



Summary of the sixty-sixth meeting of the ad-hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary, and administrative matters of the Executive Board

Wednesday, 12 March 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 sixty-sixth 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. The [agenda](#) was adopted without any changes.

Agenda item 2: Consultation on draft outcomes to be considered by the Executive Board at its 2025 first session

2. The working group continued the consultation on the draft decisions to be considered and adopted by the Executive Board at its 2025 first session. The draft document considered at the meeting is available [here](#).
3. The Chair requested the secretariat to circulate revised version of document after the meeting to Member States as soon as possible, for further consideration at the next meeting of the working group scheduled for 19 March 2025.

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

4. The Secretariat presented the [updated draft international guidelines on people-centered smart cities](#) as circulated on 7 March 2025 and highlighted the changes made.
5. Member States welcomed the updated draft and provided the following comments in summary:
 - Recalled the non-binding nature of the guidelines and underlined the importance relevance for help Member States in support of implementing a people-centered approach in developing smart cities.
 - Considered that technical expertise and political considerations need to complement each other, while ensuring that the guidelines remain rooted in science and expertise and at the same time remain actionable.
 - Expressed various views on the reference to human rights, with some Member States expressing support for a strong reference, while others Member States advocated to minimize or delete any reference to human rights.
 - Supported, in general, references to people in vulnerable situations, environmental sustainability and resilience, digital inclusion and governance, land degradation, water and energy consumption, responsible use of digital infrastructure and digital twins, social inclusion and equity.
 - Asked the secretariat to clarify how to track progress in the implementation of the guidelines after its approval.
 - Underlined the importance of effective implementation and of ensuring that the guidelines are adaptable to different national and local contexts.

- Expressed deep appreciation to the work of the 31 experts nominated by Member States and highlighted the importance to give justice to their work (the list of experts can be found [here](#)).
6. The Secretariat took note of the comments from Member States and provided follow responses:
 - Clarified that the draft guidelines will serve as a principal reference point of UN-Habitat's ongoing programmatic work on smart cities and explained that a report on World Smart Cities Outlook will reflect global progress in this area, subject to available resources.
 - Welcomed further guidance from Member States on the role of UN-Habitat in implementing the guidelines, taking into account the mandates given to UN-Habitat in the parent resolution.
 - Explained that the next step will be consultation under the Committee of Permanent Representatives in preparation for and during OECPR-3, followed final consideration and possible approval at the resumed second session of the Assembly.
 7. The Chair requested the secretariat to undertake a final revision of the draft guidelines based on the guidance received at the meeting, and then to submit the UN Office at Nairobi for translation.

Agenda item 4: Any other matters

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