

Joint Meeting of the Bureaux of the Governing Bodies of UN-Habitat
Hybrid

Tuesday, 18 October 2022

17:30 hrs. to 19:00 hrs. East Africa Time

Statement by the Executive Director

(draft of 17 October 2022, 9 am)

SLIDE 0: Title slide

Slide 1: Provisional Agenda

Adoption of the Agenda led by the President

1. Adoption of the provisional Agenda;
2. Review of the provisional Agenda for the Assembly;
3. Briefing by the Executive Director on the status of preparations of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, including on the special theme and on the resource mobilization and fundraising efforts;
4. Discussion on the special theme of Assembly;
5. Any other matters.

Slide 2 (Title slide): AGENDA ITEM 2 - Review of the provisional Agenda for the Assembly;

To be led by the President

The President will call on ED for any views:

Proposed ED's views are below under slide 3:

Slide 3 (Title slide): Provisional Agenda for the Assembly;

Madam President,

Excellencies,

Good morning, good afternoon and good evening wherever you are. Let me also extend a warm welcome to all others who have joined us at this Joint Bureaux meeting, the second one this year. I also want to thank all of you for your tremendous support and guidance as we all prepared and successfully delivered the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum in Katowice, Poland and to Madam President in joining us at Balikesir, Turkiye at the World Habitat Day earlier this October.

Madam President,

With regards to the provisional Agenda for the upcoming second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, I wish to state that the Secretariat at this point has no suggestions for any amendment.

We take note that the provisional Agenda was already adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly in 2019 in its decision 1/3 and further reviewed by the CPR at its high-level midterm review in June 2021. In addition, the Joint Bureaux also looked at the provisional Agenda during its meeting on 28 June 2022. In all those instances there were no amendment.

Should there be any necessity to propose an amendment to Agenda between now and April 2023 we will duly follow the guidance laid down within the rules of procedure of the Assembly.

Slide 4: Rule 10, 11 and 12 on drawing up the Provisional Agenda and Supplementary items.

As the President has already mentioned Rules 10 and 12 requires that supplementary items must be presented for inclusion in the provisional Agenda not less than 49 days in advance of the opening date of the session and be examined by the CPR at its preparatory meeting prior to the session. Accordingly, supplementary items must be presented by 17 April 2023.

Thank you Madam President. Back to you.

Slide 5 (Title slide): AGENDA ITEM 3 - Briefing by the Executive Director on the status of preparations of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, including on the special theme and on the resource mobilization and fundraising efforts;

Thank you Madam President.

Excellencies,

It is very important that we embark in the earnest preparation for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly jointly with you and with your guidance.

Today I would like to focus on the roadmap for our preparations and on the proposed theme for the Assembly for which we would very much appreciate your guidance on.

In addition, I will touch on the resource mobilization and fundraising efforts and expected required budget specific to servicing the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

Madam President,

The roadmap I am about to share with the Joint Bureau is not an exhaustive one, but it highlights some of the key milestones as we prepare for the Assembly.

Slide 6: Agenda item 3: (a) Notification by the Executive Director by end of December 2021 (Rule 8):

Excellencies, Rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly provides that:

1. The Executive Director shall send notification of the **date of each session** of the UN-Habitat Assembly and **its provisional agenda** to the following:
 - (a) All States Members of the United Nations;
 - (b) The chairs of the intersessional organs of the UN-Habitat Assembly, as appropriate;
 - (c) The United Nations specialized agencies, related organizations and other United Nations bodies;

(d) The entities, intergovernmental organizations and other entities referred to in rule 66;

(e) The organizations referred to in rules 67 and 68 and other relevant stakeholders.

2. The notification shall be **addressed to the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council** and the organizations and institutions referred to in rule 68.

3. The notification for a regular session, be sent in the official and working languages of the UN-Habitat Assembly, **not less than 6 months prior to the opening of the session**

As such, your Excellencies, the Notification and Agenda for the second session must therefore be ready by end of October 2022 for editing and translation in time for distribution to Member States in **all UN- Official languages by 31 December 2022**. I wish to assure you that we are on track in that respect, and expect to meet the deadline, unless there is a deadlock on the theme.

Slide 7: Agenda item 3: (b) Some key timelines in the roadmap to the UN-Habitat Assembly

If you indulge me, I wish also to add some of the key dates for our activities towards the UN-Habitat Assembly are as shown on the Screen. These are as follows;

- **18 October 2022:** Recommendation of theme of the second session **by the Joint Bureaux of the Governing Bodies.**
- **31 October 2022:** Submission to the Division of Conference Services the Notification and Provisional Agenda for editing and translation.
- **31 December 2022:** Transmission of the Notification of the Executive Director and provisional Agenda in all six languages to Member States and key organs of the United Nations and partners.
- **February 2023: Invitations** to high level Government officials for the second session of the Assembly, particularly Ministers of Foreign Affairs and line Ministers.

- **End of March 2023- Early April 2023** : First session of the Executive Board for the year 2023 with possible recommendations for the UN-Habitat Assembly including on the draft stakeholder engagement policy, Actions on the report of the UN Joint Inspection Unit on its review of the management and administration of UN-Habitat, among others. We also note that the Executive Board already made recommendations to the UN-Habitat Assembly on the extension of the current Strategic Plan until 2025 in order to align with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR).
- **April 2023**: Transmission of **pre-session documents** for the UN-Habitat Assembly to all Member States in all languages.
- **April 2023**: Final submission of **supplementary items** to the provisional Agenda of the session in line with Rule 10.3 for further consideration by the CPR.
- **29 May – 3 June 2023**: Open-ended meeting of **the CPR to prepare for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly**.

Slide 8: Agenda item 3: (c) Selection of the theme for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly by end October 2022

Excellencies, with regard to the theme of the sessions of the UN-Habitat Assembly:

1. The choice of the **theme of the second session should be guided by Resolution 20/21** of the former Governing Council which requires that the theme **be selected by the Bureau at least six months** before the start of each session **on the basis of advice from the Executive Director** taking into account the outcome of the sessions of the World Urban Forum and other key international meetings, including, for example, the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly to assess the progress in implementation of the New urban Agenda.
2. **The theme title must be part of the Notification of the Executive Director and** needs to be finalized in terms of accompanying concept paper **by end of October 2022** in time for editing and translation by end of December 2022.

3. As such, today, I am recommending to the Joint Bureaux our proposed theme, taking into account the earlier stated basis upon which we arrived at the theme. What I need from you today if possible is a recommendation of the Bureaux on the theme title. Hopefully that will indeed be made today.

Slide 9: Agenda item 3: (d). Proposed theme of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly

Madam President,
Your Excellencies,

I have the honour to introduce the special theme of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, which includes the title and a 1-page draft concept note of which has been shared with you on 11 October.

The special theme we are proposing, builds on the outcomes of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to assess progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (28 April 2022, New York) and the Eleventh Session of the World Urban Forum (26-30 June 2022, Katowice). We are also suggesting that the theme would offer an opportunity to the UN-Habitat Assembly to make a contribution to the ‘Summit of the Future: Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow’ which will be held in New York in September 2024.

Furthermore, we believe the theme could be framed within the context of the lessons learned through the COVID-19 pandemic and the current global crises. These have clearly shown that just, healthy, and green urban futures cannot be realized without inclusive, transformative and effective multilateralism, with an enhanced role of Local and Regional Governments in developing and implementing global agreements. For instance, the upcoming UNFCCC COPs is expected to pay particular attention to the role of cities in climate change, including through an urban Ministerial meeting on 17 November 2022 at COP 27.

Finally, the UN-Habitat Assembly will be held just before the High Level Political Forum in July 2023 which will devote special attention to the review of SDG 11. It is a fact that the world is not quite there yet in the implementation of the global agendas on sustainable urbanization, including several targets of Sustainable Development Goal 11 on ‘Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe,

resilient and sustainable’. Bold transformative action is required to keep us effectively on track.

Ideally, the special theme should be **broad and appealing** to attract high level policy makers to attend the UN-Habitat Assembly.

In this regard, I propose for your consideration as **title and subtitle** for the special theme the following:

“Inclusive, transformative and effective multilateralism for a better urban future: *Just and sustainable urban transformation to achieve the SDGs in times of global crises.*”

Today, and as indicated earlier your role is to recommend the title and subtitle. To solidify the theme, the background document that is expected to underpin the UN-Habitat Dialogue on the Special Theme could dissect and interrogate the five HLM priorities from the perspective of the proposed special theme. These five priorities are 1) universal access to adequate housing, 2) urban climate action and environmental protection, 3) urban crisis recovery, 4) localization of the SDGs and multi-level governance, 5) prosperity and finance.

The special theme would further be expected to inspire the Ministerial Declaration and the resolutions adopted by the Assembly, with the aim to explore pathways for transformative action to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to achieve the SDGs.

I look forward to your deliberations and guidance on this matter. However, before that, allow me to move to the second part of my presentation which is on Budget of the meetings of 2023 including the Assembly as well as our overall Resource mobilization and Fundraising efforts.

Slide 10 (TITLE Slide) Agenda item 3 continued: Preparations for the SECOND SESSION OF THE UN-HABITAT ASSEMBLY (Part 2)

- Budget of the Assembly

-Resource mobilization and Fundraising efforts

Madam President,
Excellencies,

As I had indicated earlier, I did say that under this agenda item, I wish to touch on the resource mobilization and fundraising efforts and expected required budget specific to servicing the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. So, I now wish to share with you our preliminary projected budget for the year 2023 in terms of the calendar meetings of our Governing Bodies including the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

Slide 11: Agenda item 3: (d) Budget Scenario 1: WITH TRAVEL OF ALL 46 LDCS IN ALL SESSIONS

We have done a quick tabulation, taking into account our experiences during the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly in 2019. As you can see in the slide before you, in the first scenario if we anticipate full participation of all 46 LDCs in the two sessions of the Executive Board for 2023, the CPR preparatory meeting and the Assembly then our projected total indicative budget is USD 3,037,587 and the funding gap is approximately USD 1,887,248.

Table (shared on screen): Scenario 1. With Travel for all 46 LDCs in UN-Habitat Assembly, the CPR, two sessions Executive Board

Description	Trust Fund (Available funds as at October 2022)	Funds required from extra budgetary sources	Regular Budget (projected budget funds with UNON Conference Services under section 2 of RB)	Total Fund Requireme
Second UN-Habitat Assembly (Inc RB)	332,700	915,848	620,847	1,869,3
2023 First Session of the Executive Board	53,500	409,869	-	463,
2023 Second Session of the Executive Board	41,500	421,869	-	463,
2023 CPR	101,792	139,662	-	241,
Total	529,492	1,887,248	620,847	3,037,5

Slide 12: Agenda item 3: (e). Scenario 2: TRAVEL OF ALL 46 LDCS TO ASSEMBLY & CPR; AND 5 LDCS ONLY TO EXECUTIVE BOARD

In the second scenario, which is now on the screen, in the event that funding would not be forthcoming, and based upon the projection that for the two sessions of the Executive Board in 2023, only LDCs who are members of the Executive Board may be supported to participate in the sessions, and there are five of the, then the total indicative Budget is USD 2,791,587 and the funding gap is USD 1,641,248 for the sessions in 2023.

Table (shared on screen): Scenario 2. Travel of 46 LDCs for UN-Habitat Assembly and the CPR, Travel of 5 LDCs for the two Executive Board

Description	Trust Fund (Available funds as at October 2022)	Funds required from extra budgetary sources	Regular Budget (projected budget funds with UNON Conference Services under section 2 of RB)	Total Funding Requirement
Second UN-Habitat Assembly (Inc RB)	32,700	915,848	620,847	1,869,395
2023 First Session of the Executive Board	53,500	286,869	-	340,369
2023 Second Session of the Executive Board	41,500	298,869	-	340,369
2023 CPR	01,792	139,662	-	241,454
Total	29,492	1,641,248	620,847	2,791,587

The key elements included in this budget projection under both scenario 1 and 2 are those meetings needs which are not supported by the regular budget provided to the Division of Conference Services by the General Assembly such as LDCs travel, support to various strategic dialogues, overtime, security, medical services, registration, exhibitions, IT and equipment, among others.

Excellencies

With respect to LDC travel, we currently have USD 529,492 in our UN-Habitat Assembly trust Fund which will give us a head start particularly in support for LDCs participation. I take this opportunity to sincerely thanks Member States who have generously contributed to the Trust fund, some of them are represented in the Joint Bureaux meeting today and include China, Germany, Kenya and Poland.

Madam President, I now move to our general Resource Mobilization and Fundraising efforts.

Slide 13: Agenda item3: (f). Resource Mobilization and Fundraising efforts

With your permission, allow me to ask Mr Neil Khor, Acting Chief of Staff, to update the bureaux on the status of UN-Habitat's funds and also highlight the salient points from the UN-Habitat Resource Mobilisation Strategy.

Slide 14 - AGENDA ITEM 4. (TITLE SLIDE). Discussion on the Special theme of the Assembly

*To be led by the President
ED may react as appropriate*

Slide 15: AGENDA ITEM 5- (TITLE SLIDE). Any other matters

(To be led by the Chair).

(ED May add the following statement under AOB or other thoughts)

Thank you, Excellencies, for your guidance and initial contributions today towards a successful second session of the Assembly. I wish to end my remarks today by emphasizing the importance of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, coming after four years. It will be a key milestone not only in implementing our new governance structure but in engaging with Member States at a high level here at our headquarters Nairobi, and in getting policy guidance for our work for the next few years. We also believe that the Assembly presents one of a

kind chances to showcase the added value of UN-Habitat to Member States as we all aim to accelerate implementation of the SDGs and the New Urban agenda with a sense of urgency. With this also comes a sense of hope to revitalize the and stabilize the Organization financially.

Following the meeting today, we will alert Member States on the recommendations from the Bureau particularly on the theme.

I remain very much available to work very closely with Members of the Joint Bureaux and to consult widely with Member States. I believe that from February 2023 we can expect to hold more regular meetings of the Bureau of the CPR and the Assembly as well as Joint Bureaux meetings.

I thank you Madam President.