



UN-HABITAT

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

Wednesday, 5 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 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 proposed to add the item “consultation on the draft international guidelines on people-centered smart cities” to the agenda. The [agenda](#) was adopted, as amended.

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

3. The Secretariat presented the latest version of the [draft strategic plan 2026-2029 version 1 March](#) and highlighted the changes made based on the inputs received.
4. Member States thanked the Secretariat for the revised version of the draft strategic plan and provided following comments, in summary:
 - Suggested further revisions with reference to human rights, women and girls, gender-responsive, people in vulnerable situations, land degradation, and access to adequate housing, land and basic services for all, as well as text relating to diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility.
 - Underlined the importance of ‘Sustainable Cities and Communities Foundation’ and ‘African Clean Cities Platform’ and noted there was no reference to those in the draft strategic plan.
 - Highlighted that normative work remains fundamental to UN-Habitat and that this aspect may need to be clarified and strengthened.
5. Written comments received from Member States are made available on the meeting [webpage](#), under the tab “65th meeting - 5 March”.
6. The Chair requested that the secretariat to adjust the draft strategic plan 2026-2029 based on the guidance received at the meeting and to submit it to UNON Conference Services by 6 March for editing and translation, and to circulate the submitted version to Member States.

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

7. The Secretariat presented the [updated draft international guidelines on people-centered smart cities](#) as circulated on 4 March 2025, and highlighted the changes made.
8. Member States thanked the secretariat for the updated draft and provided the following comments:
 - Noted significant changes in the latest version of the draft compared to the previous version and expressed concerns about the short time that the draft had been available Member States.

- Requested refinement of several sections, including with regard to the reference to human rights, and the global digital compact.
 - Underlined that the draft guidelines should maintain a technical focus towards assisting the development of smart cities and limit the focus on areas that are under covered under the mandate of other UN agencies.
 - Emphasized the importance of a transparent process and requested the secretariat to provide a document summarizing the inputs received from Member States.
 - Requested more time to review the draft guidelines.
9. The Secretariat took note of the comments made and committed to take them into account in the next version of the documents, including by reintroducing text from the expert's submission and reversing some of the editorial changes previously made.
10. The working group agreed to continue the consultation on the draft guidelines at its meeting on 12 March 2025 on the basis of a revised version of the draft guidelines and a document summarizing inputs received from Member States.

Agenda item 4: Consultation on draft outcomes to be considered by the Executive Board at its 2025 first session

11. The working group continued its informal 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](#).
12. 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 12 March 2025.

Agenda item 6: Any other matters

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