



**The seventy-fifth meeting of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters of the Executive Board**

**Wednesday, 11 March 2026, from 9.00 to 12.00 East Africa Time**

**Chair: Amb. Beatrice Karago, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to UN-Habitat, on behalf of H.E. Amb. Susan Nakhumicha Wafula, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to UN-Habitat**

**Summary of discussions**

**Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the provisional Agenda**

1. The seventy-fifth meeting of the ad-hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary, and administrative matters was called to order at 9:05 a.m. (EAT). The [provisional agenda](#) was adopted without any changes.

**Agenda item 2: Preparations for the first session of the Executive Board 2026**

**a. Status of implementation of all resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly**

2. The secretariat presented an update on the [status of implementation of all resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly](#).
3. Member States welcomed the update and provided following comments:
  - Requested clarification on how the implementation of resolutions would be addressed in a resource-constrained context, including implications for budget allocation and prioritization in the period ahead.
  - Requested further information on the Urban Action Funding Window, including progress in mobilizing resources for underfunded resolutions, particularly those relevant to developing countries.
  - Enquired how situations in which a resolution appears to be overfunded are addressed and whether surplus funding could be used to expand related activities.
  - Noted that the resolution tracker contains outdated data and requested that it be updated.
  - Enquired about the Our City Plans platform, including its accessibility to Member States and local authorities and the availability of associated training or capacity-building, and suggested that such tools be formally shared through Permanent Missions in Nairobi to facilitate dissemination to relevant institutions.
  - Enquired how UN-Habitat intends to reactivate work on land management and tenure given current resource constraints.
  - Requested further information on the memorandum of understanding with UN-Women.
  - Sought clarification on work related to the Environment Management Group, biodiversity and engagement with IUCN.
  - Requested clarification regarding the Informality Taskforce of Cities Alliance.
  - Encouraged continued efforts to promote gender-transformative approaches and to ensure adequate human and financial resources for gender equality across all areas of work.
4. In response, the Secretariat provided the following clarifications:
  - Noted that uneven implementation of resolutions largely reflects the availability of earmarked funding, as UN-Habitat has limited flexibility to reallocate resources across thematic areas without increased non-earmarked contributions.

- Reported that approximately USD 130,000 had been accumulated in the Urban Action Funding Window in 2025. While the balance remains modest, the fund may support underfunded resolutions, and unspent balances from completed projects may be transferred to it subject to donor agreements.
- Noted that cases of overfunded resolutions are rare; when they occur, additional resources allow the expansion of activities within the same thematic area, although earmarked funding limits reallocation to other resolutions.
- Acknowledged that the resolution tracker requires updating due to internal verification and technical processes; a fully updated version will be made available before the upcoming Executive Board session.
- Confirmed that the Our City Plans platform is open and freely accessible and welcomed the suggestion to disseminate it more widely through Permanent Missions in Nairobi.
- Noted that global work on land management and tenure security has been affected by funding reductions following the completion of a major programme, and that engagement will continue through the Global Land Network, the open-ended working group on housing and ongoing regional and national programmes in more than 25 countries – while efforts to mobilize additional resources continue.
- Explained that the long-standing memorandum of understanding with UN-Women, in place since 2012, is being renewed to align with both organizations’ strategic plans for 2026–2029 and to strengthen collaboration on gender equality, including in areas such as informal settlements, land rights and women’s empowerment.
- Reported progress on the biodiversity and resilient cities resolution despite reduced staffing, including new normative products and regional initiatives, such as programmes in Latin America with CAF and discussions with regional development banks in Asia in partnership with IUCN.
- Clarified that the Informality Taskforce, co-convened by Cities Alliance and UN-Habitat, operates as a flexible partnership platform advancing work on informal settlements in coordination with the open-ended working group and regional initiatives.
- Confirmed that information related to the gender marker will continue to be updated and that gender-transformative approaches are being integrated across the Strategic Plan monitoring framework and indicators

**b. Normative and operative activities of UN-Habitat, including the work of UNITAC**

5. The Secretariat presented an update on the [normative and operative activities](#) of UN-Habitat, including the [work of United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities \(UNITAC\)](#).

**Status of the development of the efforts to reconstruct the human settlements in the Gaza strip**

6. The Secretariat presented the [status of the development of the efforts to reconstruct the human settlements in the Gaza strip](#).
7. Member States thanked the Secretariat for the presentation and made the following comments:
  - Commended the efforts to provide information despite limited availability of data, and expressed support for the reconstruction of Gaza in line with UN-Habitat strategic plan 2026-2029, reaffirming the importance of sustained international engagement in rebuilding sustainable human settlements.
  - Recognized the technical challenges involved in damage assessments, urban profiling, and the development of a strategic framework addressing housing, land and property rights.
  - Expressed regret that UN-Habitat has not been granted access to Gaza to complete the assessment as requested by the Executive Board, requested clarification on the continued denial of access, and emphasized the urgency of completing the work once access is granted.
  - Enquired how UN-Habitat is continuing its work under current access constraints and whether efforts to obtain access will continue.

- Requested clarification on how planned urban and neighborhood profiling would support coordinated international early recovery and reconstruction efforts once access is granted.
  - Highlighted the need for timely circulation of documentation to allow consultations with capitals and relevant national authorities.
8. The Secretariat thanked Member States for the comments and provided the following responses:
- Noted that collaboration within the United Nations system has been strengthened, particularly with UNDP, to translate UN-Habitat’s urban profiling work in Gaza into concrete recovery and reconstruction activities, including plans to scale up profiling and planning in ten neighbourhoods.
  - Indicated that efforts to obtain access to Gaza will continue in coordination with the UN Resident Coordinator in the West Bank. While access constraints have affected aspects of reporting, UN-Habitat will continue its work through enhanced collaboration with UNDP, the recruitment of national staff in Gaza and strengthened national capacity in the West Bank.

**Status of the development of the efforts to reconstruct the human settlements affected by conflict in Ukraine**

9. The Secretariat presented the [status of the development of the efforts to reconstruct the human settlements](#) affected by conflict on Ukraine.
10. Member States that took the floor made the following comments:
- Reaffirmed support for UN-Habitat’s activities in Ukraine and other conflict-affected countries.
  - Expressed concern about certain wording in the report, particularly references to the direct targeting of cities, as it may go beyond UN-Habitat’s mandate, suggested using more neutral language referring to damage caused by the conflict, and requested clarification on the sources of data used in the report, including references to European Union standards and the inclusion of macroeconomic analysis, noting that these elements may also fall outside UN-Habitat’s mandate.
  - Sought additional information on the proposed Ukraine Urban Support Hub in Slovakia and the Spatial Development Framework for Ukraine.
  - Requested clarification regarding aligning the report’s title with the term used in the Executive Board decision.
  - Sought clarification on the implications of limited funding for UN-Habitat’s work in Ukraine, including potential impacts on operations and staff, and possible measures to address funding shortfalls.
11. The Secretariat took note of the comments made on the concerns expressed regarding certain formulations on the report and provided the following responses to the questions posed:
- Noted that UN-Habitat is currently implementing several projects in Ukraine, including UNITAC activities and a UNICEF-supported water project in collaboration with the Global Water Operators’ Partnerships Alliance, with support from Germany.
  - Clarified that economic analysis is considered in the report to better understand the broader impacts of urbanization.
  - Explained that the Urban Support Hub is an initiative led by the Government of Slovakia to facilitate exchange of lessons on urban recovery, with UN-Habitat providing advisory support.
  - Explained that the Spatial Development Framework is a broad planning concept used in different regions and will be further developed for the context of Ukraine.
  - Informed that, unless additional funding is provided, the project supporting recovery work in Kyiv and the Urban Lab will conclude in May 2026, and UN-Habitat will need to close the Urban Lab and its main in-country presence, including the Head of Office and Deputy positions, while continuing some activities remotely.

**Brazil Country Programme**

12. The Secretariat presented on the [Brazil Country Programme](#).
13. The representative of Brazil commended UN-Habitat's engagement in the country, emphasized the importance of localizing the Sustainable Development Goals, and expressed interest in expanding cooperation. He noted that, despite progress, many cities and states remain unengaged and challenges such as informal settlements persist. He also highlighted the value of South–South and triangular cooperation and called for the development of a more structured, long-term programme with the federal government and strengthened engagement with national authorities.
14. Member States thanked the secretariat for the presentation and made the following comments:
  - Requested clarification on how country-level implementation links with UN-Habitat's programmatic work and intergovernmental processes.
  - Requested information on how disaster risk and vulnerability assessment methodologies used in Brazilian municipalities could be shared with other countries in the region facing climate-related challenges.
  - Sought clarification on mechanisms to ensure continuity of technical assistance and institutionalize urban resilience policies.
  - Enquired how cooperation programmes with Brazilian authorities were initiated and sustained across changes in administrations.
15. The Secretariat thanked Member States and provided the following responses:
  - Noted that global monitoring tools and SDG indicators are used as references for local-level analysis, allowing municipalities to adapt them to their specific contexts.
  - Confirmed that Brazil's Institute of Geography and Statistics has played a pioneering role in developing methodologies to measure SDG indicator 11.1 on informal settlements using local data and definitions, which have informed global discussions and reporting processes.
  - Reported that UN-Habitat is launching a regional resilience programme supported by the Swiss Development Cooperation to facilitate the transfer of resilience assessment methodologies developed in Brazil to other countries in the region.
  - Explained that UN-Habitat works with a broad range of stakeholders, including government institutions, academia and civil society, enabling continuity of initiatives despite changes in administrations, supported by long-term engagement mechanisms such as host country agreements and country programmes.

### **Tunisia Country Programme**

16. The Secretariat presented on the [Tunisia Country Programme](#).
17. The representative of Tunisia reaffirmed interest in strengthening collaboration, particularly at the local level, and highlighted the country's efforts to advance sustainable urban development and social housing. He noted that urban challenges vary significantly across regions, including issues related to urban density and water management. He also referred to several successful projects implemented with UN-Habitat during 2024–2025 and informed about Tunisia's national bottom-up development plan for 2026–2030.
18. The Secretariat reiterated its commitment to strengthening cooperation at the local level across regions with different contexts and challenges. It noted that it would review successful experiences, including those highlighted in the Sahel region, and explore how lessons learned could be integrated and scaled up to support local-level initiatives in collaboration with the Government of Tunisia.

### **Update on the work of UNITAC**

19. The secretariat presented an update on the [work of UNITAC](#).

20. Member States welcomed the presentation and made the following comments:
- Requested further information regarding the Hamburg Sustainability Conference.
  - Sought clarification on how UNITAC's tools and innovations are integrated into UN-Habitat's country programmes, programme of work and crisis operations to enhance Member States' understanding of its activities.
  - Requested clarification on how Member States from the Global South can engage with UNITAC's tools and innovations and how governance and funding arrangements will ensure sustainability.
  - Welcomed the Bureau's decision to include a dedicated briefing on UNITAC and suggested that a background information document to facilitate consultations with capitals.
21. The Secretariat thanked Member States for the comments and provided the following responses:
- Clarified that the Hamburg Sustainability Conference is not organized by UN-Habitat and was referenced as a platform where UNITAC's work will be presented to partners.
  - Explained that UNITAC serves as UN-Habitat's digital facility supporting implementation of the Strategic Plan, with examples of integration in programmes in Mexico, Brazil and Namibia.
  - Noted that Member States can engage with UNITAC through existing digital tools or by requesting tailored solutions depending on needs and available funding.
  - Informed that UNITAC is led by UN-Habitat in partnership with entities including the UN Office of Information and Communications Technology, and that funding is currently provided by the Government of Germany, with efforts under way to diversify funding sources.
- c. Preparations for the General Assembly High Level Meeting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda**
22. The secretariat presented an update on the [preparations for the General Assembly High Level Meeting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda](#).
23. Member States provided the following inputs:
- Requested clarification on the respective roles of New York and Nairobi in the preparation of the High-Level Meeting and emphasized the importance of ensuring that the Nairobi-based diplomatic community is meaningfully engaged in consultations and negotiations.
  - Suggested that modalities be explored to enable participation of technical experts from capitals and Permanent Missions in Nairobi in the negotiation of the ministerial declaration, including through hybrid arrangements.
  - Requested clarification on how the midterm review of the New Urban Agenda would be aligned with broader discussions on the post-2030 development agenda and how the outcomes of the political declaration would be reflected in UN-Habitat's future programmes and planning processes.
  - Emphasized the importance of ensuring coherence with the work of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on Adequate Housing for All, noting that recommendations emerging from the working group could contribute to addressing implementation gaps.
24. The Secretariat provided the following clarification:
- Underlined that the High-Level Meeting is a Member States-led process coordinated in New York under the leadership of the President of the General Assembly and the appointed co-facilitators, with negotiations taking place in New York.
  - Indicated that the co-facilitators have expressed interest in engaging with Nairobi-based delegations and are expected to brief Member States during the upcoming Executive Board session, with possible informal exchanges with delegations.

- Informed that the co-facilitators also intend to engage with ministers attending the World Urban Forum through an informal ministerial meeting, providing an opportunity to exchange views on the review of the New Urban Agenda.
- Confirmed that the suggestion regarding hybrid participation modalities would be conveyed to the co-facilitators for their consideration.
- Explained that the political declaration from the High-Level Meeting would subsequently inform a General Assembly resolution later in the year on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
- Indicated that UN-Habitat will continue to use its Strategic Plan as the main framework for supporting implementation of the New Urban Agenda, focusing on areas such as planning, finance, multilevel governance, data, capacity development and innovation.
- Highlighted that engagement with Member States will also be strengthened through the revamped global New Urban Agenda platform and existing regional platforms.

**d. Update on the preparations for the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF13)**

25. The secretariat presented an [update on the preparations for the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum \(WUF13\)](#).
26. Member States welcomed the update and provided the following comments:
- Requested clarification on the date and format of the ministerial meeting on the New Urban Agenda during WUF13 and how its outcome would relate to the High-Level Meeting and UN-Habitat's contribution to the High-Level Political Forum.
  - Sought clarification on the process, timeline and status of the Baku Call to Action, including the role of Member States.
  - Requested information on the timeline for announcing approved partner-led events and the detailed programme of WUF13.
  - Asked whether flexibility in cancellation policies was being considered in light of the current global situation.
27. The secretariat provided the following responses:
- Indicated that the ministerial meeting on the New Urban Agenda will take place on 17 May as an informal platform for ministers to share inputs to the review process, with outcomes reflected in a Chair's summary that may inform discussions in New York.
  - Clarified that the Baku Call to Action is a stakeholder outcome overseen by the Executive Director and developed through consultations with stakeholder groups, with the final document to be presented at the closing of WUF13.
  - Noted that the detailed programme will be released following the announcement of partner-led events, expected shortly.
  - Confirmed that preparations for WUF13 are continuing as planned while the Secretariat and host country monitor the global situation and assess possible contingency measures if needed.

**Agenda item 3: Any other matters**

28. The Secretary of the Governing Bodies informed that the next meeting would be held on 25 March 2026 and that the agenda and background documents were available on the [meeting portal](#).
29. The seventy-fifth meeting of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary, and administrative matters of the Executive Board was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. (EAT).