2026 Fourth meeting of the Bureau of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat
on the sidelines of World Cities Day, including field visit
Fuzhou, China
1 November 2026, 14:00 – 16:00 (UTC+8, 9:00 – 11:00 EAT Nairobi Time)

Proposed Programme

I. Background

The mandate of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat, as outlined in Rule 5 of its rules of procedure, is to oversee the implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat; approve and oversee the implementation of the annual programme of work and budget; adopt decisions within the scope of its mandate; and guide and support efforts to mobilize financial resources for the work of UN-Habitat (see Annex 1).

The Bureau of the Executive Board supports the effective functioning of the Executive Board through the preparations and organization of its sessions, facilitating transparent decision-making and promoting dialogue among Member States. It also has an important role in identifying issues and recommendations that require consideration and action by the Board.

Within this context, the People's Republic of China, in its capacity as Chair of the Executive Board for the period 2026–2027, will convene an in-person extended meeting of the Bureau of the Executive Board, in conjunction with the observance of World Cities Day 2026 on 31 October in Fuzhou, China. The Chair has invited the five Bureau Members (China, Mexico, Mozambique, Germany and Slovakia), as well as Malaysia, President of the UN-Habitat Assembly, Sweden, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and Kenya, Chair of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters, to provide an opportunity for an informal exchange among the leadership of the governing bodies of UN-Habitat.

The meeting will provide an opportunity to review preparations for the second session of the Executive Board for 2026, as well as to facilitate a broader strategic dialogue on the role of the governing bodies in advancing the work of UN-Habitat. In particular, the meeting will seek to exchange views on how to strengthen coherence and complementarity among the governing bodies and their respective Bureaux, within their respective mandates, and how to support the implementation of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026–2029. It will also provide an opportunity to consider the preparations for the 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (Habitat@50).

In line with the theme and objectives of World Cities Day, the meeting will also provide an opportunity for Bureau members to reflect on emerging urbanization challenges and opportunities, exchange perspectives on innovative urban policies and practices, and consider how country experiences can inform the

implementation of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026–2029, the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Furthermore, participants will be invited to take part in a technical field visit showcasing local sustainable urban development initiatives relevant to the objectives of World Cities Day and the work of UN-Habitat.

II. 2026 Fourth meeting of the Bureau of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat (Expanded Bureau meeting)

Meeting Date
1 November 2026, 14:00 – 17.00 (UTC+8, 9:00 – 12:00 EAT Nairobi Time)

Meeting Location
Room 307, Fuzhou Strait International Conference and Exhibition Center, Fuzhou, China

Invited participants
Members of the Bureau of the Executive Board, President of the UN-Habitat Assembly, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Chair of the ad hoc working group on Programmatic, Budgetary and Administrative matters of the Executive Board.

Draft meeting agenda

1. **Adoption of the provisional Agenda**
   The Bureau is expected to adopt the provisional agenda.

2. **Strategic dialogue with the Members of the Expanded Bureau**
   The Bureau Members will be invited to engage in a strategic dialogue to exchange views on opportunities to strengthen the political visibility, strategic positioning, financing and effective functioning of the UN-Habitat governing bodies, in support of the implementation of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026–2029, the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

   The dialogue will focus on the following sub-themes:

   a. From the 2026 Urban October and World Cities Day towards the fiftieth anniversary of UN-Habitat in 2027
   - Key messages and emerging priorities highlighted during Urban October and the observance of World Cities Day.
   - Opportunities and challenges to strengthen the global visibility and positioning of UN-Habitat and its governing bodies.
   - Preparatory process for the fiftieth anniversary of UN-Habitat in 2027.

   b. Strengthening the strategic role of the UN-Habitat Governing bodies

- Overview of the role and mandates of the Executive Board, the UN-Habitat Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
- Opportunities and challenges to strengthen coherence and complementarity among the governing bodies and their respective Bureaux.
- Possible options to strengthen the political dialogue on the sustainable urbanization in-between formal sessions of the UN-Habitat Assembly, while respecting the mandates and decision-making processes of the three governing bodies.
- Possible options to strengthen the link between Nairobi-led processes and relevant New York-led processes.

c. Supporting implementation of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026–2029

- Opportunities to strengthen Member State´s engagement, partnerships and resource mobilization in support of the implementation of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan.
- Priorities for the work of the Executive Board and its Bureau 2026-2027 and beyond.

3. **Briefing on the Status of preparations for the second session of the Executive Board in 2026.**
   The Bureau will be invited to review the status of preparation for the second session of the Executive Board in 2026, to be held on 24 and 25 November 2026, including the status of documentation, the status of draft outcomes to be considered at the session, and review of the organization of work during the session.

4. **Any Other Matters.**
   Bureau may consider any other matters.

Annex 1: Guidance note on the Governing Bodies of UN-Habitat
Annex 2: Schedule for Field Visit
Annex 3: Logistics note for participants, including overview of Fuzhou and Beijing