

8th Bureau meeting for the year 2021
Wednesday 10 November 2021
13:20 hrs - 15:00 hrs EAT
Hybrid meeting, conference room 9 at UNON

MEETING SUMMARY

Agenda Item 1: Adoption of the provisional Agenda

1. H.E. Mr. Marek Rohr-Garztecki, Chair of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Poland, opened the meeting at 13:20 hrs EAT.

The following Executive Board Bureau members were present:

H.E. Mr. Marek Rohr-Garztecki, Chair of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland.
H.E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah, High-Commissioner and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
Mr. Muhammad Junaid Wazir, Deputy Head of Mission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
H.E. Mr. Khaled Mohamed El Abyad, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Egypt.
Mr. Ahmed Raafat, Hanafy, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Egypt.
H.E. Ms. Maria Alejandra Guerra, Rapporteur of the Executive Board, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Chile.
Mr. Clement Payeur, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of France.

The following UN Habitat Secretariat members were also present:

Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director
Mr. Chris Mensah, Secretary to the Governing Bodies
Mr. Neil Khor, Chief of Staff
Mr. Christopher Williams, Director of the UN-Habitat New-York Office
Ms. Shipra Narang Suri, Chief, Urban Practices Branch
Mr. Eduardo Moreno, Chief, Research and capacity Building Branch
Mr. Atsushi Koresawa, Director for UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Mr. Robert Lewis Lettington, Chief, Land, Housing and Shelter Section
Mr. Rong Yang, Inter-regional adviser, UN-Habitat
Dr Douglas Ochieng, Joint Medical Services, UNON

2. The Chair welcomed all participants, and the provisional agenda was adopted. The agenda can be accessed [here](#).

Agenda Item 2: Briefing on progress made with respect to the logistical arrangements for the hybrid format of the session

3. The Secretariat provided an update on the logistical arrangements for the hybrid format for the second session of the Executive Board for the year 2021 to be held on 15-16 November 2021, including on modalities for in-person participation and status of registration as at 10 November 2021 and invited the Bureau to provide further comments. The detailed update by the Secretariat can be accessed [here](#).
4. The Bureau welcomed the update by the Secretariat especially with respect to the fact that all the 36 Members of the Executive Board, as well as delegations from State Members of the United Nations and United Nations Specialized Agencies that have Permanent and Observer Missions to UN-Habitat based in Nairobi may be represented physically by two delegates, namely the 1+1 format in conference room 2 at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) complex. The Bureau also took note that other members of such delegations from the Nairobi based Permanent Missions may participate in the session online and that all other delegations from State Members of the United Nations, any other member of a United Nations specialized agency, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or accredited to the UN-Habitat Assembly and not based in Nairobi should participate in the session on-line.

Agenda Item 3: Review of the organization of work during the session including Bureau meetings

5. The Secretariat presented the proposed organization of work for the second session of the Executive Board for the year 2021, including informal consultations on draft the decisions and expected Bureau meeting during the session. The detailed presentation can be accessed [here](#). The presentation was followed by an exchange of views with Bureau members.
6. The Bureau agreed with the proposed organization of work which can be accessed [here](#). Further adjustment may be effected if required, based on the progress of the first day.
7. One Bureau member, while appreciating the good progress made on the draft decisions to be possibly adopted by the Executive Board at its second session of 2021, expressed concern with the status of draft decision 2021/6 and suggested that an additional meeting of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters be scheduled prior to the session to discuss pending bracketed language in the draft decisions. That suggestion was taken under Agenda item 4 below.

Agenda Item 4: Status of draft decisions to be possibly adopted during the second session of the Executive Board in 2021

8. H.E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Chair of ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters of the Executive Board briefed the Bureau on the status of draft decisions to be possibly adopted during the second session of the Executive Board of 2021. The Chair of the working group noted that the

working group was not in a position to reach a consensus on paragraphs 8,9 and 14 of draft decision 2021/6. The draft decisions as after the third reading conducted by the ad hoc working group can be accessed [here](#). .

9. It was the hope of the Bureau that the informal consultations to be held on Monday 15 November from 17:00 hrs to 19:00 hrs EAT and as may be required on Tuesday 16 November 2021 from 11:30 hrs to 13:30 hrs EAT would allow consensus on paragraphs 8,9 and 14 of draft decision 2021/6.
10. With respect to paragraph 14 of draft decision 2021/6 on the alignment of UN-Habitat planning cycles with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review process(QCPR), the Secretariat informed the members of the Bureau that it will be important for the Secretariat to receive some guidance on the preparation of the next UN-Habitat strategic plan. This will enable the Secretariat to prepare a draft strategic plan beginning in 2022 for consideration by Member States and adoption by the UN-Habitat Assembly during its second session in 2023.
11. One Bureau member invited Member States to adapt either scenario 2 or scenario 3 as set out in document [HSP/EB.2021/16/Add.1](#), while stressing the need to respect the roles and mandates of the three governing bodies of UN-Habitat, including the UN-Assembly's mandate to adopt the quadrennial strategic plan. He also expressed his reservation to any proposals that would give the Executive Board this mandate or to any change of the rules of procedures, as per the currently agreed governing structure.
12. The Secretariat suggested that the Executive Board should incorporate in its draft decision 2021/6, para 14, a recommendation to the UN-Habitat Assembly which includes language that will guide the Secretariat on the preparations for the next strategic plan, either with (i) an extension of the current strategic plan or (ii) an interim strategic plan.
13. The Secretariat offered to assist the Chair of the informal consultations on draft decisions to develop any required decision language. The language could note that there is agreement on the need to adopt a strategic plan 2026-2029 following the QCPR 2025-2028 in line with the planning cycles of the governing bodies of other UN entities, and that there is general agreement that the Secretariat in 2022 should commence the preparations for an extension of the UN-Habitat strategic plan 2020-2023 for the period 2024-2025, for adoption by the Habitat Assembly at its second session in 2023.
14. The Secretariat also noted that there is no consensus at present on how to adopt the UN-Habitat strategic plan 2026-2029, and that the Executive Board at its coming session on 15-16 November 2021 may wish to refer any recommendation to the UN-Habitat Assembly on this aspect of the alignment of planning cycles with QCPR.
15. The Bureau took note of the presentation by the Secretariat and agreed to further discuss the matter at its next meeting to be held on Tuesday 16 November 2021, further noting that the informal consultations on draft decisions on Monday 15 November 2021 will consider the language contained in paragraph 14 of draft decision 2021/6.

Agenda Item 5: Format of the summary of discussions emanating from the Bureau meetings

16. The Bureau agreed that the Secretariat should prepare the summaries of discussions and recommendations emanating from future Bureau meetings in the same format as that of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Agenda Item 6: Any Other Matters

17. One Bureau member, on behalf of WEOG, invited the Secretariat to ensure that the pre-session documents prepared for future sessions of the Executive Board are manageable, in line with the mandate of the Executive Board, and that the information contained therein be concise, clear, transparent and to the point. He also requested that the Secretariat prepare concise draft technical inputs for future sessions of the Executive Board.
18. In response, the Secretariat provided comments on the pre-session documentation prepared for the sessions of the Executive Board. The comments can be accessed [here](#).
19. One Bureau member noted, on behalf of regional group of WEOG, that the Chair of WEOG shared in July 2021 with the Secretariat WEOG's nominee to Chair the ad hoc working group on stakeholder engagement policy and indicated that no representative of the Bureau or Secretariat has contacted WEOG's nominee concerning this matter. The Bureau member recommended that the election of the Chair and the Co-Chair should take place at the upcoming session of the Executive Board for the year 2021, noting that the provisional agenda for the session does not include an item on the election of co-chairs.
20. The Secretariat referred to paragraph 3 of current draft decision 2021/8 and confirmed that the election of the Chair and Co-Chair of the ad hoc working group on stakeholder engagement policy is expected to take place during the upcoming session under agenda item 3, namely "reports by the chairs of the ad hoc working groups of the Executive Board".

The eighth meeting of the Bureau of the Executive Board was adjourned at 15:00 hrs EAT.