



UN HABITAT

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Twenty-sixth session of the Governing
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Friday, 12 May 2017

For environmental reasons, the Journal will be printed in limited numbers. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings, as additional copies may not be made available.

1. Programme of core meetings of the Governing Council

Friday, 12 May

8 a.m.–12 noon	<p>DRAFTING COMMITTEE (conference room 4)</p> <p>Consultations on draft resolutions</p>
8.30–9.20 a.m.	<p>Fifth Bureau meeting (CE 110-112)</p> <p>Chaired by the President of the Council</p>
1–3 p.m.	Lunch break
2–3 p.m.	<p>COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (conference room 1)</p> <p>Consideration of draft reports on items 5, 6 and 8</p> <p>Consideration of draft resolutions from the drafting committee</p> <p>Report on draft decision on item 9</p>
3–6 p.m.	<p>PLENARY (conference room 2)</p> <p>Chair’s summary of the high-level segment and dialogue</p> <p>Draft reports of plenary on items 1, 2, 3 and 4</p> <p>Draft reports of the Committee of the Whole</p> <p>Report on draft resolutions and agenda</p> <p>Agenda item 9. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council</p> <p>Agenda item 10. Other matters</p> <p>Agenda item 11. Adoption of the report of the session</p> <p>Agenda item 12. Closure of the session</p>

2. Meetings of the regional groups of States

Friday, 12 May

8–9 a.m.	African Group (conference room 14)
8–9 a.m.	Asia-Pacific Group (conference room 3)
8–9 a.m.	Eastern European Group (conference room 6)
8–9 a.m.	European Union (conference room 13)
8–9 a.m.	Latin America and Caribbean Group (conference room 11)
8–9 a.m.	Japan, United States of America, Canada, New Zealand (JUSCANNZ). (conference room 8)
9–10 a.m.	G-77 and China (conference room 1)
1–2 p.m.	League of Arab States (conference room 6)

3. Caucus meetings

Friday, 12 May

8–10 a.m.	Youth Caucus (conference room 9)
	Women’s Caucus (conference room 7)

4. Side events

Friday, 12 May

1–1.45 p.m.	From Rhetoric to Action: The UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board and the Berlin Declaration (conference room 9) Organized by the UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board Global Alliance for Urban Crises Round Table: The Role of UN-Habitat in Crisis Settings (conference room 10) Organized by the UN-Habitat City Resilience Profiling Programme Cycling towards More Healthy, Accessible and Socially Inclusive Urban Areas (conference room 14) Organized by the University of Nairobi Research and Start-Up Incubation Lab, Kenya
2–2.45 p.m.	Addressing Social Inequality and Climate Change through Urbanization (conference room 9) Organized by UN-Habitat Promoting Inclusiveness through an Adaptive Settlements Planning Model in Kenya (conference room 10) Organized by Civil Society Urban Development Platform and Mazingira Institute Launch of Reforming Urban Laws in Africa: A Practical Guide (conference room 11) Organized by UN-Habitat, Cities Alliance, Belgium, and the African Centre for Cities at the University of Cape Town, South Africa Building Youth as Drivers for Sustainable Development (conference room 14) Organized by National Training Service (SENA), Colombia

5. Summary of high-level dialogue held on Wednesday, 10 May

As part of its plenary deliberations, the Governing Council hosted a high-level dialogue on the theme “Opportunities for the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda”. The opening session included a statement by the President of the Council, a presentation by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat and several interventions by representatives of national and local governments, as well as civil society and the private sector. The opening was followed by three sessions devoted to the sub-themes of the dialogue: promoting access to adequate and sustainable housing; integrated human settlements planning for sustainable urbanization; and synergies and financing for sustainable urbanization.

The report of the Executive Director on the special theme provided the substantive background for the discussions that followed. The four strategic windows of opportunity identified by UN-Habitat as crucial for effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda included developing an action framework for implementation; promoting the “housing at the centre” approach; promoting integrated planning and good national urban policies towards improving public space for all; and developing an inter-agency facility for sustainable urban development.

During the session on promoting access to adequate and sustainable housing, representatives of the Governments of Afghanistan and Malaysia, as well as of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, INFONAVIT (Mexico), the Building and Social Housing Foundation and Habitat for Humanity in New Zealand, discussed housing as an essential element of urbanization, including its transformative potential in implementing the New Urban Agenda. As half of cities’ land is used for housing, sound decisions about housing development can shape the urban future in positive ways. Furthermore, housing plays a catalytic role in economic development, job creation, poverty alleviation and reduction of vulnerabilities found in cities. Investment in housing has an immediate impact on cities and a profound influence on people’s lives.

The second thematic session, on integrated human settlements planning for sustainable urbanization, featured input from representatives of the Governments of Afghanistan, Ghana and Japan, as well as United Cities and Local Governments, a member of the UN-Habitat Advisory Group on Gender Issues and the Netherlands special envoy for international water affairs. The discussion focused on the need for strong, collaborative, vertically and horizontally integrated urban planning to capitalize on urbanization’s opportunities and mitigate its challenges in both developed and developing countries. There was consensus that the failure to plan was equivalent to planning for failure at all levels.

The last thematic session focused on synergies and financing for sustainable urbanization. The panel included representatives of the Governments of Cameroon, Guatemala and Iraq, as well as of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, the World Bank Group, the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office and the UN Global Compact. A key question put to the panellists was: How can synergy among stakeholders be maximized for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda? Participants discussed the potential of partnerships and development cooperation, including public-private partnerships paving the way for innovative local revenue generation initiatives also supporting local governments in the design of local infrastructure funds. A key initiative for mobilizing additional resources is the proposed multi-stakeholder facility for sustainable urban development being developed by UN-Habitat and its partners to support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

6. Summary of events held on Wednesday, 10 May after 6 p.m.

SIDE EVENTS

Engendering the New Urban Agenda’s Implementation

The side event focused on the New Urban Agenda’s implementation, the World Urban Campaign and the engagement of the General Assembly of Partners in developing a gender-sensitive and inclusive paradigm. It was also discussed how synergies with the Sustainable Development Goals could be established.

The speakers discussed the need for an integrated approach to implementing the global policy frameworks. Magdalena Garcia suggested that the Urban Thinkers Campuses could become a platform for mapping policy framework links and developing monitoring skills among stakeholders, particularly women, as well as engaging stakeholders. Partnerships and joint efforts should not be just local but also global, making use of global civil society networks.

The speakers contended that grassroots-led data collection was essential for effective urban planning. Meanwhile the role of institutions should be to facilitate inclusive engagement of stakeholders, especially women, in knowledge production and implementation frameworks. Emily Mohohlo noted that grassroots women were not looking for handouts but for business-oriented partnership opportunities in their communities. Bert Smolders emphasized that financial and legal institutional support were essential for equitable inclusion of women and other vulnerable groups in implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Partnership building did not rely only on resources put on the table but required policy frameworks that divided responsibility fairly and could hold partners and institutions accountable.

The session highlighted the fact that engendering could not be fragmented – it needed a consistent and holistic action and policy framework. It meant achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5.1.1, having frameworks for working in conflict and post-conflict contexts, and engaging in partnership dialogues in global meetings bringing together governments and civil society.

Harnessing the Value of Land for Transformative Urbanization

The New Urban Agenda recognizes the need to secure land tenure for all through the continuum of land rights framework and fit-for-purpose solutions, and by improving access to land and natural resources for women and other vulnerable groups. It recognizes the need to protect individuals and communities against forced evictions and promote affordable serviced land, as well as the need for access to public land and properties and for responsive land and housing policies.

Speakers at the side event drew on their experience to propose ways of capitalizing on the opportunities presented by the New Urban Agenda. The fact that land and land tenure security were included in the New Urban Agenda was widely lauded. The inclusion of land tenure security was seen as protecting the human rights of marginalized communities living in informal settlements. The suggestion was made to develop a “land programme” for cities, involving integration of rural and urban areas, with well-managed peri-urban areas. A presentation on fit-for-purpose land solutions, informed by Rwanda’s experience, emphasized fit-for-purpose institutions and legal frameworks. Participants learned that in Uganda the Government had initiated legal and institutional reforms to increase land tenure security for slum dwellers. The discussion was also enriched by the Latin American and Caribbean experiences in using knowledge management to mobilize key stakeholders for action.

Key future priorities identified included developing a land programme in urban contexts, establishing a framework for implementing the New Urban Agenda, and articulating the role of technology in achieving fit-for-purpose land solutions.

7. Summary of events held on Thursday, 11 May

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Committee of the Whole, considering agenda item 9, reviewed document HSP/C/26/CRP.2 and decided to forward the dates and agenda proposed therein for the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council, without amendment, for adoption by the plenary.

SIDE EVENTS

Action Plan for the Greener Cities Partnership: Inter-Agency Collaboration to Help Deliver the New Urban Agenda

The Greener Cities Partnership is a collaboration between UN-Habitat and UNEP that focuses on strengthening coordination between the two organizations to help achieve greener, more resilient and more resource-efficient cities.

During the panel discussion the Partnership sought the input and expertise of key partners and stakeholders, such as government representatives from Colombia, Malaysia and Norway. The Partnership has started discussions with Colombia about a new project that will focus on environmental challenges faced by island cities, particularly on the island of San Andres in Colombia. Norway remains a strategic partner not only because of its shared interest in green cities, green public space and sustainable urbanization, but also because as a major donor to both UN-Habitat and UNEP. It has expressed keen interest in tackling air pollution issues. Malaysia is a key partner because it will host the upcoming World Urban Forum, where a joint project on green cities could be showcased.

In closing the discussion, the Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat stressed that implementing the New Urban Agenda through initiatives like the Greener Cities Partnership would be crucial for fulfilling the two organizations’ mandates in the area of the urban environment, and that the 2030 Agenda remained an excellent opportunity for achieving the targets set.

8. Announcements

1 p.m.

Closing press conference (media centre)

9. Information for delegates on the GC26 PaperSmart Initiative

In line with the United Nations PaperSmart model, documentation for the meeting will be made available via the web-based PaperSmart platform. Use of the platform requires a laptop with Wi-Fi capability and a web browser (e.g., Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome or Safari).

Accessing the PaperSmart platform <https://papersmart.unon.org/>:

Inside the UNON compound:

Select a Wi-Fi connection and type the above link in your browser.

Outside the UNON compound:

Access the above link via your browser and use the following credentials to access the portal:

Username: unhabitat

Password: unhabitatgc26

The PaperSmart portal will provide:

- Access to drafting committee documents and information documents;
- Access to all in-session documents, including L documents, conference room papers, statements, publications and the daily Journal;
- Information on the venues of contact group meetings, side and parallel events;
- Administrative announcements.

All official Governing Council documents will be also available on the Governing Council website www.unhabitat.org/gc26.

Participants are strongly encouraged to bring their personal laptops and ensure that their antivirus software is up-to-date.