



**Executive Board of the United Nations**

**Human Settlements Programme**

**First session of 2026**

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Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

**Implementation of the strategic plan for the period  
2026–2029: update on the structure and the division of  
responsibilities**

**Update on the structure and the division of responsibilities for  
the implementation of the strategic plan for the period  
2026–2029**

**Report of the Executive Director**

1. The present report provides an update on the structure of, and the division of responsibilities within, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) for the implementation of its strategic plan for the period 2026–2029, in accordance with paragraph 7 of decision 2025/6, adopted at the third session of 2025 of the Executive Board, held in Nairobi on 25 and 26 November 2025.
2. For the third session of the Executive Board, UN-Habitat submitted the first update on the structure and the division of responsibilities for the implementation of the strategic plan in document HSP/EB.2025/19. The status of the structure and the division of responsibilities is as presented below.

**I. New organizational structure**

3. There have been no changes to the organizational structure reported in November 2025. UN-Habitat comprises five divisions, implemented effective from 1 December 2025, namely the Office of the Executive Director, the Global Knowledge and Advocacy Division, the Global Solutions Division, the Regional Programmes Division and the Corporate Management Division.
4. With the approval by the General Assembly of the abolishment of 16 regular budget positions in UN-Habitat, efforts to review the structure within each division have continued in order to further align the distribution of the existing human resources, including consideration of consolidating some functions.

**II. Division of responsibilities**

5. In document HSP/EB.2025/19, UN-Habitat reported that, with respect to the subprogrammes of the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029, the Global Solutions Division would be responsible for subprogrammes 1 and 2, the Global Knowledge and Advocacy Division for subprogrammes 3 and 4, and the Regional Programmes Division for subprogramme 5. The Office of the Executive Director would be responsible for executive direction and management, policymaking organs and

\* HSP/EB.2026/1.

subprogramme 5, while the Corporate Management Division would be responsible for programme support.

6. The five subprogrammes proposed were as follows:

(a) Subprogramme 1: Housing, land, basic services and urban environment, aligned with the strategic focus on adequate housing, land and basic services under the strategic plan, and contributing primarily to the impact area on urban environment;

(b) Subprogramme 2: Planning, finance policy, localization and governance, aligned with the first two means of implementation of the strategic plan;

(c) Subprogramme 3: Knowledge, data, digitalization and capacity development, aligned with the third means of implementation;

(d) Subprogramme 4: Partnerships, coalitions, advocacy and communication, aligned with the remaining means of implementation;

(e) Subprogramme 5: Technical cooperation and resource mobilization.

7. In accordance with United Nations Secretariat procedures, in order to start implementing the new subprogrammes, UN-Habitat proceeded to liaise with the Programme Planning and Budget Division of the United Nations Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance in New York. During that process, the Programme Planning and Budget Division raised two considerations about subprogramme 5. The first was that subprogrammes should be fully anchored in the approved strategic plan for the period 2026–2029 and that the concept of technical cooperation did not explicitly appear in the strategic plan. Consequently, the inclusion of technical cooperation as a stand-alone subprogramme would be particularly difficult to justify from a legislative mandate perspective. The second consideration was that establishing a dedicated subprogramme on resource mobilization might create confusion between parts A and B of the work programme and budget and pose future challenges for assessing programmatic results. The Programme Planning and Budget Division also noted that no comparable subprogramme existed in other Secretariat entities.

8. Subsequently, in the light of considerations related to harmonization and uniformity across the United Nations system, the Programme Planning and Budget Division and UN-Habitat agreed to remove subprogramme 5 and retain subprogrammes 1–4 as listed in paragraph 6 above.

9. Following the consensus reached with the Programme Planning and Budget Division, the responsibility of the Regional Programmes Division was revised to support the implementation of all four subprogrammes, in cooperation with the Global Knowledge and Advocacy Division and the Global Solutions Division, as stated in the draft work programme: “Across regions, subprogramme implementation will be tailored to diverse development contexts – including fragile and conflict-affected settings, middle-income and transition economies, with a particular focus on [least developed countries, landlocked least developed countries and small island developing States] – using context-specific thematic entry points and delivery approaches that reflect varying priorities, capacities and pathways to impact under each subprogramme.

10. Furthermore, the Office of the Executive Director will now be responsible for two strategic areas, namely executive direction and management and policymaking organs, as subprogramme 5 has been eliminated.

### III. Abolished regular budget posts

11. In annex III to document HSP/EB.2025/19, UN-Habitat informed the Executive Board about the 16 regular budget positions proposed for abolition under the Secretary-General’s UN80 initiative. The General Assembly decided to abolish all 16 positions proposed for abolition under section 15 (Human settlements), comprising 10 Professional positions and 6 General Service positions. The abolished positions are presented in the following table by the new name of each division.

#### Abolished regular budget positions

| Division                               | D-1      | P-5      | P-4      | P-3      | L-L      | Total     |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Global Knowledge and Advocacy Division | –        | 1        | –        | 1        | 2        | 4         |
| Global Solutions Division              | 1        | 1        | 2        | 1        | 4        | 9         |
| Office of the Executive Director       | –        | 1        | 1        | –        | –        | 2         |
| Corporate Management Division          | –        | –        | 1        | –        | –        | 1         |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>1</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>16</b> |