Seventh meeting of the Bureau of the Executive Board, Monday, 8 September 2025 starting at 10:00hrs (EAT)

Draft speaking points for the co-chairs of the Open-Ended Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All

Agenda item 5. Update on the preparations for the second session of the Open-ended expert working group on adequate housing for all (OEWGH).

Introduction

1. Thank you for offering us the opportunity to provide a short update on the work of the Open-Ended Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All (OEWG-H), in our capacity as Co-Chairs.

2. The first session of the OEWG-H was held in Nairobi from 9 to 11 December 2024. Based on inputs of Member States and on the Chair's Summary of the session, France and Kenya, as elected Co-Chairs, developed a Roadmap for the duration of their chairpersonship. The Roadmap identified thematic priority areas and guided the preparations for the second session of the Expert Group (OEWG-H2), which is scheduled to take place on the 22 and 23 October 2025 in the UN Compound, in Gigiri, Nairobi.

Member states involvement in the OEWG-H

3. In the course of the year, we as Co-Chairs supported by UN-Habitat have dedicated significant efforts to increase the visibility and outreach of the OEWG-H and involve Member States in its work. For example, a call for Member States to nominate focal points was issued and disseminated widely among the permanent missions in Nairobi and New York. As of today, 44 countries have nominated a total of eighty-three (83) experts who, in addition to numerous other experts, have contributed to the activities of OEWG-H and especially to the content-related preparations for the OEWG-H2. Nominations are still being received.

State of preparations for OEWG-H2

4. The thematic preparatory work OEWG-H2 has focused on the following areas: housing finance, tenure security, informal settlements, social housing, housing sustainability, definition of homelessness, definition of informal settlements, and the development of a monitoring framework for the progressive realisation of adequate housing for all.

5. For each thematic area, preparatory technical expert group meetings resulted in technical analyses and draft recommendations, which were then submitted for consideration and validation at online Intersessional Meetings attended by the Member States nominated experts. The technical expert group meetings were convened on the 4th, 9th, 10th and 11th of June and on 20th, 21st and 22nd August of 2025. Together, these meetings were attended by a total of 365 participants[1].

6. Eight online Intersessional Meetings were organized on 24-27 June. Together, these meetings were attended by a total of 465 participants[1]. An additional six online Intersessional Meetings are planned for the 16-18 September 2025. The online Intersessional Meetings were interpreted in English, French, Arabic, Spanish and Russian.

7. These preparatory meetings have resulted in development of background papers and validation of draft recommendations which will be submitted for consideration by the delegates attending OEWGH-2 by the 11 September 2025, six weeks before the Session.

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[1] *If the same person attended more than one meeting, he/she is counted more than once.*

8. The provisional and annotated agenda has already been made available on a dedicated meeting OEWG-H2 webpage.

Practical preparations

9. The meeting plenary will be held at Conference Room 2 at the UN compound in Gigiri. Additional rooms for regional group meetings, possible informal consultations and side events are available on 21-23 October 2025.

10. Full interpretation in all UN languages will be provided throughout the plenary sessions. However, due to insufficient funding, the documentation is unfortunately available in English only, with the exception of the provisional agenda. This will also apply to the post-session documents.

11. For the same reason, travel support to representatives of Least Developed Countries is unfortunately not available.

12. Invitations to the OEWG-H2 have already been shared with all Member States through Note Verbale, and to the nominated experts by email.

13. Online meeting registration is open and is done through the UN-Habitat GEMS online Event Registration Platform and are already open.

Election of new Co-Chairs

14. On 29 August, UN-Habitat shared a Call for Expression of interest to serve as Co-Chairs of the OEWG-H with the Chairs of the Regional Groups in Nairobi. Regional rotation is envisaged and therefore we hope to receive expressions of interests from countries from the Latin American and the Caribbean Group, the Asia Pacific Group, or the Eastern European Group.

Key expectations for the OEWG-H2

Before the meeting

15. In the run-up to the meeting, we expect to see an increasing level of interest and involvement by Member States, including by nominating of additional experts and a high number of registrations.

16. We also expect nominations from countries interested in being elected as new co-chairs at the end of OEWG-H2.

At the meeting

17. A high level of attendance by Member States and experts.

18. Consideration and possible endorsement of the proposed draft recommendations on informal settlements, housing finance, social housing and tenure security.

19. Consideration and adoption of the draft Roadmap for the work of the OEWG-H until 2029. This will enable UN-Habitat, Co-Chairs and Member States to identify and plan the delivery of the key milestones until the third United Nations Habitat Assembly. The proposed draft roadmap will be available as part of pre-session documents on 11 September 2025.

20. Announcements by interested Member States to further support the work of the OEWG-H, including with regard to additional resources to hold future meetings and to ensure that UN-Habitat has sufficient human and financial capacity to continue facilitating the work of the OEWG-H. A Call for Expression of Interest in supporting the OEWG-H was issued earlier this year and it will be circulated again in the run up to the OEWG-H2.

21. Thank you for your attention.