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**Second Bureau meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat for the year 2022**

Thursday, 1 December 2022  
14:30 hrs – 16:00 hrs East Africa Time (EAT)  
Hybrid meeting-UN-Habitat OED Boardroom

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Agenda item 1: Adoption of the provisional Agenda**

1. H.E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, opened the meeting at 14:40 hrs EAT.

**The following members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives were present:**

H.E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to UN-Habitat (in-person)  
H.E. Mr. Peter Maddens, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Belgium to UN-Habitat (in-person)  
Ms. Cattrysse Machteld, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Belgium to UN-Habitat (in-person)  
Mr. Sergio Salazar Alzate Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Colombia to UN-Habitat (in-person)  
Ms. Felista Rugambwa, Head of Chancellery of the United Republic of Tanzania (on-line)

**The following UN Habitat Secretariat members were also present:**

Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director.  
Mr. Raf Tuts, Director, Global Solutions Division.  
Mr. Chris Mensah, Secretary to the Governing Bodies.  
Mr. Neil Khor, Chief of Staff.  
Mr. Chris Williams, Director, UN-Habitat New York Office.  
Mr. Stephen Slawsky, Management Advisory and Compliance Service.

2. The Chair welcomed all participants to the meeting. The Chair informed the Bureau that the Secretariat circulated on 28 November 2022 a revised provisional Agenda to include a new Agenda item 2 the informal consultations with Member States to discuss the proposed title of the theme for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly. The revised provisional Agenda was adopted without any changes and can be accessed [here](#).

**Agenda item 2: Informal consultations with Member States to discuss the proposed title of the theme for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.**

3. The Chair recalled that the Joint-Bureaux of the Governing Bodies of UN-Habitat, during its meeting held on 18 October 2022, recommended a proposed title of the theme for the second session of the Assembly based upon the proposal of the Executive Director pursuant to

Governing Resolution 20/21 on the organization and themes for future sessions of the Governing Council. The proposed title of the theme as recommended by the Joint Bureaux at that meeting was “**Inclusive, transformative and effective multilateralism for a better urban future: *Achieving the SDGs in times of global crises***” and forwarded to the Members of the Joint Bureaux under silence procedures. The silence procedure, however, have been broken three times by the submission of additional proposed languages by different members of the Joint Bureaux of the Governing Bodies of UN-Habitat, including on behalf of Regional Groups.

4. The Chair summarized the proposals received so far on the proposed title of the theme. These can be accessed [here](#).
5. On 19 November 2022, in a letter addressed to the Joint Bureaux, H.E. Ms. Martha Delgado Peralta, the President of the UN-Habitat Assembly, proposed that the process be opened up under the leadership of H.E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah in her capacity as Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to initiate informal consultations to discuss the title of the theme for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly with the view to reaching consensus by the end of December 2022, to allow for adequate preparations by UN-Habitat. The Chair noted that she circulated an invitation addressed to the Members States and Observers accredited to UN-Habitat to hold an informal consultation on Tuesday 6 December 2022, subject to confirmation by the Bureau meeting of the CPR on 1 December 2022.
6. The briefing by the Chair was followed by an exchange of views among Bureau members.
7. The Bureau, taking into consideration the six variations of the proposed title of the theme, recommended that the following compromise language, which takes into account the proposals received so far, should form the basis for discussion on the title of the theme during the informal consultation to be held on 6 December 2022:

**“Inclusive and effective multilateralism for a better urban future: *Achieving the SDGs in times of global crisis*”**

**Agenda item 3: Review and confirmation of the dates of the open-ended meeting of the CPR in preparations for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.**

8. Under this item and upon invitation by the Chair, the Executive Director recalled that the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat (CPR) in preparation for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, was originally scheduled from Monday 29 May to Friday 2 June 2023 for a duration of five days as decided by the CPR in Recommendation 2021/4 adopted by the CPR at its first open-ended meeting for a high-level midterm review held June 2021.
9. The Executive Director further updated the Bureau that the date of 1 June 2023 coincides with “Madaraka Day”, a National Holiday in the Republic of Kenya and suggested, following consultation with the UNON Division of Conferences, that the open-ended meeting of the CPR be conducted for four days namely, on 29 May, 30 May and 31 May 2023, then be suspended on 1 June 2023 and resume on 2 June 2023, without interfering with the already set dates of the meeting on the UN global calendar. The Executive Director further noted that this would allow for seamless transition from the meeting into the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly from 5 to 9 June 2023.
10. The presentation was followed by an exchange of views among Bureau members.
11. The Bureau recommended that the open-ended meeting of the CPR in preparation for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly be held from 29 to 31 May 2023 and on 2 June 2022, for a duration of four days.

12. The Bureau further emphasized that that nothing precluded Member States from holding informal consultations on Thursday, 1 June 2023.
13. The Bureau of the CPR further recommended that more informal consultations under the leadership of the Chair of the CPR be scheduled prior to the open-ended meeting of the CPR to ensure adequate preparations by the Secretariat and Member States towards the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

**Agenda item 4: Timeline for submission of draft resolutions to be considered by the second open-ended meeting of the CPR in preparations for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly**

14. Upon invitation by the Chair, the Secretariat share a few points regarding the submission of draft resolutions to be considered by the second open-ended meeting of the CPR in preparations for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. The statement by the Secretariat can be accessed [here](#).
15. The presentation was followed by an exchange of views among Bureau members.
16. Subsequently, the Bureau recommended that the Secretariat provides technical and substantive support to Member States in preparing draft resolutions if required.
17. The Bureau further recommended that informal consultations of the CPR take place in a universal form, starting from the end of January 2023, to look at what is required before the open-ended meeting of the CPR in preparations for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, including on the theme and also on the resolutions.
18. Two Bureau members suggested that each draft resolution should be accompanied by a programme budgetary implication and by a concept note including a rationale and justification.
19. The Secretariat outlined the unique intergovernmental platform that the UN-Habitat Assembly provides to address global urban policy and noted the need for resolutions to be formulated in a user-friendly manner to allow Member States to incorporate the content of the adopted resolutions into their national policies and programming. Similarly, the Secretariat proposed the grouping of key actions and policy areas into ‘action areas’ to build momentum on the discussions of key urban issues such as housing, climate, crisis, localization and financing.

**Agenda item 5: Legal opinion on the election for the position of Rapporteur representing the Regional Group on Eastern Europe to the 2022-2023 Bureau of the CPR.**

20. The Chair recalled that pursuant to Rule 27 of rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly, the current Bureau was elected at the end of the open-ended meeting for a high-level mid-term review of the CPR held in June 2021 for 2 years until the end of the second open-ended meeting of the CPR in preparation for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. The Chair recalled that the composition of the current Bureau is as follows:

**Chair:** Islamic Republic of Pakistan

**Vice-Chairs:** United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Colombia and the Kingdom of Belgium.

**Rapporteur:** The position of Rapporteur remained vacant pending the nomination of the representative of Eastern European States.

21. The Chair recalled that the CPR elected the members of the Bureau on the understanding that it would have an opportunity, on a no objection basis, to elect the remaining members of the Bureau upon nomination by the regional groups.
22. The Chair noted that on 13 October 2021, the Chair of WEOG informed the Secretariat of the nomination of Belgium for the position of Vice-Chair of the CPR Bureau and that on 15 November 2021, the Chair of the Regional Group of Eastern European States informed the Secretariat of the nomination of Slovak Republic for the position of Rapporteur of the CPR Bureau.
23. In addition, the Chair informed that on 16 June 2022, and after consultation with the Bureau on 15 June 2022, the Secretariat circulated a letter on her behalf inviting all Member States to approve the respective nominations on a no objection basis. On 21 June 2022, the Secretariat received an email from the Russian Federation informing of the Country's objection to the nomination of Slovakia to the position of Rapporteur.
24. The Chair updated that the Secretariat then sought legal advice for the CPR to convene a special session for the purpose of electing by secret ballot the position of Rapporteur to the 2019-2021 Bureau of the CPR in line with rule 6.1 a) and d) of the rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
25. The legal opinion was shared on 24 November 2022 with the members of the Bureau and can be accessed [here](#).
26. The presentation was followed by an exchange of views among Bureau members.
27. The Bureau recommended that the Chair of the CPR hold an informal consultation with the members of the Eastern European Group in Nairobi. As an option to be further considered, it was suggested that the office of Rapporteur be swapped with one of the three offices of Vice-Chairs so that the office of Rapporteur does not remain vacant as it is an important function of the Bureau.

**Agenda item 6: Any other matters**

**There were no other matters under discussion and the second meeting of the Bureau of the CPR for the year 2022 was adjourned at 15:30 East African Time (EAT).**