



Executive Board of the United Nations
Human Settlements Programme
First session of 2024
Nairobi, 6–8 May 2024

**Ad hoc working group on Programmatic,
Budgetary and Administrative issues**
Informal Consultations on Draft decisions towards the
2024 first session of the Executive Board

Draft decisions towards the first session of 2024 of the Executive Board

Draft decision 2024/A: Draft work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2025, and financial, budgetary and administrative matters and the strategic plan of UN-Habitat

The Executive Board,

- (a) **The status of the draft work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2025**

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on the draft work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2025;¹

[2. *Takes note* of the proposal by the Executive Director that the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation non-earmarked budget for 2025 in line with decision 2023/4² on the scalability model [pending re-costing] [.].] [[This proposal is] [conditional on] [taking into account] the revenue and net assets of the Foundation in 2024 [and

¹ HSP/EB.2024/3 and HSP/EB.2024/INF/4

² HSP.EB.2023/23

considering the standard budget re-costing as appropriate] [, as a reflection of the discussions in the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters;]]]

[2 Alt. *Takes note* of the proposal by the Executive Director regarding the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation non-earmarked budget for 2025, in line with decision 2023/4³ on the scalability model, pending [standard] budget re-costing as appropriate. [and taking into account the revenue and net assets of the Foundation in 2024];]

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to finalize the draft work programme and budget of UN-Habitat for 2025 based on feedback from the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and to present those for further consideration by the Executive Board at its second session of 2024 [taking into account the discussions in the ad hoc working group on programmatic budgetary and administrative matters];

(b) Financial, budgetary and administrative matters of UN-Habitat, including the implementation of the resource mobilization strategy and geographical and gender balance

4. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on the financial status of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme as at 31 December 2023⁴, the report of the Executive Director on the interim financial status of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme as at 31 March 2024,⁵ and *requests* the Executive Director to continue the efforts to strengthen non-earmarked and ear-marked funding in line with the resource mobilization strategy;

5. *Acknowledges* the report of the Executive Director on the staffing of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme as at 31 December 2023,⁶ and the report of the Executive Director on recruitment, equitable geographical distribution and gender parity⁷; and encourages the Executive Director to continue efforts towards equitable geographical distribution [consistent with article 101 of the United Nations Charter] and gender parity of its staffing;

6. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on actions to update and improve the internal management, policies and procedures of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;⁸

7. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on action by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to strengthen protection against sexual and any other type of exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment in the workplace.⁹

³ HSP.EB.2023/23

⁴ HSP/EB.2024/2.

⁵ HSP/EB.2024/CRP.2.

⁶ HSB/EB.2024/INF/3.

⁷ HSP/EB.2024/X/Add.1

⁸ HSP/EB.2024/11.

⁹ HSP/EB.2024/10.

c) The midterm review of strategic plan the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2020 to 2025 and the status of the draft strategic plan for the period 2026 to 2029

8. *Takes note* of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the midterm review of the strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2020 to 2025¹⁰

9. *[Further] [Also] [takes note of] [Acknowledges]* the report of the Executive Director on the *[development of the] [draft] strategic plan for the period 2026 to 2029*¹¹ *[and encourages its [development and] refinement[.] [[in consultation with Member States, members of specialized agencies and [relevant] stakeholders] [including] [in the framework of] the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters;]]*

Draft decision 2024/B: Implementation of the normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

The Executive Board,

(a) Implementation of the normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

1. *[Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat including update on *[Urban Regeneration] [regeneration of urban spaces],] options and recommendations for the operationalization of the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation (SURGe), response to urban crisis, and activities for the period of July to December 2023;*¹²

2. *[[Welcomes] [Takes note of] the update on the UN-Habitat's Flagship Programme on 'Inclusive Communities, Thriving Cities' and requests the Executive Director to continue implementing normative and operational activities and develop partnerships to promote inclusive and sustainable [urban regeneration] [regeneration of urban spaces];]*

[2 bis. Requests the Executive Director, in line with the mandate of the Programme, as well as in accordance with resolutions 19/18 and 23/2 of the Governing Council, and decisions of the Executive Board, including decision 2022/2, paragraph 9, decision 2022/6, paragraph 3, decision 2023/2, paragraph 4 and decision 2023/5, paragraph to continue to support the efforts to reconstruct the human settlements affected by conflict and disaster, as reflected in the annex to the present document, through a comprehensive system-wide response, and to continue to provide assistance to urban crises, using urban profiling to assess the needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of urban areas and to establish urban recovery frameworks, and to submit comprehensive and up-to-date reports on the status of the development of the efforts to reconstruct the human settlements affected by

¹⁰ HSP/EB.2024/4.

¹¹ HSP/EB.2025/5.

¹² HSP/EB.2024/6, HSP/EB.2024/INF/6, and HSP/EB.2024/INF/7.

conflict and disaster, upon request by the affected Member State, to the Executive Board.]

[3. *Recalls* Decision 2023/. [6] [5] of the Executive Board, and *welcomes* the preliminary report of the Executive Director on the “Status of the development of the efforts to reconstruct the human settlements in the Gaza Strip” and *requests* the Executive Director to present an updated report to the next session of the Executive Board;]

[4. *Requests* the Executive Director, in line with the mandate of the programme, to further develop the neighbourhood-based approach to recovery and reconstruction in the Gaza Strip, to use urban profiling to deepen the assessments and to explore options for building back better;]

(b) Preparations for the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum

5. *Welcomes* the report of the Executive Director on the preparations for the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum;¹³

6. *Welcomes* the selection of the city of Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, to host the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum in 2026;

(c) Implementation by UN-Habitat of reforms of the development system and management of the United Nations

7. *Takes note* of the Note by the secretariat and the related checklist on the implementation of the UN Development System reform in UN-Habitat and *welcomes* efforts by UN-Habitat to continue contributing to the implementation of the reform of the United Nations development system.¹⁴

Draft Decision 2024 / C: Update on the implementation of resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme[. of the United Nations Habitat Assembly]

The Executive Board,

(a) Progress in implementation of all resolutions adopted by the by the United Nations Habitat Assembly

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on the status of implementation of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly¹⁵

¹³ HSP/EB.2024/7.

¹⁴ HSP/EB.2024/9 and HSP/EB.2024/INF/8.

¹⁵ HSP/EB.2024/8.

2. *Welcomes* the efforts by the Executive Director to regularly update Member States on the progress [of all resolutions, emphasizing their implementation in a balanced manner.] [in implementing all resolutions in a balanced manner.]

(b) Implementation of Resolution 2/5 on “Enhancing the interlinkage between urbanization and climate change resilience “, specifically, operationalisation of the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation (SURGe), initiative as a meaningful institutional arrangement.

3. *Recalls* resolution 2/5 of the UN-Habitat Assembly ¹⁷ and [*recommends*] [*decides*] that [Option 1, where UN-Habitat supports SURGe and cooperates with partners without committing additional staff or resources under the current Strategic Planⁱ,] [Option 2, where UN-Habitat leads the SURGe secretariat and seeks to secure the necessary staff and resources through the full range of its usual resource mobilisation strategiesⁱⁱ,] [Option 3, where UN-Habitat leads the SURGe Secretariat, establishes a global coordination platform to deliver the SURGe initiative and seeks to secure the necessary staff and resources through the full range of its usual resource mobilisation strategiesⁱⁱⁱ,] is most suitable for operationalising the SURGe initiative and *requests* the Executive Director to continue working with partners to implement SURGe towards accelerated multilevel climate action within the scope of the decided option;

c) implementation of Resolution 2/7 of the UN-Habitat Assembly on “Adequate housing for all”, specifically, the date and agenda for the first session of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All and its activities and programme of work.

4. *Recalls* resolution 2/7 of the UN-Habitat Assembly and *decides* that the first session of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All will be held for a duration of [two] [three] days from [22 to 23 October] [22 to 24 October] [10 to 11 December] [9 to 11 December] 2024, [in Nairobi];

5. *Also decides* that the provisional agenda for the first session will be as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organizational matters:
 - a) Adoption of the agenda for the first session;
 - b) Election of officers;
 - c) Terms of reference of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group.
3. The state of efforts to progressively realize adequate housing for all.
4. Development of a framework for measuring and reporting on the adequacy of housing across diverse national and local contexts.
5. Progress made in implementing the UN-Habitat programme of work related to adequate housing, [including addressing homelessness and slum [transformation] [upgrading]].
6. Existing multilateral and bilateral support for the development and implementation of effective housing policies, programmes and projects.

7. The establishment of a publicly accessible, complementary platform that includes summaries of the most recently available data on the provision of adequate housing.
8. Other matters.
9. Closure of the session.

Draft decision 2024/D: [Adoption of the previous session’s report,] [M][m]ethods of work of the Executive Board and the workplan of the Executive Board for 2024

The Executive Board,

(a) Reports of the Executive Board and its ad hoc working groups

1. *Adopts* the report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on the work of its third session of 2023;¹⁶

2. *Takes note* of the briefing by the [chair] [co-chairs] of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters on the work of that working group;

3. *Also takes note* of the briefing by the chair of the ad hoc working group on the development of a draft stakeholder engagement policy;

4. *Requests* the chair of the ad hoc working group on the development of a stakeholder engagement policy to [exert all efforts to finalise and] present a draft stakeholder engagement policy for consideration by the Executive Board at its second session of 2024 and for possible recommendation to the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its resumed second session [in May 2025].

(b) Working methods of the Executive Board to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the meetings of the Board

5. *Takes note* of the results of the survey conducted by the Secretariat following the third session of the Executive Board of 2023 to evaluate the effectiveness of that session, so as to further improve the process and outcome of future sessions;¹⁷

(c) Dates and provisional agenda for the second session of 2024 of the Executive Board

6. *Decides* that the second session of 2024 of the Executive Board will be held for a duration of three days from 4 to 6 December 2024;

7. *Also decides* that the provisional agenda for the second session of 2024 shall be as follows:

¹⁶ HSP/EB.2023/22

¹⁷ HSP/EB.2024//INF.9

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organizational matters:
 - a) Adoption of the agenda and the workplan for the second session of 2024;
 - b) Adoption of the report of the first session of 2024.
3. Reports of the ad hoc working groups established by the Executive Board.
4. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters,.
5. Consideration and possible approval of the draft work programme of UN-Habitat and draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2025.
6. Strategic Plan
 - a. Annual report for 2023 on the strategic plan for the period 2020–2025.
 - b. Update on the development of the strategic plan for the period 2026 – 2029.
7. Implementation of the normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including reporting on the programmatic activities of UN-Habitat in 2024 and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities, and UN-Habitat engagement in countries, territories and areas affected by conflicts and disasters
8. Outcomes of the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum.
9. Briefing by the Executive Director on the implementation of all resolutions adopted by of the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.
10. Update by the Executive Director on the preparations for the resumed second regular session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.
11. Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services to the Executive Board.
12. Report of the Ethics Office to the Executive Board.
13. Consideration and adoption of the outcomes of the session, including the provisional agenda for the first session of 2025 of the Executive Board.
14. Other matters.
15. Closure of the session.

i Annex. SURGe to be sustained as a ‘light’ network

Basic elements of the SURGe initiative will be implemented without additional resource requirements to sustain the SURGe network of partners.

1. UN-Habitat’s role

- a. Guiding the organization of the Ministerial Meetings on Urbanization and Climate Change at UNFCCC COPs
- b. Building partnerships and synergies in support of multilevel climate action and seeking alignment with the CHAMP Initiative
- c. Providing NDC policy analysis for urban integration
- d. Minimum technical advisory to the five sectoral working groups with limited capacity-building support to member states and no institutional support to the SURGe Alliance
- e. Maintaining status-quo of current web presence, but no further communication and advocacy support
- f. Handing over lead coordination role of SURGe Initiative to SURGe Secretariat and limited engagement securing technical and political lead institutions per sectoral track.

2. Funding

No additional resources for post and non-post requirements will be sought (without prejudice to the framing of the 2026-2029 Strategic Plan).

ii Annex. The SURGe initiative as an entry point for accelerated climate action

Develop the SURGe initiative as an entry point for accelerated urban climate action. This supports strong collaboration with the members of the SURGe Alliance, coordinated by a dedicated UN-Habitat-led secretariat. Collectively, partners would advance multilevel climate action.

1. UN-Habitat’s role:

- (a) Leading the SURGe Secretariat
- (b) Guiding and supporting the organization of the Ministerial Meetings on Urbanization and Climate Change at UNFCCC COPs
- (c) Building partnerships and synergies in support of multilevel climate action and seeking alignment with the CHAMP Initiative
- (d) Providing NDC policy analysis for urban integration
- (e) Leveraging CHAMP pledges for accelerated multilevel climate action anchored in the updated NDCs in collaboration with the NDC Partnership
- (f) Coordinating support to and across partner-led sectoral working group tracks, including through limited support by sector specialists from across the agency.
- (g) Seeking synergies with institutional initiatives and flagships (especially RISE UP)
- (h) Providing direct (but limited) services to Member States through the technical advisory from SURGe partners and project proposal development that contribute to accelerating multilevel climate action
- (i) Supporting the establishment of selected national SURGe strategies, city-level SURGe piloting, and limited capacity-building support through Regional SURGe focal points
- (j) Development and roll-out of communication and advocacy strategy including the establishment of a SURGe Portal for heightened visibility showcasing best practices and stimulating donor acquisition.

2. Funding:

- (a) Beyond the recurrent post and non-post resources anchored in the PBI, USD1 million per year over six years will be sought from partner contributions, soft-earmarked, and project funding.

(b) This will allow operationalizing the SURGe Initiative beyond OP2 of Resolution 2/5, which currently states to “develop options and recommendations for operationalizing the SURGe initiative as a meaningful institutional arrangement for the Executive Board to consider”.

(c) The additional resources will fund part-time Headquarter (HQ) staff and non-staff personnel as well as one regional SURGe focal point each in the Regional Offices for Africa, Arab States, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean.

(d) It is expected that the annual resource mobilization for the SURGe Secretariat functions described above will leverage further USD50 million through the SURGe Alliance over six years.

iii Annex. SURGe as a global coordination platform

The SURGe initiative would provide internal coherence for UN-Habitat’s climate work, accelerate the provision of support to Member States and cities and act as a coordination platform for the SURGe Alliance.

1. UN-Habitat’s role:

- (a) Leading the SURGe Secretariat
- (b) Dedicated work-planning of HQ and regional staff and non-staff personnel to support multilateral processes, substance, and logistics to operationalize the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change at UNFCCC COPs
- (c) Guiding and supporting the organization of the Ministerial Meetings on Urbanization and Climate Change at UNFCCC COPs
- (d) Building partnerships and synergies in support of multilevel climate action and seeking alignment with the CHAMP Initiative
- (e) Providing NDC policy analysis for urban integration
- (f) Leveraging CHAMP pledges for accelerated multilevel climate action anchored in the updated NDCs in collaboration with the NDC Partnership
- (g) Coordinating support to and across partner-led sectoral working group tracks, including through limited support by sector specialists from across the agency.
- (h) Seeking synergies with institutional initiatives and flagships (especially RISE UP)
- (i) Providing direct (but limited) services to Member States through the technical advisory from SURGe partners and project proposal development that contribute to accelerating multilevel climate action
- (j) Supporting the establishment of selected national SURGe strategies, city-level SURGe piloting, and limited capacity-building support through Regional SURGe focal points
- (k) Development and roll-out of communication and advocacy strategy including the establishment of a SURGe Portal for heightened visibility showcasing best practices and stimulating donor acquisition.
- (l) Development of an annual SURGe report informing negotiators of the state of multilevel climate action at the Bonn Climate Change Conferences and prior to UNFCCC COPs.
- (m) Development of global guidelines per sectoral track with technical support from Urban Basic Service Section and relevant sections
- (n) Coordination and implementation of annual SURGe governing meetings including the Global SURGe Alliance meetings.
- (o) Urban NDC implementation support through policy and proposal development, normative projects, and dedicated capacity building provided by regional SURGe focal points.
- (p) SURGe initiative as a mechanism to accelerate the implementation of all elements of the second session of UN-Habitat Assembly Resolution HSP/HA.2/Res.5.

2. Funding:

- (a) Beyond the recurrent post and non-post resources anchored in the PBI, USD5 million per year over six years will be sought through soft-earmarked, and dedicated programme funding for post and non-post cost.
- (b) This will allow operationalizing the SURGe Initiative as a multistakeholder platform and convening space for peer-to-peer learning and multilevel knowledge exchange to accelerate urban climate action.

(c) The additional resources will fund full-time HQ support staff as well as one full-time regional SURGe focal point in the Regional Office in Africa, Arab States, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, the annual workplan of selected technical staff of relevant headquarters sections will prioritize the backstopping of the sectoral track working groups.

(d) It will further fund proposal design, policy advisory, capacity-building-related activities and communication costs.

(e) It is expected that this option would leverage USD 500 million over 6 years of additional project funding in support of member states.