

2022 Seventh Bureau Meeting of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat

Hybrid format – Monday, 7 November 2022

14:30 am to 16:30 East Africa Time (EAT)

Statement by the Executive Director

(Draft 4 November)

SLIDE 0: Title slide

Slide 1: Provisional Agenda

Adoption of the Agenda led by the Chair

1. Adoption of the provisional Agenda;
2. Briefing on progress made on preparations for the session;
3. Discussions on the request from WEOG to add 3 items to the provisional Agenda for the session;
4. Status of draft decisions to be possibly adopted during the second session of the Executive Board in 2022;
5. Any other matters

Slide 2 (Title slide): AGENDA ITEM 2 - Briefing on progress made on preparations for the session.

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

Good morning, good afternoon and welcome to this seventh meeting of the Bureau of the Executive Board for the year 2022.

Before I begin, Mr. Chairman let me take this opportunity to congratulate you for a very successful first meeting of the informal contact group on resource mobilization this week. I am grateful for the very open and positive discussions at that meeting and for the firm tone you set for the work of the informal contact group. I noticed with appreciation the participation of a number of Bureau Members in their national capacities including Kenya which will now act as the co-chair of the group.

On the issue of the upcoming Executive Board session, thus far, the preparations for the session are moving on smoothly as I had earlier conveyed to Member States.

You would recall that last week we held a number of meetings with Member States which contributed to the preparations for the upcoming session of the Executive Board. These include my briefing to Member States and the regional consultations I held with each of the five regional groups.

The crux of those meetings was to outline our expectations for the upcoming session and to listen to feedback from Member States as well or to tease out the expectations of Member States.

Mr. Chairman

Excellencies

You would recall that during our last meeting held on 12 September 2022, the Bureau recommended that we invite **partners to complement our presentations on the Normative and Operational activities** of UN-Habitat as a testimony to our work and the impact we have had in the field. I wish to confirm that we have followed this recommendation and invited five partners as follows:

1. Mr. Marwan Abboud, Governor of Beirut, Republic of Lebanon who will support our presentation related to UN-Habitat's value addition in crisis response with particulate reference to the response to and the recovery from the explosion in the Port of Beirut in 2020.
2. Mr. Abdullahi Ali Watiin, Mayor of Baidoa, Somalia, who will support our presentation by sharing experienced of our cooperating on durable solutions to internal displacement in the Baidoa region of Somalia.
3. Mr. Mohamed Sefiani, Mayor of Chefchaouen, Morocco and President of the UCLG Intermediary Cities Forum, who will complement our presentation by

sharing on our cooperation on the Flagship Programme ‘Sustainable Development Goals Cities’ or ‘SDG Cities’ initiative in Chefchaouen, Morocco.

4. Ms. Rose Molokoane of Slum Dwellers International, South Africa, who will share with the Executive Board about the cooperation with UN-Habitat on the Flagship Programme on ‘RISE UP’, or Resilient Settlements for the Urban Poor, with specific reference to UN-Habitat’s strengths and added value in the process of building the resilience of some of the most vulnerable people to climate change in South Africa’s informal settlements.
5. Ms. Sara Thabit, Associate Researcher, Urban Innovation Policy Lab at Edinburgh Napier University. Ms Thabit will share with the Executive Board on inclusive and sustainable smart cities that places people’s needs in the center, including the applicability and innovation of the research and related project approaches adopted by one of our Flagship Programmes on People-Centered Smart Cities.

Excellencies these are the five partners that we are very pleased will join us to shade light on our work in their communities during the upcoming Executive Board session.

In addition, Mr. Chairman, and as previously mentioned in other meetings, I wish to inform the Bureau that we are expecting Honourable Małgorzata Jarosińska-Jedynak, State Secretary of Poland to brief the Executive Board in person on the outcome and value of the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum held in Katowice Poland in June 2022 because, such outcomes feed into our strategic plan.

With regard to the briefing by the UN Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) on its report on the review of the management and administration of UN-Habitat, I wish to inform the Bureau that we have confirmation that the representatives of the JIU will indeed be available to present to the Board and answer any questions that Member States may have.

Although we will shortly be discussing the specific requests from WEOG to consider additional items on the provisional Agenda for the upcoming session under agenda item 3 of our meeting today, do allow me to mention that we have confirmation from

the UN Board of Auditors that they have designated one representative to present to the Executive Board the 2021 BOA report following the request from WEOG.

As I end this segment of my briefing, let me mention that for the opening of the session on 21 September 2022, we expect to be joined by the President of the UN-Habitat Assembly online, the Director General of UNON and a representative of the Government of Kenya as our host country hopefully in person.

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,

Let me now request Chris Mensah to walk us through the organization of work during the session which you have previously recommended.

Slide 3: Organization of work during the 2022 second session of the Executive Board

Chris you have the floor.

(CHRIS TAKES OVER)

Thank you, Executive Director.

Excellencies,

The **organisation of work** during the upcoming session based on the current provisional agenda including informal consultations on draft outcomes is shown on the screen and is as follows:

- **On DAY ONE from 9 am in the morning** we propose and hope we can cover agenda items **1. 2. 3.** and **4.**
- **In the afternoon of day 1,** we should cover the following agenda items:**5 and 6.**
- This will be followed by **Informal consultations on draft decisions** from 17:00 to 19:00 EAT without interpretation.

- **On DAY TWO** from 9 am in the morning, as recommended by the Bureau, the Board will dedicate the entire morning session to **agenda item 7** which is on normative and operational activities on UN-Habitat.
- **In the afternoon of day 2**, the Board will consider **agenda items 8, 9 and 10**.
- This will be followed by **Informal consultations on draft decisions** from 5pm
- **On DAY THREE** from 9 am in the morning, the Board will consider agenda items **11, 12, 13 and 14**.
- **In the afternoon of day 3 which will be the final plenary meeting consider agenda items 15,16 and 17 which is Closure of the session.**

That is the proposed organization of work for the three days as reflected on the slide before you.

	Day 1: 21 November 2022	Day 2: 22 November 2022	Day 3: 23 November 2022
Morning 9.00am to 12 noon	1. Opening of the session. 2. Organizational matters: 3. Reports of the ad hoc working groups established by the Executive Board. 4. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters,	7. Normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat: engagement of UN-Habitat in countries, territories and areas affected by conflict and disaster and, implementation of flagship programmes.	11. Report of the Office of OIOS. 12. Report of the Ethics Office 13. Working methods of the Executive Board. 14. Briefing by the Joint Inspection Unit on the findings of its review of the management and administration of UN-Habitat. <i>Informal consultations on draft outcomes</i>
Afternoon 2.00pm to 5.00pm	5. Discussion and possible approval of the draft work programme and for 2023. 6. Annual report for 2021 on the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023. <i>Informal consultations on draft decisions</i>	8. Outcome of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the New Urban Agenda. 9. Outcomes of WUF11 10. Preparations for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly <i>Informal consultations on draft outcomes.</i>	15. Consideration and adoption of the outcomes of the session, including the provisional agenda for the first session of 2023. 16. Other matters. 17. Closure of the session.

Mr. Chairman, once the Bureau discusses the additional items proposed by WEOG under agenda item 3 and following any recommendations from the Bureau on how best to accommodate those items in the provisional agenda, we will need to adjust the organization of work accordingly.

Slide 4: Organization of work during the 2022 second session of the Executive Board; Meetings of the Bureau.

In terms of Bureau meetings during the session, as is practice, we propose to hold Bureau meetings as follows:

1. Sunday, 20 November 2022 from 3.00pm to 5.00pm to review the status of preparations including status of consultations on draft decisions to be considered by the Executive Board.
2. Tuesday, 22 November 2022 from 8.00am to 8.45am to review the conduct of day 1 of the session and any issues arising and to plan for day 2.
3. Wednesday, 23 November 2022 from 8.00am to 8.45am to review the conduct of day 2 of the session and any issues arising, and to plan for day 3 which will be the final day of the session.

And of course, the Bureau is free to meet at any time during the session to deal with any urgent matters requiring its attention.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

Back to you.

Slide 5: (TITLE SLIDE) AGENDA ITEM 3: Discussions on the request from WEOG to add 3 items to the provisional Agenda for the session.

(title slide)

Slide 6: 3a. Additional items to be considered as part of the Provisional Agenda.

Excellencies,

I wish to confirm that we have received a request from a group of Member States to include the following three items in the provisional agenda of the upcoming session of the Board;

1. Report of the UN Board of Auditors for 2021
2. The “Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation”
3. Actions to strengthen protection against sexual and any other type of exploitation and abuse and against sexual harassment in the workplace.

These were shared by France on behalf of WEOG and were also subject to a short discussion during the Joint Bureaux meeting held on 18 October 2022 and also at the second reading of the proposed outcomes of the EB and during the briefing by the Executive Director on 2 November 2022

Mr. Chairman,

I also wish to confirm again that upon receipt of the request on the additional items to be included in the agenda, we have been in touch with the UN Board of Auditors and obtained a confirmation of their availability to brief the Executive Board on their 2021 report.

Slide 7: 3b. OPTION 1: Possible reformulation of Agenda item 4 to include three additional items.

Excellencies

With specific regard to the three items proposed by WEOG, we would like to share with you two options for accommodating the additional items into the provisional agenda for your consideration.

Option 1:

Excellencies,

Cognizant of the view expressed by WEOG during my briefing to Member States on 2nd and 3rd November 2022, one option could be that these additional items can best fit within agenda item 4 of the current provisional agenda which covers “Financial, budgetary and administrative matters”. These new items could therefore form sub-items under agenda item 4 of the provisional agenda because I would be reporting on some of them anyhow. As indicated on the screen the subitems under agenda item 4 could then be sequenced as follows:

- i. **Financial status of UN-Habitat**
- ii. **Briefing on the report of the UN Board of Auditors for 2021 and the Management Response by UN-Habitat.**
- iii. the implementation of the **resource mobilization strategy** in accordance with the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023,
- iv. **Briefing on the status of the “Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation”**
- v. The **restructuring** of UN-Habitat
- vi. The **staffing status** as at 30 June 2022 including action by UN-Habitat to address geographical and gender imbalances in the composition of its staff, **and**
- vii. **Actions to strengthen protection against sexual and any other type of exploitation and abuse and against sexual harassment in the workplace**

The new items are added in blue as shown on the screen.

Slide 8: 3c. OPTION 2: Possible amendment of the Provisional Agenda to include the additional items as stand-alone items.

Mr. Chairman

Excellencies

As a second option, which is what WEOG would prefer, the three new items could simply be added as new stand-alone items towards the end of the Agenda as you can see on the screen

In this case, we could have a new agenda item as follows:

15. Report of the UN Board of Auditors for 2021

16.The “Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation”

17.Actions to strengthen protection against sexual and any other type of exploitation and abuse and against sexual harassment in the workplace.

Mr. Chairman,

These are our suggestions, but we are in your hands whatever you decide, it will be our duty to produce a revised provisional agenda which can only be adopted at the opening of the session.

I also wish to add at this point that irrespective of how we sequence the items, the representative of the Board of Auditors has requested to be given a slot to present to the Executive Board as the first item on 23 November 2022 due other commitments. From previous practice, the Chair with concurrence of the Bureau is always at liberty to call on the Executive Board to consider matters earlier or later than scheduled for purposes of ensuring efficiency of the meetings within a session.

Thank you, Excellencies.

Back to you Mr. Chairman.

Slide 9: (TITLE SLIDE) AGENDA ITEM 4: Status of draft decisions to be possibly adopted during the second session of the Executive Board in 2022.

(To be led by Pakistan, Chair of the ad hoc working group of programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters)

ED may react as appropriate

Slide 10: AGENDA ITEM 5- (TITLE SLIDE). Any other matters.

(To be led by the Chair).

ED may react as appropriate