



First session of 2026 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

21 and 22 April 2026

Notification by the Executive Director

I. Dates, agenda, venue and participation

1. The Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) held its third session of 2025 on 25 and 26 November 2025. The report of that session is set out in document HSP/EB.2025/25, and the decisions adopted by the Board at the session are set out in document HSP/EB.2025/26.
2. At that session, in decision 2025/8, the Executive Board decided that the first session of 2026 would be held for a duration of two days on 21 and 22 April 2026. The Board also decided on the provisional agenda for the first session of 2026, subject to further review by the Bureau in accordance with paragraph 2 of rule 10 of the [rules of procedure](#) of the Executive Board.
3. As entrusted by the Executive Board, the Bureau on 12 February 2026 further reviewed and recommended the provisional agenda for the first session of 2026, which is set out in document HSP/EB.2026/1 and can be accessed [here](#). Pursuant to rule 6 of the rules of procedure of the Executive Board, the working documents for the session will be issued in the six official languages of the United Nations by 24 March 2026, four weeks prior to the opening of the session.
4. The session will be held fully in person at the headquarters of UN-Habitat, located at the United Nations Office at Nairobi.
5. The session will be opened at 9 a.m. (Nairobi time/UTC + 3) on Tuesday, 21 April 2026. Participants should be seated by 8.45 a.m. in conference room 2.
6. [Members](#) of the Executive Board are expected to participate in the first session of 2026. In accordance with rule 17 of the [rules of procedure](#) of the Executive Board, the sessions of the Executive Board are also open to any State Member of the United Nations that is not a member of the Executive Board and to any member of a specialized agency. Each delegation should consist of an accredited representative and such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

II. Key issues to be discussed

7. Among the key issues to be considered by the Executive Board at its first session of 2026 are the following:
 - (a) Financial, budgetary and administrative matters;
 - (b) Implementation of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2026–2029, the structure and division of responsibilities within the organization and the resource mobilization strategy for the strategic plan;
 - (c) Status of the draft work programme of UN-Habitat and draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2027;
 - (d) Normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat;
 - (e) Implementation of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly;
 - (f) Preparations for the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum;

(g) Preparations for the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the New Urban Agenda.

III. Proposed organizational arrangements for the first session of 2026

8. The Bureau recommended the organizational arrangements and timetable set out in the annex to the present notification for consideration by Member States. It is expected that most of the work of the two-day session will be conducted in plenary meetings.

A. Bureau

9. In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Executive Board consists of a chair, three vice-chairs and a rapporteur. The geographical distribution of the current Bureau, which will preside over the conduct of the first session of 2026, is as follows:

Chair: Germany (Western European and other States)

Vice-Chairs: China (Asia-Pacific States)

Slovakia (Eastern European States)

Brazil (Latin American and Caribbean States)

Rapporteur: Cameroon (African States)

10. The Board is expected to elect a new bureau to serve for the period 2026–2027. The composition of that bureau will be as follows: chair: Asia-Pacific States; vice-chairs: African States, Latin American and Caribbean States, Western European and other States; rapporteur: Eastern European States.

B. Meetings during the session

1. Day 1 of the session

11. It is proposed that the first day of the session be devoted to agenda items 1–7 (see annex).

2. Day 2 of the session

12. It is proposed that the second day of the session be devoted to agenda items 8–18 (see annex).

C. Consultations on draft decisions to be considered by the Executive Board

13. It is recommended, in the interest of efficiency, that the draft outcomes to be considered by the Executive Board at its first session of 2026 be discussed prior to the opening of the session by the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters, established by the Executive Board in paragraph 7 of its [decision 2019/2](#). Thereafter, it is anticipated that the Chair of the ad hoc working group will forward the draft outcomes, including draft decisions, based on those preliminary discussions to the Executive Board for further consideration and possible adoption.

14. It is also anticipated that part of the session will be dedicated to informal negotiations on the draft decisions with a view to merging, reconciling or clarifying them, as necessary, prior to their consideration by the Executive Board during a plenary meeting at the session.

D. Informal consultations

15. To facilitate the work of the Executive Board, arrangements will be made, upon request, for informal consultations within the regional groups on various matters, including any draft outcomes, such as any draft decisions for consideration and possible adoption by the Executive Board. Requests for such arrangements should be sent to unhabitat-sgb@un.org.

E. Registration

16. All delegates are encouraged to pre-register for the session at <https://unhabitat.org/meetings/first-session-of-2026-of-the-executive-board> starting from **Tuesday, 17 February 2026**. All participants should register by **Thursday, 16 April 2026**.

17. In accordance with rule 8 of the rules of procedure of the Executive Board, Member States are requested to communicate the names of the members of their respective delegations to the session of the Executive Board by uploading to the UN-Habitat [online registration portal](#) a note verbale (or another formal communication) listing the members of their respective delegations by **Thursday, 16 April 2026**.

18. Additional information will be made available on the session website at <https://unhabitat.org/meetings/first-session-of-2026-of-the-executive-board> and at <https://unhabitat.org/governance/executive-board>. Enquiries about the session should be directed to:

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Annex

Proposed organization of work and timetable for the first session of 2026 of the Executive Board (21 and 22 April 2026)

<i>Day/date</i>	<i>Time (UTC + 3)</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
Tuesday, 21 April	9 a.m.	1. Opening of the session.
		2. Organizational matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Adoption of the agenda and the workplan for the first session of 2026; (b) Adoption of the report of the Executive Board on the work of its third session of 2025.
		3. Report by the Chair of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters and update by the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All.
		4. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters, including an update on the Sustainable Cities and Communities Foundation.
		5. Implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Update on the structure and the division of responsibilities; (b) Update on the monitoring Framework for the strategic plan; (c) Resource mobilization strategy for the strategic plan.
		<i>Informal consultations on draft outcomes</i>
	2 p.m.	6. Status of and discussion on the draft work programme of UN-Habitat and draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2027.
		7. Implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, including reporting on programmatic activities in 2025 and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities.
		<i>Informal consultations on draft outcomes</i>
	Wednesday, 22 April	9 a.m.
9. Preparations for the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.		
10. Preparations for the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum.		
11. Implementation by UN-Habitat of the reform of the development system and management of the United Nations.		
12. Action by UN-Habitat to strengthen protection against sexual or any other type of exploitation and abuse and against sexual harassment in the workplace.		
		13. Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services.
		<i>Informal consultations on draft outcomes</i>
2 p.m.		14. Annual report on action by the Executive Director to update and improve the internal management, policies and procedures of UN-Habitat.
		15. Consideration and adoption of the outcomes of the session, including the provisional agenda for the second session of 2026.
		16. Election of officers of the Bureau.
	17. Other matters.	
	18. Closure of the session.	