



Summary of the sixty-fourth meeting of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Programmatic, Budgetary, and Administrative Matters of the Executive Board

Monday, 24 February 2025, 9:00 –12:00 and 13:00 – 16:00 East Africa Time (EAT)
UNON Conference Room 4

Chair: H.E. Mr. Pedro Leon Cortes Ruiz
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Colombia to UN-Habitat

MEETING SUMMARY

Agenda item 1: Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

1. The meeting of the Ad-Hoc Working Group of the Executive Board on Programmatic, Budgetary, and Administrative Matters of was called to order at 9:00 EAT.
2. The Chair noted that H.E. Ms. Amina Mohamed, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General would deliver a briefing to Member States from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm in Conference Room 3 and proposed that the meeting of the working group be adjourned at 11:00 am and resumed at 1:30 pm. The [agenda](#) was adopted, and the new time schedule was agreed.

Agenda item 2: Consultation on the draft Strategic Plan 2026–2029

3. The Secretariat presented the [updated draft Strategic Plan 2026-2029 as circulated on 18 February](#) and highlighted the changes made as compared to the previous version.
4. Member States thanked the Secretariat for the revised version of the draft strategic plan and provided following comments:
 - Suggested further refinement to the section on implementation and monitoring and inclusion of a paragraph addressing accountability.
 - Underlined the need to apply both quantitative and qualitative indicators as part of the monitoring framework.
 - Suggested that the time frame of the strategic plan should be coherent with SDG5, New Urban Agenda, as well as UN-Habitat Assembly resolution, such as gender equality.
 - Suggested additional references to migration and refugees and deplored that some texts referring to gender and vulnerable groups had been watered down in the latest version of the draft.
 - Underlined the importance of clear roles and responsibilities to implement the strategic plan within UN-Habitat.
 - Underlined that oral inputs delivered at the meetings of the working group should be treated as equally important as written inputs.
 - Enquired on the next steps including the timelines to submit the document for translation.
 - Requested the secretariat to share the track change version of the draft strategic plan as presented at the meeting.
5. The Secretariat thanked Member States for their inputs and provided following responses:
 - Confirmed that UN-Habitat applies both quantitative and qualitative indicators as part of the monitoring framework of the strategic plan.
 - Confirmed that the strategic plan will be submitted to UNON for translation by 6 March 2025 at the very latest, with a view to avail the draft in all UN languages for consideration at the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

- Confirmed that a track changed version of the draft strategic plan will be shared after the meeting. The document can be accessed [here](#).
6. The Chair invited Member States to provide any additional comments in writing on the draft strategic plan by Friday, 28 February 2025 (noon), after which the secretariat will prepare a final draft for final consultation at the meeting of the working group scheduled for 5 March, before submission to UNON for translation. The draft strategic plan would then be considered by the Executive Board at its first session of 2025 at the end of March, for final consideration and possible adoption at the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly in May.

Agenda item 3: Consultation on the draft international guidelines on people-centred smart cities

7. Member States were invited to provide inputs to the draft international guidelines on people-centered smart cities.
8. Member States provided the following comments:
 - Welcomed the draft as a framework that promotes inclusive, sustainable, and human-centered urban innovation.
 - Underlined the need for the guidelines to address the use of big data, artificial intelligence, and other digital management systems to facilitate effective decision making towards smart cities.
 - Noted that all city services and opportunities should be made accessible to all, regardless of age, health and social status, and encouraged UN-Habitat to integrate urban services into a single ecosystem, a concept that has been successfully implemented in various cities worldwide.
 - Supported the proposal to develop a ‘smart cities hub’ that would provide a platform for Member States to share expertise and best practices on the topic.
9. The Secretariat thanked the Member States for the feedback and guidance provided and committed to incorporate the proposals and recommendations as appropriate.
10. The Chair reminded Member States to send in written comments by Wednesday 26 February 2025 at the latest, after which the secretariat will finalize the draft guidelines and send the document to UNON for translation.

Agenda item 4: Presentation on World Cleanup Day

11. The Secretariat presented on state of preparations for observing the World Cleanup Day and announced an Expression of Interest for hosting the Global Observance of the World Cleanup Day. The presentation made by the Secretariat is available [here](#).

Agenda item 5: Consultation on draft outcomes to be considered by the Executive Board at its 2025 first session

12. The working group conducted a first reading on the draft outcomes to be considered by the Executive Board at its 2025 first session. The draft document considered at the meeting is available [here](#).
13. The Chair requested the secretariat to circulate a revised version as soon as possible, taking into account the comments made by Member States, for further consideration at the next meeting of the working group scheduled for 5 March 2025.

Agenda item 6: Any other matters

14. No other matters were raised.
15. The sixty-fourth meeting of the ad-hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary, and administrative matters of the Executive Board was adjourned at 16:00 EAT.