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Executive Board of the United Nations

Human Settlements Programme

First session of 2025

Nairobi, 25–27 March 2025

Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first session of 2025

Decision 2025/1: Financial, budgetary and administrative matters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme; the Sustainable Cities and Communities Foundation; the draft work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2026; the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029

The Executive Board

(a) **Financial, budgetary and administrative matters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including its financial status and the Sustainable Cities and Communities Foundation**

1. *Takes note* of the reports and updates of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat on:
 - (a) The interim financial status of UN-Habitat as at 31 December 2024;¹
 - (b) The staffing of UN-Habitat as at 31 December 2024;²
 - (c) Recruitment, equitable geographical distribution and gender parity;³
 - (d) The status of the implementation of the recommendations of the report of the Board of Auditors;⁴
 - (e) The Sustainable Cities and Communities Foundation;⁵
2. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue efforts to strengthen non-earmarked and earmarked funding in accordance with the UN-Habitat resource mobilization strategy, and invites all Member States in a position to do so to contribute to the core financial resources of UN-Habitat, which are indispensable for the successful fulfilment of the mandate of UN-Habitat and the implementation of its strategic plan and programme of work to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements, and to organize a successful resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly;

¹ HSP/EB.2025/2.

² HSP/EB.2025/INF/3.

³ HSP/EB.2025/INF/4.

⁴ HSP/EB.2025/INF/5.

⁵ HSP/EB.2025/5.

3. *Takes note* of the presentation by the secretariat on the status of the implementation of the recommendations of the report of the Board of Auditors and the efforts undertaken by the Executive Director to implement those recommendations;

4. *Also takes note* of the intent of the Executive Director to conduct an independent due diligence process in relation to the Sustainable Cities and Communities Foundation, in consultation with the United Nations Secretariat in New York, and requests the Executive Director to present the results of that due diligence to the Executive Board as soon as possible;

5. *Recalls* paragraph 2 of decision 2024/5 of the Executive Board requesting the Executive Director to provide an update to the Executive Board, at its first session of each year, on the Sustainable Cities and Communities Foundation for the duration of the agreement with the Foundation, and invites the relevant accredited stakeholders to attend those briefings;

(b) Status of the draft work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2026

6. *Requests* the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters to continue its consideration of the non-earmarked budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2026, and requests the Executive Director to finalize the draft annual work programme of UN-Habitat and the draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2026 on the basis of feedback from the Committee for Programme and Coordination and from the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and to present it to the Executive Board at its third session of 2025 for further consideration and possible approval;

(c) Preparation of the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029

7. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on the development of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2026–2029⁶ and of the draft strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2026–2029;⁷

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to present to the Executive Board, at its third session of 2025, any updates regarding the structure and human resources of UN-Habitat, in particular posts funded by the United Nations regular budget and by the non-earmarked budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;

9. *Also requests* the Executive Director to present to the Executive Board, at its third session of 2025, the division of responsibilities within UN-Habitat for implementation of the strategic plan 2026–2029;

10. *Further requests* the Executive Director to present to the Executive Board, at its third session of 2025, an updated version of the draft scalability model for the non-earmarked budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation.

Decision 2025/2: Implementation of the normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

The Executive Board

(a) Implementation of the normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

1. *Takes note* of the briefing by and the report of the Executive Director on the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat,⁸ including the plans for enhanced capacity development, subject to the availability of resources, across UN-Habitat programmes, and requests the Executive Director to continue to provide regular status reports and briefings on the efforts of UN-Habitat to assist in the reconstruction of human settlements affected by conflict and disaster;

⁶ HSP/EB.2025/4.

⁷ HSP/EB.2025/INF/7.

⁸ HSP/EB.2025/6.

(b) Implementation by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme of the reform of the development system and management of the United Nations

2. *Takes note* of the updates by the secretariat and the related checklist on the implementation within UN-Habitat of the reform of the development system of the United Nations, and further takes note of the efforts by UN-Habitat to continue contributing to the repositioning of the United Nations development system and to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 79/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

3. *Reaffirms* its strong commitment to the repositioning of the United Nations development system, and encourages UN-Habitat to continue working with other entities in the United Nations development system at the country level, under the leadership of resident coordinators and in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders, to support country-level development efforts towards sustainable human settlements, including through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework;

4. *Calls on* UN-Habitat to take further steps to align its country programmes with country cooperation frameworks and to strengthen monitoring and reporting on how its own activities contribute to the collective results of the United Nations country teams, in line with national priorities and needs.

Decision 2025/3: Update on the implementation of resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of resolutions adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly;⁹

2. *Recalls* resolution 2/1 of the UN-Habitat Assembly on international guidelines on people-centred smart cities, and takes note of the draft international guidelines on people-centred smart cities¹⁰ and the presentation by the Executive Director on related progress;

3. *Also recalls* resolution 2/7 of the UN-Habitat Assembly on adequate housing for all, takes note of the outcome of the first session of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All, held from 9 to 11 December 2024, commends the work carried out by the Chair, and decides that, subject to the provision of sufficient additional financial resources, the second session of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All will be held for a duration of two or three days in the fourth quarter of 2025;

4. *Recommends* that the provisional agenda for the second session of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All be prepared by the Co-Chairs of the Working Group in consultation with the Executive Board and be shared with all Member States at least six weeks ahead of the session.

Decision 2025/4: Methods of work of the Executive Board and the workplan of the Executive Board for 2025

The Executive Board

(a) Reports of the Executive Board and its ad hoc working groups

1. *Adopts* the report of the Executive Board of the UN-Habitat on the work of its second session of 2024;¹¹

2. *Takes note* of the briefing, by the Chair of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters, on the work of the group, and commends his work;

3. *Also takes note* of the briefing, by the Chair of the ad hoc working group on the development of a draft stakeholder engagement policy, on the work of the group, and requests the ad hoc working group, on an exceptional basis, to continue its efforts to develop a draft stakeholder

⁹ HSP/EB.2025/7.

¹⁰ HSP/EB.2025/INF/10.

¹¹ HSP/EB.2024/23.

engagement policy to be agreed, by consensus, by the Executive Board for possible submission to and consideration by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its resumed second session;

(b) Working methods of the Executive Board to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of sessions of the Board

4. *Takes note* of the results of the survey conducted by the secretariat following the second session of 2024 of the Executive Board to evaluate the effectiveness of that session so as to improve further the process of holding and the outcome of future sessions;¹²

5. *Decides*, taking into account related internal consultations and the information provided by the secretariat on legal and practical considerations pertaining to implementation of paragraph 3 of rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the Executive Board, that any decision on the rotation of the offices of Chair and Rapporteur shall be taken at the first regular session of the Executive Board each year;

6. *Requests* the Bureau of the Executive Board to review the time allocated for the interventions of Member States during Executive Board sessions, and requests the Chair of the Executive Board to present a related recommendation at the beginning of each session for consideration by the Board;

(c) Date and provisional agenda for the second session of 2025 of the Executive Board and the workplan of the Executive Board for 2025

7. *Decides* that the second session of 2025 of the Executive Board will be held on 30 May 2025 in conjunction with the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, in a manner that does not conflict with the proceedings of the session of the Assembly;

8. *Also decides* that the provisional agenda of 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.

9. *Further decides* that the third session of 2025 of the Executive Board will be held for a duration of two days on 25 and 26 November 2025.

¹² HSP/EB.2025/INF/12.