UN-HABITAT

2026 Second Meeting of the Bureau of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat

Hybrid format – Thursday, 16 April 2026

10:00hrs-12:00hrs East Africa Time (EAT)

Statement by the Executive Director

(Draft 13 April 2026)

SLIDE 1: Title slide

Slide 2: Provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda to be led by the Chair.

1. Adoption of the provisional agenda.
2. Update on the status of draft decisions for consideration at the first session of the Executive Board for 2026.
3. Review of the organization of work during the session.
4. Status of nomination for the election of the Bureau of the Executive Board for the period 2026-2027.
5. Any other matters.

Slide 3: Opening remarks by the Executive Director

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,

Good morning to you all. It is my pleasure to join you all at this second meeting of the Bureau of the Executive Board for the year 2026. I would like to thank you all for your cooperation as we finalize the preparations for the first session of the Executive Board, which is now only days away.

Since our last Bureau meeting, held on 13 February 2026, at which the provisional agenda for the session was endorsed, we have made good progress in preparing the pre-session documents. These documents were finalized on time and shared with Member States on 24 March 2026, in accordance with the rules of procedure. We also provided the draft technical inputs as a basis for informal consultations under the PBA working. In this regard, I am pleased to see Kenya with us today and I wish to thank them for the continued stewardship of the PBA ad hoc working group.

Mr. Chairman
Excellencies,

As you would recall, I briefed Member States on 1 April 2026 on the preparations for this upcoming Executive Board session, as required by the rules of procedure.

Further, I held a series of informal dialogues with all five regional groups. In these sessions, I briefed Member States on the impact of UN80 on UN-Habitat and shared updates on our work across regions. I was encouraged by the strong level of engagement and the positive feedback received from many delegations. These exchanges provided a valuable opportunity for Member States to gain a deeper understanding of our work, and for UN-Habitat to receive direct, informal guidance from delegations.

I am also very pleased to confirm that Poland and Malawi will join us at the upcoming EB session, in their capacity as Co-Chairs appointed by the PGA to lead the negotiation process towards the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the New Urban Agenda. This will provide an excellent opportunity for Member States to learn more about and influence this New-York-led process; a view that many Member States expressed during the regional dialogues.

We will also be joined by OIOS representatives to present the latest OIOS report under the relevant agenda item.

With this, I conclude my remarks for now, as this was just a snapshot of some of the key items that will be addressed during the next EB session. The Bureau will later have the opportunity to review the organization of work in more detail.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Back to you

Slide 4: (TITLE SLIDE) AGENDA ITEM 2: Update on the status of draft decisions for consideration at the first session of the Executive Board for 2026.

(The Chair will give the floor to the Chair of the PBA – Kenya. (The PR, Ambassador Susan Nakhumicha or the DPR, Ambassador Beatrice Karago will make the presentation).

Slide 5: (TITLE SLIDE) AGENDA ITEM 3: Review of the organization of work during the session

Slide 6: Item 3. Review of the organization of work during the session

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

With regard to Agenda item 3, the Bureau addressed the organization of work at its meeting held on 13 February 2026. As you will be aware, we have two days for the session covering as many as 18 Agenda items. The Bureau may therefore wish to review and recommend appropriate time allocation for interventions by Member States, as part of the working arrangements for the session.

The Secretariat, for its part, will tailor presentations to the time available and ensure that inputs will be concise and to the point – bearing in mind that more

detailed information has already been made available in the pre-session documents.

I also wish to highlight that an informal dialogue on the status of the negotiations in New York to adopt a political declaration on the midterm review of the New Urban Agenda will be held during lunch break on the second day of the session. The dialogue will be led by Malawi and Poland in their capacity as the Co-Chairs for the process. It will take place from 12 noon to 1pm on 22 April 2026, followed by final informal consultations on the draft EB decisions.

Mr. Chairman, with your permission, allow me now to call on Mr. Ulf Björnholm to walk us through the proposed organization of work for each of the two days of the session in some more detail.

Slide 7: Organization of work for the session

<table>
<tr><th>TIME (EAT)</th><th>Day One – 21 April 2026</th><th>Day Two – 22 April 2026</th></tr>
<tr><td>9.00 A.M. - 12.00 P.M.</td><td>Agenda item 1: Opening of the session.
Agenda item 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.
Agenda item 3: Report by the chair of the ad hoc working group on PBA and update by the co-chairs of OEWG-H.
Agenda item 4: Financial, budgetary and administrative matters, including update on the Sustainable Cities and Communities Foundation.
Agenda item 5: Implementation of 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;</td><td>Agenda item 8: Update on the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
Agenda item 9: Preparations for the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the review of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
Agenda item 10: Preparations for the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum.
Agenda item 11: Implementation by UN-Habitat of the reform of the development system and management of the United Nations.
Agenda item 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.
Agenda item 13: Reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and of the Ethics Office to the Executive Board.</td></tr>
<tr><td>12.00 P.M. - 1.00 P.M</td><td rowspan="2">Informal consultations on draft decisions (Without Interpretation)</td><td>Side event: Informal briefing on the preparations for the high-level meeting on the review of the New Urban Agenda in New York 16-17 July.</td></tr>
<tr><td>1.00 P.M. - 2.00 P.M</td><td>Informal consultations on draft decisions (Without Interpretation)</td></tr>
<tr><td>2.00 P.M. - 5.00 P.M.</td><td>Agenda item 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.</td><td>Agenda item 14: Annual report on action by the Executive Director to update and improve the internal management, policies and procedures of UN-Habitat.</td></tr>
</table>

	Agenda item 7: Implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, including reporting on the programmatic activities of UN-Habitat in 2025 and the implementation of its subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities.	**Agenda item 15:** Consideration and adoption of the outcomes of the session, including the provisional agenda for the second session of 2026. **Agenda item 16:** Election of officers of the Bureau. **Agenda item 17:** Other Matters. **Agenda item 18:** Closure of the session.
5.00 P.M. – 7.00 P.M.	**Informal consultations on draft decisions (*Without Interpretation*)**	

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Back to you

Slide 8: (TITLE SLIDE) AGENDA ITEM 4: Status of nomination for the election of the Bureau of the Executive Board for the period 2026-2027

Slide 9: Item 4. Status of nomination of the Bureau of the Executive Board for the period 2026-2027

As you may recall, the Executive Board is expected to elect a new Bureau of the Board for the period 2026-2027.

I am pleased to confirm that the Secretariat has received nominations from all the regional groups as follows:

Chair: **China** (Asia-Pacific States)
Vice-Chairs: **Mexico** (Latin American and Caribbean States)
Mozambique (African States)
Germany (Western European and other States)
Rapporteur: **Slovakia** (Eastern European States)

Allow me take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all Bureau members and Chairs of the regional groups for ensuring that we now have a "clean slate" of nominations from all regional groups. This will ensure that we will have a smooth and effective election process.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Back to you

Slide 10: AGENDA ITEM 5: Any other matters