

Summary of discussions and recommendations emanating from the sixth Bureau meeting of the Executive Board for the year 2021

Wednesday 8 September 2021 from 10:00 am - 12:00 noon EAT

H.E. Mr. Marek Rohr-Garztecki

Chair of the Executive Board and Permanent Representative of Poland to UN-Habitat

The meeting started at 10:05 am EAT and the following Bureau members attended the meeting: Poland (Chair), Egypt, Pakistan, France (Vice-Chairs) and Chile (Rapporteur)

Agenda item	Discussion	Recommendation from the Bureau
1.	Adoption of the Agenda	
	Adoption of the provisional Agenda.	Adopted
2.	Review of the dates and provisional Agenda of the second session for the year 2021 of the Executive Board	
Provisional Agenda of the second session of for the year 2021 of the Executive Board	<p>Under this sub-item, the Executive Director briefed the Bureau on the provisional Agenda for the second session of the Executive Board for the year 2021. The full presentation by the Secretariat under this item can be found here and highlighted the following:</p> <p>a) The Executive Director first recalled that in line with Rule 6 and Rule 10 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau may make a recommendation on the provisional Agenda as adopted by the Executive Board at its first session 2021. (Decision 2021/4, paragraph 4), for adoption by the Board at the beginning of the second session.</p> <p>In that regard, the Executive Director walked the Bureau through some minor proposed amendments for its consideration (in red):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening of the meeting. 2. Organizational matters: a) Adoption of the agenda and the workplan for the second session of 2021; b) Adoption of the report on the first session of 2021. 3. Reports of the ad hoc working groups established by the Executive Board. 4. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters, including the implementation of the resource mobilization strategy in accordance with the strategic plan. 5. Discussion and possible approval of the draft work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2022. 	The Bureau took note of the briefing by the Executive Director on the provisional agenda for the 2021 second session of the Executive Board

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<p>Agenda item 2 (Continued) Provisional Agenda of the second session of for the year 2021 of the Executive Board</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023: a) Annual report for 2020 on the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023; b) Actual annual income and expenditure in support of the draft financial plan. 7. Normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including reporting on the programmatic activities of the Programme in 2021 and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities, and update on the Programme’s response to the coronavirus pandemic. 8. High-level meeting to assess progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. 9. Annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services to the Executive Board. 10. Annual report of the Ethics Office to the Executive Board. 11. (PROPOSED NEW ITEM 11) Review of the effectiveness of the oversight functions of the Executive Board pursuant to the working methods of the Executive Board ensuring congruence with the other UN-Habitat Governing Bodies. 12. Provisional agenda for the next session of the Executive Board. 13. Other matters. 14. Closure of the meeting. 	
	<p>b) She highlighted the details of the following specific items on the provisional Agenda for the second session of the Executive Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Under item 3 of the provisional agenda of the Executive Board, the issue of continued discussions on the alignment of the QCPR with the planning cycles of UN-Habitat will be incorporated into the report of the Chair of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters which will contain outcomes of the discussions on the QCPR alignment in line with Paragraph 16 of Decision 2020/3 contained in document (HSP/EB.2021/10), and paragraph 40 of the report of the Executive Board at its 2021 first session as contained in the Outcome document (HSP/EB.2021/9). The ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters is expected to have advanced the discussions prior to the second session and help the Executive Board to smoothly reach an appropriate recommendation on the alignment. 	<p>The Bureau took note of the highlighted details of specific items of the provisional agenda for the 2021 second session of the Executive Board</p>

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<p>Agenda item 2 (Continued) Provisional Agenda of the second session of for the year 2021 of the Executive Board</p>	<p>ii) Under item 5 of the provisional agenda of the Executive Board on the work programme and budget, the language in red that is “Discussion and possible approval of the draft”. This was a recommended language by the Bureau in 2020 in relation to the 2021 work programme and budget consideration. The Executive Director emphasized it may be better for consistency as the Board is expected to consider and approve the draft work programme and budget for 2022.</p>	
	<p>iii) Under item 6 of the provisional agenda of the Executive Board, there will be general discussions on the implementation of the 2020-2023 Strategic plan, including its recalibration and for a focused work programme as discussed by the CPR during its high level midterm review. These are specifically, in response to paragraphs 4 and paragraphs 8 of Recommendation 2021/2 adopted by the CPR at its high-level midterm review. The Executive Director updated that the Secretariat prepared the pre- session documents that will aid the discussions on the strategic plan.</p>	
	<p>iv) Under item 7 of the provisional agenda of the Executive Board, the specific thematic areas of focus would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Housing rights and policy; and migration and displacement. The Executive Board will also be briefed on details on Voluntary Local Reviews on Sustainable Development Goals in line with paragraph 10 of recommendation 2021/1 adopted by the CPR at its first open-ended high-level midterm review, to help the Executive Board in making any recommendations in this regard in line with the recommendation. b. Cooperation that exists between UN-Habitat and UNEP in programme activities in line with paragraph 9 of Decision 2021/1 adopted by the Executive Board. c. Terms of reference of a peer review mechanism and the resources required to assess progress on the UN System-Wide Guidelines for its effective implementation, in line with paragraph 2 of Decision 2021/3 of the Executive Board. 	

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<p>Agenda item 2 (Continued) Provisional Agenda of the second session of for the year 2021 of the Executive Board</p>	<p>v) Under item 9 of the provisional agenda of the Executive Board, there was no proposed change to that item. As part of this item, however, the annual OIOS report, the briefing will be on the evaluation functions of UN-Habitat, in line with rule 5 of the rules of procedure of the Executive Board on the functions of the Board, specifically rule 5 (f) which is “To oversee the compliance of UN-Habitat with evaluations and support auditing functions”.</p>	
	<p>vi) The Executive Director drew the attention of the meeting to a proposal by the Chair of the Bureau for a new item reflected as item 11 of the provisional Agenda for the Executive Board 11 and it reads as follows: “Review of the effectiveness of the oversight functions of the Executive Board pursuant to the working methods of the Executive Board ensuring congruence with the other UN-Habitat Governing Bodies”.</p>	
	<p>vii) Subsequently, the Chair explained that intention would review under proposed item 11 the methods of work of the Executive Board and to see if the oversight of UN-Habitat is effective and if not, what can be done to further improve it. He noted that the working methods were adopted, as reflected in the report of the ad hoc working group on working methods on the proposed working methods of the Executive Board, in October 2020 by the Executive Board as reflected in paragraph 2 of its Decision 2020/6. It was his hope that a review of the functioning mechanisms of the Executive Board would be useful and would enhance the efficient implementation of its mandate, He also called for more interactions between the Bureau of the Executive Board and the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in guidance provided to the Executive Director and the Organization.</p>	<p>The Bureau took note and welcomed the proposal from the Chair on the Provisional Agenda</p>
	<p>c) Based on the presentation by the Executive Director and the additional inputs by the Chair, the Bureau agreed to the proposed amendments to the provisional agenda and agreed that the provisional Agenda for the second session of the Executive Board for the year 2021 should therefore read as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening of the meeting. 2. Organizational matters: a) Adoption of the agenda and the workplan for the second session of 2021; b) Adoption of the report on the first session of 2021. 3. Reports of the ad hoc working groups established by the Executive Board. 	

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<p>Agenda item 2 (Continued)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters, including the implementation of the resource mobilization strategy in accordance with the strategic plan. 5. Discussion and possible approval of the draft work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2022. 6. Implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023: a) Annual report for 2020 on the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023; b) Actual annual income and expenditure in support of the draft financial plan. 7. Normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including reporting on the programmatic activities of the Programme in 2021 and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities, and update on the Programme’s response to the coronavirus pandemic. 8. High-level meeting to assess progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. 9. Annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services to the Executive Board. 10. Annual report of the Ethics Office to the Executive Board. 11. Review of the effectiveness of the oversight functions of the Executive Board pursuant to the working methods of the Executive Board ensuring congruence with the other UN-Habitat Governing Bodies. 12. Provisional agenda for the next session of the Executive Board. 13. Other matters. 14. Closure of the meeting. 	<p>The Bureau agreed to the provisional Agenda as revised with a new item 11</p>
<p>Agenda item 2 (Continued) Dates and number of days of the second session for the year 2021 of the Executive Board</p>	<p>d) Under this sub-item, the Executive Director briefed the Bureau on the dates of the second session for the year 2021 of the Executive Board. The full presentation by the Secretariat under this item can be found here and highlighted the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) The Executive Board at its 2021 first session held in April, through paragraph 3 of Decision 2021/4 decided that the 2021 second session will be “held for a duration of two or three days between 16 and 18 November 2021” and also adopted the provisional agenda for that session. The decision on whether the meeting should be held for two days or for three days was left by the Executive Board for the Bureau to recommend as well as the exact dates of the session. 	<p>The Bureau took note of the briefing by the Executive Director on the dates of the 2021 second session of the Executive Board</p>

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Agenda item 2 (Continued) Dates and number of days of the second session for the year 2021 of the Executive Board	ii) If informal consultations on the potential outcomes conducted prior to the session, are extensive enough towards yielding consensus, the conduct of the second session may be much more efficient and all businesses may be completed by the end of the two days.	
	e) During the discussions on this item:	
	i) The Chair said he was comfortable with a 3-day session so that the session would have ample time to finish its work and not be in a rush but left it for the Bureau to consider.	The Bureau took note of the proposals from the Chair and the Representatives
	ii) The representative of Egypt on behalf of the African Group, supported by the representatives of Chile on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, Pakistan on behalf of the Asian-Pacific Group and France on behalf of the Western European and Others Group, expressed their views that the provisional Agenda could be deliberated upon in 2 days and recommended that the second session of the Executive Board for the year 2021 be held for a duration of 2 days.	The Bureau agreed that the 2021 second session of the Executive Board should take place for a duration of two days
	iii) Noting the recommendation from the Bureau that the meeting should be held for a duration of 2 days, the Executive Director brought to the attention of the Bureau that she was required to attend in person the second regular session of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) in New York from 18 to 19 November 2021 and sought the indulgence of the Bureau for the session to be held, if possible from Monday 15 November to Tuesday 16 November 2021.	
	iv) The Bureau concluded that the second session of the Executive Board for the year 2021 be held for 2 days from 15 November to 16 November 2021. The second session of the Executive Board for the year 2021 would therefore be held for a duration of 2 days from Monday 15 November to Tuesday 2021.	The Bureau agreed that the 2021 second session of the Executive Board should take on 15 and 16 November 2021
v) The representative of Egypt on behalf of the African Group, supported by the representative of Chile on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, called for the scheduling of more meetings of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters to allow for adequate preparations for a 2-day session of the Executive Board, specifically to discuss the draft work programme and budget of UN-Habitat for the	The Bureau agreed that more meetings of the ad hoc working groups on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters may be scheduled	

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	year 2022 and the alignment of UN-Habitat planning cycles with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review.	prior to the second session to aid the efficient conduct of that session.
3.	Workplan of the Executive Board until 31 December 2021;	
	<p>a) The Executive Director briefed the Bureau on Agenda item 3, namely workplan of the Executive Board until 31 December 2021. The full presentation of the Executive Director can be found here.</p>	<p>The Bureau took note of the briefing by the Executive Director on the workplan until 31 December 2021</p>
	<p>b) Meetings of the Bureau It was recommended that the Bureau considers holding at least 4 meetings to prepare for the 2021 second session of the Executive Board as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 8 September 2021 (today) - First meeting of the Bureau of the Executive Board b. 19 October 2021- Second meeting of the Bureau of the Executive Board c. 2 November 2021- Third meeting of the Bureau of the Executive Board d. Wednesday 10 or Thursday 11 November -Fourth meeting of the Bureau of the Executive Board 	<p>The Bureau agreed that it would hold four meetings towards the 2021 second session as scheduled</p>

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Agenda item 3 (continued)	<p>c) Proposed meetings of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters</p> <p>Noting that further adjustment may be made by the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters on its schedule of meetings, the Bureau recommended that the Ad-Hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters holds 3 meetings on 15 September 2021 and 13 October 2021 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Discuss the draft work programme and budget for 2022 ii) Continue discussions on the alignment of planning cycles of UN-Habitat with the QCPR iii) Discuss thematic areas of normative and operational activities to be presented to the Board at its 2021 second session. <p>d) Additional meetings of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters</p> <p>The Bureau recommended that more meetings of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters should be scheduled as needed to allow adequate preparations for a 2-day session of the Executive Board.</p>	<p>The Bureau agreed to the schedule of the meetings of ad hoc working groups noting that it had recommended additional meetings of the ad hoc working group</p>
	<p>e) Informal consultations on draft decisions</p> <p>On the basis of the presentation by the Executive Director, the Bureau acknowledged that practice has proven that when informal discussions on draft outcomes were held prior to the session of the Executive Board as a consultative mechanism, it made the work of the Board much easier, and recommended that the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters should be instrumental in the prior consideration of any draft decisions before they are formally discussed and adopted by the Board at its second session.</p> <p>Such informal consultations should be tentatively held on 3 and 8 November 2021 depending on the schedule of the Chair of the working group.</p>	<p>The Bureau agreed that informal consultations on potential draft outcomes be held prior to the session by the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters as scheduled</p>

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Agenda item 3 (continued)	f) Informal briefing to Member States and Regional Consultations As requested by the Executive Director and in line with rule 6.10, the Bureau recommended that the Executive Director holds the briefing on the matters to be covered under each item on the provisional agenda of the 2021 second session of the Executive Board on 4 November 2021.	The Bureau agreed that an informal Briefing by the Executive Director be held 4 October 2021
	g) Consultations between the Executive Director and the Regional Groups The Bureau did not object to the dates proposed by the Executive Director for the Consultations between the Executive Director and the Regional Groups should be held in October, prior to the session of the Executive Board, noting that such dates are to be confirmed with the respective regional chairs	The Bureau took note of the proposed dates for Consultations between the Executive Director and the Regional Groups
	h) The Chair of the Executive Board conveyed a suggestion made by one of the Chairs of the Regional Groups that Chairs of the various Regional Groups in Nairobi be invited to the Bureau meetings on dates closer to the second session of the Executive Board for the year 2021, to inter alia provide inputs on any potential draft outcomes to be possibly adopted by the Executive Board at the session. i) The Bureau concluded given that that each Regional Group is already adequately represented to the Bureau by the respective members of the Bureau, such invitations take place if when specific and further information is required by the Bureau during it meetings, therefore on need basis. The Bureau further noted its members report to their respective Regional Groups and based on their groups guidance they represent the views of the group during deliberations of the Bureau.	The Bureau took note of the request to include chairs of regional groups in meetings of the Bureau. The Bureau however agreed that each Regional Group is adequately represented in the Bureau by the respective members of the Bureau
	j) The updated roadmap towards the 2021 meetings of the Governing Bodies of UN-Habitat (September – December 2021) can be accessed here	
4. Any other matters		
	a) The Chair recalled that during the last Bureau meeting held on 18 May 2021, he encouraged the members of the Bureau to consult with their respective regional groups on the possibility of holding organizational meeting of the ad hoc working group on stakeholder engagement policy for the purpose of endorsing the Chairs of the working group. He recalled that in that regard, on 7 June 2021, the Secretariat sent on his behalf a letter to the respective Chairs of the regional groups in Nairobi, requesting them to share any expression of interest to chair the ad hoc working group on stakeholder engagement policy.	The Bureau took note of the briefing by the Chair and acknowledged the nomination of Switzerland by WEOG to chair the ad hoc working group on stakeholder engagement policy pending endorsement by the ad hoc working group itself.

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Any other matters (continued)	<p>b) The Chair further acknowledged and thanked WEOG for nominating Switzerland on 7 July 2021 as candidate for the WEOG group. He further recalled that the ad hoc working groups of the Executive Board are led by a Chair and a Co-Chair and invited the other members of the Bureau to share any update on other nominations.</p>	
	<p>c) At the request of the Chair and following request for clarification from the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group, the Secretariat clarified that that nothing precludes another Regional Group from transmitting a nomination for the role of Co-Chair, pending endorsement by the ad hoc working group itself.</p>	<p>The Bureau noted the possibility for other groups to nominate a co-chair of the ad hoc working group on stakeholder engagement policy</p>
	<p>d) The Executive Director briefed the Bureau on Urban October, emphasizing that the 2021 Urban October will focus on the climate crisis which is also the theme of UN-Habitat's campaign ClimateAction4Cities although activities can be about any aspect of sustainable urbanization. She indicated that the month will begin with World Habitat Day on the first Monday of October, which falls on 4 October in 2021. The theme for the 2021 World Habitat Day is Accelerating urban action for a carbon-free world. Urban October will end with World Cities Day on 31 October 2021. The Executive Director further called for a wide participation at the national level and city level.</p>	<p>The Bureau took note of the briefing by the Executive Director on the 2021 Urban October</p>
<p><i>The sixth Bureau meeting of the Executive Board for the year 2021 was adjourned at 11:22 am East African Time</i></p>		