

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

Monday, 24 April 2023

Hybrid Meeting.

Location: Nairobi, Kenya.

14:30 – 16:00 h. East Africa Time (EAT).

Objectives of the meeting:

The proposed provisional agenda of the meeting is as follows:

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 Assembly.
3. Briefing and discussion on the alignment of the UN-Habitat 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.

Expected attendants:

Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly

MEXICO

1. **Undersecretary Martha Delgado**, President of the UN-Habitat Assembly
2. **H.E. Mr. Erasmo Martinez**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Mexican States
3. **Mr. Porforio Martinez**, Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Mexican States to UN-Habitat to UN-Habitat

POLAND

4. **Malgorzata Jarosińska-Jedynak**, Secretary of State, Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy, Republic of Poland and Vice-President of the UN-Habitat Assembly

5. **Mr. Jacek Bazanski**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to UN-Habitat
6. **Ms. Joanna Szymanska**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Republic of Poland to UN-Habitat
7. **Ms. Bella Agnieszka**, Chief Specialist, Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of the Republic of Poland

GERMANY

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

GHANA

10. **Ms. Shirley Ayorkor Botchway**, Minister for Foreign Affairs / Vice-President of the UN-Habitat Assembly Republic of Ghana
11. **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
12. **Ms. Rena Asare Danso**, Second Secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Ghana
13. **Mr. Sam**, UN-Habitat Focal Point from the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralization and Rural Development of the Republic of Ghana

CHINA

14. **Mr. ZHOU Pingjian**, Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to UN-Habitat and Rapporteur of the UN-Habitat Assembly
15. **Ms. Tong Guichan**, Deputy Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to UN-Habitat

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

PAKISTAN

17. 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

18. 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

19. 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

20. 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

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

ROMANIA

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

Secretariat

23. Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, UN-Habitat Executive Director

- 24. Mr. Michal Mlynar**, UN-Habitat Deputy Executive Director
- 25. Mr. Raf Tuts**, Director, Global Solutions Division.
- 26. Mr. Chris Mensah**, Secretary to the Governing Bodies, UN-Habitat
- 27. Mr. Erfan Ali**, Chief of Staff
- 28. Mr. Christopher Williams**, Director, UN-Habitat Office in New York
- 29. Mr. Neil Khor**, Chief Director of ERSKI
- 30. Mr. Stephen Slawsky**, Director, Management Advisory and Compliance Service
- 31. Ms. Shipra Narang Suri**, Chief, Urban Practices
- 32. 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 second meeting of the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly for the year 2023.
- I am very excited to work with all of you to deliver a successful second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, which is now 6 weeks away.
- In that respect and with your permission, I wish to take note of the presence of:
 - Your Excellency, Ms. Saqlain Syedah Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to UN-Habitat, Chair of the

Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat for 2021-2023. Thank you for your leadership in our obligation to guide the Organization, and in particular for carrying out the informal consultations of the CPR under your leadership as we prepare for the session.

- I wish to also thank all of you, members of the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly and of the Bureau of the CPR, for your support in the preparations for the upcoming second open-ended meeting of the CPR and the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
- I wish to also recognize the presence of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, my sister, Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, and members of the Secretariat.
- I also would like to recognize the presence of the new Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Mr. Michal Mlynar, who is participating with us in this Bureau meeting for the first time. Congratulations Mr. Mlynar and welcome to UN-Habitat

[MADAM PRESIDENT, YOU MAY ADD HERE A FEW WORDS AT YOUR OWN DISCRETION]

- My gratitude for the presence of all Bureau Members at this meeting. I suggest we now move straight into the business of the day.

- I just wish to also recall that Rule 18.1 of the rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly provides that the five members of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall jointly serve as additional Vice-Presidents of the Bureau of the Assembly.
- 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 17 April 2023 as follows:
 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 Assembly.
 3. Briefing and discussion on the alignment of the UN-Habitat 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.

DECISION

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

(Madam President, 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 "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 Assembly".

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 Assembly

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

- With respect to this item on the status of submission of the draft resolutions to be considered by the OECPR, you would recall that during our meeting held on 15 February 2023, we recommended that Members States should submit any draft resolutions by 15 April 2023.

- A revised guidance note on the submission of resolutions including the recommendations formulated by the Bureau at that meeting was subsequently circulated to all of us.
- I am aware there has been some progress, and I now wish to call on the Executive Director to provide an update on the status of submission of draft resolutions.
- 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 “Briefing and discussion on the alignment of the UN-Habitat planning cycles and cycle of election of the offices of the governing bodies with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review process (QCPR)”.

Agenda item 3: Briefing and discussion on the alignment of the UN-Habitat planning cycles and cycle of election of the offices of the governing bodies with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review process (QCPR)”.

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

- Let me provide a little background on this Agenda Item before the Secretariat shares with us the scenarios associated with the upcoming elections to be held during the second OECPR and during the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly. I believe this is important for putting our discussion on this item into context.
- You would recall that the acronym “QCPR” is shorthand for General Assembly Resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system. This is the first cycle, 2021-2024, of the mechanism through which the General Assembly assesses the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, and impact of UN operational activities for development and establishes system-

wide policy orientations for the development cooperation and country-level modalities of the UN system in response to the evolving international development and cooperation environment. As such, the QCPR is the primary policy instrument of the General Assembly to define the way the UN development system operations to support program countries in their development efforts.

- Accordingly, and immediately following the above General Assembly resolution on the QCPR, the Secretary-General promulgated a series of internal documents to guide the Secretariat to implement the operational paragraphs of the QCPR. These inform efforts by the Secretariat and UN entities to develop their respective strategic plans such that these are in line with and help to ensure effective implementation of the QCPR. Currently, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, and most of the UN entities are implementing strategic plans for the period 2022-2025.
- It is anticipated that for the next cycle of the QCPR, the General Assembly at its 79th session in 2024 will adopt a resolution on the QCPR for the period 2025-2028.
- They anticipate implementing subsequent strategic plans for the period 2026-2029 once these are adopted by their respective governing bodies in 2025. Accordingly, it is imperative that UN-Habitat aligns its Strategic Planning cycle with the cycle of the QCPR and the earlier the better and this would have to be in 2025.

- You would recall that at its first session in June 2019, the United Nations Habitat Assembly noted the need to align the strategic planning processes of UN-Habitat with future iterations of the QCPR and requested the Executive Board of UN-Habitat to recommend a way forward.
- You would further recall that the Executive Board, in its Decision 2021/6 paragraph 14, recommended that the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its second session of 2023 consider approving an extension of the current strategic plan for the period 2020–2023, to end in 2025 to cover the period 2020–2025 in order to align the planning cycle of UN-Habitat with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review.
- The United Nations Habitat Assembly will therefore consider at the upcoming second session to be held in June 2023 the extension of the current Strategic Plan to cover the period 2020 to 2025, based on the recommendation of the Executive Board and also to enable the Organization to align with the QCPR process.
- I am aware that when the Bureau of the CPR met on 12 April 2023 it requested the Secretariat to develop scenarios on the alignment of the UN-Habitat strategic planning cycles, with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review process (QCPR) and election of the offices of the governing bodies.
- Subsequently, at its meeting held on 20 April 2023, the Bureau of CPR further considered scenarios prepared by the Secretariat towards a possible alignment. At that meeting, the Bureau recommended that the alignment of

UN-Habitat planning cycles with the QCPR and election of the offices of the governing bodies of UN-Habitat should ideally take place **2025**, pending further consideration of this recommendation today by our Bureau.

- The recommendation from the Bureau of the CPR was forwarded to all of us on 20 April 2023.
- I now invite the Executive Director to provide a summary of the recommendation emanating from the Bureau of the CPR at its meeting held on 20 April 2022 for aligning the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review process (QCPR) with UN-Habitat strategic planning cycles and the elections of the governing bodies of UN-Habitat.
- Madam, you have the floor.

[After the briefing by the Executive Director]

- Thank you, Madam, and to your team, for this briefing.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

- Before opening the floor for discussion, allow me to ask H.E **Ms. Saqlain Syedah**, Chair of the CPR, if she wishes to react and share her views.

[After that]

Thank you, Excellency.

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

[After that]

- I thank you all for your contributions.

DECISION

May I take it that the Bureau wishes to endorse the recommendation of the Bureau of the CPR at its meeting held on 20 April 2023, 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 should be held in 2029 that will ensure full alignment of UN-Habitat planning cycle with the QCPR

It being understood that the **implication of the above scenario with respect to the elections of the governing bodies** will be further discussed by Member States during the informal consultations of the CPR which will take place in the upcoming weeks starting from tomorrow Tuesday 25 April 2023, and that we shall discuss this matter again at our next Bureau meeting.

(Madam President, 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.**

- 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.
