



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

Hybrid format – Wednesday, 16 April 2025

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

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

*(Draft 15 April 2025)*

#### **SLIDE 1: Title slide**

#### **Slide 2: Provisional Agenda**

*Adoption of the Agenda to be led by the Chair (Permanent Representative of France to UN-Habitat).*

1. Adoption of the provisional Agenda.
2. Review of the conduct of the 2025 first session of the Executive including its outcomes and review of the time duration for the interventions of Member States during the Executive Board sessions.
3. Preparations for the 2025 second session of the Executive Board including:
  - i. Review of the Provisional Agenda for the second session.
  - ii. Preparations for elections of the next Bureau at the second session.
  - iii. Draft provisional agenda for the 2025 third session.
4. Any other matters.

***(NOTE: the provisional agenda will be projected and its adoption will be led by the Chair.)***

**SLIDE 3: AGENDA ITEM 2 (TITLE SLIDE):- Review of the conduct of the 2025 first session of the Executive including its outcomes and review of the time duration for the interventions of Member States during the Executive Board sessions**

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

Good afternoon to you all.

Let me first congratulate you Mr. Chairman and the Republic of France for assuming the role of the Chair of the Executive Board representing WEOG pending the upcoming elections in May 2025. I wish to assure you of the support of the Secretariat as you prepare and conduct the upcoming second session of the Executive Board for the year 2025.

I also take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Federal Republic of Nigeria who very successfully steered three sessions the Executive Board in May and December 2024 and in March 2025. I recognize the important role played by the acting Permanent Representative of Nigeria to UN-Habitat Mr. Chibudhom Roosevelt, during the tenure of Nigeria. Through him, I wish to convey our gratitude to Honourable Ahmed Musa Dangiwa, Minister of Housing and Urban Development and to Dr. Shuaibu Belgore, the Permanent Secretary.

**SLIDE 4: Review of the conduct of the 2025 first session of the Executive including its outcomes and review of the time duration for the interventions of Member States during the Executive Board sessions**

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

The 2025 first session of the Executive Board was successful in our view. I especially wish to thank all delegations, through this Bureau for their flexibility and for the Nairobi spirit as consensus was reached on some the sensitive discussions, particularly on the draft strategic plan and the Sustainable Cities and Communities Foundation. We undertake to make the appropriate follow on the requests made to the Executive Director, including on an independent due diligence of the Sustainable Cities and Communities Foundation as well as the specific updates related to expected implementation of the next strategic 2026 to 2029 such as the division of responsibilities within the organization and the scalability model.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me also touch upon the issue of the time duration for the interventions of Member States during the Executive Board sessions.

First, at any Executive Board session, we have a finite number of interpreted plenary sessions, of 3 hours each. Therefore, there is need to balance the time allocated to delegations to speak and the time needed to successfully complete all items on the agenda and to adopt the outcomes of the session.

It is important to keep in mind that the resources we have for servicing the sessions of the governing bodies are limited by a very constrained UN regular budget. It will not be possible to extend the meetings or add any additional plenary meetings.

Secondly - the practice of a clear time limitation and sometimes even cutting microphones after the limit has been reached has become standard practice across the United Nations system. Within the governing bodies of UN-Habitat, including the UN-Habitat Assembly, the allocation of 3 minutes per Member State and 5 minutes per regional group has been the standard practice, and broadly accepted. The option to cut the microphones after time is exhausted has always been at the discretion of the Chair and the Bureau, and is normally based on a case-by-case assessment of each session.

Thirdly, we understand that while some Member States complained about the time management at the previous meeting, other Member States appreciated that the meeting was conducted in a timely and efficient manner, and underlined the importance of a fair and equal treatment of all Member States wishing to intervene.

The secretariat looks forward to further guidance from yourself and from the Bureau on how to proceed on the issue of time management.

Mr. Chairman, back to you.

**Slide 5: Agenda Item 3 (TITLE SLIDE) Preparations for the 2025 second session of the Executive Board including:**

- i. Review of the Provisional Agenda for the second session.**
- ii. Preparations for elections of the next Bureau at the second session.**
- iii. Draft provisional agenda for the 2025 third session.**

**Slide 6: Item 3 (i) Review of the Provisional Agenda for the second session**

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to subitem 3(i), you would recall that the Executive Board in paragraph 7 of Decision 2025/4 decided that the second session of the Executive Board of 2025 will be held on 30 May 2025 in conjunction with the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, in a manner which will not conflict with the proceedings of the session of the Assembly.

The Executive Board also decided that the provisional agenda for the second session of 2025 will be as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers of the Bureau.
3. Consideration and approval of the provisional agenda for the third session of 2025.
4. Other matters.
5. Closure of the session.

The secretariat has no further observations on this provisional agenda, and we look forward to receiving any further guidance on it from the Bureau.

**Slide 7: Item 3(ii) Preparations for elections of the next Bureau at the second session.**

Regarding subitem 3(ii) on elections, I would like to confirm that the secretariat has received the nomination for the position of Chair of the Executive Board from the Western European and Other States group, WEOG. For the position of Vice Chair from the Asia Pacific Group, we have currently registered two nominees: China and Pakistan. We are still waiting to hear from the other regional groups on their nominees to the next Bureau of the Executive Board for the period 2025 to 2026.

**NOTE FOR ED/DED: The below composition will be on the screen just for reference by Bureau members. No need to read**

**Chair:** Western European and Others – WEOG ( **one nomination**)

**Vice-Chairs:**

- Asia-Pacific States (**two nominations**)
- Eastern European States
- Latin American and Caribbean States

**Rapporteur:** African States

**Slide 8: Item 3(iii): Draft provisional agenda for the 2025 third session.**

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates, you would recall that the Executive Board in paragraph 9 of Decision 2025/4 decided that the third session of 2025 will be held for a duration of 2 days from 25 to 26 November 2025. The agenda for that

session is to be decided upon at the upcoming short second session to be held on the margins of the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly on 30 May 2025.

In preparation for the second session of the Executive Board and considering that the third session would be held for just two days, the Secretariat proposes the following provisional agenda, for your consideration.

[The agenda is screened]

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organizational matters:
  - (a) Adoption of the agenda and the workplan for the third session of 2025;
  - (b) Adoption of the report of the Executive Board on the work of the first session of 2025;
  - (c) Adoption of the report of the Executive Board on the work of the second session of 2025.
3. Reports by the chairs of the ad hoc working groups established by the Executive Board.
4. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters.
5. Implementation of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat:
  - (a) Annual report for 2024 on the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2025;
  - (b) Update on Structure and division of responsibilities within the organization for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the period 2026-2029.
6. Consideration and approval of the draft work programme of UN-Habitat and the draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2026.
7. Normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, including reporting on the programmatic activities of UN-Habitat and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities and the engagement of UN-Habitat in countries, territories and areas affected by conflict and disaster.
8. Preparations for the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum.

9. Preparations for the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to be held in 2026.
10. Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services to the Executive Board.
11. Report of the Ethics Office to the Executive Board.
12. Consideration and adoption of the outcomes of the session, including on the dates and provisional agenda for the first session of 2026.
13. Other matters.
14. Closure of the session.

### **Slide 9: Considerations towards the proposed provisional agenda for the 2025 third session**

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,

This proposed agenda takes into consideration the recurrent items of the Executive Board as stipulated in Decision 2019/2.

It also takes into account the decisions made by the Executive Board at the first session of 2025 as well as the previous sessions.

In particular, under **item 4** on “financial, and administrative matters” we propose to include the updates on **structure and human resources** of UN-Habitat, particularly **posts funded by UN regular budget** and the foundation **non-earmarked fund**, as well as on draft version of the **scalability model** for the non-earmarked budget – as requested in in decision 2025/1 of the Executive Board.

**Under Item 5** on “Implementation of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat”, we propose to include the update on the **structure and division of responsibilities** within the organization for the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2026-2029, as also decided at the first session of the Board this year.

Excellencies,

In order to save time and ensure efficiency of the two-day session, we propose that **item 7** on “normative and operational activities” **focuses only on activities of UN-Habitat in countries, territories and areas affected by conflict and disaster** including the report on Gaza Strip as requested in paragraph 4 of Decision 2024/6 and the report on Ukraine as requested in paragraph 5 of decision 2024/6.

We look forward to your guidance on the proposed provisional agenda.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, back to you.

**Slide 10: AGENDA ITEM 5. ANY OTHER MATTERS:**

*(to be led by the Chair)*

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