

Nairobi, 5 March 2025

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the meeting of the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly held on 3 March 2025, and as recommended by the Members to share the summary below on the upcoming elections of the Governing Bodies of UN-Habitat with the Chairs of the regional Groups in Nairobi with a copy to all Member and Observer States for information.

The Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives: elections are expected to take place during the final day of the third open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), 28 May 2025. Consistent with rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, which apply *mutatis mutandis* to the Committee, the Assembly shall elect a new Bureau, consisting of a President, three Vice Presidents, and one Rapporteur.

The Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly: elections are expected to take place during the closing plenary meeting of the final day of the resumed second Session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, 30 May 2025. Consistent with rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, the Assembly shall elect a new Bureau, consisting of a President, three Vice Presidents, and one Rapporteur.

The UN-Habitat Executive Board: elections are expected to take place during the morning plenary of the final day of the resumed second Session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, 30 May 2025. Consistent with rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly, the Assembly shall elect 36 new members of the Executive Board, distributed among the regional groups as follows:

- 10 seats for African States,
- 8 seats for Asia-Pacific States,
- 4 seats for Eastern European States,
- 6 seats for Latin America and the Caribbean States, and
- 8 Seats for Western European and other States.

The Bureau of the UN-Habitat Executive Board: elections are expected to take place during the second meeting of the Executive Board 2025, scheduled for the morning of 30 May 2025, in conjunction with the final day of the upcoming resumed second Session of the UN-Habitat Assembly (immediately after the elections of the new members of the Executive Board as outlined above). Consistent with rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board and in accordance with established practice, the Board shall elect from its members a new Bureau consisting of a Chair, three Vice Chairs and one Rapporteur.

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mozambique
to UN-Habitat/ Chair of African Group

Permanent Mission of the State of Palestine
to UN-Habitat/ Chair of Asia-Pacific Group

Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to UN-Habitat/ Chair of EEG

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Chile
to UN-Habitat/ Chair of GRULAC

Permanent Mission of the Republic of France
to UN-Habitat/ Chair of WEOG

CC:
Member and Observer States
to UN-Habitat, Nairobi.

Member and Observer States
to the United Nations
New York

In this regard, the Chairs of the regional Groups in Nairobi are invited to review, confirm and/or complement their nominations of members to the Governing Bodies for election, taking into account formal communications on nominations received by the secretariat from Member States to date, as reflected in Annex 1 – Overview of seats for election and nominations received for the UN-Habitat governing bodies in 2025.

The Chairs of the regional Groups are invited to share all relevant information regarding nominations from their respective Group to the Secretariat of the Governing Bodies (unhabitat-sgb@un.org), by 28 March 2025 at the latest.

Further background information on the seats to be filled and the procedure to be applied for elections can be found in Annex 2 - Briefing note on elections for UN-Habitat governing bodies in 2025. In this context, Member and Observer States are reminded that credentials or other forms of accreditation are required for elections and voting, under the Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Habitat Assembly as well as of the Executive Board (for further information, please see section III in annex 2).

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration



Ulf Björnholm
Secretary to the Governing Bodies

Annex 1: Overview of seats for election and nominations received for the UN-Habitat governing bodies in 2025

Annex 2: Briefing note on elections for UN-Habitat governing bodies in 2025

Annex I: Overview of seats for election and nominations received by the Secretariat for UN-Habitat governing bodies in 2023 (corr. 7 March 2025)

Nominations to the UN-Habitat Executive Board for the period 2025-2029¹	Nominations to the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Executive Board for the period 2025-2026²
<p>WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHER STATES [8 seats – 8 nominations received by NV from Chair of WEOG to the secretariat]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Belgium</i> 2. <i>France</i> 3. <i>Germany</i> 4. <i>Portugal</i> 5. <i>Spain</i> 6. <i>Sweden</i> 7. <i>Türkiye</i> 8. <i>United States</i> 	<p style="text-align: center;">CHAIR³</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHER STATES <i>Germany (nomination by NV from Chair of WEOG to the secretariat)</i></p>
<p>EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES [4 seats – 5 nominations received]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Ukraine (nomination by NV to Chair of EEG, copy to the secretariat)</i> 2. <i>Russian Federation (Self-nomination by NV to the secretariat)</i> 3. <i>Azerbaijan (nomination by NV to Chair of EEG copy to the secretariat)</i> 4. <i>Czechia (nomination by NV to Chair of EEG, copy to the secretariat)</i> 5. <i>Slovakia (nomination by NV to Chair of EEG, copy to the secretariat)</i> 	<p style="text-align: center;">VICE CHAIRS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES [no nomination received]</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES [no nomination received]</p>
<p>LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES [6 seats – no nominations received]</p> <p style="color: red;">1 – 6: yet to be nominated</p>	
<p>AFRICAN STATES [10 seats – 5 nominations received]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Somalia (nomination by NV from Kenya to the secretariat)</i> 2. <i>Morocco (self-nomination by NV to the secretariat)</i> 3. <i>Kenya (self-nomination by NV to the secretariat)</i> 4. <i>Ethiopia (self-nomination by NV to the secretariat)</i> 5. <i>Ghana (nomination by NV to the Chair of the African States, copy to the secretariat)</i> 6. <i>Algeria (nomination by NV from the Chair of African Group)</i> <p style="color: red;">7 – 10: yet to be nominated</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ASIA-PACIFIC STATES</p> <p><i>Pakistan (nomination by NV to Chair of APG, copy to the secretariat)</i> <i>China (nomination by NV to Chair of APG, copy to the secretariat)</i></p>
<p>ASIA-PACIFIC STATES [8 seats – 4 nominations received]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Pakistan (nomination by NV to Chair of APG, copy to the secretariat))</i> 2. <i>Iran (nomination by NV to Chair of APG, copy to the secretariat))</i> 3. <i>China (nomination by NV to Chair of APG, copy to the secretariat)</i> 4. <i>Malaysia (nomination by NV to Chair of APG, copy to the secretariat)</i> <p style="color: red;">5 – 8: yet to be nominated</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RAPPORTEUR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AFRICAN STATES [no nomination received]</p>

¹ Original time frame for the nomination before the decision to adjourn and resume the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly: 2023-2027

² Original time frame for the nomination before the decision to adjourn and resume the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly: 2023-2024

³ Rule 9.3 of the rules of procedure of the Executive Board: The Chair and Rapporteur shall rotate yearly to a different regional group. Each regional group shall occupy the office of Chair and Rapporteur once during a period of five years.

Annex I: Overview of seats for election and nominations received by the Secretariat for UN-Habitat governing bodies in 2023 (corr. 7 March 2025)

Nominations to the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly for the period 2025-2029 ⁴	Nominations to the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for the period 2025-2027 ⁵
<p>PRESIDENT</p> <p>ASIA PACIFIC STATES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Malaysia (nomination by NV to Chair of APG, copy to the secretariat) 2. Iran (nomination by NV to Chair of APG, copy to the secretariat) 3. United Arab Emirates (nomination by NV to Chair of APG, copy to the secretariat) 	<p>CHAIR</p> <p>WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHER STATES</p> <p>Sweden (nomination by NV from WEOG Chair)</p>
Vice-Presidents	Vice-chairs
<p>AFRICAN STATES <i>No nomination received</i></p> <p>EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES Ukraine (nomination by NV to Chair of EEG, copy to the secretariat)</p> <p>WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHER STATES <i>No nominations received</i></p>	<p>ASIA-PACIFIC STATES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pakistan (nomination by NV to Chair of APG, copy to the secretariat) 2. China (nomination by NV to Chair of APG, copy to the secretariat) <p>LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES <i>No nomination received</i></p> <p>EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Russian Federation (nomination by NV from Chair of EEG, copy to the secretariat) 2. Slovakia (nomination by NV from Chair of EEG, copy to the secretariat)
RAPPORTEUR	RAPPORTEUR
<p>LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES <i>No nominations received</i></p>	<p>AFRICAN STATES Egypt (nomination by NV from Chair of the African States to the secretariat)</p>

⁴ Original time frame for the nomination before the decision to adjourn and resume the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly: 2023-2027

⁵ Original time frame for the nomination before the decision to adjourn and resume the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly: 2023-2025

Briefing Note on Elections

I. Introduction

1. In 2025, four elections will take place within the framework of UN-Habitat's governance structure, namely:
 - a. The election of the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly for a four-year term, which will take place at the final meeting of the Resumed Second Session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, to be held from 29 to 30 May 2025;
 - b. The election of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) for a two-year term, which will take place at the final meeting of the third open-ended meeting of the CPR just before the Resumed Second Session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, presumably to take place between 26 to 28 May 2025;
 - c. The election of the Executive Board for a four-year term, which will take place during the Resumed Second Session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, to be held from 29 to 30 May 2025; and
 - d. The election of the Bureau of the Executive Board for a one-year term, which will take place at a session of the Executive Board right after the Elections of its Members, presumably on the sidelines of the Resumed Second Session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
2. The applicable legal framework, including relevant provisions of the Rules of procedure of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (UNHA-RoP),¹ and the Rules of procedure of the Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (EB-RoP),² as well as relevant information concerning vacant positions, are outlined below.

II. Elections

1. Election of the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly (2025–2029)

a. Legal framework

3. The second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly was held from 5 to 9 June 2023. In accordance with Rule 9 of the UNHA-RoP, the Assembly decided to adjourn the

¹ As adopted by Decision 1/1 of the UN-Habitat Assembly, HSP/HA.1/HLS.2.

² As adopted by Decision 1/2 of the UN-Habitat Assembly, HSP/HA.1/HLS.3.

session and resume it for two days, on 29 and 30 May 2025.³ As a result, the final meeting of the second session will take place during the resumed session.

4. According to Rule 18(1) of the UNHA-RoP “*During the final meeting of a regular session, the UN-Habitat Assembly shall elect the five members of its Bureau, composed of Member States elected to hold the offices of President, Rapporteur and three Vice-Presidents*”.
5. In doing so, the “*Assembly shall ensure that each of the five regional groups is equally represented in the Bureau*” (Rule 18(2) of the UNHA-RoP). In addition, the five members of the Bureau of the CPR (see Section II(2)(a) below) shall jointly serve as additional Vice-Presidents of the Bureau of the Assembly.
6. As a general principle, Rule 18(2) UNHA-RoP states that no two members of the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly shall be from the same Member State.
7. Pursuant to Rule 61 UNHA-RoP, elections shall be held “*by secret ballot unless otherwise decided by the UN-Habitat Assembly*”. In the past, like in other UN bodies, the Assembly has elected its officers by acclamation.
8. In the event of elections by secret ballot and when multiple elective places are to be filled under the same conditions the following applies under the rules of procedure:
 - Candidates securing the required majority and the highest number of votes in the first ballot shall be elected, in a number not exceeding that of available places (Rule 62(1) UNHA-RoP).
 - If the number of candidates obtaining the required majority is less than the number of places to be filled, additional ballots shall be held among the unsuccessful candidates with the most votes, up to twice the number of places remaining to be filled. If only one place remains, Rule 63 UNHA-RoP shall apply. In the event of a tie between a greater number of unsuccessful candidates, a special ballot shall be held to reduce their number to the required number. If a tie persists between a greater number of candidates than the number required, the President shall reduce their number to that required by drawing lots (Rule 62(2) UNHA-RoP).
 - If a restricted ballot (excluding the special ballot provided for in Rule 62(2)) remains inconclusive, the President shall decide between the remaining candidates by drawing lots (Rule 62(3) UNHA-RoP).
9. When only one elective place is to be filled:

³ HSP/HA.2/11/Rev.1, Annex II, Decision 2/2: Dates of the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.

- If no candidate secures the required majority in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be held between the two candidates with the most votes. In the event of a tie in the second ballot, the President shall decide between the two candidates by drawing lots (Rule 63(1) UNHA-RoP).
- In the event of a tie in the first ballot between the candidates obtaining the second largest number of votes, a special ballot shall be held to reduce the number of candidates to two. Similarly, a special ballot shall be held in the case of a tie between three or more candidates obtaining the most votes. If a tie persists in the special ballot, the President shall eliminate one candidate by drawing lots, and another ballot between the remaining candidates shall be held. This process shall be repeated as necessary until a candidate is elected (Rule 63(2) UNHA-RoP).

10. Pursuant to Rule 20(1) UNHA-RoP, the outgoing President, Vice-Presidents and Rapporteur, shall begin their terms of office at the closure of the session at which they are elected and shall remain in office until the closure of the next regular session. In principle, they shall be eligible for re-election.

b. Current and expected composition of the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly

CURRENT COMPOSITION 2019- 2025	EXPECTED COMPOSTION 2025 TO 2029
PRESIDENT: MEXICO , Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC)	PRESIDENT: Asia – Pacific States
VICE-PRESIDENTS: 1. GHANA : African States 2. POLAND : Eastern European States 3. GERMANY : Western European and Others State (WEOG)	VICE-PRESIDENTS: 1. African States 2. Eastern European States 3. Western European and Others State (WEOG)
RAPPORTEUR: CHINA . Asia – Pacific States	RAPPORTEUR: Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC)

2. Election of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (2025–2027)

a. Legal framework

11. Pursuant to Rule 27 UNHA-RoP, “At the end of each of its meetings, the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall elect its Bureau, which shall be composed of a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur”. In doing so, the CPR “shall ensure that each of the five regional groups is equally represented”.
12. In accordance with Rule 29 UNHA-RoP, Rules 20 and 61-63 UNHA-RoP (see Section II(1)(a) above) apply *mutatis mutandis*.
13. Pursuant to Rule 18 UNHA-RoP, the members of the Bureau of the CPR shall serve as additional Vice-Presidents of the Bureau of the Assembly.
14. In the specific context of the upcoming round of elections, the members of the Bureau that will be elected *at the end* of the third open-ended meeting of the CPR, shall begin their terms of office at the closure of the meeting at which they are elected and shall remain in office until the closure of the next regular meeting (Rule 20 UNHA-RoP read in conjunction with Rule 29 UNHA-RoP), i.e., at the end of the meeting convened prior to the Third Session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

b. Current and expected composition of the Bureau of the CPR:

CURRENT COMPOSITION 2021- 2025	EXPECTED COMPOSITION 2025 TO 2027
CHAIR: PAKISTAN , Asia – Pacific States	CHAIR: Western European and Others State (WEOG)
VICE-CHAIRS: 1. BELGIUM: Western European and Others State (WEOG) 2. COLOMBIA: Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC) 3. TANZANIA : African States	VICE-CHAIRS: 1. Asia – Pacific States 2. Eastern European States 3. Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC)
RAPPORTEUR: VACANT: Eastern European States - (Represented by presiding Chair of the Group	RAPPORTEUR: African States

3. Election of the Executive Board (2025–2029)⁴

a. Legal Framework

15. Rule 24(1) UNHA-RoP provides that the Executive Board “shall be composed of 36 members, elected by the UN-Habitat Assembly on the basis of equitable geographical representation, following the formula set out in the Report on the

⁴ The last Executive Board was elected by acclamation during the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, held in Nairobi, from 27 to 31 May 2019.

work of the Open-ended Working Group established by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives".⁵

16. In accordance with the formula set out in the abovementioned report, mirrored in Rule 7 EB-RoP, the distribution of seats in the Executive Board shall be as follows: 10 seats for African States, 8 seats for Asia-Pacific States, 4 seats for Eastern European States, 6 seats for Latin America and Caribbean States, and 8 seats for Western European and other States.⁶
17. In electing the members of the Executive Board, Rules 61-63 UNHA-RoP (see Section II(1)(a) above) shall apply.

4. Election of the Bureau of the Executive Board (2025–2029)

a. Legal framework

18. Under Rule 9(1) EB-RoP, the Executive Board “*shall, at its first regular session each year, elect from among its members, taking into consideration the need to ensure equitable geographical representation, a Bureau comprising a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur, who shall hold office until their successors are elected*” and who, according to Rule 9(2) EB-RoP, are eligible for re-election.
19. Pursuant to Rule 9(3) EB-RoP, the offices of Chair and Rapporteur “*shall rotate each year to a different regional group*”, with each regional group occupying the office of Chair and Rapporteur once during a period of five years.
20. In accordance with Rule 29 UNHA-RoP, the rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly concerning elections shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.
21. In accordance with a 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 2025,⁷ the Bureau of the Executive Board shall be elected right after the Election of the Executive Board, at the margins of the Resumed Second Session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, in May 2025.
22. At its Third session of 2023, 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 2023–2024.⁸

⁵ A/73/726.

⁶ Ibid., FN 2.

⁷ Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on the work of its second session of 2023, 8 June 2023, dated 20 June 2023, paragraph 11.

⁸ Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on the work of its third session of 2023, 28-30 November 2023, dated 27 December 2023, paragraph 97.

23. Accordingly, the Executive Board shall be invited to confirm the rotation of the officers of the Bureau of the Executive Board for the year 2025. The Executive Board is also expected to be invited to consider and, where appropriate, to adopt a decision on the rotation of the officers of the Bureau in accordance with Rule 9(3) of the EB-RoP.

b. Current and expected composition of the Bureau of the Executive Board:

CURRENT COMPOSITION 2023- 2025	EXPECTED COMPOSTION 2025 TO 2026
CHAIR: NIGERIA , African States	CHAIR: Western European and Others State (WEOG)
VICE-CHAIRS: 1. BRAZIL: Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC) 2. FRANCE: Western European and Others State (WEOG) 3. POLAND: Eastern European States	VICE-CHAIRS: 1. Asia – Pacific States 2. Eastern European States 3. Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC)
RAPPORTEUR: PAKISTAN : Asia – Pacific States	RAPPORTEUR: African States

III. Credentials and registration

24. Credentials or other forms of accreditation are required under both the UNHA-RoP and EB-RoP for the purpose of the elections, as outlined in Sections III(1) to III(4) below.

25. According to UN-Habitat practice, Member States should send an advance scanned copy of their credentials, signed by either the Head of State or Government or Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as other formal communications containing the names of representatives (such as letters and *notes verbales* from the Permanent Missions or formal communications from Government Ministries) to unhabitat-sgb@un.org and federico.rossi@un.org.

26. The original hard copy of the credentials and other relevant communications should be submitted to the International Rules and Procedures Unit of the Law Division of the UN Environment Programme, New Office Building, Gigiri, which will serve as the depository for the credentials, attn: Mr. Federico Rossi (federico.rossi@un.org).

III (1). Election of the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly

27. Rule 17(1) UNHA-RoP provides that the credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers to the UN-Habitat Assembly shall be submitted to the Executive Director before the first meeting that the representatives are to attend.

28. Under Rule 17(2) UNHA-RoP, the credentials shall be examined by the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly, which shall submit its report to the Assembly. Such rule shall not, however, prevent a State Member of the United Nations from changing its representatives, alternate representatives or advisers subsequently, subject to proper submission and examination of credentials, where needed.

III (2). Election of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

29. In accordance with Rule 29 UNHA-RoP, Rule 17 UNHA-RoP applies *mutatis mutandis*.

III (3). Election of the Executive Board

30. Rule 17 UNHA-RoP applies.

III (4). Election of the Bureau of the Executive Board

31. Rule 8(2) EB-RoP provides that the names of representatives, alternate representatives and advisers to the Executive Board shall be submitted to the Executive Board secretariat no less than three days before the session they are to attend.
