



**UN-HABITAT**

# **BRIEFING BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



**DATE: 1 APRIL 2026**

**ANA CLÁUDIA ROSSBACH**  
Under-Secretary-General and  
Executive Director

# OPENING REMARKS

# NOTIFICATION AND AGENDA FOR THE SESSION

# NOTIFICATION AND AGENDA FOR THE SESSION

- **A formal notification** with the **provisional agenda** for the EB session was shared with Member States on **10 March** - in line with RoPs.
- **Pre-session documents** for the session were made available online on **24 March**, four weeks prior to the session – in line with RoPs.
- The provisional agenda as reflected in the Executive Board **Decision 2025/8** was further **reviewed** by the Bureau of the Executive Board and has been made available as HSP/EB.2026/1.

# PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SESSION (HSP/EB.2026/1)

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organizational matters: (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 intergovernmental expert working group on adequate housing](#).
4. **Financial, budgetary and administrative matters**, including update on the Sustainable Cities and Communities Foundation.
5. **Implementation of the strategic plan 2026-2029:**
  - a. Update on **structure** and division responsibilities;
  - b. [Update on the Monitoring Framework of the Strategic Plan 2026-2029](#)
  - c. **Resource mobilization strategy** for the Strategic Plan;
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 its programmatic activities in 2025 and the implementation of its subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities.
8. Update on the **implementation of the resolutions** adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.
9. Preparations for the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the **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. **Reports** of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and of the Ethics Office to the Executive Board.
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.

# **BRIEFING ON KEY AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE 2026 FIRST SESSION**

# AGENDA ITEM 3. REPORT OF THE AD HOC WORKING ON PBA AND UPDATE BY CO-CHAIRS OF OEWG-H

1. **The Chair of the ad hoc working** group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters (Kenya) will brief on the Board on the progress made by the working group during the intersessional period.

2. The **Co-Chairs of the of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on Adequate Housing for All** (Azerbaijan and Somalia) will brief the Board on the activities of the working group:

- The **report** of the second session of the working group is available.
- **Intersessional activities** planned – incl at the second Africa Urban Forum and at the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum
- **Additional** voluntary financial **resources** required to support the work of the Expert Working Group.

## AGENDA ITEM 4. FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- The **2025 interim financial status report** was made available to Member States on 24 March 2026 (document HSP/EB.2026/2).
- Foundation **non-earmarked revenue: \$3.97 million**
- **Final financial position / financial performance** will be reflected in the audited IPSAS compliant financial statements to be released and presented at the second session of the EB in November 2026.

## **AGENDA ITEM 5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 2026–2029:**

- 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.**

# AGENDA ITEM 5(A). UPDATE ON THE STRUCTURE AND THE DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

---

- Overall **structure and the division of responsibilities** was presented at the third Executive Board Meeting November 2025, including four sub-programmes.
- The Board will also consider an **update on the implications of the UN80** initiative for the structure, staffing, budgetary planning and work of UN-Habitat.

# AGENDA ITEM 5 (B). UPDATE ON THE MONITORING FRAMEWORK FOR THE STRATEGIC PLAN

- The **methodological work for the** monitoring framework for the strategic plan – baseline and targets – almost complete.
- The **baseline values and targets** have been established through extensive consultations with Member States.
- Detailed information for each indicator and overall methodology is explained in a **complementary methodological guide**.

## AGENDA ITEM 5. (C) RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGY FOR THE STRATEGIC PLAN

- Provides a **unified framework to secure resources** for delivering the Strategic Plan.
- Underscores the need for more **predictable, diversified, and sustainable resource base** that strengthens the operational and normative activities
- Core focus is on **mobilizing funding** and shaping the broader **enabling environment that unlocks greater investment** in sustainable urbanization.
- The strategy is based on extensive consultations **with Member States**

## AGENDA ITEM 6. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME OF UN-HABITAT AND DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2027

- Consists of two parts: Part A on the **programme of work** and Part B on the **proposed budget** for 2027.
- Work programme 2027 fully aligned with the **Strategic Plan 2026–2029**.
- Shared with the UN Secretariat **Programme Planning and Budget Division** in New York, to ensure coherence and alignment with overall UN programmes.
- Budget 2027 is still being finalized based on the draft work programme

# AGENDA ITEM 7. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NORMATIVE AND OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF UN-HABITAT

- This agenda item is comprised of :
  - highlights **UN-Habitat** country programme in **Brazil**.
  - highlights **UN-Habitat** country programme in **Tunisia**.
  - updates on the support provided by UN-Habitat in areas affected by **conflicts and disasters**.
  - update on UN-Habitat's work under the **UN Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities, UNITAC**
- In addition, this item is accompanied by **information documents on UN-Habitat activities** for the period July–December 2025, efforts to reconstruct the human settlements in the **Gaza Strip**, revised report on the activities of UN-Habitat in **Ukraine**, and report on **UNITAC**.

## AGENDA ITEM 8. UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS HABITAT ASSEMBLY

- **Covers all resolutions adopted by** the UN-Habitat Assembly at its first and second sessions in 2019 and 2023.
- Clarifies how the **Strategic Plan contributes** to advancing progress on the implementation of resolutions.
- **Detailed information** on the financial and programmatic status of each resolution available in the **UN-Habitat online resolution** tracker at <https://unhabitat.org/unhabitat-resolutions>

## AGENDA ITEM 9. PREPARATIONS FOR THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE MIDTERM REVIEW OF THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

- A high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the New Urban Agenda is scheduled for **16 - 17 July 2026**, just after the High-Level Political Forum.
- **Malawi and Poland** appointed as co-facilitators for negotiations on a political declaration – are invited to **brief Member States on the process** in the upcoming session of the Executive Board and at WUF13.
- The **Secretary-General's report** is expected to be available in all six UN official languages by end of April 2026.

# AGENDA ITEM 9. PREPARATIONS FOR THE GA – HLM ON THE MIDTERM REVIEW OF THE NEW URBAN AGENDA - ROADMAP

- **26 March:** Initial consultations with Member States on priorities for the political declaration.
- **27 March:** Virtual multistakeholder hearing took place.
- **28 April:** Release of the Secretary-General's report on progress in implementing the New Urban Agenda to Member States in UN official languages.
- **10 April:** Deadline for written inputs to the Elements Paper.
- **17 April:** Circulation of the Elements Paper.
- **21 or 22 April:** Briefing to Member States during the UN-Habitat Executive Board session in Nairobi by the co-facilitators- Poland and Malawi.
- **6 May:** Consultations with Member States on the Elements Paper.
- **7 May:** Virtual multistakeholder hearing
- **18 May:** Briefings during WUF13 in Baku, Azerbaijan (hybrid).
- **15 May:** Release of the zero-draft political declaration.
- **29 May:** Deadline for written comments on the zero draft.
- **June:** Intergovernmental negotiations.
- **Early July:** Finalization of the political declaration.
- **16–17 July:** High-Level Meeting on the Midterm Review of the New Urban Agenda.

## AGENDA ITEM 10. PREPARATIONS FOR THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE WORLD URBAN FORUM

- The 13<sup>th</sup> session of World Urban Forum (WUF13) will take place from **17 to 22 May 2026** in Baku, Azerbaijan
- Preparations are advancing well, with a **stakeholder-centred approach** and structured consultation process; a global **advocacy campaign**, and dedicated **briefings to diplomatic communities, regional ministerial** meetings and **urban forums**.
- **Informal Ministerial Meeting** on the New Urban Agenda planned for **17 May 2026**.
- A key **outcome** from WUF13 will be the **Baku Call to Action**, an action-oriented declaration to guide implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

# AGENDA ITEM 11. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REFORM OF THE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM AND MANAGEMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS

- UN-Habitat has **continued to align its contributions to the reform process.**
- UN-Habitat actively engaged in ongoing global discussions on the UN80 Initiative, including on the **reconfiguration of UN Country Teams and the Regional reset.**
- UN-Habitat **has strengthened its contribution to Common Country Analyses and Cooperation Frameworks, engaging in at least 82% of all countries.**

## AGENDA ITEM 12. ACTION TO STRENGTHEN PROTECTION AGAINST SEXUAL OR ANY OTHER TYPE OF EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE AND AGAINST SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE

- Executive Director's **management letter** to the Secretary-General 2025, confirms that UN-Habitat has reported all SEA allegations, ensured mandatory training for staff and affiliated personnel.
- **Key actions taken** include:
  - ✓ enhanced **inter-agency participation** in the protection from sexual exploitation and abuse initiatives.
  - ✓ strengthened **accountability for implementing partners** to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse.
  - ✓ continuous **awareness-raising initiatives** including reminders of the obligation of all personnel to complete mandatory courses on PSEA.
  - ✓ increased **number of PSEA focal points** at headquarters.

# AGENDA ITEM 13. REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF INTERNAL OVERSIGHT SERVICES

---

- The **OIOS report** now issued and shared as pre-session document.
- **OIOS officials will brief** the Board on the report during the session.

# AGENDA ITEM 14. ACTION BY THE ED TO UPDATE AND IMPROVE THE INTERNAL MANAGEMENT, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF UN-HABITAT

Key **initiatives** to strengthen internal management policies and procedures in 2025:

- Improved **budgeting process** for Programme Support budget.
- Advancing the **digital transformation** via mapping of workflows Standard Operating Procedures.
- Updated **UN-Habitat Implementing Partnership Risk Management Policy**.

## AGENDA ITEM 15. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE SESSION

- The Board is expected to **give guidance** by adopting decisions at the upcoming session.
- As requested by the Bureau, the secretariat has provided **technical inputs as a basis for draft decisions**.
- The ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters is leading **pre-session consultations on the draft outcomes**.

# AGENDA ITEM 16: ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE BUREAU

- Expected composition of the Bureau of the Executive Board for the **period 2026-2027** is as follows:

**Chair:** Asia-Pacific States

**Vice-Chairs:** Latin American and Caribbean States  
African States  
Western European and other States

**Rapporteur:** Eastern European States

- **Rule 9.1** of the rule of procedure of the Executive Board states that “***The Executive Board shall, at its first regular session each year, elect from among its members, taking into consideration the need to ensure equitable geographical representation, a Bureau comprising a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur, who shall hold office until their successors are elected***”.

# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

# LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE EXECUTIVE BOARD SESSION

# LOGISTIC ARRANGEMENTS

---

- **Pre-session documents** for the Executive Board are available on the website.
- Travel support provided to **LDC representatives** who are Members of the Executive Board.
- Delegates are requested to **register online and upload a Note Verbale** or other form of official communication listing the names of the Member State representatives.



## Online registration:

- Registration opened on Tuesday, **17 February 2026** and will close on **Thursday, 16 April 2026**, through UN-Habitat's Global Events Management System website at <https://events.unhabitat.org/>

## Onsite registration :

- Monday, 20 April 2026 from 08:00 to 16:00, East Africa Time (UTC + 03:00).
- Tuesday, 21 April 2026 from 08:00 to 14:00, East Africa Time (UTC + 03:00).

# LOGISTIC ARRANGEMENTS

- **Proposed organization of work** as recommended by the Bureau has been shared as a “**Programme at a glance**” and a “**detailed Programme**” available on the meeting website.
- An “**information for participants**” document for the Executive Board session available in the meeting.
- **Regional groups** who wish to meeting for internal consultations may request dedicate meeting rooms.
- More information: <https://unhabitat.org/meetings/first-session-of-2026-of-the-executive-board>

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

# Thank you!

[unhabitat.org](http://unhabitat.org)

