

**First Bureau Meeting of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent
Representatives 2021/2023**

Hybrid

Wednesday, 15 June 2022

14:30 hrs. to 16:00 hrs. East Africa Time

Statement by the Executive Director

(draft of 13 June 2022 3pm)

SLIDE 0: Title slide

Slide 1: Provisional Agenda

Adoption of the Provisional Agenda led by the Chair

1. Adoption of the provisional Agenda.
2. Feedback from the Executive Director on the ECOSOC special meeting and on the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
3. Review of the proposed organization of work and workplan for the CPR including its Bureau meetings for 2022 – 2023 towards the open-ended meeting of the CPR in 2023 to prepare for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
4. Preliminary discussion on the preparations for the open-ended meeting of the CPR in 2023 to prepare for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly;
 - a. Confirmation of the dates of the open-ended meeting;
 - b. Confirmation of the provisional Agenda for the open-ended meeting.
5. Outstanding vacancies on the 2021-2023 Bureau of the CPR.
6. Any other matters.

SLIDE 2: (Title Slide) Agenda item 2. Feedback from the Executive Director on the ECOSOC special meeting and on the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Excellencies,

Good morning, good afternoon and good evening.

I welcome all of you to this very first meeting of the CPR Bureau for the period 2021-2023.

SLIDE 3: Congratulations to the CPR Bureau.

Allow me first to congratulate Pakistan, Colombia, and Tanzania for your election to Bureau during the high-level midterm review of the CPR held in June 2021. I also thank WEOG and the Eastern European Group for nominating Belgium and Slovakia as their respective representatives to the Bureau following the high-level mid-term review. This will ensure that the work of this Bureau continues with full and equitable representation of all Member States especially as we head to the second open-ended meeting of the CPR to prepare for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly in June 2023.

Madam Chair,

Excellencies,

I want to assure you all of my commitment and that of my team to work closely with you and support you in your role as we prepare and deliver on the open ended meeting of the CPR and the UN-Habitat Assembly itself next year.

SLIDE 4: Item 2. Feedback from the Executive Director on the ECOSOC special meeting and on the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

With specific regard to the feedback on the on the ECOSOC special meeting and on the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, you would recall that I already briefed all Member states on 21 May 2022 and in this regard, I will be quite brief in highlighting some key points.

Let me first thank Members States for their active engagement in the preparatory process leading up to the ECOSOC meeting on 21 April 2022 and subsequently the HLM on 28 April 2022. Permanent Representatives in Nairobi played a crucial role in mobilizing support of their counterparts in New York and senior officials in respective capitals. This contributed to over 87 Member States being inscribed in the HLM, the most well attended meeting of the General Assembly in many years. Thanks for this.

Excellency,

Member States not only came to New York in large numbers, but they also put forth actions and declared commitments as part of their official statements to the HLM. We may want to use the sessions of the Governing Bodies in 2022 and 2023 to show case work by UN-Habitat and its partners to promote four action areas that clearly emerged out of the HLM.

Regarding, affordable and well-serviced housing, many Member States at the HLM called upon the international community for assistance, unable to counter the growing housing deficit and glaring gaps in basic service delivery, to alleviate poverty and social inequality.

Concerning, climate adaptation and mitigation, Member States at the HLM noted that car usage and construction in cities are causing a large share of the global CO₂ emissions, and the effects of climate change are disproportionately affecting the urban poor; and that urban sprawl contributes to environmental degradation and

biodiversity loss. UN-Habitat works with cities to promote resilient and low carbon building and planning standards, resources, and capacity building.

On conflict response, Member States at the HLM emphasized that in 2021 more than 84 million people had been forcibly displaced due to persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations, and climate change. Many pledged to amplify the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in post-conflict scenarios and for the international development community to provide guidance on post-conflict reconstruction, including urban recovery frameworks.

As regards multi-level governance and localization, Member States emphasized that few local governments are equipped to respond to the multiple crises. UN-Habitat has been actively working with neighborhood organizations, cities, and national governments to improve multi-level urban governance system to localize the SDGs and respond to the complex global political environments.

Distinguished Representatives,

In conclusion, I would like to share with the Bureau my thoughts about how we might utilize other intergovernmental meetings and processes to further the outcomes of the HLM. Clearly the upcoming eleventh session of the World Urban Forum offers governments and other constituencies opportunities to advance the above action areas.

So too do the G7 meeting in Germany, the G20 meeting in Indonesia, COP27 in Egypt, the 2023 opening session of the African Union, the Second Session of the Habitat Assembly, and the 2023 High-Level Political Forum that will feature SDG 11. Strategically we need to utilize these international processes to promote relevant action areas, for example organizing an urban climate track for COP27 with the support of the Prime Minister of Egypt. In addition, I hope to promote the action areas in consultation with the Group of Friends and as Co-Chair of the Local2030 Coalition and the partnership with DCO on Sustainable Urbanization.

In the four key thematic areas I have mentioned, we hope to see the discussions remain active with the governing bodies of the UN-Habitat where we as UN-Habitat will be happy to discuss our work and added value in these core areas, with the possible reinforcements by our partners in the field including mayors and policy makers. I look forward to the support of the CPR in taking forward any

recommendation on housing, climate, conflicts and localization of the SDGs in their preparations for the UN-Habitat Assembly in 2023. It is my hope that at the next meeting of the CPR Bureau I will be able to share with you some of my suggestions for the next open-ended meeting of the CPR and how the UN-Habitat Assembly could look like. The suggestions will be informed by the outcomes of some of the key international meetings we will be having between now and then, including WUF11 and CoP27. We would like to see, for example, how the outcome of WUF11 can shape the theme of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. In addition, I will soon be putting together an internal task force made up of key staff members to advise and help us shape the next open-ended meeting of the CPR as well as the UN-Habitat Assembly next year.

Thank you, Madam Chair
Back to you.

SLIDE 5: (Title Slide) Agenda Item 3. Review of the proposed organization of work and workplan for the CPR including its Bureau meetings for 2022 – 2023 towards the open-ended meeting of the CPR in 2023 to prepare for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

Excellencies,

We have shared with you the roadmap of the meetings of the Governing Bodies until the end of 2022.

SLIDE 6: item 3. Proposed organization of work and workplan for the CPR including its Bureau meetings for 2022 –2023.

Madam Chair,

With regard to the work of the CPR, we are proposing to have Bureau meetings as shown on the slide:

For 2022:

- 15 June 2022, that is today.
- 29 June 2022 - Joint meeting of the Bureaux of the Governing Bodies of UN-Habitat on the sidelines of WUF 11 convened by the President of the UN-Habitat Assembly in a hybrid format.
- 30 November 2022 just after the 2022 session of the Executive Board.

For 2023:

- Monthly Meetings of the Bureau until June 2023 to prepare for the UN-Habitat Assembly.
- 29 May to 2 June 2023: Open-ended CPR meeting.
- 5 to 9 June 2023: Second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

Madam Chair

We shall have a clear road map by the end of this year, but as is practice, the CPR Bureau is likely to hold monthly meetings in 2023 in preparations for the open-ended meeting of the CPR to prepare for the UN-Habitat Assembly in June 2023.

Thank you and back to you.

SLIDE 7: (Title Slide) Agenda item 4. Preliminary discussion on the preparations for the open-ended meeting of the CPR in 2023 to prepare for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly;

a. Confirmation of the dates of the open-ended meeting;

b. Confirmation of the provisional Agenda for the open-ended meeting;

Excellencies,

I have just shared with you under agenda item 3 of our meeting today the dates of the of the open-ended meeting of the CPR.

Madam Chair,

For the record, in recommendation 2021/4, specifically “part b” of that recommendation, the CPR decided on the “dates and agenda of the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in preparation for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly”.

SLIDE 8: item 4a. Confirmation of the dates of the open-ended meeting.

Excellencies,

In paragraph 3 of recommendation 2021/ 4 the CPR decided “that the dates of the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in preparation for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly shall be 29 May to 2 June 2023’.

SLIDE 9: item 4b. Confirmation of the provisional Agenda for the open-ended meeting.

Madam Chair,

In paragraph 4 of recommendation 2021/ 4 the CPR decided on the provisional agenda for its second open ended meeting to be held from 31 May to 3 June as you can see on the screen.

1. Opening of the meeting:
 - (a) Organizational matters;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and the workplan for the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in

preparation for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.

2. Adoption of the report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the work of its first open-ended meeting.
3. Strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme:
 - (a) Implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023;
 - (b) Status of preparations of the next strategic plan by the Executive Board;
 - (c) Alignment of the planning cycles of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process.
4. Status of preparations for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
5. Preparation of resolutions, declarations and decisions of the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its second session, including dates and provisional agenda for the third session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
6. Election of officers of the Bureau.
7. Draft Chair's summary.
8. Other matters.
9. Closure of the meeting.

Madam Chairperson,

We as a Secretariat do not have any proposals to the provisional Agenda at this point. However, I would like to recall the request by the CPR in paragraph 5 of the same decision 2021/4 for me to “to enhance engagement with Member States in the preparation and delivery of future high-level midterm reviews of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure”.

In this regard Madam Chair, I would like to take advantage of this request for purposes of preparations for the second open ended meeting of the CPR to request the Members of the Bureau to share the provisional Agenda with their respective regional groups so that when we meet again in November 2022, the provisional agenda can be finalized as a firm recommendation of the Bureau taking into account any inputs by Member States.. This is my recommendation.

I thank you Madam Chair.
Back to you.

Slide 10: (Title Slide): Agenda item 5: Outstanding vacancies on the 2021-2023 Bureau of the CPR.

To be led by the Chair.

Vice Chair: Belgium (Nominated)

Rapporteur: Slovakia (Nominated)

SLIDE 11: Agenda item 6: Any other Matters.

To be led by the Chair.