

2025 third Meeting of the Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly

Hybrid Format

Wednesday, 7 May 2025, 10:00 hrs. to 12:00 hrs. East Africa Time

Statement by the Executive Director/Deputy Executive Director

(Draft of 6 May 2025)

Meeting to be presided over by Ms. Astrid Ceron Pedila, Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico to UN-Habitat, 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.

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Status of preparations of the third OECPR and the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
3. Status of draft outcomes of the OECPR and the UN-Habitat Assembly.
4. Status of nominations towards the elections of officers of the Governing Bodies.
5. Any other business.

SLIDE 2: (Title Slide) Agenda item 2. Status of preparations of the third OECPR and the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly

Thank you, Chair
Excellencies,
Good morning.

On behalf of the Executive Director who is away on official mission to attend an important meeting with the UN Chief Executive Board led by the Secretary-General, I welcome you all to this third meeting of the Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly for the year 2025 in preparations for the third OECPR and resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. I also extend her sincere apologies for not being present with us today due to important engagements in New York.

Excellencies,

It is my pleasure to update you on the progress we have made in preparations for the third OECPR and the resumed second session, since our meeting held on 11 April 2025.

Slide 4:

1. First, I wish to confirm that all **pre-session working documents** for the upcoming **third OECPR** were made available to all Member States on **14 April 2025** six weeks prior to the session, in accordance with the rules of procedure.

Similarly, the **pre-session documents** towards the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat **Assembly** were made available on **17 April 2025**. The only exception being the draft stakeholder engagement policy which is still under consideration by Member States.

2. Second, following the Bureau's endorsement of the proposal by the Executive Director to have a **high-level dialogue** under agenda item 6 on the next strategic plan on UN-Habitat with a focus on "Adequate housing for all", we have made available a **concept note on the dialogue** to help Member States prepare accordingly. We invite delegations to register to the dialogue and we have prepared guiding questions as well as logistical information such as expected duration of interventions. As you may all recall, the High-level dialogue will take place during the second plenary meeting of the Assembly on 29 May 2025 in the afternoon from 3pm to 6pm Nairobi time.

3. Third, with regard to the **opening of the resumed second session** of the Assembly which will take place on 29 May 2025 from 10 am, our expectation is that the opening statements will be delivered by:

- Message from the UN Secretary-General or Deputy Secretary-General (via video)
- Ms. Zainab Hawa Bangura, Director-General of UNON
- Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP
- His Excellency Bob Rae, President of the 2025 session of ECOSOC (via video),
- His Excellency Philemon Yang, President of the UN General Assembly (via video),
- Ms. Anacláudia Rossbach, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, and
- A High-level representative from Host Country, Kenya – (President of Kenya – TBC).

Slide 5:

4. Fourth, in relation to this, in terms of **high-level participation**, we have registered 12 ministers and 2 vice ministers so far – but we expect this number to grow in the coming weeks. [For information: Azerbaijan, Cuba, France, Kenya, Iraq, Guinea Bissau, Cabo Verde, Senegal, Liberia, Ghana, Mali, and South Africa; as well as two Vice Ministers - China and Russia].

The **Mayor of Paris** and the **Governor of Nairobi** are also expected to attend.

5. Fifth, the Secretariat have supported the CPR Chair and the CPR Bureau by preparing draft decisions on the approval of the strategic plan the guidelines on smart cities, and on the date and agenda of the third Assembly.

Slide 6:

Excellencies,

6. Sixth, I would also like to share with you an update on a **limited number of special events** during the session, as well as during the OECPR. These special events are all organized by UN-Habitat, sometimes in close cooperation with Member States, and they all link directly to the agenda of the Assembly.

A comprehensive draft programme listing all the special events have been shared with all Member States earlier this week.

Concepts notes for each of these special events will be shared with all Member States by end of this week.

Slide 7:

Mr. Vice President.
Excellencies,

7. Seventh, so far, we have only received a handful of **Credentials**. I wish to take this opportunity to emphasize, through this Bureau, the need to receive Member States credentials in line with the provisions of the rules of procedure. Member States can either confirm their credentials from the adjourned second session held in 2023 if there is no change in the composition of their delegations from that adjourned session, or, submit new credentials for 2025.

This is particularly crucial, in view of the upcoming the elections which may require voting by secret ballot.

8. Eight, Online registration is ongoing and will close on 22 May 2025. We are expecting many more Member States to register in the coming days. We invite members of the bureaus to encourage delegations to register early, for organizational and planning purposes.

9. Ninth, we are currently finalising a practical **information note for participants** which will contain guidance on credentials, registration, accommodation, visas, among other pertinent matters.

10. Finally, we are providing travel support to around 15 least developed countries **to participate** in the third OECPR and the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

I thank you Mr. Vice President.
Back to you.

Slide 8 (Title slide) Agenda item 3: Status of draft outcomes of the OECPR and the UN-Habitat Assembly

- Ambassador of Pakistan and Ambassador of Colombia to brief the Bureau on the **Status of draft outcomes** based on informal consultations meeting held on 14 and 28 April 2025
- DPR of Portugal to update the Bureau on the Status of the Draft Stakeholder engagement policy
- DED supported by Ulf, Edlam and other Secretariat present to support discussions as necessary.

Slide 9 (TITLE SLIDE) AGENDA ITEM 4. Status of nominations towards the elections of officers of the Governing Bodies.

DED to call on Ulf to make an update based on the matrix on status of nominations so far received. (Matrix to be appended below and on PPT Slides 10, 11, 12)

Slide 10: Membership of the UN-Habitat Executive Board for the period 2025-2029

1. Africa (10 seats): **Eight** self-nominations have been received by the secretariat via note verbale, and one letter from a line minister. NV from Chair expected

2. Asia-Pacific (APG) (8 seats): **Eight nominations** have been received via note verbale from the Chair of the Asia-Pacific Group. [**two members to split tenure, for two years each**]
3. Eastern Europe (EEG) (4 seats): **Five** self-nominations have been received via note verbale. NV from Chair expected.
4. Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) (6 seats): Six nominations have been received via note verbale from the Chair of GRULAC.
5. Western Europe and Others (WEOG) (8 seats): Seven nominations have been received via note verbale from the Chair of WEOG. **One nomination pending.**

Slide 11:

Membership of the Bureau of the Executive Board for the period 2025-2026

- One nomination has been received via note verbale from the Chair of WEOG.
- One nomination has been received via note verbale the Chair of GRULAC.
- One nomination has been received from the Chair of the Asia-Pacific Group.
- **No nomination** has been received from the Africa Group.
- **No nomination** has been received from the Eastern European Group.

Slide 12:

Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly for the period 2025-2029

- **Two** Nominations have been received via note verbale from the Chair of APG. **The nominees to split the four-year tenure** of the office of the President into two years each for Malaysia and the UAE.
- Two self-nominations have been received via note verbale from the Eastern European Group.
- **No nominations have** been received from WEOG
- **No nominations** have been received from GRULAC
- **No nominations** have been received from Africa Group

Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for the period 2025-2027

- One nomination has been received via note verbale from the Chair of WEOG.
- One nomination has been received via note verbale from the Chair of the Asia-Pacific Group.
- **Two** nominations: One nomination has been received via note verbale from the Chair Eastern European Group in 2023 and one self-nomination has been received.
- No nominations have been received from GRULAC.
- **One** nomination has been received via NV from the Chair of the African Group.

Slide 13: (TITLE SLIDE) AGENDA ITEM 5. Any other business.

DED to share with the Bureau any other matters under this item.