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

Wednesday, 25 March 2026, from 9.00 to 13.00 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-sixth 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. Update on the Update on the baseline for Monitoring Framework of the Strategic Plan 2026-2029

2. The secretariat presented the updated baseline for Monitoring Framework of the Strategic Plan 2026-2029.

3. Member States welcomed the update and the progress made, and provided the following inputs:
   - Expressed concern regarding indicators with missing baselines and targets, including indicator 17 and those related to basic services.
   - Noted the lack of quantitative estimates for basic services and requested clarification on their scope and the methodology used to ensure consistency across indicators.
   - Noted that some indicators reflect the periodicity of underlying processes (e.g. indicator 21 on UN-Habitat-led events) and enquired whether a similar approach has been applied to indicator 3 on nationally determined contributions (NDCs), given their five-year reporting cycles.
   - Requested clarification on how the monitoring framework indicators (e.g. indicator 1) will support improved data collection for SDG-related indicators.
   - Requested further explanation of challenges in obtaining data on adequate housing for all.
   - Enquired how outputs and results from UNITAC could be integrated into the monitoring framework for the Strategic Plan 2026–2029.
   - Requested clarification on how UN-Habitat will operationalize the distinction between contribution and attribution, including how Member States—particularly those engaged in intergovernmental working groups—can align national priorities with the indicators and contribute to and benefit from data collection and reporting processes.
   - Requested further information on UN-Habitat's role in advancing definitions in collaboration with the United Nations Statistical Commission.
   - Enquired about the timeline for the release of the detailed Monitoring Framework guidance document.
   - Noted the introduction of a narrative document to contextualize the monitoring framework and requested further information on its scope and content, including how it will reflect the level of ambition of the indicators and situate UN-Habitat's contribution within the broader urban context.

4. In response, the Secretariat provided the following clarifications:

- Acknowledged some gaps still remain in baselines and targets and indicated that efforts are under way to complete the dataset ahead of the Executive Board; where data remains unavailable, methodological limitations will be communicated and indicators may be refined in consultation with Member States.
- Clarified that baselines and targets for basic services are still under development due to the absence of a single integrated global dataset, and that the approach will focus on integration within national urban and housing policies while refining methodologies.
- Explained that challenges in measuring adequate housing relate primarily to the limited availability of disaggregated data, particularly by sex, including on ownership, rental arrangements and access to social housing, while other data components are largely available.
- Confirmed that while NDCs follow a five-year cycle, submissions are staggered; the indicator therefore captures multiple dimensions, including number of NDCs, population coverage and urban implementation plans.
- Explained that UN-Habitat, as custodian of SDG 11, will continue supporting data collection through methodologies, tools and capacity development with national statistical systems and partners, including through the United Nations Statistical Commission and related initiatives.
- Noted that data gaps on adequate housing relate mainly to limited availability of disaggregated data, particularly by sex, while other components are largely available.
- Confirmed that UNITAC's work is already integrated into indicator 20 and will continue to inform monitoring and reporting through its digital and smart city initiatives.
- Clarified that the framework adopts a contribution-based approach, and engagement with Member States will be supported through alignment with national systems and participation in data collection and reporting processes.
- Noted that UN-Habitat is advancing methodological work on definitions in collaboration with the United Nations Statistical Commission and relevant expert groups.
- Informed that the Monitoring Framework guidance document will be made available on the portal in the coming days and will be updated after the Executive Board as needed.
- Explained that the narrative report accompanying the dataset each year will complement quantitative results with qualitative analysis, providing context, explaining variations in performance and situating UN-Habitat's contribution within a broader ecosystem of actors.

b. Update on the draft Resource Mobilization Strategy of the Strategic Plan 2026-2029

5. The Secretariat presented an update on the draft Resource Mobilization Strategy of the Strategic Plan 2026-2029.

6. Member States welcomed the revised strategy and made the following comments:
   - Appreciated the detailed responses to previous comments, welcomed the co-creation approach and emphasized that resource mobilization is a critical enabler for implementing the strategic plan.
   - Requested clarification regarding the reference to "divisional level" in paragraph 9 in the draft Resource Mobilization Strategy.
   - Suggested improving future document tracking by clearly indicating revisions noting that the current version of the strategy differed from the one posted online making it difficult to follow changes.
   - Took note of the focus on balancing core and earmarked contributions.
   - Noted the need for greater clarity on the role of blended finance in the strategy and enquired how softly earmarked contributions would be mobilized.
   - Welcomed the catalogue of solutions and requested further guidance on how Member States can effectively engage with it, enquired how the catalogue of solutions functions in practice and its relation with the Resource Mobilization Strategy, and how it will align with targeted country-specific resource mobilization approaches and whether it applies to core, earmarked, or both types of funding

- While welcoming the catalogue of solutions as a useful tool for communicating UN-Habitat's value proposition, cautioned that it could risk over-projectizing the organization's work if not complemented by strong, structured engagement on core funding, which must be supported by robust country office and regional office engagement with Member States
- Expressed concern about limited staffing capacity to effectively implement the strategy and requested clarification on the structure.
- Sought clarification on the relationship between the proposed Resource Mobilization Task Force and the existing Donor Relations and Resource Mobilization Unit, particularly how they will avoid duplication and complement each other given limited resources.
- Sought further information on the relevance and future role of the Foundation Special Purpose Fund.
- Suggested strengthening the focus on humanitarian and reconstruction financing, particularly in crisis contexts, as well as integrating urban resilience financing.
- Sought clarification on the concept of a structured dialogue on core funding and how it would be operationalized.
- Supported efforts to expand partnerships with sub-national governments and city networks as additional funding avenues.
- Emphasized that building trust for funding requires reporting, transparency, strong data, and open dialogue with Member States to ensure accountability.
- Enquired whether the strategy is sufficiently flexible to adapt to changing circumstances and incorporate lessons learned during implementation.
- Highlighted the positive trend in core contributions and emphasized the importance of predictable and flexible funding in line with the UN Funding Compact.
- Welcomed efforts to engage non-OECD partners and emerging partnerships, such as with Regional Development Banks.

7. The Secretariat thanked Member States for the comments and provided the following responses:
   - Expressed appreciation for the feedback and emphasized it will be considered in refining the resource mobilization strategy.
   - Clarified that resource mobilization is pursued at multiple levels including country, regional, and global level and UN-Habitat engages directly with national and subnational governments particularly where it has a field presence.
   - Noted that each region has its own implementation roadmap led by regional directors.
   - Clarified that the confusion regarding different versions of the strategy had resulted from the two parallel processes of the ad-hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary, and administrative matters discussions and the Executive Board session and emphasized that this approach was intended to allow early consultation and improvement of the document based on Member States' guidance.
   - Explained that blended finance refers to a mix of public, private, and philanthropic funding sources and noted that the strategy provides guidance for accessing these funding sources.
   - Noted that UN-Habitat supports partners, particularly local governments, in accessing blended finance through tools such as the Integrated Local Finance Framework which helps identify appropriate financing options.
   - Explained that Integrated Local Financing Frameworks are an emerging approach that complement national financing frameworks led by UN entities such as UNDP and UNICEF and the frameworks help map and combine different financing sources at the local level, enabling local governments to strategically fund interventions including infrastructure and housing projects. Noted that this approach is also used within the Local2030 Coalition and supports broader efforts to advance localization of financing.
   - Indicated that it is exploring ways to strengthen softly earmarked contributions while emphasizing that transparency and robust reporting are essential to sustain donor confidence.

- Acknowledged staffing constraints due to the UN-wide hiring freeze and noted that a consultant will be added to the Donor Relations and Resource Mobilization Unit to strengthen the capacity to implement the resource mobilization strategy.
- Noted that the resource mobilization strategy will be operationalized through a decentralized approach where programme, project, and country managers' project management work, including donor communication and project development, is an integral part of resource mobilization activities.
- Emphasized that Resource Mobilization Coordination Task Force and Donor Relations and Resource Mobilization Unit are complementary and highlighted that the establishment of the Task Force at director level was to engage headquarters and regional leadership to coordinate efforts, share lessons, and expand partnerships.
- Clarified that Foundation earmarked contributions are generally softly earmarked and support global programmes, particularly normative work managed at headquarters, with links to country-level implementation, while Foundation technical cooperation funding is more specific supporting country-level projects with defined thematic and geographic focus.
- Outlined that the structured approach to mobilizing core contributions includes sending annual appeal letters to Member States, integrating core funding requests into high-level meeting engagements and conducting monthly reviews of contributions and following up with Member States as needed, including through regional offices.
- Noted plans to strengthen engagement through joint annual consultations with key funding partners to discuss overall partnerships including core contributions and acknowledged the potential of humanitarian and reconstruction financing as a funding avenue and indicated that it is already exploring and expanding efforts in this area.
- Confirmed that flexibility is built into the resource mobilization strategy, particularly in the Chapter V point (e) "Learning and performance monitoring", and noted that the framework of strategy is designed to be inherently flexible allowing for tailored engagement with different partners and adaptation to changing circumstances.
- Welcomed positive feedback on the catalogue of solutions clarifying that it is a complementary tool to structure dialogue with Member States and explained that it focuses on earmarked and technical cooperation support at country level while connecting demand from countries with UN-Habitat's tools and expertise.
- Highlighted that the catalogue is aligned with the Strategic Plan and aims to enhance transparency, accountability, and impact. Noted that dissemination will be carried out through regional and country offices, as well as in collaboration with other UN entities and global initiatives, to broaden reach, including in countries without a strong UN-Habitat presence. Expressed openness to engage with Member States to adapt the solutions to national priorities.

c. Informal consultations on the draft decisions to be considered by the Executive Board at its 2026 first session.

8. The working group conducted a first reading on the draft decisions to be considered by the Executive Board at its 2026 first session. The changes made in the document at the meeting are reflected in a revised version available here.

Agenda item 3: Any other matters

9. The Secretary of the Governing Bodies informed that the next meeting would be held on 1 April 2026 and that the agenda and background documents were available on the meeting portal.

10. The seventy-sixth meeting of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary, and administrative matters of the Executive Board was adjourned at 13:15 p.m. (EAT).