



2026 Second meeting of the Joint Bureaux of UN-Habitat Governing Bodies

Tuesday, 1 September 2026, 9:00 - 11.00 am East Africa Time

Statement by the Executive Director

SLIDE 1: Title slide

SLIDE 2: Agenda Item 1. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

1. *Adoption of the agenda*
2. *Outcomes from key UN-Habitat milestones in 2026:*
 - *The thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum, 17 -22 May 2026*
 - *High-level Political Forum - review of SDG 11, 6-13 July 2026*
 - *General Assembly High-Level Meeting on the Review of the New Urban Agenda, 16-17 July 2026*
3. *Preparations for key meetings in 2026-2027*
 - *Second session of the Executive Board for 2026, 24 -25 November 2026*
 - *Third session of the Open-Ended Working Group on Adequate Housing for All, 26-27 November 2026*
 - *The fourth session of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives for a high-level midterm review*
 - *The commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of UN-Habitat*
4. *Financial Status of the UN-Habitat including the impact of UN80 reforms*
5. *Organization of work – roadmap of meetings 2026-2029*
6. *Any other matters*

Slide 3 (Title Slide): Agenda Item 2: Outcomes from key UN-Habitat milestones in 2026:

- a) The thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum, 17 -22 May 2026**
- b) High-level Political Forum - review of SDG 11, 6-13 July 2026**
- c) General Assembly High-Level Meeting on the Review of the New Urban Agenda, 16-17 July 2026**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Excellencies,

Good morning, it is a pleasure to see you. I join the President in warmly welcoming all of you to the second joint meeting of our Bureaux this year.

Mr. President, let me first sincerely thank you and the Members of Joint Bureaux for your continued leadership and guidance for our work, including through the three Governing Bodies.

As we meet today, our thoughts are with the people and communities affected by the natural disasters currently unfolding on the border of Nepal, China and India, and the recent earthquakes in Venezuela and Colombia. Our thoughts are also with all those working to respond to their immediate and longer-term needs. These events also remind us of the increasingly complex and challenging global context in which we are operating, marked by multiple and overlapping pressures on communities, institutions and the multilateral system.

Nonetheless, 2026 has so far been a very important year for our mandate. As you know, we have successfully organized three milestone events, with strong Member States participation:

- the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum in May
- the High-level Political Forum in July and
- the High-Level Meeting on the Review of the New Urban Agenda, also in July.

During the preparatory process, we have had the opportunity to brief and seek guidance from Member States here in Nairobi – especially through the Executive Board. We are most grateful for the support and high interest demonstrated, including through the members of this joint Bureaux, as well as through Azerbaijan as host of WUF13, and for the guidance received to shape the important outcomes of these three milestone events.

Slide 4: Outcomes of the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum, 17 -22 May 2026

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Let me start by highlighting the key outcomes of the WUF 13, which was held in Baku, Azerbaijan from 17 -22 May 2026.

WUF13, held from 17 to 22 May 2026 in Baku, Azerbaijan, turned out to be a huge success. Working in close collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, under the theme “Housing the world: Safe and resilient cities and communities” WUF13 placed housing at the center of global discussions on sustainable urbanization and brought renewed urgency to one of the defining challenges of our time.

WUF13 was the largest World Urban Forum to date, bringing together more than 58,000 participants from 176 countries, including 27 Heads of State and other high-level guests, 88 ministers, 76 deputy ministers and 130 mayors. The Urban Expo was a major achievement of the Forum, attracting more than 100,000 visits and bringing together 260 exhibitors, innovators and solution providers from 92 countries.

WUF13 took place at a critical moment, as implementation of the New Urban Agenda reached its halfway point. The Forum sent a clear message: the second decade of the New Urban Agenda must focus on accelerated implementation, stronger partnerships and measurable results for people and communities. It called on all stakeholders to move from commitments to delivery, and to place adequate housing, resilience and inclusion at the center of sustainable urban development, the Sustainable Development Goals and broader global commitments to leave no one and no place behind.

The Forum provided an important high-level political platform for Member States, through the Ministerial Meeting on the New Urban Agenda, chaired by the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Chair’s Summary from the meeting underscored the need to integrate housing into national and local development strategies and connect it with land, infrastructure, services, mobility, jobs, public spaces, social protection and climate resilience. It also highlighted the importance of strengthening urban finance, municipal capacity, data systems, accountability mechanisms, and multilevel governance.

WUF13 culminated in the Baku Call to Action, a stakeholder-driven outcome that provides a shared framework for renewed political commitment to adequate housing and sustainable urbanization. The Call recognizes that housing is more than shelter. It is the foundation of dignity, inclusion, resilience, stability, and opportunity. It calls for people-centred, inclusive and climate-resilient housing approaches, supported by stronger multilevel governance, increased investment, and meaningful community participation.

I wish to again express my appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the City of Baku, for their incredible efforts in organizing this landmark forum, and to all Member States for their contributions.

Slide 5: Outcomes of the High-level Political Forum - review of SDG 11, 6-13 July 2026

Mr. President,
Excellencies,

The review of SDG 11 at the 2026 High-level Political Forum was particularly significant for UN-Habitat and for the positioning of sustainable urbanization within the final years of implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The review confirmed that progress on SDG 11 is possible but remains too slow and too uneven. The SDG 11 Global Report 2026 showed important advances, including improved access to public transport, but also highlighted the scale of the remaining challenges, particularly in housing, informal settlements, inequality, resilience and access to basic services.

In addition to the official review of SDG 11 at the HLPF, UN-Habitat also used the occasion to bring the evidence and policy messages to a wider public audience through the Secretary-General's Noon Press Briefing at United Nations Headquarters on 9 July. The briefing connected the findings of the SDG 11 Global Report with the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the forthcoming High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly.

One of the most important outcomes of the HLPF was the recognition that sustainable urban development cannot be addressed as a stand-alone sectoral issue. Cities and human settlements are where economic development, social inclusion, environmental sustainability and climate action increasingly converge. This requires integrated approaches connecting housing, land, mobility, infrastructure, basic services, resilience and economic development.

This provides us with a strong basis to increasingly position SDG11 as an accelerator and integrator of the wider 2030 Agenda. Many of the Sustainable Development Goals are ultimately implemented in cities, communities and territories. Sustainable urbanization therefore provides an important pathway for translating global commitments into tangible improvements in people's lives.

As expected, Adequate Housing emerged as a particularly urgent priority. The HLPF also reinforced the importance of localization and multilevel governance. The forum also concluded

that financing remains a major constraint, and that data and evidence are indispensable for implementation.

Finally, the close alignment of the SDG11 review with the Midterm Review of the New Urban Agenda, and the convergence of these two processes in July, created an important opportunity to reinforce the relationship between the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda. The HLPF Ministerial Declaration and the Political Declaration of the Midterm Review give us a renewed political basis to position the New Urban Agenda as an implementation framework for the SDGs at the local and territorial levels.

For UN-Habitat, our task now is to translate this recognition into stronger policy support, partnerships, financing and implementation at scale.

Slide 6: Outcomes of the General Assembly High-Level Meeting on the Review of the New Urban Agenda, 16-17 July 2026

Mr. President,
Excellencies,

Just a few days after the HLPF, the President of the General Assembly convened the High-Level Meeting on the Midterm Review of the New Urban Agenda on 16 and 17 July, under the theme “Delivering Sustainable Urbanization for All: Accelerating and Scaling Implementation of the New Urban Agenda to 2036 Together.”

This was a defining moment for our mandate, as Member States took stock of progress, confronted the widening implementation gaps and renewed their commitment to the New Urban Agenda for its second decade through 2036.

The meeting demonstrated a very high level of engagement. The plenary featured 110 statements, including from 60 ministers, vice-ministers and other high-level officials, complemented by four multi-stakeholder panels bringing together local and regional governments, civil society, the private sector, academia and other partners.

Most importantly, the General Assembly adopted resolution 80/291, the Political Declaration to Renew Commitment and Accelerate the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda, by 148 votes in favour, 2 against and no abstentions.

The Political Declaration and the discussions at the High-Level Meeting sent a clear message: the decade to 2036 must be a decade of implementation and delivery, focusing on adequate housing,

financing, the crucial role of local and regional governments for implementation, and the importance of integrated territorial planning, climate resilience, data, digital transformation and innovation.

As I emphasized in closing the meeting, our priorities towards 2036 are clear: place adequate housing and the transformation of informal settlements at the centre of government policy; unlock finance and channel greater resources to local governments; strengthen multilevel governance and empower local and regional authorities; and build cities and human settlements that are resilient, inclusive and future-ready.

The High-Level Meeting therefore did more than reaffirm the New Urban Agenda. It gave us a renewed political mandate to move from fragmented interventions to integrated urban transformation at scale. Our task now is implementation, to support Member States and local governments in translating the Political Declaration into measurable progress and tangible improvements in people's lives by 2036.

Excellencies,

In concluding my remarks in item 2, I once again express my sincere gratitude for all the support we have received from Member States and partners in ensuring the success of these key events.

Thank you, Mr. President and back to you.

Slide 7: (TITLE SLIDE) Agenda item 3: Preparations for key meetings in 2026-2027:

- a) Second session of the Executive Board for 2026, 24 -25 November 2026**
- b) Third session of the Open-Ended Working Group on Adequate Housing for All, 26-27 November 2026**
- c) The fourth session of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives for a high-level midterm review**
- d) The commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of UN-Habitat (UNH@50)**

Slide 8: (a) Preparations for the second session of the Executive Board for 2026, 24 -25 November 2026

Mr. President,
Excellencies,

With regard to the preparations for the second session of 2026 of the Executive Board, let me start by expressing my appreciation to the Bureau members of the Executive Board for their guidance towards ensuring a successful first session of the Executive Board, held in April this year. I am very grateful to the outgoing members of the bureau of the Executive Board, and I warmly welcome the new Chair and new Bureau members.

The second session of the Executive Board will be held from 24 to 25 November 2026. The planning for that session is ongoing, with the new Bureau of the Executive Board expected to meet immediately after this joint bureaux meeting, to guide us in the preparations. The provisional Agenda for the session is now displayed on the screen. As you can see, the Executive Board to consider, among others, the following key topics:

- Financial, budgetary and administrative matters;
- Approval of the draft work programme and draft budget for 2027;
- Normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat;
- Outcomes of the thirteenth World Urban Forum and the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the New Urban Agenda.

We look forward to receiving further guidance from the Executive Board on the proposed agenda later today.

The pre-session documents in support of the session are currently under preparation and will be issued at least 4 weeks in advance of the session, by 27 October 2026, in line with rules of procedure of the Executive Board.

Slide 9: Provisional Agenda of the 2026 second session of the EB (blue text is are proposed amendments to the version approved by the EB at its first meeting.

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 10: (b) Preparations for the Third session of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All, 26-27 November 2026

Mr. President,
Excellencies,

The Third session of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All will be held from 26-27 November 2026, right after the Executive Board.

As you may recall, the first and second sessions of the Working Group held in 2024 and 2025 resulted in 1) agreed terms of reference for the Working Group; 2) a detailed roadmap of meetings for the working group until 2029; and 3) draft recommendations on

- social housing
- informal settlements
- tenure security and
- housing finance

This upcoming third session will consider draft recommendations under three additional topics:

1. the definition of homelessness
2. housing sustainability and resilience
3. integrated housing policies

The proposed provisional Agenda for the upcoming third session of the working group will now be displayed on the screen.

I want to sincerely thank the Co-Chairs - Azerbaijan and Somalia for their active leadership and guidance in preparing for this important Working Group meeting – as well as the preparatory intersessional meetings, one of which will take place already this week, on 3 September.

As requested by Resolution 2/7 of the UN-Habitat Assembly, the Executive Board continues to play a key role for the Working Group, in particular to determine the dates and duration of each session.

Excellencies, the Working Group has so far been serviced largely from within existing capacity. Delivering the roadmap to 2029 – annual sessions, expert group and intersessional meetings, the preparation, translation and interpretation of technical documents in six languages, and the knowledge platform – requires predictable and sustained resources. A proposed resource mobilization strategy will be presented to the Working Group at its third session. I count on the continued support of this Board in ensuring that the mandate entrusted to us under resolution 2/7 can be delivered in full.

Slide 11: Provisional Agenda of the third session of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All will be held from 26-27 November 2026

1. *Opening of the session.*
2. *Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.*
3. *Adoption of the Report of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All on the work of its second session.*
4. *Consideration of outcomes from expert group and intersessional meetings, global events, and draft recommendations.*
5. *Presentation of the work to establish a housing knowledge platform.*
6. *Implementation of the road map for the period 2025–2029 and resource mobilization.*
7. *Dates and provisional agenda of the fourth session of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group*

8. *Election of co-chairs.*
9. *Other matters.*
10. *Closure of the session.*

Slide 12: (c) Preparations for the fourth session of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives for a high-level midterm review

Mr. President,
Excellencies,

Turning now to the fourth session of the open-ended meeting Committee of Permanent Representatives for a high-level midterm review; as decided by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its resumed second meeting last year, this meeting will be held from 14 to 18 June 2027.

The session will provide an important opportunity for Member States to undertake a high-level midterm review and to assess progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan, implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the progress in the implementation of the decisions and resolutions adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly. Preparations for the session will be undertaken under the guidance of the CPR Bureau. A draft provisional agenda for the session was approved by Member States in Decision 2025/1 of the 3rd session of the OECPR, to be further reviewed by the CPR Bureau at its next meeting – and now displayed on the screen:

We look forward to working closely with the CPR Chair and Bureau in preparing for the session and would welcome any preliminary guidance from the joint bureaux at this early stage.

Slide 13: Provisional Agenda of the fourth session of the open-ended meeting Committee of Permanent Representatives

11. *Opening of the meeting:*
 - a. *Organizational matters;*
 - b. *Adoption of the agenda and the workplan for the fourth open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for a high-level midterm review.*
12. *Adoption of the report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the work of its third open-ended meeting.*
13. *Midterm review of the implementation of the strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2026–2029.*
14. *Progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda:*
 - a. *Preparation of the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda;*

- b. Follow-up on progress in the implementation of the actions set out in the ministerial declaration adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its second session;*
- c. High-level meeting to assess progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.*
- 15. Progress in the implementation of the decisions and resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly.*
- 16. Preparations for the fourteenth session of the World Urban Forum.*
- 17. Review of the provisional agenda for the third session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.*
- 18. Dates and provisional agenda for the fifth open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.*
- 19. Election of officers of the Bureau.*
- 20. Consideration of the draft Chair's summary.*
- 21. Other matters.*
- 22. Closure of the meeting.*

Slide 14: (d) Preparations for the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of UN-Habitat

Mr. President,

The year 2027 will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of UN-Habitat, following the Habitat I Conference held in Vancouver in 1977. In 2023, at its second session, the UN-Habitat Assembly adopted a Ministerial Declaration which welcomed a commemoration in Nairobi for the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of UN-Habitat before the third regular session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. Subsequently, the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 79/214 of December 2024, adopted a paragraph requesting UN-Habitat, in consultation with Member States, to finalize the preparatory process and organizational arrangements, and encouraged participation at the highest possible level. In addition, the resolution also requested the Secretary-General to support the commemoration, and encouraged voluntary contributions, including supporting the participation of developing countries.

In this regard, the commemoration of UN-HABITAT at 50 is envisaged to take place in Nairobi next year, as an important opportunity to reflect on UN-Habitat's achievements and lessons learned over the past five decades, while positioning the Organization for the future of sustainable urbanization. The commemoration will also provide an opportunity to take stock of recent developments, including the outcomes of the high-level meeting on the midterm review of the New Urban Agenda and the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum.

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Additional information on Urban October

Mr. President – before I end my presentation, I also wish to inform Bureau Members about three UN International Days, for which UN-Habitat is responsible, and the plans for “Urban October”, a month devoted to the promotion of sustainable urban development worldwide.

- On 20 September, the world will observe the World Cleanup Day in Shaoxing, China under the theme “From Clean Plate to Clean City”, with a focus on food waste.
- On 5 October, we will celebrate the World Habitat Day, in Muscat, Oman under the theme “Adequate Housing for All”, as a cornerstone for achieving the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda. The global observance will span over 4 days filled with workshops as well as the fourth international Home and Building Expo. It will also present the winners of the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award, recognizing individuals and institutions that have made outstanding contributions to urban development.
- Finally, the World Cities Day will take place on 31 October in Fuzhou, China, under the theme “Regenerating the City: Adequate Housing for All” – addressing urban regeneration as a catalyst for achieving adequate housing for all. It will showcase a 3-day programme and an international exhibition on how area-based regeneration can be combined with housing and informal settlements strategies to deliver inclusive climate-resilient neighborhoods. In this context, I also wish to remind Bureau Members that that an Expression of Interest for hosting the 2027 World Habitat Day and World Cities Day has been shared with Member States, with the deadline of 30 November 2026.

Additional information on COP31

Mr. President, I also wish to take the chance to brief the Bureau members about the upcoming 31st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP31), to be held in November in Antalya, Turkiye, in which UN-Habitat has an important role.

The COP31 Presidency has announced that the Resilient Cities and Built Environment Thematic Day will be on 12 November 2026, overlapping with the Leaders’ Summit, which will take place on 11 and 12 of November. The Presidency has requested UN-Habitat to support the curation of this day, working with key stakeholders. The 5th Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change will be the flagship event supported by thematic technical roundtables.

Mr. President,
Excellencies,

This marks the end of my remarks under agenda item 3.

We look forward to the guidance of this joint Bureaux on all of the sub-items under this agenda item.

Back to you Mr. President.

Slide 15: (Title Slide): Agenda Item 4: Financial Status of the UN-Habitat including the impact of UN80 reforms

Excellencies,

Allow me to briefly report on UN-Habitat's financial status.

As at 28 August, UN-Habitat's financial position continues to require close attention, particularly with regard to flexible funding that underpins the Organization's normative, policy and oversight functions. Foundation non-earmarked contributions received totalled US\$1.6 million from 13 Member States, comprising US\$0.4 million from eight African States, US\$0.6 million from three Asia-Pacific States, less than US\$0.1 million from one Latin American and Caribbean State, and US\$0.7 million from one Western European and Other State. While these contributions are highly valued and reflect continued confidence in the Organization's mandate, they represent only 32.0 per cent of the approved 2026 Foundation non-earmarked budget of US\$5.0 million, leaving a shortfall of approximately US\$3.4 million with only four months remaining in the financial year. This situation is compounded by broader financial constraints affecting the United Nations system, including liquidity challenges in the Regular Budget.

This situation highlights the continued challenge of financing the Organization's approved programme of work. While Foundation non-earmarked contributions are voluntary, the approval of the budget by Member States carries with it an expectation of shared responsibility for ensuring that the approved mandate can be implemented. In parallel, the implementation of the UN80 initiative has required UN-Habitat to absorb significant reductions in its core Regular Budget capacity. In line with Secretariat-wide requirements, UN-Habitat abolished 16 Regular Budget-funded posts, representing a 20 per cent reduction in its Regular Budget establishment and reducing the number of posts from 82 to 66. The resulting decrease in post costs reduced planned Regular Budget requirements from US\$15.0 million to US\$12.2 million, a reduction of approximately US\$2.8 million (19 per cent). Although the Organization has successfully mitigated much of the operational impact through organizational restructuring, function realignment and streamlined reporting arrangements, these measures inevitably place additional pressure on a

reduced core workforce and reinforce the importance of adequate flexible funding to sustain normative and governing-body functions.

At the same time, the UN80 initiative presents an important opportunity to enhance efficiency, strengthen accountability and optimize the use of available resources across the Organization.

To this effect, Mr. President, Excellencies,

I also wish to provide a brief update on our engagement in the ongoing reform process.

- UN-Habitat remains fully engaged in the reform, with a focus on ensuring that greater system-wide coherence and efficiency translate into stronger delivery for Member States and meaningful impact at country level.
- UN-Habitat is contributing through the Development Secretariat Cluster and is directly engaged in several work packages, notably:
 - **The Regional Reset (WP6);**
 - **Expertise-on-Demand (WP8);**
 - **Environment (WP27); and**
 - **Human Rights (Workstream 3)**
- Our engagement is guided by one overarching objective: ensuring that reform strengthens the United Nations' capacity to respond effectively to Member States and country-level priorities.

On the Regional Reset – WP6

- Through the UNSDG Principals, UN-Habitat has emphasized the importance of a more integrated and responsive regional support architecture, designed around country needs rather than driven primarily by reductions in country-level presence.
- This is fully aligned with UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026–2029, which provides for:
 - stronger country prioritization;
 - Regional Offices providing strategic portfolio oversight;
 - Headquarters providing normative and specialized expertise; and
 - a One UN-Habitat Programme connecting normative work, operations, partnerships and resource mobilization around country results.
- UN-Habitat therefore supports a differentiated presence model — determined **country by country**, rather than through a uniform approach.
- We also see stronger joint programming and access to pooled funding as important enablers of effective country-level delivery.

On Expertise-on-Demand – WP8

- UN-Habitat strongly supports the objective of making UN system expertise more rapidly accessible to Member States and UN Country Teams.
- We have actively contributed to the emerging system-wide expertise catalogue, including by bringing forward UN-Habitat's specialized technical, normative and operational expertise on sustainable urbanization.
- We have also contributed pilot submissions and lessons from inter-agency collaboration to support the development of access protocols and legal and financial arrangements.
- The priority now is to move from design to effective operationalization, ensuring that expertise can be matched rapidly and practically with country demand.
- For this mechanism to succeed, however, credible financing and cost-recovery arrangements must be established from the outset. Expertise-on-Demand cannot become an unfunded expectation placed on specialized entities.

On the Environment package – WP27

- UN-Habitat participated actively in all four Working Groups established under Action 35, contributing to the assessment of existing environmental arrangements across the UN system.
- Our contributions emphasized the importance of:
 - stronger system-wide coherence;
 - implementation and delivery at country level;
 - sustainable urbanization and the role of local governments; and
 - integrated approaches linking environmental action with broader sustainable development objectives.
- The Working Groups completed their work in May 2026, identifying areas of fragmentation as well as opportunities for greater coordination and effectiveness.
- A Secretary-General information brief is expected in September 2026 outlining the key findings and issues arising from the assessment.
- We will continue to engage as this work moves towards conclusion and implementation.

On the Human rights Group – under workstream 3

- UN-Habitat is also actively participating in the emerging Human Rights Group, led by the High Commissioner for Human Rights under Workstream 3.
- UN-Habitat participated in the Group's first meeting (13 August 2026), which addressed the growing global and regional push-back against human rights and its implications for development, peace and security.
- UN-Habitat will continue to underline the centrality of human rights to sustainable urbanization, including through inclusive, equitable and people-centred approaches to cities and human settlements.

Overall, UN-Habitat is committed to implementing reforms that streamline business processes, strengthen results-based budgeting, reduce administrative costs and increase the impact of every dollar received. The Organization is also actively engaging in system-wide initiative on common administrative platforms, shared services and other reforms aimed at improving coherence and efficiency across the United Nations system. However, efficiency gains alone cannot compensate for insufficient funding. The successful implementation of the approved programme of work will require both organizational reform and stronger financial support from Member States.

I therefore encourage all Member States to seize this opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals through timely contributions that will enable UN-Habitat to deliver tangible results for cities and communities worldwide.

With that, I conclude my briefing under this item. Back to you Mr. President.

Slide 16-18: (Title Slide): Organization of work – roadmap of meetings 2026-2029.

Thank you, Mr. President.

With your permission, I would like to call on Ulf to provide a quick overview of the roadmap of meetings for 2026 to 2029, for possible further review by the Bureau.

Ulf, over to you.

Key meetings in the roadmap for 2026-2029 (See link Roadmap here: [Roadmap of meetings of the Governing Bodies of UN-Habitat | UN-Habitat](#))

Meetings of the Governing Bodies of UN-Habitat
Tuesday 1 September 2026 – Joint Bureaux meeting of the Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, Bureau of the CPR and Bureau of the Executive Board 9:30 – 11:30 EAT, Hybrid meeting, Executive Boardroom
Tuesday 1 September 2026 – Meeting of the Bureau of the Executive Board 11:30 – 13:00 EAT, Hybrid meeting, Executive Boardroom
Monday 14 September 2026 – Induction Seminar for Member States 9:00 – 14:00 EAT, Hybrid meeting, location TBC
Wednesday 23 September 2026 – Meeting of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters 9:00 – 12:00 EAT, Hybrid meeting, CR9

Meetings of the Governing Bodies of UN-Habitat
Wednesday 7 October 2026 – Meeting of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters 9:00 – 12:00 EAT , Hybrid meeting, CR9
Monday 26 October 2026 – Meeting of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters 9:00 – 12:00 EAT , Hybrid meeting, CR9
TBC 1 November 2026 – Meeting of the Bureau of the Executive Board Time TBC , Hybrid meeting, China
Friday 6 November 2026 – Briefing by the Executive Director to Member States on the Executive Board session 9:00 – 10:30 EAT , Hybrid meeting, CR4
Friday 6 November 2026 – Meeting of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters 10:30 – 13:00 EAT , Hybrid meeting, CR4
Wednesday 11 November 2026 – Meeting of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters 9:00 – 12:00 EAT , Hybrid meeting, CR9
Monday 16 November 2026 – Meeting of the Bureau of the Executive Board 10:00 – 12:00 EAT , Hybrid meeting, Executive Boardroom
Tuesday 24 November – Wednesday 25 November 2026, Second session of the Executive Board 2026
Thursday 26 November – Friday 27 November 2026, Third Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All
TBC Tuesday 1 December 2026 – Joint Bureaux meeting of the Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, Bureau of the CPR and Bureau of the Executive Board 10:00 – 12:00 EAT , Hybrid meeting, Executive Boardroom
March/April 2027 – First session of the Executive Board 2027
14-18 June 2027 - Fourth Open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
TBC June 2027- Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of UN-Habitat
October/November 2027 – Second session of the Executive Board 2027
March/April – First session of the Executive Board 2028
October/November – Second session of the Executive Board 2028
March/April – First session of the Executive Board 2029
18-22 June 2029 - Fifth open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
25-29 June 2029 - Third session of the UN-Habitat Assembly
29 June 2029 – Second session of the Executive Board 2029
October/November – Third session of the Executive Board 2029

Thank you, Ulf. Back to you, Mr. President.

Slide 19: (Title Slide): Agenda Item 6: Any Other Matters.