

2023 Third Meeting of the Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly

Conducted in a Hybrid Format

Wednesday, 10 May 2023, 14:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs. East Africa Time

Statement by the Executive Director

(Draft of 10 May 2023)

SLIDE 0: Title slide

Slide 1: Provisional Agenda

Adoption of the Provisional Agenda led by the President (Ambassador Erasmo of Mexico Chairing the Bureau meeting on behalf of Mexico Presidency).

1. Adoption of the provisional Agenda.
2. General update on the status of preparations for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly including status of draft resolutions
3. Continuation of discussion on the cycle of election of the offices of the governing bodies.
4. Any other matters.

SLIDE 2: (Title Slide) Agenda item 2. General update on the status of preparations for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly including status of draft resolutions.

(ED's REMARKS)

Thank you, Ambassador.

Excellencies,

Good morning, good afternoon and good evening.

I welcome all of you to this third meeting of the Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly for the year 2023.

The objective is for us to be on the same page regarding the preparations towards the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly which is now less than one month away.

I want to express my gratitude to this Bureau for the guidance it has so far given us in preparing for the session. I am also very grateful to all Member States for their engagement with us, either bilaterally or through the ongoing informal consultations under the leadership of the Chair of the CPR which enabled us to make some progress in the preparations.

I also have a briefing session with Member States on the preparations for the session, which is planned for this Friday, 12 May 2023. I also look forward to the planned consultations with the various regional groups, that will help us understand Member States expectations regarding the upcoming Assembly and also to get guidance as appropriate so that we can have a smooth second session of the Assembly.

I now wish to call upon the Deputy Executive Director, Mr Michal Mlynar who has been leading our internal Task Force on the preparations for the Assembly since his arrival just recently, to lead us on agenda item 2 on the general update

on preparations including on the draft resolutions. He will be supported by the relevant colleagues as appropriate.

With your permission Ambassador, DED you have the floor.

DED TAKES OVER

Thank you, Madam ED,

Ambassador,

Excellencies,

A very good afternoon to you all.

Let me take this opportunity also to welcome you to this meeting and to join the ED in extending our gratitude to you for the very valuable support we have so far received from you.

Excellencies.

Under agenda item 2 which is on “General update on the status of preparations for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly including the status of draft resolutions”, we intend to briefly cover the following subitems:

1. Status of registration and LDCs participation
2. Overview of the programme for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly
3. The High-Level Dialogues and High-Level Events at the Assembly
4. Side events and Exhibitions.
5. Partner events during the Assembly

We will then move to:

6. The draft outcomes of the Assembly which include the status of Draft Ministerial Declaration and the drafts resolutions.

My colleagues will share with us the updates on these various elements and then we will take any questions and your guidance on the same.

Let me first give the floor to Chris Mensah to brief us on the status of registration and the overall programme for the Assembly.

Then Edlam will walk us through the various High-level dialogues and events during the Assembly

Neil will the update us on the side events, exhibitions and partner events

And finally, Raf will take the Bureau through the draft Ministerial declaration and Shipra, the draft resolutions.

With your permission Ambassador, let me now call on Chris Mensah first.

Chris, you have the floor.

CHRIS TAKES OVER.

Slide 3: **2.1. Registration**

Thank you, DED.

Excellencies

As at **2 May 2023**), we had the following figures. (*COMMENT Number to be updated on Wednesday morning to reflect statistics as at 9 May 2023*)

Total number of participants – 1359.

Total number of countries registered – 114.

Total number of countries with national government officials – 69.

- i. **Ministers – 19** (comprising 14 Ministers and 5 Vice Ministers)
- ii. **Ambassadors/PRs – 21.**
- iii. Deputy Permanent Representatives (DPRs) – 17.
- iv. Other Government officials – 170.
- v. Partners – 1132.

As you can see, these numbers appear somewhat low, especially those of Government officials. From experience we do expect a surge in registration, especially as Governments finalize their lists of delegations to the Assembly. As a matter of fact, while the Ministers for now only appear as just 19 in total, informally and working through our Regional Representatives, we are expecting many more Ministers to participate in the Assembly including in the various high-level segments.

In this regard, I wish to take this opportunity to urge Member States through you **to register online** and to send us their credentials as soon as possible, in line with rule 17 of the rules of Procedure.

Delegations should **send Credentials** signed by Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs as soon as possible, by 24 May 2023. The relevant guidance in this regard has been placed on the website.

Slide 4: 2.2. Participation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

Excellencies,

To ensure equitable participation of LDCs in the upcoming session,

- i. UN-Habitat will support the participation of one delegate each from the 46 LDCs.
- ii. Arrangements for participation are underway in consultation with the relevant LDC countries who are nominating the officials to be sponsored.

- iii. The UN-Habitat Assembly Trust is being used for this purpose and in this regard, we want to extend our most sincere gratitude to China, Germany and Kenya for their contribution to the Trust fund to support LDCs.

Slide 5: 2.3 Programme overview: Core Meetings during the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly

Excellencies,

On the programme of the Assembly, I wish to recall that during the 2023 first session of the Executive Board at the end of March 2023, we already shared with all Member States the Preliminary programme. This was also done during the informal consultations under the CPR held on 8 February 2023 and during the Assembly Bureau meeting in the same month held on 15 February 2023.

We have subsequently issued the draft detailed Programme which is available on the website.

Let me quickly cover the core meetings during the Assembly while my colleague Edlam will walk us through the various High-Level Dialogues and events.

This particular slide focuses on the legislative aspects of the programme and shows the plenary meetings, the proposed meetings of the Committee of the whole and those of the drafting committee.

As you can see under **plenary meetings**, the draft programme highlights the **high-level segments** on Monday and Tuesday, 5 and 6 June respectively, as well as the interactive **high level dialogue on the special theme** to be held on Wednesday 7 June 2023.

The plenary meetings will take place daily from **10 am to 1pm** and from **3pm to 6pm**.

It also provides for **National Statements** to be delivered by your Ministers on Monday 5 June, Tuesday 6 June, and if required, on Thursday 8 June 2023. On this note, let me state our intention to open up the call for **speaking slots** to deliver National statements during the Assembly this coming Monday 15 May 2023 which we will keep open until Tuesday, 6 June 2023.

Back to the programme, you can see from the slide that the programme further shows when each agenda item of the session will be covered during the plenary meetings.

As provided for by the Rules of procedure, the **Committee of the whole** and the **drafting Committee** will assist during the session as sessional organs, as may deemed necessary by the Assembly, through discussing in detail any agenda items referred to them and negotiating draft outcomes to be considered by the session, respectively. These sessional organs will report back to the plenary as required.

Excellencies,

As recommended by the Executive Board during its 2023 first session in Decision 2023/ 3, you may wish to take particularly note that within this Programme, the **2023 second session of the Executive Board** has been indicated to take place on the morning of Thursday, 8 June 2023 on the sideline of the Assembly, with the specific purpose of electing the Bureau of the Executive Board for the period 2023 - 2024, following the expected elections of the 36 Members of the Executive Board by the Assembly during the upcoming second session. We have sent out a notification to that effect.

This is a quick highlight of the core meetings.

Slide 6: 2.4 Programme overview: consultations by regional Groups

Finally, **consultations by regional Groups** which as you know are catered for as part of the legislative process will take place on Sunday, 4 June 2023 in the afternoon. During the session itself, consultations will take place every morning of every day from 8 am and will conclude before the start of the Plenary each day.

We have also made room for women and youth to caucus every morning during the Assembly, prior to the start of plenary.

Excellencies

Allow me to mention that we have made available on the website a detailed “**Information for Participants**”, as well as “**frequently asked questions**” regarding the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly which we continuously update as necessary as we approach the session.

I now hand over to my colleague Edlam to walk us through the High-Level Dialogue including the dialogue on the theme of the Assembly as well as other High-level events we are planning for during the Assembly.

With your Permission ED and DED, Edlam, you have the floor.

EDLAM TAKES OVER:

Slide 7: 2.5 High-Level dialogues and sessions

| Date | Plenary-based High-Level Dialogues | Other High-Level sessions |
|-------------|---|--|
| 5 June 2023 | 10am to 1pm: Opening Plenary and Heads of State Dialogue | 1.30pm to 2.30pm: High Level Session on Cities and Crisis |

| | | |
|-------------|--|--|
| 6 June 2023 | 10am to 12noon: First Ladies High Level Roundtable | 1.30pm to 2.30pm: High Level Session on Housing |
| 7 June 2023 | 10am to 1pm and 3pm to 6pm: High Level Interactive Dialogue on the special theme of the Assembly | 1.30pm to 2.30pm: Regional Ministerial Meetings (i. Africa, ii. LAC) |
| 8 June 2023 | - | 1.30pm to 2.30pm: High Level Session on SDGs Localization and Financing |
| 9 June | 3pm to 6pm: Closing Plenary | |

Slide 8: 2.6. High Level Interactive Dialogue on the special theme of the Assembly, Wednesday, 7 June 2023

Highlights of the Intercative Dialogue on the special theme of the UN-Habitat Assembly:

Morning of Wednesday, 7 June 2023, from 10 am to 1pm

- Keynote

-High-level Panel 1: The big challenges of our time

The dialogue will include a high-level panel with ministerial-level speakers on three of the key themes of the special theme report – housing, climate and crisis. *Panel discussion followed by a moderated Q&A among Ministers and with the Assembly participants.*

-Panel 2: The Key-enablers driving the SDGs in the time of crisis

The second panel will focus on key enablers such as data, financing, digital transformation and territorial approaches. A moderated panel discussion between national governments and international institutions on the key enablers such as data, financing, digital transformation, territorial approaches etc.

Panel discussion followed by a moderated Q&A with the Assembly participants.

Afternoon of Wednesday, 7 June 2023, from 3pm to 6pm.

-Keynote

Panel 3: Multi-level Governance and SDG Localization

A third panel will cover multilevel governance and Sustainable Development Goal localization, which will involve national and subnational governments and stakeholders, potentially also bringing in voices from the United Nations resident coordinator system. A moderated panel discussion between national and sub-national governments and stakeholders on the topic of multi-level governance and SDG localization. It could potentially also bring in voices from the UN Resident Coordinators.

Panel discussion followed by a moderated Q&A with the Assembly participants.

-Panel 4: Closing Panel Key Takeaways and Directions for the Summit of the Future

A closing fourth panel will synthesize the key take-away messages of the dialogue through a moderated panel discussion between the UN-Habitat Executive Director and key influencers shaping the Summit of the Future in 2024.

Panel discussion followed by a moderated Q&A with the Assembly participants.

Thank you, ED, DED, I now hand over to Neil for the overview on exhibitions and Side events during the Assembly.

NEIL TAKES OVER

Slide 9: 2.7 Side events and Exhibition

Exhibition:

The urban Expo at the second session of the UN-Habitat is to be opened officially by the head of State of the Republic of Kenya on Monday, 6 June 2023 at about 1pm.

The applications for exhibition are still open until 15 May 2023

So far, a total of 35 applications have been received.

(Neil to add appropriate details including highlights of some of the exhibitions)

Side events:

Total applications received for side events: **155**.

Total Number of side events approved: **38**.

Timings for Side events:

- i. 5 to 8 June 2023: Lunch time
- ii. 5 June 2023 and 8 June 2023: Evening

(Neil to add appropriate details including Criteria and prioritization of Member States applications)

Slide 10: 2.7 Partners Events

1. **Global Stakeholders Forum:** 3 and 4 June 2023, 10 am to 5 pm
2. **Business Roundtable:** 4 June 2023: 2 to 5 pm
3. **World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments:** 8 June 2023, 8.30am to 10 am

(AFTER THAT NEIL HANDS OVER TO DED.)

(DED TAKES BACK THE FLOOR TO REQUEST THE CHAIR IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE SECOND ROUND OF UPDATES RELATED TO THE DRAFT OUTCOMES OF THE ASSEMBLY)

Slide 11: Agenda item 2 Continued: Subtitle: Part 2 of the updates focusing on status of draft Ministerial declaration, status of the draft Resolutions.

(DED TAKES OVER)

Thank you colleagues for the updates to the Bureau on the different aspects of our preparations for the upcoming Assembly.

At this point I would like to check with you Ambassador if we can pause here to allow for any questions, clarifications, or guidance from the Bureau before we brief the Bureau further on the status of draft Ministerial Declaration and the draft Resolutions.

(AFTER THAT, IF CHAIR ALLOWS FOR A PAUSE, AND AFTER ALL QUESTIONS ARE ASKED)

(DED CONTINUES)

Thank you, Excellencies.

With your permission Ambassador, I would now like to call on Raf first to brief us the **draft Ministerial declaration**, followed by Shipra on the status of the **draft Resolutions**.

Raf, you have the floor.

RAF TAKES OVER

Slide 12: 2.8 The Draft Ministerial Declaration

The technical inputs for **the draft Ministerial Declaration** of the Second Session of the UN-Habitat Assembly on: **“A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crises”** has been shared with Member States, following approval by the President of the United National Habitat Assembly.

(Raf to add details on the draft Ministerial declaration which is already shared with Member States)

(AFTER THAT, RAF HANDS OVER TO SHIPRA TO BRIEF ON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS)

I now hand the floor to Shipra on the status of draft Resolutions.

SHIPRA TAKES OVER

Slide 13: 2.9 Status of Substantive Resolutions

| Resolution | Status | Sponsoring Member State(s) |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Development of international guidelines on people centered smart cities | Submitted <i>First reading completed</i> | France |
| 2. Global Action Plan for Transformation of Informal Settlements | Submitted <i>First reading completed</i> | South Africa |
| 3. World Clean-up Day | Submitted | Estonia |
| 4. Biodiverse and Resilient Cities - Mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into urban-territorial planning | Submitted | Colombia and Costa Rica |

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| 5. Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals | Submitted | Brazil |
| 6. Early Warning, Rapid Response and Natural Disaster Management Framework | <i>Advanced:</i> Under drafting | African States |
| 7. Equitable Financing and Effective Monitoring of the Implementation of Resolutions Adopted by UN-Habitat | <i>Advanced:</i> Under drafting | African States |
| 8. Urban Planning and Sustainable Infrastructure | <i>Advanced:</i> Under drafting | Brazil |
| 9. Climate change and resilience | <i>Ideas:</i> Consultations underway | Pakistan |

Slide 14: 2.10. Status of Procedural Resolutions

| Resolution | Status | Sponsored by the Chair |
|--|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 10. Decision on extension of the current Strategic Plan until 2025 | Submitted | Chair |
| 11. Decision on the next session of the UN-Habitat Assembly aligned with the QCPR and the next Strategic Plan | Submitted | Chair |
| 12. Election of 36 new Members of the Executive Board | Submitted | Chair |
| 13. Election of a new President and Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly | Submitted | Chair |
| 14. Decision on the stakeholder engagement policy | Submitted | Chair |
| 15. Resolutions related to the report of the JIU on administrative and management review of UN-Habitat, especially as related to governance. | Submitted | Chair |

(AFTER THAT)

(SHIPRA HANDS BACK THE FLOOR TO THE DED)

Thank you, ED, DED, back to you.

DED TAKES OVER

Excellencies

This marks the end of our briefing under agenda item 2. Thank you for your patience. We are ready for any questions and for your guidance.

I hand back to the ED.

ED TAKES THE FLOOR

Thank you, colleagues, for the updated. I reiterate my gratitude to the Bureau for their continued support as we prepare for the Assembly. My team and I stand ready to support you as you advance the informal negotiations on the draft resolutions and the Ministerial declarations and will continue to provide the necessary technical notes for any new draft resolutions that may be submitted.

Thank you, Ambassador.

Back to you.

CHAIR TAKES OVER

(After the discussions on item 2 are exhausted)

(CHAIR LEADS THE DISCUSSIONS UNDER ITEM 3)

Slide15: (TITLE SLIDE): Agenda Item 3. Continuation of discussion on the cycle of election of the offices of the governing bodies.

(AGENDA ITEM 3 IS TO BE LED BY THE CHAIR WITH REACTIONS FROM BUREAU MEMBERS).

(ED, DED AND SECRETARIAT TO SUPPORT AS NECESSARY)

Slide 16: Emerging Consensus:

(Led by the Chair)

Based on informal Consultations so far, there seems to be emerging consensus on the following:

- i. The current Strategic plan of UN-Habitat should be extended until 2025 to cover the period 2020 to 2025.
- ii. The upcoming second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly to be held from 5 to 9 June 2023 should be adjourned to resume in 2025 in order to allow for the alignment of UN-Habitat Planning Cycles with the QCPR, at the earliest opportunity.
- iii. That the resumed session of the Assembly would approve a new strategic plan for the period 2026 to 2029 to be prepared by the Executive Board.
- iv. That the election of offices of the Governing Bodies should also align with planning cycles of UN-Habitat and the CPR.

Slide 17: Outstanding issues

(Led by the Chair)

What is outstanding from the informal Consultations so far is: how and when the different elections for offices should happen and the term of office for the offices to be elected.

Regional Groups have been advised to caucus on this outstanding matter in order to allow for consensus building during further informal consultations.

Slide 18: Overview of options for elections

(To support reflections during the discussions by Bureau Members)

| Implications | 2023 | <u>2025</u> |
|---|---|--|
| Nature of the session | Second regular session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (2.1) | Resumed second regular session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (2.2) |
| Strategic Plan | Extension of the Strategic Plan until 2025 as recommended by the Executive Board | Approval of the Strategic Plan for 2026 to 2029 (QCPR) |
| Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly | Re-election of the members of Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly until 2025 OR - election of new members of Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly until 2025, at the first meeting of 2023 session | Election of new Members of the Assembly Bureau in 2025. OR Re-election of the members of the Assembly Bureau in 2025 to serve until 2029. |
| Membership of the Executive Board | Current members of the Executive Board remain in office until 2025 ; OR - election of new members of the Executive Board until 2025 for two years -OR -election of new members of the Executive Board in June 2023 until 2029 | Election of the members of the Executive Board until 2029 (4 years/QCPR aligned) |
| Bureau of the CPR | Election of the Bureau of the CPR until 2025 (for 2 years cycle) OR -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) |
| 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 (QCPR fully aligned) |

SLIDE 19: Agenda item 4: Any other Matters.

(To be led by the Chair)