



**2025 Eighth Bureau Meeting of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat**  
**Wednesday, 19 November 2025**  
**16:00 – 18:00 EAT**

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**Speaking notes for the Chair of the ad hoc working group on Programmatic, Budgetary and Administrative Matters**

**H.E. Amb. Susan Nakhumicha Wafula, Permanent Representative of Kenya to UN-Habitat**  
**(Amb. Beatrice Karago, Deputy Permanent Representative of Kenya to UN-Habitat)**

Good afternoon, Chair and Members of the Bureau of the Executive Board,  
Good afternoon, Executive Director.

It is my pleasure to provide a brief update on the work of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary, and administrative matters - particularly on the status of the draft decisions to be considered by the Executive Board at its upcoming third session.

Based on initial technical inputs for the draft decisions provided by the secretariat, and three readings undertaken in the group, we now have solid basis in view of final consideration and adoption of the draft decisions at the Executive Board session next week. The decisions are divided into three sections:

- i. **Draft decision 2025/[A]:** Financial, budgetary and administrative matters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); Implementation of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat; The work programme and budget for 2026; and Reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and of the Ethics Office to the Executive Board.
- ii. **Draft decision 2025/[B]:** Implementation of the normative and operational activities of the UN-Habitat; reporting on the programmatic activities of the Programme in 2025, implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities.
- iii. **Draft Decision 2025/[C]:** Methods of work of the Executive Board and the workplan of the Executive Board for 2026.

As mentioned, the ad hoc working group held three meetings to examine and consult on the draft decisions on 3, 12 and 17 November, respectively. Good progress has been made overall, with a majority of the draft paragraphs now agreed *ad referendum*.

However, I wish to report that 9 paragraphs remain in brackets. Some of these paragraphs were newly proposed at the last PBA meeting, so Member States will need some additional time to consider them. For others, I believe that the current draft texts are well advanced – even if they still are subject to scrutiny reservations.

**Under Decision A**, open paragraphs include:

- Paragraph 2, requesting the Executive Director to continue efforts to strengthen non-earmarked funding and inviting Member States to contribute to the core financial resources of UN-Habitat;
- Paragraph 8, requesting that Member States be informed “on the implications of the UN80 initiative of the structure, staffing, budgetary planning and work of UN-Habitat”;
- Paragraph 9, deciding to discontinue the use of the scalability model, “while continuing to emphasize strategic coherence, simplification, forward planning and prioritization on the budgeting for following years in consultation with the EB”;
- Paragraph 11, requesting baseline values and the proposed corresponding targets for all indicators included in the Monitoring Framework to be presented at the next EB session;
- Paragraph 12 on the approval of the draft work programme and budget of UN-Habitat, which I believe needs more time and consultation. The reason being that some Member States are not convinced that the proposed budget of 5.0 million USD is realistic and have requested the secretariat to provide information on consequences for the 2026 work programme if the 5 million USD is not reached. I believe the additional report by the secretariat by the end of this week will bring more clarity.
- Paragraph 13, requesting an update at the next EB session on the “status of the draft work programme and the draft budget for 2027, including options of possible downscaling, taking into account the recommendations of the ad hoc working group on PBA, and the revenue of the non-earmarked fund, including case scenarios based options reflecting potential structural, financial and staffing implications of the UN80 initiative”.

**Under Decision B**, there is only one bracketed paragraph, which is paragraph 4, requesting continued updates on “country level implementation, regional engagement, partnerships with local authorities, and programme work on urban crisis prevention and response, ensuring coherence with the Strategic Plan 2026-2029”.

**Under Decision C**, the only remaining paragraphs include:

- Paragraph 7 – commending the work of the OEWDG and taking note of its reports;
- Paragraph 10 on the dates of the 2026 Executive Board sessions, there are different views on whether the second session in November 2026 should be 2 or 3 days.

In summary, we have made good progress in the working group to prepare the draft decisions, with many of them agreed *ad ref*. I am confident that the planned additional informal consultations

on draft decisions during the Executive Board session will result in a clean text for adoption by the board.

Following the final meeting of the working group, I have formally submitted the latest version of the draft decisions to the Chair of the Board.

I stand ready to continue leading informal consultations on the draft, if requested, with the goal of reaching consensus on all draft decisions for final consideration and adoption at its closing plenary of the Executive Board session.

With that, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the trust you have placed in me as Chair of the working group, and for your continued support.

Thank you.