



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

**2026 FIRST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE UNITED
NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME
21-22 APRIL 2026**

Agenda item 3: Reports of the Chair of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters of the Executive Board

Statement by

**H.E. Amb. Susan Nakhumicha Wafula, Permanent Representative of
Kenya to UN-Habitat and Chair of the ad hoc working group on
programmatic budgetary and administrative matters**

**Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,**

It is my pleasure to brief the Executive Board on the work of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters since the last session of the Executive Board in November 2025.

The ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters has met five times; on 18 February, 25 February, 11 March, 25 March and 1 April, respectively.

During these meetings, the working group has considered a range of issues in support of the Executive Board, including on UN-Habitat's financial status and draft work programme and budget for 2027, implementation of the Strategic Plan 2026–2029, the status of implementation of UN-Habitat Assembly resolutions, the organizations normative and operational activities, and preparations for upcoming global meetings and events.

Also, the working group has conducted informal consultations on the draft outcomes to be considered by the Executive Board at its 2026 first session.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies,

The Recommendations of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters during those meetings are as follows:

1. With respect to the **financial status of UN-Habitat**, the working group has expressed concern over the funding deficit and stressed the need for a solid resource mobilization strategy.

I believe that at this session the secretariat will provide the Executive Board with the latest information regarding UN-Habitat's financial situation at this session, as well as a presentation of a new Resource Mobilization Strategy.

2. On the proposed **draft work programme and Budget for 2027**, Member States generally welcomed the focus on adequate housing, technical assistance, and integrated approaches to informal settlements. They sought clarifications on alignment with the strategic plan, implications of UN reform processes, and budget timelines, while emphasizing realistic and transparent resource planning. The draft programme of work will be further considered ahead by the working group in view of presenting a final proposal for adoption by the Board at its second session in November 2026.

Excellencies,

3. With regard to the **implementation of the strategic plan for 2026-2029**, the secretariat has presented an update on the structure and division of responsibilities, baseline and targets for indicators of the monitoring framework, and a draft resource mobilization strategy.

On the update on **structure and division of responsibilities** within the organization, many delegations expressed concern regarding staffing capacity and the impact of vacancies and financial constraints on delivery. They also enquired how coordination, accountability, and visibility will be maintained under the new structure and emphasized the importance of maintaining core expertise and avoid over-centralization, while strengthening regional presence.

On the **baseline and targets for indicators of the monitoring framework**, there have been two rounds of presentation and discussions. On this basis, the

secretariat has provided a more refined and complete set of baseline and targets for consideration by the Executive Board.

On the **draft resource mobilization strategy**, several rich discussions were held in the Working Group. Member States generally welcomed the transparent co-creation process to develop the Strategy, and emphasized the strategy's central role in enabling implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Excellencies,

4. On the status of implementation of all resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly, delegations have highlighted uneven implementation due to resource constraints, and called for clearer prioritization, improved funding strategies, and continued focus on key thematic areas and partnerships.

5. With respect to the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, the working group heard detailed presentation of the Brazil and Tunisia Country Programmes, UN-Habitat's work on urban crises prevention and response, an update on activities in Ukraine and Gaza, as well as the work undertaken by UNITAC- the United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities.

Many delegations welcomed the presentations of the country-level programmes and expressed interest in strengthening cooperation, particularly in advancing localized implementation of sustainable urban development priorities. Delegations also emphasized the value of sharing methodologies and lessons learned, including through South–South and regional cooperation, to address common urban challenges such as informality, resilience, and climate impacts.

Regarding the initiatives on urban crises prevention and response, delegations expressed overall support for UN-Habitat's work in conflict-affected contexts, while acknowledging the significant operational and technical challenges involved.

On the work of UNITAC, delegations asked for more information on the role, visibility, and integration within UN-Habitat's broader programme of work.

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,**

6. The working group has also received updates on the **preparations for the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum**, which will take place from 17 to 22 May in Baku, Azerbaijan; preparations for the **high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the New Urban Agenda**.

We will have the chance to hear more about these important events at this session.

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,**

7. Finally, the ad hoc working group on programmatic budgetary and administrative matters has considered **draft decisions to be considered by the Executive Board at this session**. Following the last meeting of the ad hoc working group on 1 April 2026, I have formally transmitted the latest version of the draft decisions to the Chair of the Executive Board for final consideration and adoption by the Executive Board at this session. The draft decisions are contained in document HSP/EB.2026/CRP.1/Rev.1.

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,**

The Working Group has undertaken important discussions and consultations on key topics relevant for UN-Habitat and made significant progress on the draft Executive Board decisions at the meetings of the working group, and I look forward to a continued exchange of views on this with all delegations at this meeting.

Allow me to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all Member States for their active participation and constructive engagement in the work of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters.

**Thank you, Excellencies.
Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.**