



**Summary of discussions and recommendations emanating from the seventh Bureau meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR)
to UN-Habitat for the year 2021**

Wednesday 13 October 2021 from 15:00 pm - 16:30 noon EAT

H.E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to UN-Habitat
Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of Pakistan to UN-Habitat

The meeting started at 15:00 hrs EAT and the following Bureau members attended the meeting:

*Current Bureau for the period 2021-2023 : Pakistan (Chair), Tanzania, Colombia, Belgium acting on behalf of WEOG (Vice chairs)
Former Bureau for the period 2019-2021: Eritrea (former Chair), Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Serbia (former Vice-Chairs)*

Agenda item	Discussion	Recommendation from the Bureau
1.	Adoption of the Agenda	
	Adoption of the provisional Agenda.	Adopted
2.	Welcoming remarks by the current Chair of the 2021-2023 Bureau of the CPR	
	<p>Under this item, the current Chair briefed the Bureau as follows:</p> <p>a) The current Chair noted that this was the first Bureau meeting after the new CPR Bureau was elected on July 1, 2021, during the high-level midterm review of the CPR and the Chair took this opportunity to congratulate all Bureau members on their election. She further noted that she was counting on their support and assured the Bureau of her full cooperation. She further underscored that the collective commitment of the Bureau to work closely together will ensure that the meetings of the CPR have a successful outcome for UN-Habitat.</p> <p>b) The current Chair further expressed her sincere appreciation to the immediate former members of the Bureau and acknowledged their work as they have successfully established a steady foundation for the CPR as well as their leadership in preparing for the high-level midterm review meeting of the CPR, implementing the mandate given by the General Assembly pursuant to resolution 73/239. She ensured that the current Bureau would build on this legacy to carry forward the functions of the CPR.</p>	The Bureau took note of the welcoming remarks by the current Chair of the 2021-2023 Bureau of the CPR.

<p>Agenda item 2 (continued)</p>	<p>c) The current Chair emphasized the importance of the CPR's work as an intersessional body of the UN-Habitat Assembly; in assisting the Executive Director in implementing the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, She further noted the importance of this bureau meeting, particularly in terms of establishing linkages and critical building blocks for a solid foundation for the CPR, including addressing the importance of a solid workplan for the coming months, leading up to the UN-Habitat Assembly's second session to be held in June 2023.</p>	<p>The Bureau took note of the welcoming remarks by the current Chair of the 2021-2023 Bureau of the CPR.</p>
<p>3. Discussions between the 2019-2021 Bureau and the newly elected Bureau of the CPR for the biennium 2021-2023;</p>		
	<p>Under this item, the current Chair invited the former Chair of the CPR to share some reflections to guide the work of the newly elected Bureau. The former Chair of the CPR shared a few areas of recommendation emanating from the recently concluded high-level midterm review meeting of the CPR held from 29 June to 1 July 2021, as follows:</p> <p>a) The former Chair indicated that more than 300 participants took part in high-level midterm review meeting, including the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the President of the UN-Habitat Assembly, ministers and ambassadors and other representatives of Member States.</p> <p>b) The former Chair noted that the CPR reaffirmed that the Strategic Plan of UN-Habitat for 2020-2023 was still relevant. The CPR also welcomed the Executive Director's efforts to improve integrated programming and synergies, which contributed to various outcomes across the strategic plan despite funding restrictions. The CPR encouraged the Executive Director to further adjust and strengthen support to Member States in responding to new vulnerabilities and risks in terms of resilience and climate change and called upon the Executive Director to strengthen the analysis of linkages between the Programme's operational and normative activities to increase the impact of its work across the relevant outcomes of the strategic plan. The analysis should be presented to the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its second session for further consideration.</p> <p>c) The former Chair updated that CPR also asked the Executive Director to report to the UN-Habitat Assembly at its second session and the Executive Board on the mobilization of financial resources, as part of a broader resource mobilization strategy, to speed up the implementation of the UN-Habitat Assembly's resolutions adopted at its first session in May 2019.</p> <p>d) The former Chair noted that the CPR requested that the Executive Director facilitate a dialogue with Member States and relevant stakeholders on how to scale up the financing of capacity-building activities, reviewing various sources of funding and leverage for capacity-building efforts, and reporting to the UN-Habitat Assembly at its second session on relevant action taken.</p>	<p>The Bureau took note of the remarks of the former Chair of the CPR regarding the outcomes of the high-level midterm review of the CPR held from 29 June to 1 July 2021.</p>

<p>Agenda item 3 (continued)</p>	<p>e) The former Chair underscored that the CPR also encouraged the Executive Director to facilitate the preparation of Voluntary Local Review by local and regional governments, subject to the approval by the Executive Board of UN-Habitat draft work programme and budget for the year 2022.</p>	<p>The Bureau took note of the remarks of the former Chair of the CPR regarding the outcomes of the high-level midterm review of the CPR held from 29 June to 1 July 2021.</p>
	<p>f) The former Chair updated that the CPR recommended the provisional Agenda and the dates of its second open-ended meeting in preparation for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly to be held from 29 May to 2 June 2023.</p>	
	<p>g) The former Chair further noted that the UN-Habitat Assembly decided at its first session that the dates of its second session shall be 5 to 9 June 2023. The CPR further reviewed the provisional agenda for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.</p>	
	<p>In addition, the former Chair of the CPR further suggested some recommendations towards the preparations of the open-ended meeting of the CPR to be held in preparations of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly and towards the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly itself. Specifically, the former Chair of the CPR recommended that:</p> <p>h) The former Chair and the Bureau start preparing early for the open-ended meeting of the CPR to be held prior to the second session UN-Habitat Assembly in June 2023, as this meeting will be crucial for meaningful preparations of the session of the Assembly.</p> <p>i) The Bureau finds ways to engage all Member States early enough in the preparations towards the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, notably by reviewing and confirming well in advance the dates and provisional Agenda for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.</p> <p>j) The Bureau engages all Member States in consultations on draft resolutions to be considered and possibly adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its second session at least 6 months in advance to the session, noting that Rule 23.2 provides the possibility for the CPR to establish a subcommittee to efficiently implement its mandate to prepare the next session of the Assembly, but recommending that the Bureau considers an informal setting for consultations on draft resolutions.</p> <p>k) members of the current Bureau may work with their respective regional groups in encouraging voluntary contributions to guide and support efforts to finance the work of UN-Habitat and allow for the full implementation of its 2020-2023 Strategic Plan.</p>	<p>The Bureau took note of the areas of recommendations of the former Chair of the CPR regarding the preparations towards the open-ended meeting of the CPR to be held prior to the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly in June 2023 and towards the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.</p>

<p>Agenda item 3 (continued)</p>	<p>During the discussions on this item:</p> <p>l) The representative of Bangladesh, former Vice-Chair of the 2019-2021 Bureau of the CPR, thanked the current and former Chairs of the CPR Bureau and indicated he welcomed the initiative of this meeting.</p> <p>m) The representative of Serbia, former Vice-Chair of the 2019-2021 Bureau, thanked the former Chair of the CPR and highlighted that the work of the CPR contributed to push UN-Habitat’s activities further. He reiterated its support to the work of UN-Habitat and updated that the recent mission of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat in Serbia underscores the importance of cooperation between UN-Habitat and Serbia. He reiterated the crucial importance of the mandate of UN-Habitat to solve the challenges and opportunities of twenty-first century cities and other human settlements.</p> <p>n) The representative of Colombia, current Vice-Chair of the 2021-2023 Bureau of the CPR, reiterated her support to the current Chair of the Bureau and underscored the importance of the mandate of UN-Habitat. She specifically noted the current Venezuela – Colombia migration crisis and mentioned she counted on the guidance form the Organization in this respect. She also underscored her support to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Bureau took note of the remarks of the former and current members of the Bureau of the CPR</p>
<p>4. Brief comments by the Executive Director</p>		
	<p>Under this item, the Executive Director delivered a few remarks to the attention of the Bureau. The presentation by the Executive Director can be accessed here. Her briefing highlighted the following:</p> <p>a)The Executive Director congratulated the current Bureau of the CPR led by Her Excellency Ms. Saqlain Syedah of Pakistan and which included the Representatives of Colombia and Tanzania on their election by the CPR as well as Belgium acting on behalf of WEOG. She noted counting on their leadership towards the second session of the UN- Habitat Assembly.</p> <p>b) The Executive Director further expressed her sincere gratitude to the former Bureau lead by its Chair, His Excellency Mr. Beyene Russom of Eritrea and which included the Representatives of Bangladesh, Serbia and Costa Rica as Vice Chairs as well as the United States of America, acting on behalf of WEOG, for the efficient conduct of the CPR high-level midterm review and the extensive preparations prior to that session. The Executive Director further thanked all Members States for the successful first ever open-ended high-level midterm review of the CPR under the new governance structure promulgated in May 2019 at the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Bureau welcomed and took note of the recommendations of the Executive Director with respect to the collective preparations for the next open-ended meeting of the CPR to be held in 2023</p>

<p>Agenda item 4 (continued)</p>	<p>c) The Executive further recognized that there were lessons from the preparations and implementation of that first CPR open ended high-level midterm review, being the first such meeting under the new governance structure. She further noted that such lessons should inform and support the collective preparations for the next open-ended meeting of the CPR to be held 2023.</p> <p>d) The Executive Director also noted that in its Recommendation 2021/3, the CPR has already given an indication of the dates and provisional agenda for the next open-ended CPR meeting in 2023. In this regard, the Executive Director emphasized that UN-Habitat would engage with all Member States at the appropriate time and under the leadership of the present Bureau, to ensure that the exact number of days, agenda, and format are agreed upon early enough to allow for seamless preparations.</p> <p>e) The Executive Director indicated the Secretariat trusts that broad areas of possible outcomes for both the CPR meeting and for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly would be identified and negotiated ahead of time, indicating that these are some of the factors that influenced the preparations of the recently concluded CPR high-level midterm review.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Bureau welcomed and took note of the recommendations of the Executive Director with respect to the collective preparations for the next open-ended meeting of the CPR to be held in 2023</p>
<p>5. Review of the proposed organization of work and workplan for the CPR including its Bureau meetings for 2021 – 2023 towards the open-ended meeting of the CPR in 2023 to prepare for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly</p>		
	<p>Under this item, the Executive Director proposed a broad organization of work and workplan for the CPR including its Bureau meetings for 2021-2023 towards the open-ended meeting of the CPR in 2023 for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. The presentation by the Executive Director can be accessed here.</p> <p>Based on the presentation by the Executive Director, the Bureau agreed to the proposed organization of work, noting that these are our broad proposals which would be refined at the next meeting of the Bureau, preferably in September 2022, following a possible joint Bureau meeting in June 2022.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Bureau took note of the briefing by the Executive Director</p>
	<p>a) The CPR Bureau will propose to the President of UN-Habitat Assembly a joint Bureau meeting on the side-lines of WUF 11 in Katowice, Poland, June 2022, as provided for in Rule 28 of the rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly which states that “The respective Bureaux of the UN-Habitat Assembly, the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the Executive Board may, for the purpose of coordinating their activities, conduct joint Bureaux meetings.”</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Agreed</p>

Agenda item 5 (continued)	<p>b) The Bureau will plan hold its active meetings from September 2022. Between September 2022 to December 2022 the CPR will meet primarily to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. To consult and conclude on the provisional agenda and exact dates for the CPR open ended meeting to prepare for the UN-Habitat Assembly expected to be held from 29 May to 2 June 2023. b. To consult and advise the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly on the provisional agenda and exact dates for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly currently scheduled to be held from 5 to 9 June 2023. 	Agreed
	<p>c) Clarity and recommendation on items of the provisional agenda and exact dates for the meetings by the Bureau will allow for earnest preparations of the CPR open ended meeting as well as the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly to begin from December 2022 including preparation of necessary background documentation for the two meetings by the secretariat.</p>	Agreed
	<p>d) The Bureau will hold monthly meetings between January and June 2023 to prepare and monitor progress on the preparations for the CPR open ended meeting to prepare for the UN-Habitat Assembly and to support preparations for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly itself as these two meetings are expected to be held back to back.</p>	Agreed
6. Vacant positions in the 2021-2023 Bureau of the CPR		
	<p>a) The current Chair recalled that pursuant to Rule 27 of rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly, the Bureau of the CPR was elected at the end of the high-level mid-term review meeting held from 29 June to 1 July 2021, as follows.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Chair: Pakistan Vice-Chairs: Tanzania, Colombia and Belgium acting on behalf of WEOG. Rapporteur: The position of Rapporteur remains vacant pending the nomination of the representative of Eastern European States.</p> <p>b) The current Chair strongly encouraged the regional group of Eastern European States to fill the vacancy of rapporteur of the Bureau of the CPR, suggesting that the Secretariat sends a Note Verbale to the Chair of Eastern European States inviting the regional group to caucus towards identifying nomination for its representative to the new CPR Bureau for 2021-2023.</p> <p>c) The representative of Belgium highlighted that the communication should be sent by the Chair and not by the Secretariat. The legal adviser clarified that the responsibility of the Secretariat as per the rules of procedure is to issue communications on behalf of the Chair of an inter-governmental body.</p>	<p>The Bureau recommended that a Note Verbale be sent by the secretariat on behalf of the Chair of the CPR to the Chair of the Regional Group of Eastern European States, , inviting the regional group to caucus towards identifying nomination for its representative to the new CPR Bureau for 2021- 2023</p>

7.	Any other matters		
	<p>a) The Secretariat updated that the President of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly confirmed that the high-level meeting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda will take place on 28 April 2022, emphasizing that one of the outcomes of the high-level midterm review of the CPR held in June 2021 was to strategically align the various events and inter-governmental processes over the period of 2022 that can inform 2023.</p> <p>b) The Secretariat further underscored that as Member States and the Secretariat are moving towards planning of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, it is important to have built on a number of meetings that would have taken place well in advance of the session, taking note of the outcome of the high-level meeting to be held in April 2022 and the meetings of the Second Committee that will consider a resolution on UN-Habitat between October and November 2022. These events will be reference points and opportunities to develop a robust Agenda for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.</p> <p>c) The Secretariat indicated that the aspiration of the UN-Habitat Assembly is to be preminent body that convenes Member States interested in urban issues to try to advance global urban policy to guide Member States as they develop their national urban policies and move forward on sustainable urban development.</p>	<p>The Bureau took note of the remarks delivered by the Director of the UN-Habitat Office</p>	
<p><i>The Seventh Bureau meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives 2021 was adjourned at 4:30 pm East African Time</i></p>			