

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

Conducted in a Hybrid Format

Monday, 24 April 2023, 14:30 hrs. to 16:00 hrs. East Africa Time

Statement by the Executive Director

(Draft of 22 April 2023)

SLIDE 0: Title slide

Slide 1: Provisional Agenda

Adoption of the Provisional Agenda led by the President.

1. Adoption of the provisional Agenda.
2. Status of draft resolutions to be considered by the second open-ended meeting of the CPR in preparations for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
3. Discussion on the alignment of the UN-Habitat strategic planning cycles and cycle of election of the offices of the governing bodies with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review process (QCPR).
4. Any other matters.

SLIDE 2: (Title Slide) Agenda item 2. Status of draft resolutions to be considered by the second open-ended meeting of the CPR in preparations for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.

(ED's REMARKS)

Thank you, Madam President.

Excellencies,

Good morning, good afternoon and good evening.

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

Before we delve into agenda item 2, I wish to state that since our last meeting, which was held on 15 February 2023, we have advanced considerably towards the preparation for the upcoming Assembly, including through the informal consultations under the leadership of the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. You would also recall that the advancement was reflected during the 2023 first session of the Executive Board which was held on 28 and 29 March 2023, at which we also shared an update on the preparations for the Assembly, which included the theme of the Assembly, the preliminary programme for the Assembly highlighting key events expected at the Assembly, as well as the key timelines towards the Assembly.

Excellencies

As you are aware, we have an internal Task Force on the preparations for the upcoming session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. It is therefore the most opportune moment for me to introduce to you our new Deputy Executive Director Mr. Michal Mlynar who is now officially part of this meeting for the very first time in his new capacity as the new Deputy Executive Director. I must say, it is a great pleasure to finally have the DED with us to support our work including in the crucial preparations for the upcoming second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. The DED will now be leading the internal Task Force on the

preparations for the upcoming session of the Assembly, and I would like him to share our inputs, on our preparations thus far, with the Bureau on item 2.

Before the DED takes the floor, I wish take this opportunity to thank Mr. Raf Tuts, Director of the Global Solutions Division who has been leading the Task Force in his previous capacity as the Officer in Charge of the Office of the Deputy Executive Director, and in that respect representing me, when I am not available, prior to the arrival of the DED. Thank you Raf.

Madam President, with your permission, allow me to now give the DED the floor to give us his welcoming words, and provide a quick update on the preparations for the upcoming Assembly including on the status of draft resolutions proposed to be considered by the second open-ended meeting of the CPR in preparations for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly. Welcome again DED, you have the floor.

(AFTER THAT)

(Note: DED Takes over to share a few words of his own and then provide the following introduction to agenda item 2 , supported by either RAF, Shipra then EDLAM as necessary.)

(DED TAKES THE FLOOR)

Madam President

Excellencies

(DED's own personal remarks can be made here, followed by the Statement below)

I wish to recall that during the 2023 first meeting of this Bureau held on 15 February 2023, you gave us very important guidance in relation to the preparations for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly due to be held from 5 to 9 June 2023. During that meeting you also recommended that Members States should submit any draft resolutions by 15 April 2023.

As already mentioned by the ED, we have organised ourselves within the umbrella of a Task Force that is leading the preparations for the second session of the Assembly, including, to provide technical inputs to any Member State or a group of Member States in preparing proposed resolutions, as may have been requested. It is indeed my great pleasure to lead this Task Force and, I wish to thank Raf as well for the excellent work already done prior to my arrival and until this point including the excellent briefing I received from him.

By way of quick update, let me inform the Bureau of the following:

1. We have a working version of the programme for the second session of the Assembly which was already presented to the Executive Board at its 2023 first session, and which is available on the website. We will continue to refine this programme and issue a detailed version as we firm up certain confirmations.
2. We have been working on the pre-session documents with the support of the Division of Conference Services, most of which are already available on the Website in English version, while the language versions are continually being uploaded. It is our expectation that most of the documents will be available by this evening in the six UN official languages.
3. We have opened up registration for the Assembly and have begun receiving formal communication on delegations that will be participating in the Assembly. In this regard, we encourage all delegations to send in their credentials as soon as possible.
4. We have just closed the call for side events on 18 April 2023 and we will shortly communicate with the successful applicants.
5. The above notwithstanding, the application for exhibitions is still open until 15 May 2023.

6. We are working with our regional and liaison offices to mobilise participation in the Assembly, particularly at the highest level including at the Ministerial level.
7. We are working very closely with the Host Government, Kenya in the preparations for the Assembly in order to support participants accordingly, including courtesies for high level delegates.
8. We are also working on the details of each of the high-level events scheduled for the session including the Presidential dialogue, the First Ladies roundtable, the Dialogue on the theme of the Assembly and other high-level roundtables that are scheduled to support additional discussions around the theme of the Assembly.

Excellencies, we are available to share any details around these updates later at this meeting, perhaps under AOB or as may be the wish of the Bureau.

And finally, Madam President, allow me to get back specifically, on the update on draft resolutions.

As you are aware, the resolutions will be the legislative outcome of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly and in that respect and as indicated earlier, we are supporting Member States with technical inputs, on request and as you have guided us to do.

Madam President, there has been some progress with regard to our technical support to Member States in the preparations of draft resolutions. I am pleased to note that there are at least three resolutions ready for discussions with Member States and several others still under consultations with the delegations sponsoring the resolutions.

With your permission Madan President, I now wish to call on Raf, Shipra and Edlam who have been specifically guiding the technical support to Member

States to provide the detailed update on the status of submission of draft resolutions.

(RAF takes over supported by SHIPRA and Edlam necessary.)

SLIDE 3: Expectations and ideas on resolutions so far received: Proposed ideas for substantive resolutions. (RAF, Shipra or Edlam complementing as necessary)

Excellencies,

In terms of **resolutions**, you may recall that we had shared the guidance on the process earlier with Member States. Currently we have received 9 ideas of substantive resolutions.

Three resolutions have been submitted formally and shared with Member States. These are:

1. People-centered smart cities sponsored by France with Group of Friends
2. Global Action Plan for Transformation of Informal Settlements sponsored Republic of South Africa.
3. World Clean-up Day sponsored by Estonia.

Discussions on four other draft resolutions are fairly advanced between Member States and secretariat. These include discussions on the following:

1. Draft Resolution on BiodiverCities sponsored by Costa Rica and Colombia.
2. Draft Resolution on urban planning and sustainable infrastructure sponsored by the Regional Group of African States.
3. Draft Resolution on early warning, rapid response and natural disaster management framework sponsored by the Regional Group of African States.

4. Draft Resolution on equitable financing and effective monitoring of the implementation of resolutions adopted by UN-Habitat sponsored by the Regional Group of African States.

In addition, we are also **aware of other resolution ideas** expressed by:

1. Brazil in introducing a resolution on Localization of SDGs, and
2. Pakistan on a possible resolution on Climate Change and resilience.

SLIDE 4: Status of Resolutions: Procedural resolutions and resolutions to be proposed by the Chair of the CPR (RAF, Shipra and Edlam complementing as necessary)

Excellencies,

There is another set of procedural resolutions or decisions, including:

1. Decision on extension of the current Strategic Plan until 2025.
2. Decision on the next session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, aligned with the QCPR and the next Strategic Plan.
3. Election of 36 new Members of the Executive Board.
4. Election of a new President and Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

In this respect your guidance will be of great help for us to finalize these draft procedural decisions.

In addition, there are two draft decisions that we expect to be tabled by the Chair of the CPR. These are related to:

1. the draft Stakeholder Engagement Policy, and
2. the report of the JIU on administrative and management review of UN-Habitat

These two decisions emanate from specific requests from the Assembly at its first session in 2019, and recommendations from the Executive Board in 2022, respectively.

Excellencies,

These draft resolutions are to be discussed in detail during the informal consultations of the CPR, leading to the open-ended meeting of the CPR in the week before the Assembly.

Thank you, ED, DED, I hand back the floor to the ED.

(ED TAKES THE FLOOR)

Madam President,

Excellencies

I thank my colleagues for this update, and I take note that your guidance under the next agenda item which is on the alignment of the UN-Habitat strategic planning cycles and cycle of election of the offices of the governing bodies with the QCPR will help us a lot with finalizing some of the procedural resolutions we have drafted.

Back to you Madam President.

Thank you.

SLIDE 5: (Title Slide) Agenda Item 3. Discussion on the alignment of the UN-Habitat strategic planning cycles and cycle of election of the offices of the governing bodies with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review process (QCPR). ED TAKES THE FLOOR

Excellencies

On 12 April 2023 and on 20 April 2023 we had enriching discussions during the meetings of the Bureau of the CPR with respect to the alignment of the UN-Habitat strategic planning cycles with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review process (QCPR). and the cycle of election of the offices of the governing bodies I am very grateful for the guidance of the Bureau of the CPR, whose members are present here with us today in their capacity as Vice Presidents of the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly. They continue to guide us on this matter and on the general preparations for the Assembly, with the informal consultations taking place under the leadership of the Chair of the CPR.

Madam President,
Excellencies

This is a crucial issue and I count on this Bureau and the CPR Bureau not only to guide us, but also support us with recommending to Member States on the best way for an alignment with the QCPR.

Prior to this meeting we have shared with you a key document with the recommendation by the CPR Bureau for the possible early alignment of our planning cycles, including elections of officers of the Governing Bodies with the QCPR. We also shared the legal note on this matter.

I recognize the presence of Mr. Stadler the Principal Legal Officer, and his team, including Mr. Alvin Gachie, who have been very supportive in helping us to better understand the options available to ensure early alignment with the QCPR.

I now wish to call upon Chris Mensah and later Mr. Stadler to brief the Bureau on this item based on the recommendations from the CPR Bureau towards an early alignment of our planning cycles with the QCPR.

Chris you have the floor first then the Legal Officer.

SLIDE 6: Agenda item 3: Recommendation by the CPR Bureau for an early alignment with the QCPR in 2025.

(CHRIS TAKES THE FLOOR AND SUPPORTED BY THE LEGAL OFFICER)

(Note: Recommendation by CPR Bureau had been distributed to the Bureau and will be printed for ease of reference)

(AFTER THAT)

(ED HANDS THE FLOOR BACK TO THE PRESIDENT FOR DISCUSSIONS)

Thank you, Madam President, back to you.

SLIDE 7: Agenda item 4: Any other Matters.

UNDER AOB: SPECIAL NOTE FOR ED/DED TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING TWO ITEMS UNDER AOB

(a) AOB on further updates related to the Preparation of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, should time permit:

DED may call on Raf first and then each subgroup Lead to provide a quick update on the work of the subgroup, 3 to 5 minutes each;

1. **Raf:** to give an overview of the Assembly Programme.

2. Subgroup 1: High Level Participation and protocol (ERFAN ALI/
CHRIS MENSAH)
3. Subgroup 2: Substantive coordination, including support on dialogue and provision of technical language for draft resolutions (Shipra Narang/
Edlam Yemeru) – note: *update to focus on other elements away from resolutions which has been covered above.*
4. Subgroup 3: Communications, resource mobilization and budget, side-events, exhibitions and logistics of participation, including registration (Neil Khor/Stephen Slawsly)