

UN HABITAT

A background note on the new governance structure of UN-Habitat

	<p>The Committee of Permanent Representatives</p>	
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Updated 05 August 2020
Secretariat of the Governing Bodies

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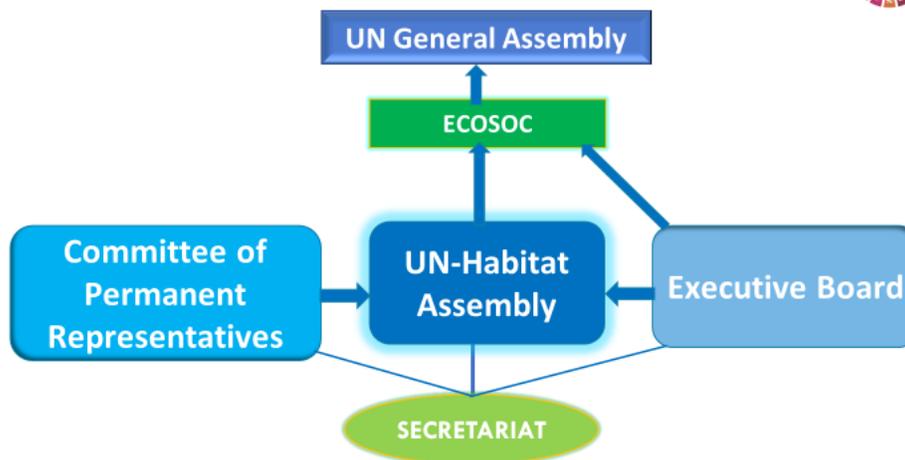
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I. Background

1. On 20 December 2018, the General Assembly of the United Nations in its resolution [A/RES/73/239](#) decided to dissolve the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and to replace it with a United Nations Habitat Assembly (UN-Habitat Assembly), composed of universal membership.
2. Resolution [73/239](#) welcomed the work of the open-ended Working Group established by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UN-Habitat pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/226 of 20 December 2018, and also endorsed the findings and recommendations of the open-ended Working Group on changing the governance structure of UN-Habitat.
3. Resolution [73/239](#) also provided that the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly would be held in May 2019, building upon the preparations already carried out for the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council.
4. That resolution further provided that in 2019, the Executive Board, after the election of its members by the UN-Habitat Assembly, shall meet for its first session in Nairobi for a duration of three days.
5. Finally, that resolution requested the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UN-Habitat to prepare draft rules of procedure for the UN-Habitat Assembly, to be completed no later than April or May 2019, with a view to its adoption at the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

Figure 1: The new Governance Structure

NEW UN-HABITAT GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE



II. The United Nations Habitat Assembly

A. Membership of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (UN-Habitat Assembly):

Universal

B. Responsibilities of the UN-Habitat Assembly

- i) identify key issues and areas of focus for the normative and policy work of UN-Habitat,
- ii) review major trends related to human settlements and urbanization;
- iii) examine global norms and standards in human settlements and sustainable urbanization;
- iv) adopt resolutions, declarations, recommendations, formal decisions, reports and other documents pertaining to strategic vision and political guidance in accordance with its mandate;
- v) recommend strategies for coherent implementation of urban and human settlements dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda and other global agendas, including of the work of the United Nations System
- vi) examine and approve UN-Habitat's strategic plan, to be prepared by the Executive Board;
- vii) review the Secretary-General's quadrennial report on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda

In addition, the Assembly should ensure the active engagement of local authorities and other stakeholders in the Assembly, in its subsidiary bodies and in intersessional meetings.

C. Membership of the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly

President:	Mexico
Vice President:	Germany
Vice President:	Ghana
Vice President:	Poland
Rapporteur:	China

D. Functions of the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly

Rule 19 of the rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly

The Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly shall assist the President in the conduct of the business of the Assembly and carry out any tasks assigned to it by the Assembly.

E. Progress made by the UN-Habitat Assembly

1. 124 Member States convened for the maiden session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly from 27-31 May 2019, in Nairobi, Kenya. The session had a high-level representation of the Member States which included four Heads of States and several Ministers. The Assembly elected Mexico as its President; Germany, Ghana and Poland as Vice Presidents, and China as Rapporteur. The Assembly adopted its [rules of procedure](#), elected [36](#) of its members to serve on the Executive Board of UN-Habitat and also endorsed the [rules of procedure](#) of the Executive Board. The Assembly also elected members of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
2. The Assembly adopted the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan for the period 2020-2023, and four other thematic resolutions as follows:
 - i. Resolution 1/1: United Nations Human Settlements Programme strategic plan for the period 2020–2023([HSP/HA.1/Res.1](#)).
 - ii. Resolution 1/2: United Nations System-Wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements ([HSP/HA.1/Res.2](#)).
 - iii. Resolution 1/3: Enhancing capacity-building for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([HSP/HA.1/Res.3](#))
 - iv. Resolution 1/4: Achieving gender equality through the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements ([HSP/HA.1/Res.4](#)).
 - v. Resolution 1/5: Enhancing urban-rural linkages for sustainable urbanization and human settlements ([HSP/HA.1/Res.5](#)).
3. The Assembly further adopted a Ministerial declaration on “Innovation for better quality of life in cities and communities: accelerated implementation of the New Urban Agenda towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals”. ([HSP/HA.1/HLS.1](#))
4. In addition, the Assembly adopted the following decisions:
 - i. Decision 1/1: Rules of procedure of the United Nations Habitat Assembly ([HSP/HA/1/HLS.2](#))
 - ii. Decision 1/2: Rules of procedure of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat ([HSP/HA/1/HLS.3](#))
 - iii. Decision 1/3: Arrangements for the transition towards the new governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (HSP/HA/1/L.9).
5. The report of the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly is available as document [A/74/8](#).

III. The Executive Board

A. Membership of the Executive Board:

36 Member States

African States Angola (2019) Cameroon (2019) Democratic Republic of the Congo (2019) Egypt (2019) Ethiopia (2019) Kenya (2019) Malawi (2019) Morocco (2019) Nigeria (2019) Senegal (2019)	Western European and others States Canada (2019) France (2019) Germany (2019) Portugal (2019) Spain (2019) Sweden (2019) Turkey (2019) United States of America (2019)
Latin American and Caribbean States Argentina (2019) Brazil (2019) Chile (2019) Costa Rica (2019) Mexico (2019) Uruguay (2019)	Asia Pacific States China (2019) India (2019) Indonesia (2019) Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2019) Japan (2019) Pakistan (2019) Republic of Korea (2019) Sri Lanka (2019)
Eastern European States Poland (2019) Romania (2019) Russian Federation (2019) Serbia (2019)	

B. Functions of the Executive Board

Rule 5 of the rules of procedure of the Executive Board.

- (a) To oversee the implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat;
- (b) To ensure accountability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness
- (c) To approve and oversee the implementation of the annual programme of work and budget and the resource mobilization strategy, in accordance with the strategic plans and political guidelines provided by the UN-Habitat Assembly;

- (d) To adopt decisions, within the scope of its mandate, on, among other things, programmatic, operational and budgetary issues for the adequate and effective implementation of resolutions and other decisions adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly;
- (e) To guide and support efforts to finance the work of UN-Habitat;
- (f) To oversee the compliance of UN-Habitat with evaluations and support auditing functions;
- (g) To collaborate with the executive boards of other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, in accordance with the management reform programme of the Secretary-General

C. Membership of the Bureau of the Executive Board

<i>Year</i>	<i>Session of the Executive Board</i>	<i>Chair</i>	<i>Vice Chairs</i>	<i>Rapporteur</i>
2019	First	Western European and others States (United States of America)	Latin American and Caribbean States (Argentina) Asia-Pacific States (China) Eastern European States (Russian Federation)	African States (Malawi)
2020	Second	Asia-Pacific States (Iran)	African States (Egypt) Latin American and Caribbean States (Chile) Western European and others States (France)	Eastern European States (Serbia)

D. Functions of the Bureau of the Executive Board

Rule 10 of the rules of procedure

1. The Bureau of the Executive Board shall meet as necessary. The primary functions of the Bureau include preparation and organization of Board meetings, facilitation of transparent decision-making and promotion of dialogue. The Bureau shall brief the Board on its deliberations. It shall not have the authority to make decisions on any substantive matters.

2. As part of the preparation and organization of Executive Board meetings and in accordance with the workplan of the Board, the Bureau may consider issues related to the agenda and structure of a

session and the documentation for the session, and should highlight issues and recommendations that require consideration and action by the Board.

E. Progress made by the Executive Board

1. The Executive Board of UN-Habitat held its inaugural meeting on 30 May 2019 on the margins of the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly in May 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya, during which it adopted its [rules of procedure](#) and elected its first bureau composed of United States of America as Chair, China, Russia and Argentina as Vice Chairs, and Malawi as Rapporteur.
2. The Executive Board resumed its first session on 19 and 20 November in Nairobi, Kenya during which it adopted the UN-Habitat Work programme and Budget for the year 2020 and also established three ad-hoc working groups on i) Working methods, ii) programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters, and iii) Stakeholder engagement policy. The Executive Board adopted five decisions to ensure follow-up of mandates forwarded to the Board by the UN-Habitat Assembly as well as its own mandates as follows;
 - i. Decision 2019/1: Implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2014-2019 and the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023, and approval of the work programme and budget for 2020, comprising: (i) Part (a): Implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2014-2019 of UN-Habitat; (ii) Part (b): Implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023 of UN-Habitat; (iii) Part (c): Approval of the work programme of UN-Habitat and the budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2020; (iv) Part (d): Alignment with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process;
 - ii. Decision 2019/2: Financial, budgetary and administrative matters of UN-Habitat;
 - iii. Decision 2019/3: Implementation of normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, including the resolutions and decisions of the United Nations Human Settlements Assembly, comprising: (i) Part (a): Implementation of resolutions and decisions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its first session; (ii) Part (b): Implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat;
 - iv. Decision 2019/4: Workplan of the Executive Board for 2020;
 - v. Decision 2019/5: Methods of work of the Executive Board.
3. The above decisions are found in document [HSP/EB.1/11](#) while the reports of the 2019 sessions of the Executive Board are found in documents [HSP/EB.1/4](#) and [HSP/EB.1/12](#)
4. In 2020, the Bureau of the Executive Board has met seven times in preparation of its 2020 first session which had been delayed by the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic.
5. The Executive Board eventually on 29 June held its 2020 first session which discussed financial budgetary and administrative matters, the draft work programme and budget for the year 2020, and the progress made in implementation of the resolutions adopted by the UN-Habitat

Assembly, among other items. The Board suspended that session and resumed on 29 July 2020 to, during which it elected members of the new Bureau for the period 2020/2021.

6. The Executive Board at its 2020 first session recommended that the Foundation non-earmarked budget for 2021 be more realistic, in the range of \$5.58 million to \$10 million; requested the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters to finalize a recommended budget for the consideration of the Executive Board at its second session in 2020. The Board also requested the Executive Director to prepare a work programme for 2021 taking into account the recommendations of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters
7. The Executive Board adopted the following two decisions at its 2020 second session:
 - i. Decision 2020/1: Adoption of decisions by the Executive Board during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic via a silence procedure when the Board is not in session
 - ii. Decision 2020/2: Date and provisional agenda for the second session of 2020 of the Executive Board
8. Report of the session is available as [HSP/EB.2020/18](#).

F. Progress of the Ad hoc working groups of the Executive Board

i. Ad hoc Working Group on Working Methods:

Chair: Argentina:
Co-Chair: Kenya

The Ad hoc Working Group on Working Methods has met three (3) times on 29 January 2020, 26 February 2020 and 4 March 2020. On Friday 6 March 2020, the Co-Chair briefed the Bureau of the Executive Board on the progress made by the Ad-hoc working as at that point. The working group has achieved consensus on the Co-Chairs paper on the proposed working methods of the Executive Board which is to be presented to the Executive Board at its second session of 2020 to be held from 27-29 June 2020 for consideration and possible adoption.

ii. Ad-hoc Working group on Stakeholder Engagement Policy

Chair: Vacant (formerly Costa Rica)

The Ad-hoc working group on Stakeholder engagement Policy has met once on 11 March 2020 during which Member States were briefed by the Secretariat on the status of the draft Stakeholder Engagement Policy as at 7 May 2019 and on the draft UN-Habitat Procedure for Accreditation of Non-Governmental Organizations as at 8 May 2019. At that meeting, the working group determined the issues around the draft Stakeholder Engagement policy and Accreditation procedure. The working group at the recommendation of the Bureau has not been able to meet again to negotiate on the draft Stakeholder engagement owing to COVID 19 pandemic.

iii. Ad-hoc Working group on Programmatic Budgetary and Administrative matters

Chair: Romania:
Co-Chair: Pakistan

The Ad-hoc working group has met seven times on 13 January 2020, 26 February 2020, 4 March 2020, 11 March 2020, 15 June 2020, 17 June 2020 and 24 July 2020 for its seventh meeting which continued on 30 July 2020.

In line with the mandate of the working group to assist the Executive Board, the Ad-hoc working group has discussed eleven (11) topics that are directly relevant to the decisions of the Executive Board. One of the topics discussed by the Ad-hoc working group is the draft Work Programme and Budget of UN-Habitat for the year 2021. At its most recent meeting held on 30 July 2020, the Ad-hoc group recommended to the Executive Board a \$10 million budget scenario for the draft work programme and budget of UN-Habitat for 2021, for its consideration of the Executive Board at its second session of 2020. This was based on the request by the Executive Board at its 2020 first session held on 29 June 2020.

IV. The Committee of Permanent Representatives

A. Membership of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

The membership of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) is universal and composed of all Permanent Representatives of Member States of the United Nations

B. Functions of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

The CPR is a permanent intersessional subsidiary body of the UN-Habitat Assembly guided by the Rules 22 and 23 of the rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

- i. The CPR is to meet in an open-ended manner, twice every four years: a. once for a high-level midterm review, and b. once prior to the UN-Habitat Assembly to prepare for the UN-Habitat Assembly.
- ii. If necessary, the CPR may, on a basis of consensus, establish subcommittees, when required

C. Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

Chair: Eritrea
Vice Chair: Bangladesh
Vice Chair: Serbia
Vice Chair: Costa Rica

Rapporteur: *Vacant* (WEOG Representative)

D. Progress made by the Committee of Permanent Representatives

1. The Committee of Permanent Representatives was previously the intersessional body of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and held its last meeting in that format which was the 72nd regular meeting on 10 April 2019.
2. In line with the expectations of the General Assembly resolution [73/239](#), the Committee actively prepared for the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly that was held in May 2019 building upon preparations it had already started for the 27th session of the Governing Council which did not take place due to the change in the governance structure. The Committee specifically prepared the draft rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly, the draft rules of procedure of the Executive Board, as well as also several draft resolutions and decisions for consideration by the UN-Habitat Assembly. The Committee also reviewed the draft UN-Habitat Strategic Plan, 2020-2023, for further consideration by the UN-Habitat Assembly.
3. Following its election by the UN-Habitat Assembly the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives met on 1 October 2019 to begin its work, particularly on initial preparations for the high-level midterm review meeting of Committee expected to be held in June 2021.
4. The CPR Bureau Recommended that the following agenda items be included regularly on the Agenda for the meetings of the CPR during its high-level mid-term review meeting, the first of which is recommended to take place in June 2021:
 - i. Mid-term review of the implementation of UN-Habitat Strategic Plan;
 - ii. Mid-term review of the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda;
 - iii. Mid-term review on the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration as adopted during the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly;
 - iv. Briefing by the Executive Director on the implementation of the outcomes of the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly and on the preparations of the upcoming session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
5. The CPR Bureau also recommended the following agenda items for consideration by the CPR during the open-ended CPR meeting towards preparations for the UN-Habitat Assembly, the first of which is recommended to take place in the week before the UN-Habitat Assembly in June 2023:
 - i. Review of the implementation of UN-Habitat Strategic Plan;
 - ii. Review of the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda;
 - iii. Review of the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration adopted during the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly;
 - iv. Review of the status of preparations for the upcoming session of the UN-Habitat Assembly;
 - v. Review of draft resolutions, declarations, recommendations and decisions to be discussed during the upcoming session of the UN-Habitat Assembly;

- vi. Briefing by the Executive Director on preparations of the upcoming session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
6. The CPR bureau further recommended that the CPR Bureau hold at least two meetings a year and that Joint-Bureaux meetings of the Governing Bodies of UN-Habitat should be held at least during the World Urban Forum and during the UN-Habitat Assembly.