

2025 second Meeting of the Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly Hybrid Format

Wednesday, 9 April 2025, 14:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs. East Africa Time

Statement by the Executive Director/ Deputy Executive Director (Draft of 7 April 2025)

Meeting to be presided over by **H. E. Mr. Damphey Bediako Asare**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Ghana to UN-Habitat, representing Ghana as Vice President of the UN-Habitat Assembly, and on behalf of the President of the Assembly.

SLIDE 0: Title slide

Slide 1: Provisional Agenda

Adoption of the Provisional Agenda led by the Vice President (Ghana).

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Consideration of expected outcomes from the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, to be prepared by the third Open-ended Meeting of the UN-Habitat Committee of Permanent Representatives.
 - a. Adoption of the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2026-2029.
 - b. Adoption of a stakeholder engagement policy.
 - c. Adoption of international guidelines on people-centered smart cities.
 - d. Adoption of a decision the dates of the third session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
3. Update on the preparations for a high-level dialogue at the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
4. Update on upcoming elections.
5. Any other business.

SLIDE 2: (Title Slide) Agenda item 2. Consideration of expected outcomes from the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, to be prepared by the third Open-ended Meeting of the UN-Habitat Committee of Permanent Representatives.

- a. Adoption of the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2026-2029.**
- b. Adoption of a stakeholder engagement policy.**
- c. Adoption of international guidelines on people-centered smart cities.**
- d. Adoption of a decision the dates of the third session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.**

(ED/DED's REMARKS)

Thank you, Excellency.
Excellencies,
Good afternoon.

I join the Vice president in welcoming you all to this second meeting of the Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly for the year 2025.

I thank you all for the productive meeting we had on 3 March 2025 which indeed helped us to focus more in depth on the preparations for the upcoming resumed second session of the Assembly.

As you would recall, at that meeting, this Bureau endorsed the provisional Agenda for the resumed session which enabled us to submit relevant pre-session documents to the Division of Conference services for editing and translation.

The Bureau also gave us important guidance on the programme of work of resumed second session which has since been updated and is available on the website in the form of a preliminary programme.

We also noted the agreement in principle by the Bureau that the focus of the outcomes of the Assembly should be primarily on unfinished business from the adjourned second session.

Mr. Vice President,
Excellencies,

This meeting comes right after the first session of the Executive Board held from 25 to 27 March 2025, which resulted in important contributions towards the Assembly in particular in relation to the draft strategic plan for the period 2026 to 2029 and the draft stakeholder engagement policy. In this regard, I would like to remind the Bureau that the Executive Board - in its decision 2025/1 - took note of the draft strategic plan for the period 2026–2029 as prepared by the Executive Director following in-depth consultations with Member States through a number of retreats and under the auspices of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters.

The Executive Board - in its Decision 2025/4 - also requested the ad hoc working group on the development of a Stakeholder engagement policy, on an exceptional basis, to continue its work to develop a stakeholder engagement policy to be agreed by consensus by the Executive Board for its possible submission and consideration by the Assembly at its resumed second session.

This brings me to the core of agenda item 2, which is the Consideration of expected outcomes upcoming session, to be prepared by third Open-ended Meeting of the CPR. As we understand it, the four expected outcomes from the upcoming resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly are as follows:

- a. Adoption of the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2026-2029 possibly through a resolution.
- b. Adoption of a stakeholder engagement policy either through a decision or a resolution.

- c. Adoption of international guidelines on people-centered smart cities possibly through a resolution, and
- d. Adoption of a decision the dates of the third session of the UN-Habitat Assembly through a decision.

Mr. Vice President
Excellencies

The secretariat is fully committed to support the preparatory process of these expected outcomes through provision of technical and logistical support to all Member States, as consultations continue and draft resolutions and decisions are being prepared, as guided by the Assembly and UN-Habitat Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureaus.

In this regard, Mr. Vice president, the secretariat wishes to propose for consideration of the two Bureaus that the Chair of the UN-Habitat Committee of Permanent Representatives may wish to table a draft resolution for the adoption of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat, with the support of the secretariat, and that the secretariat prepares a draft decision on the dates of the third session of the UN-Habitat Assembly to be held in 2029.

In anticipation of the process of preparing and negotiating the draft resolutions and decisions, the secretariat has tentatively scheduled two informal consultations led by the Chair of the UN-Habitat Committee of Permanent Representatives, to take place on 14 and 28 April 2025, with the possibility to organize additional informal consultations in May, before the OECPR, if needed.

With the exception of the draft stakeholder engagement policy, which will be processed as an in-session document, all background documents for the third OECPR and for the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly are already available in English advance versions on the two websites. The translated versions of the documents are expected to be issued by 17 April 2025.

I thank you Mr. Vice President.

Back to you

(Chair will call on Portugal as Chair of the ad hoc working group on SEP at this point, followed by discussion)

Slide 3 (Title slide) Agenda item 3: Update on the preparations for a high-level dialogue at the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

Mr. Vice President
Excellencies

As discussed at the previous meeting within the framework of the organization of work during the resumed session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, we are proceeding with the preparations for the high-level dialogue on the afternoon of day one of the Assembly, as part of the consideration of item 6 on the strategic plan for UN-Habitat.

The Executive Director proposes that the high-level dialogue should focus on the topic “Adequate Housing for all” in the context of the strategic plan, and to link it to the work of the Open-Ended Working Group on Adequate Housing under the co-chairmanship of France and Kenya. The secretariat is currently preparing a concept note to be shared with all delegations by the end of this month at the latest, so that delegations can prepare accordingly to participate in the dialogue.

The idea is that the dialogue will be formally opened and closed by the President of the Assembly, It will be chaired by the co-chairs of the Open-Ended Working Group on Adequate Housing and moderated by the Executive Director. A panel of distinguished guests will introduce the dialogue, followed by a discussion with Member States. It is important to note that this session is not to be seen as an opportunity for formal national statements – which were already delivered by Member States at the adjourned second session in 2023. Instead, we hope that the focus should be on the implementation of the UN-Habitat strategic plan, with a focus on adequate housing.

In this regard, I also wish to note that the Executive Director has now sent invitation letters to all line Ministers to the Assembly, with the understanding that each

delegation will decide their own level of representation at the resumed second session. We also expect to have a number of high-profile representatives from cities and local communities, as well as other prominent stakeholders, to contribute to the dialogue.

I would be happy to answer any further questions on the plans for this high-level dialogue, and I also invite France to complement this short presentation if they so wish.

I thank you for your attention.

Slide 4 (TITLE SLIDE) AGENDA ITEM 4. Update on Elections:

Mr. Vice President
Excellencies

Under this item I wish to confirm that as requested by this Bureau during the meeting held on 3 March 2025, the secretariat has shared the background note on nominations with the Chairs of the Regional Groups with a copy to all Member States.

The secretariat is planning to provide an oral briefing to Member States on preparations for the upcoming elections during one of the upcoming informal consultations under the CPR to provide this briefing.

We also look forward to receiving updated information on the nominations from the chairs of the respective regional chairs, by 2 May 2025.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, back to you.

4. SLIDE 5 (TITLE SLIDE) AGENDA ITEM 4. Any other matters.

UNDER AOB:

ED/DED may present any other matter related to the preparation of the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, should time permit, or other matters she would like to bring to the attention of the Bureau.

FOR REFERENCE ONLY: Draft organization of work during the resumed second session

– version 14 March 2025

Time	Day 1: 29 May 2025	Day 2: 30 May 2025
08.00-09.00	UN-Habitat Assembly Bureau meeting	UN-Habitat Assembly Bureau meeting
09.00-10.00	Regional group meetings	Regional group meetings
10.00-12.00	<p>PLENARY 1 - opening Agenda item 1: Opening of the session. <i>Statement by a representative of the Host Country</i> <i>Statement by the Executive Director</i> <i>Statement by the Director General of the UN Offices in Nairobi</i> Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda. Agenda item 3: Report of the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.</p> <p><i>CR2: ACEFRS</i></p>	<p>PLENARY 3 Agenda item 4: Report of the Bureau on credentials of representatives. Agenda item 5: Election of members of the Executive Board.</p> <p><i>CR2: ACEFRS</i></p> <p>2025 Second session of the Executive Board (11.00-12.00) <i>Agenda: Election of officers of the Bureau of the Executive Board</i></p> <p><i>CR1 or CR2: ACEFRS</i></p>
12.00-13.00	<p>TBC: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE <i>CR2: ACEFRS</i></p>	<p>TBC: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE <i>CR2: ACEFRS</i></p>
13.00 - 15.00	<p>LUNCH BREAK</p> <p>Drafting Committee <i>CR1: E</i></p>	LUNCH BREAK
15.00 - 18.00	<p>PLENARY 2 Agenda item 6: Strategic plan for the period 2026-2029. <i>High-level dialogue [theme TBC]</i></p> <p><i>CR2: ACEFRS</i></p>	<p>PLENARY 4 – closing Agenda item 9: Election of officers of the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly. Agenda item 7: Adoption of the outcomes of the session. Agenda item 8: Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the third session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly. Agenda item 10: Other matters. Agenda item 11: Closure of the session.</p> <p><i>CR2: ACEFRS</i></p>
19.00 -	<p>TBC: RECEPTION</p> <p>Drafting Committee <i>CR1: E</i></p>	