item 2b. Status of documentation for the session

Mr. Chairman  
Excellencies,

With regard to documentation for the meeting, I have the pleasure to confirm to you that **all pre-session documents are now available online** on the meeting website – through the link you can now see on the screen.

We have communicated the availability of the documents to all Member States on **26 February 2025**, which is exactly four weeks prior to the session - as required by the rules of procedure of the Executive Board.

We are now focusing on the preparation of in-session documents, which will include the latest financial status, the draft strategic plan 2026 to 2029, the draft international guidelines on people centered smart cities, and possibly a final draft Stakeholder engagement policy. To this end, we look forward to further guidance by Member States on how to forge broad agreement on these important documents, including through the ongoing work of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters, as well as the working group on a draft Stakeholder engagement policy.

## Slide 6: Item 2c. Registration for the session

Excellencies,

Under this item, I simply wish to remind you that the **online registration** for the upcoming session opened on Wednesday, 5 February 2025 and that it will close on Friday, 21 March 2025 at 12:00PM (UTC + 3:00). Registration will be done through UN-Habitat's own Global Events Management System website.

We note that more and more Member States use the online registration system to communicate the names of their representatives since the 2024 second session of the Executive Board, which is a very efficient way of registration for Member States and the secretariat alike.

Furthermore, for late registration, we offer the possibility of **onsite registration** here at Gigiri, during the following days:

-Monday, 24 March 2025 from 08:00 to 16:00, East Africa Time (EAT).

-Tuesday, 25 March 2025 from 08:00 to 16:00, East Africa Time (EAT).

**Slide 7 Item 2d. Status of the draft outcomes to be considered by the Executive Board.**

**[NB - This subitem will be addressed before items a)-c) through an oral report form Ambassador Pedro Leon Cortes Luis Cortes from Colombia, the PBA Chair]**

**Slide 7: (TITLE SLIDE) AGENDA ITEM 3: Dates of the second and third sessions of the Executive Board and elections of the next Bureau**

**Slide 8: Dates of the second and third sessions of 2025**

**3 (a) Dates of the second session of the Executive Board for the year 2025**

Excellencies,

You will recall that at the 2024 second session the Executive Board, in Decision 2024/8, Members of the Board decided that “the second session of 2025 will be held after the election of the new members by the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, with a view to electing a new Bureau of the Board”.

Accordingly, within the draft organization of work for the upcoming resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, the secretariat proposes that the second session of the Executive Board will take place on the morning of the last day of the resumed second session of the Assembly on **30 May 2025**. The elections will be preceded by consideration of the Assembly Bureau report on credentials for the resumed Assembly session, which will enable the election of the 36 Members of the Executive Board.

Following the election of the new Executive Board, the Assembly will adjourn to allow for the new Board to hold a brief second session in plenary, for the sole purpose of electing its Bureau for the period 2025 to 2026. On this regard, the proposed organization of work for the Assembly was reviewed this week by the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly on 3 March 2025.

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,

The purpose of this item is for the Bureau to consider and recommend to the Executive Board that its second session of 2025 be held on 30 May 2025. It will also allow the secretariat to prepare and formally communicate the notification and agenda for that session to all Member States in a timely manner.

### **3. (b) Dates of the third session of the Executive Board for the year 2025**

With regard to the dates for the third session of 2025, you may recall the discussion at the meeting held on 31 January 2025, which resulted in a request to revert to this matter at this bureau meeting to allow for further consultations within the regional groups. After further consultation with UNON, we are informed that the only remaining dates for the third session the Executive Board 2025 are:

- 7-9 October
- 21-24 October
- 25-27 November

I wish to highlight, however, that these three options are also the only remaining dates for a possible meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on Adequate Housing, provided that this meeting is to take place in the UN Gigiri compound in Nairobi.

In view of the very busy autumn in terms of meetings in Nairobi and to give sufficient time for preparations of the next session of the Board, the Secretariat considers that the best option may be **25 to 27 November 2025**.

We are looking forward to your feedback on the three options.

### **Slide 9: 3(c) Elections of the Next Bureau**

Excellencies,

As already alluded to, the elections for the next Bureau of the Executive Board for the period 2025 to 2026 will take place at the second session of 2025, scheduled for 30 May 2025.

The composition of that new Bureau will be as follows:

**Chair:** Western European and Others – WEOG

**Vice-Chairs:**

- Asia-Pacific States
- Eastern European States
- Latin American and Caribbean States

**Rapporteur:** African States

Prior to this meeting, we have shared with the Bureau a note on the elections to be held in May 2025. I would like to call on Ulf to share some additional information on the upcoming elections and related procedures.

With your permission Mr. Chairman, Ulf, you have the floor.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Back to you.

**Slide 10: (TITLE SLIDE) AGENDA ITEM 4. Consideration of dates and possible arrangements for second session of the open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All.**



## **Slide 11: Arrangements for second session of the open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All**

Chair, Excellencies,

Thank you for the opportunity to share some thoughts about this important process. I will however refrain from going into any detail on the scope and agenda of this meeting, since I would first want to consult closely with the co-chairs of the process, Kenya and France. I plan to meet with them both at high level within short, and I am sure that they will share their plans with Member States in the run-up to the next Executive Board session.

However, as mentioned previously, if the next meeting of the open-ended working group is to take place in the UN Compound in Nairobi, the only remaining available dates are:

**[NB one of the below dates would be assigned for the third session of the Executive Board]**

- 7-9 October
- 21-24 October
- 25-27 November

I also wish to underline that the Secretariat does not currently have a budget to organize this meeting in person this year. We will therefore rely on significant extrabudgetary financial contributions [of about 200,000 USD] to be able to go ahead.

The co-chairs have been considering solutions to overcome this challenge. The meeting could be reduced to two days. The cost of the meeting could be shouldered by one or more member states, or the meeting could be hosted outside the UN Gigiri compound in Nairobi by a host country that could financially support the event. To this end, we are preparing an open call to all Member States to express their interest to co-finance or host this important meeting.

I am also pleased to report that a road map for the Working Group is being prepared under the leadership of the Co-chairs, for your consideration.

Let me end by reconfirming our strong commitment to provide Secretariat support to this important process.

I look forward to hearing your guidance on this matter.

**Slide 12: AGENDA ITEM 5. ANY OTHER MATTERS.**

*(to be led by the Chair)*

*(ED/ DED may add any AOBs here)*