

## **Option for the alignment of UN-Habitat planning cycles and cycle of election of the offices of the governing bodies with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review as recommended by the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat (CPR) on 20 April 2023**

### **I - Background on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR)**

1. The acronym “QCPR” is shorthand for General Assembly Resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system. This is the first cycle, 2021-2024, of the mechanism through which the General Assembly assesses the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, and impact of UN operational activities for development and establishes system-wide policy orientations for the development cooperation and country-level modalities of the UN system in response to the evolving international development and cooperation environment. As such, the QCPR is the primary policy instrument of the General Assembly to define the way the UN development system operations to support program countries in their development efforts.
2. Accordingly, and immediately following the above General Assembly resolution on the QCPR, the Secretary-General promulgated a series of internal documents to guide the Secretariat to implement the operational paragraphs of the QCPR. These inform efforts by the Secretariat and UN entities to develop their respective strategic plans such that these are in line with and help to ensure effective implementation of the QCPR.
3. It is anticipated that for the next cycle of the QCPR, the General Assembly at its 79th session in 2024 will adopt a resolution on the QCPR for the period 2025-2028.
4. Currently, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, and most of the UN entities are implementing strategic plans for the period 2022-2025. They anticipate implementing subsequent strategic plans for the period 2026-2029 once these are adopted by their respective governing bodies in 2025.
5. Accordingly, it is imperative that UN-Habitat aligns its Strategic Planning cycle with the cycle of the QCPR and the earlier the better and this would have to be in 2025.
6. At its first session in June 2019, the United Nations Habitat Assembly noted the need to align the strategic planning processes of UN-Habitat with future iterations of the QCPR and requested the Executive Board of UN-Habitat to recommend a way forward. The Executive Board, in its Decision 2021/6 paragraph 14, recommended that the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its second session of 2023 consider approving an extension of the current strategic plan for the period 2020–2023, to end in 2025 to cover the period 2020–2025 in order to align the planning cycle of UN-Habitat with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review.
7. In practical terms, these recommendations for alignment will unfold as follows:
  - December 2024: General Assembly adopts QCPR 2025-2028
  - January 2025: Subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly initial new strategic planning processes
  - March 2025: Secretary-General promulgates internal documents guiding implementation of QCPR
  - April/May 2025: Review of Draft UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026-2029
  - June 2025 : United Nations Habitat Assembly adopts UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026-2029

## II- Recommendation of the Bureau of the CPR of UN-Habitat planning cycles and cycle of election of the offices of the governing bodies with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review

8. The Bureau of the CPR met on 12 April 2023 and requested the Secretariat to develop scenarios on the alignment of the UN-Habitat strategic planning cycles, with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review process (QCPR) and election of the offices of the governing bodies.
9. The Bureau met again on 20 April 2023, to further consider the scenarios prepared by the Secretariat towards the alignment of the Strategic Plan with the QCPR and elections of members of the Governing Bodies.
10. Having considered the various channels of alignment of the UN-Habitat planning cycles with the QCPR and election of the offices of the governing bodies of UN-Habitat during that meeting, the Bureau recommended that the alignment of UN-Habitat strategic planning cycle with the QCPR should take place in **2025**, pending further consideration of this recommendation by the Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its next meeting scheduled to take place on 24 April 2023.
11. Specifically, and with respect to the alignment in 2025, the Bureau of the CPR recommended, for consideration by Member States, the following:
  - a) **Strategic Plan**
12. Extension of the current 2020-2023 Strategic Plan of UN-Habitat up to the period until 2025, as already recommended by the Executive Board in [paragraph 14 of its Decision 2021/6](#)
  - b) **Second regular session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly**
13. That the second regular session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly be held from 5 June 2023, adjourned, then resume in 2025 for the purpose of approving a new Strategic Plan to be prepared by the Executive Board for the period 2026-2029, which will then align with the QCPR.
  - c) **Third regular session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly**
14. That the third regular session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly should be held in 2029, which will ensure full alignment of UN-Habitat planning cycle with the QCPR and conform with the rules of procedure of the United Nations Habitat Assembly which requires that the United Nations Habitat Assembly convene every 4 years for a duration of 5 days.
  - d) **Election of the officers of the Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly**
15. The current Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly which was elected during the first session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly in 2019 may be re-elected at the first meeting of the second regular session in June 2023, for an exceptional term of 2 years to serve until the final meeting of the resumed second regular session in 2025.
16. Alternatively, a new Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly may be elected during the first meeting of the second regular session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly in June 2023, to serve until the final meeting of the resumed second regular session in 2025. This Bureau, if it is the wish of Member States, may be eligible for re-election at the final meeting of the resumed second regular session in 2025 to serve until the third regular session to be held in 2029.
  - e) **Election of the 36 members of the Executive Board**

17. The status quo at the moment is that new members of the Executive Board are to be elected at the upcoming second regular session in 2023. Consideration, however, need to be given to the need to align the elections with the proposed alignment of UN-Habitat strategic planning cycle with the QCPR. Electing new members of the Executive Board in 2023 for a 4-year term would not align with UN-Habitat Strategic Planning cycle and the QCPR, because it would mean that the UN-Habitat Assembly would have to meet in 2027 to elect members of the Executive Board for another 4-year term till 2031, not to mention cost implications of such a session.

18. In light of the above, the choices considered by the Bureau include:

- i. Re-electing the current 36 members of the Executive Board which were elected in 2019 at the second regular session in June 2023, to serve until the resumed second regular session to be held in 2025, following which new members of the Executive Board will be elected to serve for a 4-year term until the third session in 2029. This option would align with the UN-Habitat strategic planning cycle and the QCPR.
- ii. Election of 36 new members of the Executive Board at the second regular session in 2023 for a two year-term until the resumed second regular session 2025. Then in 2025, the UN-Habitat Assembly could:
  - a. Re-elect the same new members elected in 2023 (for a 2-year term) for an additional 4-year term until 2029. The total term of office for these members will be 6 years. This option would align with the UN-Habitat strategic planning cycle and the QCPR.
  - b. Elect new members of the Executive Board in 2025 to serve for 4 years until 2029. This option would align with the UN-Habitat strategic planning cycle and the QCPR.

**f) Summary**

19. The above option summarized in Annex 1 of the present communication.

Implications	2023	2025	2027	2029
Nature of the session	<b>Second regular session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (2.1)</b>	<b>Resumed second regular session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (2.2)</b>	<p><b>No United Nations Habitat Assembly session proposed in 2027</b></p> <p><b>Bureau of the United Nations habitat Assembly and members of the Executive Board remain in office</b></p> <p><b>CPR to meet as per mandated 2-year cycle</b></p>	<b>Third regular session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly</b>
Strategic Plan	Extension of the Strategic Plan until 2025 as recommended by the Executive Board	Approval of the Strategic Plan for 2026 to 2029 <b>(QCPR aligned)</b>		Approval of the Strategic Plan for 2030 to 2033
Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly	At the first meeting of the second regular session, <b>re-election</b> of the members of Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly until 2025 ( <b>exceptionally for a period of 2 years</b> ). New members of the Bureau to be elected at the final meeting of the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly in 2025. <b>OR</b> At the first meeting of the second regular session, <b>election</b> of new members of Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly until 2025 ( <b>exceptionally for a period of 2 years</b> ). This Bureau may be eligible for re-election at the final meeting of the resumed regular second session in 2025 to serve until the third regular session to be held in 2029.	New members of the Bureau to be elected at the final meeting of the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly in 2025. <b>OR</b> Re-election of the members of the Bureau at the final meeting of the resumed regular second session in 2025 to serve until the third regular session to be held in 2029.		At the final meeting of the third regular session, election of the United Nations Habitat Assembly Bureau incl. President until 2033 ( <b>4 years/QCPR fully aligned</b> ). Election of the members of the Executive Board until 2033 ( <b>4 years / QCPR aligned</b> )
Membership of the Executive Board	Current members of the Executive Board remain in office until 2025 ( <b>exceptionally for another 2 years for a total period of 6 years</b> ) <b>OR</b> election of new members of the Executive Board in June 2023 until 2025 ( <b>exceptionally for a 2-year cycle</b> ) <b>OR</b> election of new members of the Executive Board in June 2023 until 2029 ( <b>exceptionally for a 6-year cycle</b> )	At the final meeting of the resumed second regular session, election of the United Nations Habitat Assembly Bureau incl. President until 2029 ( <b>4 years/QCPR aligned</b> ) Election of the members of the Executive Board until 2029 ( <b>4 years/QCPR aligned</b> )		Election of the Bureau of the CPR until 2031 (for 2 years cycle)
Bureau of the CPR	Election of the Bureau of the CPR until 2025 (for 2 years cycle) <b>OR</b> Extension of the current term of the CPR Bureau until 2025 in the event of a resumed session of the UN-Habitat Assembly and therefore of the OECPR	Election of the Bureau of the CPR until 2027 (for 2 years cycle)		Decision to hold next session in 2033 as a regular session ( <b>QCPR alignment fully implemented</b> )
Date of the next regular session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly	Decision to hold the resumed regular session in 2025, as reconvened session	Decision to hold next session in 2029 as a regular session ( <b>QCPR fully aligned</b> )		

