



**UNITED  
NATIONS**

**HSP/EB.2023/22**



**UN-HABITAT**

**United Nations  
Human Settlements  
Programme**

Distr.: General  
27 December 2023  
Original: English

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**Executive Board of the United Nations  
Human Settlements Programme  
Third session of 2023**  
Nairobi, 28–30 November 2023

## **Draft report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on the work of its third session of 2023**

**Rapporteur: Mr. Arnaud Suquet (France)**

### **Introduction**

1. The Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) was established in accordance with General Assembly resolution 73/239 of 20 December 2018, on the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of UN-Habitat.
2. The Executive Board held its second session of 2023 on 8 June 2023 on the margins of the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat Assembly). At that session, the Executive Board had agreed to entrust the Bureau of the Executive Board with determining the appropriate dates and duration within the fourth quarter of 2023 for the third session of 2023 of the Executive Board. Subsequently, the Bureau decided that the third session of 2023 would be held in person from 28 to 30 November 2023.
3. Accordingly, the third session of 2023 was held at the headquarters of UN-Habitat in Nairobi from 28 to 30 November 2023.

### **I. Opening of the session**

4. The third session of 2023 of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat was opened at 9.15 a.m. on Tuesday, 28 November 2023, by the Chair, Silvio Albuquerque (Brazil), who outlined the arrangements for the session on the basis of the recommendations made by the Bureau of the Executive Board.
5. Opening statements were delivered by Zainab Hawa Bangura, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi; Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN-Habitat; and Alice Wahome, Cabinet Secretary for Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, Kenya.
6. In view of her impending departure from her role as Executive Director of UN-Habitat, the Chair paid tribute to Ms. Mohd Sharif.
7. The representatives of the following States members of the Executive Board delivered statements, including tributes to the outgoing Executive Director: Argentina (speaking on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States), Angola, Barbados, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Egypt, France, Germany, Morocco, Nigeria, Portugal, Russian Federation and United States of America. Statements were also delivered by the representatives of Azerbaijan, Cuba, Malaysia, Philippines and Zimbabwe. The Executive Director responded to the comments made.

8. The Chair informed the Executive Board that Barbados had replaced Chile and that Colombia had replaced Costa Rica as members of the Executive Board representing the Latin American and Caribbean States.

## **II. Organizational matters**

### **A. Adoption of the agenda and the workplan for the third session of 2023**

9. The Executive Board adopted the following agenda for its third session of 2023 on the basis of the provisional agenda (HSP/EB.2023/10) and the annotated provisional agenda (HSP/EB.2023/10/Add.1), as amended:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organizational matters:
  - (a) Adoption of the agenda and the workplan for the third session of 2023;
  - (b) Adoption of the report of the Executive Board on the work of its first session of 2023;
  - (c) Adoption of the report of the Executive Board on the work of its second session of 2023.
3. Reports by the chairs of the ad hoc working groups established by the Executive Board, including continuation of the work on the stakeholder engagement policy.
4. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters, including the implementation of the resource mobilization strategy in accordance with the strategic plan for the period 2020–2025; a report on the fully costed scalability model and action by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to address geographical and gender imbalances in the composition of its staff.
5. Discussion and possible approval of the draft work programme of UN-Habitat and the draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2024.
6. Discussion on the due diligence assessment of the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation.
7. Report of the Executive Director on the analysis of the principal obstacles to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda by Member States.
8. Road map towards the preparation of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2026–2029.
9. Draft terms of reference of the urban action funding window to support the implementation of United Nations Habitat Assembly resolutions in a balanced manner.
10. Road map for preparations for the development of international guidelines on people-centred smart cities as a non-binding framework for developing national and local smart city regulations, plans and strategies.
11. Normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, including reporting on the programmatic activities of UN-Habitat and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities and the engagement of UN-Habitat in countries, territories and areas affected by conflict and disaster.
12. Preparations for the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum.
13. Discussion on the implementation of the United Nations development system reform in UN-Habitat: review of the checklist for governing bodies of United Nations Sustainable Development Group entities.
14. Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services to the Executive Board.
15. Report of the Ethics Office to the Executive Board.
16. Progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2022 report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the findings of its review of the management and administration of UN-Habitat.

17. Consideration and adoption of the outcomes of the session, including the provisional agenda for the first session of 2024.
18. Officers of the Executive Board:
  - (a) Rotation of the Chair and Rapporteur of the Executive Board;
  - (b) Elections of the chairs and co-chairs of the ad hoc working groups of the Executive Board.
19. Other matters.
20. Closure of the session.

10. The Executive Board agreed to follow the proposed organization of work and timetable for the third session of 2023, as set out in the relevant documents. Draft decisions for consideration by the Executive Board, as forwarded to the Chair of the Board by the Chair of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters, which had been tasked by the Bureau with leading the consultations on the draft decisions for consideration at the current session, were circulated in a conference room paper and presented by the Chair of the Executive Board. The Executive Board agreed that informal consultations on the draft decisions should be held at agreed times during the session, for consideration and possible adoption at the last meeting of the session, on 30 November 2023. The Executive Board agreed that the Permanent Representative of Kenya and Vice-Chair of the Executive Board would chair the informal consultations, assisted by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Portugal.

## **B. Adoption of the report of the Executive Board on the work of its first session of 2023**

11. The Executive Board adopted the report on the work of its first session of 2023 (HSP/EB.2023/6), held on 28 and 29 March 2023, by paragraph 1 of part (a), on reports of the Executive Board and its working groups, of decision 2023/7, on the methods of work of the Executive Board and the workplan of the Executive Board for 2024. The decision is set out in document HSP/EB.2023/23.
12. The decisions adopted by the Executive Board at the first session of 2023 are set out in document HSP/EB.2023/7.

## **C. Adoption of the report of the Executive Board on the work of its second session of 2023**

13. The Executive Board adopted the report on the work of its second session of 2023 (HSP/EB.2023/9), held on 8 June 2023, by paragraph 2 of part (a), on reports of the Executive Board and its working groups, of decision 2023/7, on the methods of work of the Executive Board and the workplan of the Executive Board for 2024. The decision is set out in document HSP/EB.2023/23.

## **D. Attendance**

14. The session was attended by representatives of the following States members of the UN-Habitat Executive Board: Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Barbados, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Germany, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Serbia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Türkiye, United States of America, Uruguay.
15. The session was also attended by the following observers that are States Members of the United Nations: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Eritrea, Finland, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malaysia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Norway, Oman, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Thailand, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
16. The session was also attended by the following observers that are members of specialized agencies of the United Nations: European Union and State of Palestine.
17. The session was also attended by the following observers: Holy See and League of Arab States.

### **III. Reports by the chairs of the ad hoc working groups established by the Executive Board, including continuation of the work on the stakeholder engagement policy**

18. The Chair introduced the item.
19. The Acting Chair of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters, Jean Kimani (Kenya), provided a briefing on the work of that group.
20. The Chair of the Executive Board, in his capacity as interim Chair of the ad hoc working group on the development of a stakeholder engagement policy, provided an update on the work of that group.
21. The Executive Board took note of the information provided by the Acting Chairs of the ad hoc working groups.
22. The Chair urged the members of the Executive Board to put forward nominations for the positions of Chair of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters and Chair of the ad hoc working group on the development of a stakeholder engagement policy to enable the election of those Chairs at the current session.
23. The Executive Board adopted paragraphs 3 to 8 of part (a), on the reports of the Executive Board and its working groups, of decision 2023/7, on the methods of work of the Executive Board and the workplan of the Executive Board for 2024. The decision is set out in document HSP/EB.2023/23.

### **IV. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters, including the implementation of the resource mobilization strategy in accordance with the strategic plan for the period 2020–2025; a report on the fully costed scalability model and action by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to address geographical and gender imbalances in the composition of its staff**

24. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the UN-Habitat financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 and report of the Board of Auditors (A/78/5/Add.9) and to the reports of the Executive Director on the financial status of UN-Habitat as at 30 June 2023 (HSP/EB.2023/11); on the programme budget implications of the scalability model for the non-earmarked Foundation budget of UN-Habitat (HSP/EB.2023/11/Add.1); and on recruitment, equitable geographical distribution and gender parity (HSP/EB.2023/11/Add.2). Reports by the Executive Director on the financial status as at 30 September 2023 and the staffing of UN-Habitat as at 30 September 2023 were set out in conference room papers.
25. The Executive Director delivered a statement on financial, budgetary and administrative matters, including the implementation of the resource mobilization strategy in accordance with the strategic plan for the period 2020–2025; and a report on the fully costed scalability model and action by UN-Habitat to address geographical and gender imbalances in the composition of its staff. A representative of the secretariat gave a presentation providing further detail, including on the financial position of UN-Habitat as at 30 September 2023; on the scope and structure of the scalability model; and on the staffing status as at 30 September 2023, including the gender and geographical distribution.
26. Following the statement and presentation, statements were made by the representatives of the following States members of the Executive Board: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Japan, Kenya, Morocco, Portugal, Sweden and United States. Statements were also delivered by the representatives of Saudi Arabia and South Sudan (speaking on behalf of the African States).
27. The Executive Board took note of the documentation presented under agenda item 4 and the further information provided.
28. The Executive Board adopted part (a), on financial, budgetary and administrative matters of UN-Habitat, of decision 2023/4, on financial, budgetary and administrative matters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit based on the findings of its review of the management

and administration of UN-Habitat; and draft work programme and budget for 2024. The decision is set out in document HSP/EB.2023/23.

## **V. Discussion and possible approval of the draft work programme of UN-Habitat and the draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2024**

29. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Executive Director on the draft work programme of UN-Habitat and draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2024 (HSP/EB.2023/12) and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the draft work programme of UN-Habitat and draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2024, and the programme budget implications of the scalability model for the non-earmarked Foundation budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (HSP/EB.2023/12/Add.1).

30. The Executive Director delivered a statement on the draft work programme and budget for 2024. Representatives of the secretariat gave a presentation providing further information on the matter.

31. Following the statement and presentation, statements were made by the representatives of the following States members of the Executive Board: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, France, Germany, Japan, Kenya, Portugal and United States. The Executive Director and the representatives of the secretariat responded to the issues raised.

32. The Executive Board took note of the documentation presented under agenda item 5 and the further information provided.

33. The Executive Board adopted part (c), on the work programme of UN-Habitat and the draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2024, and part (d), on the preparation of the draft work programme of UN-Habitat and draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2025, of decision 2023/4, on financial, budgetary and administrative matters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit based on the findings of its review of the management and administration of UN-Habitat; and draft work programme and budget for 2024. The decision is set out in document HSP/EB.2023/23.

## **VI. Discussion on the due diligence assessment of the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation**

34. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Executive Director on the due diligence assessment of the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation (HSP/EB.2023/13), the annexes to which were set out in a conference room paper.

35. The Executive Director delivered a statement on the due diligence assessment of the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation. Representatives of the secretariat gave a presentation providing further detail on the matter, including the recommendations of the Risk Oversight and Advisory Committee on the proposed contribution agreement between the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation and UN-Habitat.

36. Following the statement and presentation, statements were made by the representatives of the following States members of the Executive Board: Argentina, France, Germany, Kenya, Morocco, Portugal and United States. A statement was also made by the representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Executive Director and the representatives of the secretariat responded to the issues raised.

37. The Executive Board took note of the documentation presented under agenda item 6 and the further information provided.

38. The Executive Board adopted part (e), on due diligence assessment of the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation, of decision 2023/4, on financial, budgetary and administrative matters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit based on the findings of its review of the management and administration of UN-Habitat; and draft work programme and budget for 2024. The decision is set out in document HSP/EB.2023/23.

## **VII. Report of the Executive Director on the analysis of the principal obstacles to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda by Member States**

39. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Executive Director on the principal obstacles to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda by Member States (HSP/EB.2023/14).
40. The Executive Director delivered a statement on the analysis of obstacles to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. A representative of the secretariat gave a presentation providing further information on the matter.
41. Following the statement and presentation, statements were made by the representatives of the following States members of the Executive Board: Argentina, Brazil, Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia, France, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, Senegal and United States. Statements were also made by the representatives of Finland and the Philippines.
42. The representative of Malaysia communicated the offer of the Government of Malaysia to support the Urban Agenda Platform for Asia-Pacific.
43. The Executive Director and the representative of the secretariat responded to the issues raised.
44. The Executive Board took note of the documentation presented under agenda item 7 and the further information provided.
45. The Executive Board adopted part (b), on analysis of the principal obstacles to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, of decision 2023/5, on implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat; reporting on the programmatic activities of the Programme in 2022; implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities. The decision is set out in document HSP/EB.2023/23.

## **VIII. Road map towards the preparation of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2026–2029**

46. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Executive Director on the preparations for the development of the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029 (HSP/EB.2023/15).
47. The Executive Director delivered a statement on the road map towards the preparation of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2026–2029. A representative of the secretariat provided further detail on the preparations, including the proposed timeline.
48. Following the statement and presentation, statements were made by the representatives of the following States members of the Executive Board: Argentina, Colombia, Ethiopia, France, Germany and United States. A statement was also made by the representative of Saudi Arabia.
49. Responses to the issues raised were provided by the Executive Director; Michal Mlynár, Deputy Executive Director; a representative of the secretariat; and Chris Williams, Director of the UN-Habitat Liaison Office in New York.
50. The Executive Board took note of the documentation presented under agenda item 8 and the further information provided.
51. The Executive Board adopted paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of decision 2023/6, on implementation of the outcomes of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, including preparation of the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029. The decision is set out in document HSP/EB.2023/23.

## **IX. Draft terms of reference of the urban action funding window to support the implementation of United Nations Habitat Assembly resolutions in a balanced manner**

52. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the draft terms of reference of the urban action funding window to support the implementation of UN-Habitat Assembly resolutions in a balanced manner, as set out in a conference room paper.
53. The Executive Director delivered a statement on the urban action funding window. A representative of the secretariat gave a presentation providing further information on the matter.

54. Following the statement and presentation, statements were made by the representatives of the following States members of the Executive Board: Argentina, Germany and United States. A statement was also made by the representative of South Africa. The Executive Director and representatives of the secretariat responded to the issues raised.

55. The Executive Board took note of the documentation presented under agenda item 9 and the further information provided.

56. The Executive Board adopted paragraph 6 of decision 2023/6, on implementation of the outcomes of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, including preparation of the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029. The decision is set out in document HSP/EB.2023/23.

## **X. Road map for preparations for the development of international guidelines on people-centred smart cities as a non-binding framework for developing national and local smart city regulations, plans and strategies**

57. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Executive Director on the proposed road map for preparations for the development of international guidelines on people-centred smart cities as a non-binding framework for developing national and local smart city regulations, plans and strategies (HSP/EB.2023/16).

58. The Executive Director delivered a statement on the road map for preparations for the development of international guidelines on people-centred smart cities. A representative of the secretariat gave a presentation providing further detail, including on the World Smart Cities Outlook study, the consultation process and the expert working groups. The representative of the secretariat also expressed gratitude to the Government of France for contributing \$300,000 for the preparatory process.

59. Following the statement and presentation, statements were made by the representatives of the following States members of the Executive Board: Argentina, France, Japan, Kenya, Morocco, Poland and United States. The Executive Director and a representative of the secretariat responded to the issues raised.

60. The Executive Board took note of the documentation presented under agenda item 10 and the further information provided.

61. The Executive Board adopted paragraph 5 of decision 2023/6, on implementation of the outcomes of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, including preparation of the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029. The decision is set out in document HSP/EB.2023/23.

## **XI. Normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, including reporting on the programmatic activities of UN-Habitat and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities and the engagement of UN-Habitat in countries, territories and areas affected by conflict and disaster**

62. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Executive Director on normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, including an update on Sustainable Development Goal Cities (SDG Cities), the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe) initiative and activities for the period January–June 2023 (HSP/EB.2023/17), and an annex to that report presenting highlights of normative and operational activities for the period January–June 2023 (HSP/EB.2023/INF/7).

63. The Executive Director delivered a statement presenting selected highlights of the report on progress made in the development and implementation of normative and operational activities. Representatives of the secretariat gave a presentation providing further information on the SDG Cities flagship programme and the SURGe initiative. Gino Van Begin, Secretary-General of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, delivered a statement via recorded video message on the potential of SURGe to accelerate multilevel climate action by connecting subnational commitments to national and multilateral networking. Wael Nasr Attiya, Permanent Representative of Egypt to UN-Habitat, provided, on behalf of the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a testimony on the value of collaborating with UN-Habitat within the framework of the SURGe initiative.

64. Following the statement and presentations, statements were made by the representatives of the following States members of the Executive Board: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, France, Germany, Kenya, Malawi and United States. Statements were also delivered by the representatives of Burkina Faso and the State of Palestine. The Executive Director and the representatives of the secretariat responded to the issues raised. A representative of the secretariat gave an update on the Women-led Cities initiative.

65. The representatives of Israel, Saudi Arabia and the United States spoke in exercise of the right of reply.

66. The Executive Board took note of the documentation presented under agenda item 11 and the further information provided.

67. The Executive Board adopted part (a), on implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, of decision 2023/5, on implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat; reporting on the programmatic activities of the Programme in 2022; implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities. The decision is set out in document HSP/EB.2023/23.

## **XII. Preparations for the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum**

68. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Executive Director on the status of preparations for the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum (HSP/EB.2023/18).

69. The Executive Director provided an update on the preparations by UN-Habitat for the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum, to be held in Cairo from 4 to 8 November 2024. Representatives of the secretariat provided further detail on the preparations, including on the design and development of the programme for the twelfth session, engagement opportunities for Member States and partners, and the new cycle of the World Urban Forum. The representative of Egypt gave a statement on behalf of the Government of Egypt presenting the arrangements for the session.

70. Following the statement and presentation, statements were made by the following States members of the Executive Board: Argentina, Egypt, Germany, Kenya, Nigeria and United States.

71. The Executive Board took note of the documentation presented under agenda item 12 and the further information provided.

72. The Executive Board adopted part (c), on the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum, of decision 2023/5, on implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat; reporting on the programmatic activities of the Programme in 2022; implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities. The decision is set out in document HSP/EB.2023/23.

## **XIII. Discussion on the implementation of the United Nations development system reform in UN-Habitat: review of the checklist for governing bodies of United Nations Sustainable Development Group entities**

73. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to a note by the secretariat on the implementation by UN-Habitat of the reform of the United Nations development system (HSP/EB.2023/19) and a checklist for the consideration of the governing bodies of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group entities (HSP/EB.2023/INF.8).

74. The Executive Director delivered a statement on the contribution of UN-Habitat to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/279 on the reform of the United Nations development system. A representative of the secretariat gave a presentation providing further information on the matter. Ghulam Mohammad Isaczai, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq, delivered a statement via recorded video message on the role of UN-Habitat in reconstruction in conflict-affected urban areas, including Iraq, in the context of the reform of the United Nations development system.

75. Following the statement and presentation, statements were made by following States members of the Executive Board: Senegal, Sweden and United States.

76. The Executive Board adopted part (f), on the checklist on the implementation of the reform of the United Nations development system, of decision 2023/4, on financial, budgetary and

administrative matters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit based on the findings of its review of the management and administration of UN-Habitat; and draft work programme and budget for 2024. The decision is set out in document HSP/EB.2023/23.

#### **XIV. Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services to the Executive Board**

77. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the summary of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services to the Executive Board, as set out in the relevant note by the secretariat (HSP/EB.2023/20).

78. The Executive Director delivered a statement on the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services to the Executive Board and welcomed Fatoumata Ndiaye, Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services, who delivered a statement on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

79. Following the statements, the Chair highlighted the work carried out by the Executive Director and her team to implement the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

80. A statement was made by the representative of the following State member of the Executive Board: United States. The Executive Director and the Under-Secretary-General responded to the issues raised.

81. The Executive Board took note of the documentation presented under agenda item 14 and the further information provided.

82. The Executive Board adopted paragraph 5 of part (b), on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the findings of its review of the management and administration of UN-Habitat, the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the report of the Ethics Office, of decision 2023/4, on financial, budgetary and administrative matters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit based on the findings of its review of the management and administration of UN-Habitat; and draft work programme and budget for 2024. The decision is set out in document HSP/EB.2023/23.

#### **XV. Report of the Ethics Office to the Executive Board**

83. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the summary of the report of the Ethics Office to the Executive Board, as set out in the relevant note by the secretariat (HSP/EB.2023/20).

84. The Executive Director submitted to the Executive Board for its consideration the report of the Ethics Office, and gave a statement on the work being carried out by UN-Habitat to ensure the application of the ethical standards of the United Nations. A representative of the secretariat delivered a presentation providing further detail, including on outreach and training activities, and ethics-related and conduct-related cases and complaints.

85. Following the submission of the report and the delivery of the statements, a statement was made by the representative of the following State member of the Executive Board: United States. The Executive Director and a representative of the secretariat responded to the issues raised.

86. The Executive Board took note of the documentation presented under agenda item 15 and the further information provided.

87. The Executive Board adopted paragraph 6 of part (b), on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the findings of its review of the management and administration of UN-Habitat, the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the report of the Ethics Office, of decision 2023/4, on financial, budgetary and administrative matters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit based on the findings of its review of the management and administration of UN-Habitat; and draft work programme and budget for 2024. The decision is set out in document HSP/EB.2023/23.

## **XVI. Progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2022 report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the findings of its review of the management and administration of UN-Habitat**

88. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Executive Director on progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2022 report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the findings of its review of the management and administration of UN-Habitat (HSP/EB.2023/21).

89. The Executive Director delivered a statement on progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit. A representative of the secretariat gave a presentation providing further information on the matter.

90. Following the statement and presentation, statements were made by the representatives of the following States members of the Executive Board: Brazil, China, Colombia, France and United States. The Executive Director and a representative of the secretariat responded to the issues raised.

91. The Executive Board considered the upcoming assessment by the Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN), which would help guide the development of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2026–2029. Suzanne Steensen, Head of the secretariat, MOPAN, delivered a statement via recorded video message. The representative of Spain delivered a statement on behalf of Germany and Spain, the institutional leads for the assessment.

92. The representative of Spain delivered a national statement.

93. The Executive Board took note of the documentation presented under agenda item 16 and the further information provided.

94. The Executive Board adopted paragraphs 3 and 4 of part (b), on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the findings of its review of the management and administration of UN-Habitat, the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the report of the Ethics Office, of decision 2023/4, on financial, budgetary and administrative matters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit based on the findings of its review of the management and administration of UN-Habitat; and draft work programme and budget for 2024. The decision is set out in document HSP/EB.2023/23.

## **XVII. Consideration and adoption of the outcomes of the session, including the provisional agenda for the first session of 2024**

### **A. Outcomes of the session**

95. At its third session of 2023, the Executive Board adopted the following decisions, which are set out in document HSP/EB.2023/23:

- (a) Decision 2023/4: Financial, budgetary and administrative matters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit based on the findings of its review of the management and administration of UN-Habitat; and draft work programme and budget for 2024, comprising:
- (i) Part (a): Financial, budgetary and administrative matters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;
  - (ii) Part (b): Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the findings of its review of the management and administration of UN-Habitat, the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the report of the Ethics Office;
  - (iii) Part (c): Work programme of UN-Habitat and the draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2024;
  - (iv) Part (d): Preparation of the draft work programme of UN-Habitat and draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2025;
  - (v) Part (e): Due diligence assessment of the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation;
  - (vi) Part (f): Checklist on the implementation of the reform of the United Nations development system;

(b) Decision 2023/5: Implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat; reporting on the programmatic activities of the Programme in 2022; implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities, comprising:

- (i) Part (a): Implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat;
- (ii) Part (b): Analysis of the principal obstacles to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda;
- (iii) Part (c): Twelfth session of the World Urban Forum;

(c) Decision 2023/6: Implementation of the outcomes of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, including preparation of the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029;

(d) Decision 2023/7: Methods of work of the Executive Board and the workplan of the Executive Board for 2024, comprising:

- (i) Part (a): Reports of the Executive Board and its working groups;
- (ii) Part (b): Working methods of the Executive Board to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of sessions of the Board;
- (iii) Part (c): Date and agenda for the next session of the Executive Board and its workplan for 2024.

## **B. Dates and provisional agenda for the next session of the Executive Board**

96. The Executive Board adopted part (c), on date and agenda for the next session of the Executive Board and its workplan for 2024, of decision 2023/7, on methods of work of the Executive Board and the workplan of the Executive Board for 2024. The decision is set out in document HSP/EB.2023/23.

## **XVIII. Officers of the Executive Board**

### **A. Rotation of the Chair and Rapporteur of the Executive Board**

97. In accordance with paragraph 3 of rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the Executive Board, which requires that the offices of Chair and Rapporteur are to rotate each year to a different regional group, the Chair confirmed that it was the turn of the regional group of the African States, as the only regional group not having held the position since the entry into force in 2019 of the new governance structure of UN-Habitat, to chair the Executive Board. The Chair also confirmed that it was the turn of the regional group of the Asia-Pacific States to hold the position of Rapporteur.

98. Accordingly, and noting the decision of the Executive Board at its second session of 2023, held on 8 June 2023, to extend the terms of office of the current Bureau members until the closure of the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, in 2025, the Executive Board confirmed the rotation of the officers of the Bureau of the Executive Board to serve from the closure of the third session of 2023, for the period 2023–2024, as follows:

Chair:	African States (subject to any change in their representative to the Bureau)
Vice-Chairs:	Brazil
	France
	Poland
Rapporteur:	Pakistan

### **B. Election of the chairs and co-chairs of the ad hoc working groups of the Executive Board**

99. The Executive Board elected Colombia as Chair and Nigeria as Co-Chair of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters, and elected Portugal as Chair of the ad hoc working group on the development of a stakeholder engagement policy.

100. The Executive Board adopted paragraphs 7 and 8 of part (a), on reports of the Executive Board and its working groups, of decision 2023/7, on methods of work of the Executive Board and the workplan of the Executive Board for 2024. The decision is set out in document HSP/EB.2023/23.

## **XIX. Other matters**

101. Under the item, the Executive Board discussed the development of a stakeholder engagement policy, including concern at the exclusion of two organizations from the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly in June 2023; and the imminent departure of the Executive Director upon conclusion of her term of office.

102. Statements were made on those matters by the representatives of the following States members of the Executive Board: Angola, Argentina, Colombia, Egypt, Germany, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Türkiye and United States. Statements were also made by the representatives of the European Union, Netherlands (Kingdom of the) and the State of Palestine.

103. Members States took note with appreciation of the end of the term of the Executive Director on 19 January 2024. Statements delivered by Member States during the session are available under the “Statements” tab at: <https://unhabitat.org/meetings/third-session-of-2023-of-the-executive-board>.

104. The Executive Director announced that Azerbaijan would host the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum in Baku in 2026. The representative of Azerbaijan made a statement on the matter.

## **XX. Closure of the session**

105. The Executive Director of UN-Habitat delivered a closing statement.

106. The Chair declared the session closed at 7.20 p.m. on Thursday, 30 November 2023.

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