

Third Bureau meeting of the UN-Habitat Assembly for the year 2023

Wednesday, 10 May 2023

Hybrid Meeting.

Location: Nairobi, Kenya.

14:00 – 15:30 East Africa Time (EAT).

H.E. Mr. Erasmo Martínez, Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the United Mexican States

Objectives of the meeting:

The proposed provisional agenda of the meeting is as follows :

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.

Expected attendants:

Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly

MEXICO

1. **H.E. Mr. Erasmo Martínez**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Mexican States
2. **Mr. Porforio Martínez**, Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Mexican States to UN-Habitat to UN-Habitat

POLAND

3. **Malgorzata Jarosińska-Jedynak**, Secretary of State, Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy, Republic of Poland and Vice-President of the UN-Habitat Assembly
4. **Mr. Jacek Bazanski**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to UN-Habitat
5. **Ms. Joanna Szymanska**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Republic of Poland to UN-Habitat
6. **Ms. Bella Agnieszka**, Chief Specialist, Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of the Republic of Poland

GERMANY

7. **Ms. Susanne Dorasil**, Head of Water Division, Urban Development and Mobility, BMZ Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Federal Republic of Germany
8. **Mr. Martin Row**, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to UN-Habitat

GHANA

9. **Ms. Shirley Ayorkor Botchway**, Minister for Foreign Affairs / Vice-President of the UN-Habitat Assembly Republic of Ghana
10. **Mr. William Anani-Abotsi**, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Ghana to UN-Habitat and Vice President of the Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly
11. **Ms. Rena Asare Danso**, Second Secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Ghana

12. **Mr. Sam**, UN-Habitat Focal Point from the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralization and Rural Development of the Republic of Ghana

CHINA

13. **Mr. ZHOU Pingjian**, Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to UN-Habitat and Rapporteur of the UN-Habitat Assembly

14. Ms. Tong Guichan, Deputy Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to UN-Habitat

15. Ms. Zhao Wenhua, First Secretary of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China

PAKISTAN

16. Ms. Saqlain Syedah, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to UN-Habitat, Chair of the CPR and Vice-President of the UN-Habitat Assembly

COLOMBIA

17. Mr. Sergio Salazar Alzate, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Colombia, Vice-Chair of the CPR, and Vice-President of the UN-Habitat Assembly

TANZANIA

18. Dr. John Stephen Simbachawene, Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to UN-Habitat, Vice-Chair of the CPR and Vice-President of the UN-Habitat Assembly

BELGIUM

19. Mr. Peter Maddens, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Belgium to UN-Habitat, Vice-Chair of the CPR and Vice-President of the UN-Habitat Assembly

20. Ms. Cattrysse Machteld, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Belgium

ROMANIA

21. Mr. Dragoș Viorel ȚIGĂU, Permanent Representative of Romania to UNON, representing the Regional Group of Eastern European States in the CPR Bureau

Secretariat

- 22. Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif**, UN-Habitat Executive Director
- 23. Mr. Michal Mlynar**, UN-Habitat Deputy Executive Director
- 24. Mr. Raf Tuts**, Director, Global Solutions Division.
- 25. Mr. Chris Mensah**, Secretary to the Governing Bodies, UN-Habitat
- 26. Mr. Erfan Ali**, Chief of Staff
- 27. Mr. Christopher Williams**, Director, UN-Habitat Office in New York
- 28. Mr. Neil Khor**, Chief Director of ERSKI
- 29. Mr. Stephen Slawsky**, Director, Management Advisory and Compliance Service
- 30. Ms. Shipra Narang Suri**, Chief, Urban Practices
- 31. Ms. Edlam Abera Yemeru**, Chief, Knowledge and Innovation Branch

Introductory remarks:

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

- It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you all to the third meeting of the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly for the year 2023.
- I am chairing this meeting on behalf of Marta Delgado, the President of the UN-Habitat Assembly, who asked me to convey her apologies for not being in a position to chair this meeting today.
- The President is very excited to work with all of you to deliver a successful second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, which is now 4 weeks away.

- The idea is that, together, we hope to provide guidance to the Executive Director as she prepares for the UN-Habitat Assembly in June 2023.

Distinguished Delegates,

- Let us now proceed to the adoption of the proposed provisional Agenda for our meeting today.

Agenda item 1: Adoption of the provisional Agenda

- The proposed provisional Agenda for this meeting was circulated by the Secretariat on 04 May 2023 as follows:
 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 and decisions
 3. Continuation of discussion on the cycle of election of the offices of the governing bodies.
 4. Any other matters.

DECISION

- May I take it that the Bureau wishes to adopt the provisional Agenda for this meeting as circulated?

(Ambassador, pause to see if anyone wishes to take the floor)

- I don't see anyone asking for the floor so shall I take it that the proposed Agenda is acceptable to everyone. **The Agenda is so adopted.**

We shall now proceed to Agenda item 2 which is “General update on the status of preparations for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly including status of draft resolutions and decisions”.

Agenda item 2: General update on the status of preparations for the second session of the United Nations Assembly including status of draft resolutions and decisions

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

- I am aware there has been some progress in this respect including on procedural decisions.
- Allow me to take this opportunity to also note that on 5 May 2023 the Secretariat transmitted on behalf of the President of the UN-Habitat

Assembly technical inputs for the framing of the draft Ministerial Declaration to be considered at the session. In this regard, the President of the UN-Habitat Assembly proposed that the draft be further discussed, under the leadership of the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representative (CPR), during the ongoing informal consultations to allow all the Members and Observers to UN-Habitat to discuss the draft Ministerial Declaration with the view to reaching consensus.

- I now wish to call on the Executive Director to provide an update on the status of submission of draft resolutions and procedural decisions.
- After the briefing by the Executive Director, I will then open the floor for discussion and invite the Bureau to make comments and recommendations.
- Madam, you have the floor.

[After the briefing by the Executive Director]

- Thank you, Madam for this briefing.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

- I now open the floor for discussion by the Bureau to make comments and suggestions.

[After that]

- I thank you all. Allow me to take this opportunity to encourage that Member States or group of Member States wishing to submit draft resolutions to do so as soon as possible, so as to allow sufficient time for negotiations and consensus-building including through the informal consultations and also through formal consultations during the open-ended meeting of the CPR.
- We shall now proceed to Agenda item 3 which is “Continuation of discussion on the cycle of election of the offices of the governing bodies”.

Agenda item 3: Continuation of discussion on the cycle of election of the offices of the governing bodies

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

You would recall that at our last meeting held on 24 April 2023, we endorsed the recommendation by the Bureau of the CPR with respect to the alignment of UN-Habitat planning cycles with the Quadrennial comprehensive Policy Review process (QCPR), namely that:

- a. The alignment of UN-Habitat planning cycles with the QCPR should take place in 2025;
- b. The current 2020-2023 Strategic Plan of UN-Habitat be extended to cover the period until 2025, as already recommended by the Executive Board in paragraph 14 of its Decision 2021/6
- c. The regular second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly to be held from 5 to 9 June 2023 be adjourned, and 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 align with the QCPR.

- d. The third regular session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly held in 2029 to ensure full alignment of UN-Habitat planning cycle with the QCPR.
- We further recommended that the Secretariat conveys the recommendation to all Member States and that be discussed during the informal consultations of the CPR on 25 April 2023.
 - I am aware that at the informal consultations of the CPR held on 25 April 2023, the Secretariat provided the 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.
 - These options included the following:
 - **For the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly :**
 - 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.

- 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 for the third regular session to be held in 2029.

- **For the election of the 36 members of the Executive Board**

- Extending the term of 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.
- 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.

- e. I am aware that at the informal consultation of the CPR held on 25 April 2025, Member States were encouraged to discuss within their regional groups and with their respective capitals the elections of officers taking into considering the new proposed alignment. I was pleased to hear that the informal consultation by the CPR reached a common understanding on the fact that:
- i. The alignment of UN-Habitat planning cycles with the QCPR should take place in 2025;
 - ii. The current 2020-2023 Strategic Plan of UN-Habitat be extended to cover the period until 2025,
 - iii. The second regular second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly to be held from 5 to 9 June 2023 be adjourned, and 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 align with the QCPR.

- I now open the floor for update and reaction by the Bureau.

[After that]

- I thank you all for your contributions.
- I now move to Agenda item 4 which is “Any other matters”.

Agenda item 4: Any other matters

- Is there anything anyone wishes to bring up at this stage.?

(Pause to see if anyone wishes to take the floor)

- Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, ladies, and gentlemen, I thank you all for your great contributions and active participation.
- If there is not any other matter that delegations wish to bring up at this stage, the Bureau meeting is now adjourned.
