



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

Draft Summary

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and Adoption of the provisional Agenda

1. H.E. Mr. Sebastian Groth, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Germany to UN-Habitat and Chair of the Executive Board, opened the meeting at 16:10 EAT.

The following members of the Bureau of the Executive Board were present:

- H.E. Mr. Sebastian Groth, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Germany to UN-Habitat and Chair of the Executive Board
- H.E. Mr. Maros Mitrik, Ambassador of Slovakia and Permanent Representative to UN-Habitat
- H.E. Amb. Susan Nakhumicha Wafula, Permanent Representative of Kenya to UN-Habitat (Observer), Chair of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters
- Ms. Beatrice Karago, Deputy Permanent Representative of Kenya to UN-Habitat (Observer)
- Mr. Martin Row, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to UN-Habitat
- Mr. Francisco de Souza, Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil to UN-Habitat
- Ms. Zhao Wenhua, Deputy Permanent Representative of China to UN-Habitat
- Ms. Julietta Koula, Deputy Permanent Representative of Cameroon to UN-Habitat
- Mr. Taleng Aristide Faha, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Cameroon
- Ms. Ivy Mburu, Multilateral Affairs Officer of the Permanent Mission of Germany
- Ms. Yang Qi, Second Secretary of the Permanent Mission of China to UN-Habitat
- Mr. Chen Yuheng, Third Secretary of the Permanent Mission of China to UN-Habitat
- Ms. Marie Loerke, Policy Advisor, GIZ

UN-Habitat secretariat members were present:

- Ms. Anaclaudia Rosbach, Under Secretary-General and Executive Director
- Mr. Erfan Ali, Chief of Staff
- Mr. Rafael Tuts, Director, Global Solutions Division
- Mr. Ulf Bjornholm, Secretary of the Governing Bodies
- Ms. Annette Wawiru, Director, Management Advisory and Compliance Service
- Ms. Shipra Narang Suri, Senior Policy Advisor to the Executive Director

2. The provisional [agenda](#) was adopted without any changes.
3. The Executive Director provided opening remarks, which can be accessed [here](#). The presentation by the Secretariat can be accessed [here](#).

Agenda item 2: Update on the status of draft decisions for consideration at the third session of the Executive Board for 2025

4. H.E. Ms. Susan Nakhumicha Wafula, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to UN-Habitat and Chair of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters, provided an update on the status of draft decisions for consideration at the third session of the Executive Board for 2025. The statement can be accessed [here](#).

5. The Bureau members provided following inputs:
 - Asked about the plan for informal consultations during the Executive Board session, including whether discussions would follow chronological order or begin with the more complex paragraphs;
 - Sought clarity on how informal consultations would be aligned with plenary agenda items;
 - Recalled discussions in the ad hoc working group on PBA regarding the duration of Executive Board sessions, encouraging consideration of a two-day session given current budget constraints. Another member noted that a post-session survey after the Board's first 2025 session showed a preference for a three-day session, which should also be taken into account.
6. On the approach to informal consultations, the Chair of the PBA and the Secretariat outlined two options: (1) begin with the more challenging paragraphs to allow time for capital-level consultations, or (2) start with general comments and aim to reduce as many brackets as possible. The Secretariat emphasized that the decision rests with the Chair of the PBA working group.
7. The Secretariat noted that plenary agenda sequencing and informal consultation topics are not always fully aligned, but plenary discussions generally support the consultations and confirmed that all decisions will be formally considered under item 12 at the final plenary, and that all plenary discussions will be reflected in the meeting report.
8. The Bureau took note of the update on the status of the draft decisions for consideration at the third session of the Executive Board for 2025.
9. The Bureau also decided to entrust the Chair of the ad hoc working group on PBA to continue to lead informal consultations during the session, with the objective of finalizing the draft decisions for final consideration at the closing plenary.

Agenda item 3: Organization of Work

10. The secretariat briefed the Bureau on the organization of work for the third session of the Executive Board for the year 2025.
11. Regarding Azerbaijan's diplomatic briefing on the thirteenth World Urban Forum during the lunch hour on 25 November, the reception scheduled for the evening, as well as the agenda item in the same topic on 26 November, Bureau members suggested to explore whether the briefings could be combined, i.e. to allow more time for informal consultations. The Chair of the Executive Board offered to reach out the Azerbaijan delegation to consider possible options in this regard.
12. One Bureau member emphasized the importance of effective time management and recommended encouraging Member States to limit the length of their interventions, while avoiding the practice of cutting off microphones.
13. The Bureau agreed that delegations should be encouraged to limit their interventions to 3-5 minutes, apply a timer on screen but without cutting off microphones.
14. The Bureau endorsed the organization of work for the third session as presented by the Secretariat, taking into account the potential rescheduling of the WUF13 briefing and the recommendations on time management.

Agenda item 4: Any other matters

15. One member of the Bureau proposed that a dedicated briefing on the work of United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities (UNITAC) Hamburg be added to the standing agenda

item of the Executive Board “normative and operative activities of UN-Habitat” at one of the Executive Board sessions in 2026, preferably the first session of 2026.

16. The meeting was closed at 17:10 EAT.