



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

Hybrid format – Tuesday, 1 September 2026

11:30-13:00hrs East Africa Time (EAT)

Statement by the Executive Director

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. Preparations for the 2026 second session of the Executive Board:
 - a. Review of the Provisional Agenda for the second session.
 - b. Proposed organization of work during the second session.
3. Roadmap of meetings towards the 2026 second session of the Executive Board including informal consultations on possible outcomes and briefing by the Executive Director to Member States on the status of preparations for the session.
4. Consideration of dates for the 2027 first session of the Executive Board.
5. Update on the preparations for the third session of the Open-ended expert working group on adequate housing for all (OEWG-H3).
6. Any other matters.

Highlights of Introductory remarks by the ED

Your Excellency Madam Chair,
Excellencies,

Good morning to you all again.

It is my pleasure to join you all at this third meeting of the Bureau of the Executive Board for the year 2026.

Allow me at the outset to again congratulate China on its election as Chair of the Executive Board alongside this new Bureau for the period 2025 to 2026.

I welcome all the newly elected members of the Bureau and thank you sincerely for the trust you have placed in steering our collective work. I look forward to your guidance and to working closely with you as we approach the second session of the Executive Board this year.

I want to also express my sincere gratitude to Germany as the outgoing Chair of the Executive Board, and the previous Members of the Bureau, Brazil and Cameroon. We appreciate your dedication to our work and the efficiency gains you brought to the work of the Executive Board.

Excellencies, we have just concluded a very important joint Bureaux meeting in which we discussed upcoming key meetings as well as the financial status of UN-Habitat among other matters. For this Bureau meeting, will specifically focus on the next meeting of the Executive Board scheduled for 24-25 November. I am looking forward to the discussion.

Thank you, Madam Chair. Back to you.

Slide 3: (TITLE SLIDE) AGENDA ITEM 2: Preparations for the 2026 second session of the Executive Board

Slide 4: Review of the Provisional Agenda for the second session.

Madam Chair,
Excellencies,

With regard to the draft provisional agenda for the next Executive Board meeting, we have reviewed the 1st version of the Agenda as agreed at the 2026 first session of the Executive Board in April this year, and made some proposed changes, for your consideration - based on relevant decisions of the Board as well as the rules of Procedure.

We have also given due consideration to *the latest guidance provided by the Board on applying a standardized agenda as a basis for the preparation of provisional agendas for all upcoming Board meetings*.

On this basis, a revised provisional agenda has been shared in advance of this meeting with the Bureau members and is now displayed on the screen.

The proposed amendments are as follows:

- **First, under agenda item 4** on Financial and budgetary and administrative matters, agenda item 4 (c) on **“Update on the implications of the UN80 initiative for the structure,**

staffing, budgetary planning and work of UN-Habitat” has been added based on the request by the Executive Board in paragraph 7 of decision 2026 /1, which requests further updates at the second session of the Executive Board.

- **Second, agenda item 6 on** “Update on normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat including an update on activities in areas affected by conflict and disasters” will include **updates on the status of funding to sustain the UN-Habitat presence in Ukraine after April 2026** and a report on the **status of the development of the efforts to reconstruct the human settlements in the Gaza Strip** if conditions permit. This edition follows from the requests in paragraphs 2 and 3 of decision 2026/2.
- Lastly, we have included **new agenda items 7 and 8**, to report back on the outcomes of the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum and the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, on the basis of part C of the Annex of decision 2026/4 - which lists possible non-re-current agenda items in the provisional Agenda.
- We look forward to your comments on the updated draft agenda.

Slide 5: Provisional Agenda with Proposed Revisions

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organizational matters
 - a. Adoption of the agenda and the workplan for the second session of 2026;
 - b. Adoption of the report of the Executive Board on the work of its first session of 2026.
3. Reports of the chairs of working groups:
 - a. Report of the chair of ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters
 - b. Report of the co-Chairs of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All
4. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters:
 - a. Financial Status including an update on resource mobilization.
 - b. Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and matters.
 - c. **Update on the implications of the UN80 initiative for the structure, staffing, budgetary planning and work of UN-Habitat.**
5. Consideration and possible approval of the draft work programme and draft budget for 2027.
6. Update on normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat **including an update on activities in areas affected by conflict and disasters.**
7. **Outcomes of the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum.**
8. **Outcomes of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm**

review of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

9. Reports from relevant United Nations oversight bodies:
 - a. Report of Office of Internal Oversight Services,
 - b. Report of the Ethics Office
10. Consideration and adoption of outcomes of the session, including on the dates and provisional agenda of the first session of 2027.
11. Other matters.
12. Closure of the session.

Slide 6: Item 2 (b): Proposed organization of work

Madam Chair.
Excellencies,

With regard to the organization of work for the two days of the session, our proposal is now reflected on the screen.

We propose to consider Agenda items 1 to 6 on **day one**. And agenda items 7 to 12 on **day two**.

The **intersessional preparatory work** to be undertaken by the ad-hoc working group on PBA will be important to ensure solid preparations for the second session. In addition, as per established practice, we propose to undertake informal consultations on the draft decisions during the two lunch breaks and on the evening of the first day.

The proposed organization of work is now on the screen for your further review:

TIME (EAT)	Day One – 24 November 2026	Day Two – 25 November 2026
9.00 A.M. - 12.00 P.M.	Agenda item 1: Opening of the session. Agenda item 2: Organizational matters a. Adoption of the agenda and the workplan for the second session of 2026; b. Adoption of the report of the Executive Board on the work of its first session of 2026. Agenda item 3: Reports of the chairs of working groups: a. Report of the chair of ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters; b. Report of the co-Chairs of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All Agenda item 4: Financial, budgetary and administrative matters: a. Financial Status including an update on resource mobilization.	Agenda item 7: Outcomes of the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum. Agenda item 8: Outcomes of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Agenda item 9: Reports from relevant United Nations oversight bodies: a. Report of Office of Internal Oversight Services, b. Report of the Ethics Office

	b. Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and matters. c. Update on the implications of the UN80 initiative for the structure, staffing, budgetary planning and work of UN-Habitat.	
12.00 P.M. - 2.00 P.M.	Informal consultations on draft decisions (Without Interpretation)	Informal consultations on draft decisions (Without Interpretation)
2.00 P.M. - 5.00 P.M.	Agenda item 5. Consideration and possible approval of the draft work programme and draft budget for 2027. Agenda item 6. Update on normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat including an update on activities in areas affected by conflict and disasters.	Agenda item 10: Consideration and adoption of outcomes of the session, including on the dates and provisional agenda of the first session of 2027. Agenda item 11: Other Matters. Agenda item 12: Closure of the session.
5.00 P.M. – 7.00 P.M.	Informal consultations on draft decisions (Without Interpretation)	

Thank you, Madam Chair. Back to you.

Slide 7: (TITLE SLIDE) AGENDA ITEM 3: Roadmap of meetings towards the 2026 second session of the Executive Board including informal consultations on possible outcomes and briefing by the Executive Director to Member States on the status of preparations for the session.

Slide 8: Highlights from the roadmap of meetings

Madam Chair,
Excellencies,

With regards to agenda item 3, we have shared with the Bureau the roadmap of meetings leading to the second session of the Executive Board of 2026 which outlines the key dates and meetings in preparations for that session.

The roadmap also includes other key dates in our calendar such as the World Cleanup Day, Urban October and the third Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All, among others.

The proposed dates for the meetings **of ad hoc working group on PBA** chaired by Kenya are as follows:

- Wednesday 23 September 2026 – Morning.
- Wednesday 7 October 2026 – Morning

- Monday 26 October 2026 – Morning
- Friday 6 November 2026 – Morning
- Wednesday 11 November 2026 – Morning

For the future Bureau meetings of the Executive Board, the following dates are proposed:

- Tuesday 1 September 2026- 11:30 to 13: 00 EAT (which is today),
- 31 October 2026 – Bureau meeting and Field Visit in China
- Monday 16 November 2026.
- The Bureau will also meet during the Executive Board session, as is standard practice, usually in the morning, prior to the start of the plenary.

With regard to the Bureau meeting to be held from **31 October in China**, the Chair of the Executive Board has invited all members of the Bureau and the Chair of the PBA working group for an in-person Bureau meeting in Fuzhou, China, in conjunction with the global celebrations of the 2026 World Cities Day which will be hosted in the same location on 31 October 2026.

In addition, the Government of China also invited the Bureau members to attend a field visit in Beijing City on 1 November 2026, back -to-back with the Bureau Meeting.

So far, we have received confirmations from three members of the Bureau including the host, and also from Kenya, the Chair of the PBA.

We have also received communication indicating that two Members of the Bureau are unfortunately not in a position to participate in-person at the planned Bureau meeting in China.

We will continue to update on the preparations of that Bureau meeting and Field Visit in China, in close cooperation with the Chair and Members of the Bureau.

Finally, I wish to note that the mandatory **Briefing by the Executive Director** on the preparations for Executive Board session is scheduled on Friday 6 November 2026, from 9:00 am – 10.30am, back-to-back with a PBA Working Group meeting.

Thank you, Madam Chair. Back to you.

Slide 9: (TITLE SLIDE) AGENDA ITEM 4: Consideration of dates for the 2027 first session of the Executive Board.

Slide 10: Consideration of the dates for the first session of the Executive Board in 2027

Madam Chair,
Excellencies,

Under this item, we wish to propose the dates for the first session of the Executive Board in 2027 following consultations with the Division of Conferences Services. The two options provided for consideration are:

- **The week of 5 to 9 April 2027 and**
- **13-14 April 2027.**

We invite the Bureau to consider and recommend one of these dates for final consideration by the Board at the upcoming session.

Taking into account the Easter break and the need to ensure sufficient time for the preparation of documents, the secretariat would propose the date of **13-14 April**.

Thank you, Madam Chair. Back to you

Slide 11: AGENDA ITEM 5: Update on the preparations for the third session of the Open-ended expert working group on adequate housing for all (OEWG-H3).

(Co-Chairs (Azerbaijan and Somalia) will brief the Bureau.)

Slide 12: AGENDA ITEM 6. ANY OTHER MATTERS:

(Led by the Chair)