

Second Bureau Meeting of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat for the biennium 2020-2021

On-line – Thursday 10 September 2020
10:00 am – 12:00 noon East Africa Time

Agenda item 3 Consideration of the proposal by Serbia for a special session to discuss UN-Habitat's work on Covid-19 response

From: nairobi@embassyofserbia.or.ke <nairobi@embassyofserbia.or.ke>

Sent: Monday, August 31, 2020 12:59 PM

To: UNHABITAT-SGB <unhabitat-sgb@un.org>

Subject: RE: SERBIA : Proposal to hold a special session of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat in December 2020 specifically focused UN-Habitat's COVID-19 response

Dear Chris,

at the meeting of the Bureau on August 10 I pointed out that the Covid 19 pandemic has changed the lives of all people on the planet. It has created havoc, curtailed travel, stopped tourism, normal education activities and caused massive death world wide. The pandemic is concentrated in cities and settlements. It is exerting an enormous burden on health care systems and has reduced economic activity instigating widespread job loss and unemployment . Almost all cities and settlements in the world are confronted with the same problem and menace which does not seem to be going away soon. In this situation in my opinion we cannot in UN-Habitat continue business as usual but must see how through coordination and a concerted multilateral approach the UN system can propose possible solutions to better deal with the problem. In that context I proposed that a special session of the Executive board should be considered as an option. I did not propose that it should be held just considered as a possible option. I strongly believe that it is not healthy that UN-Habitat continues with business as usual as it is clear that our lives and activities have changed fundamentally.

Ambassador Dragan Zupanjevac
Republic of Serbia

From: UNHABITAT-SGB [<mailto:unhabitat-sgb@un.org>]

Sent: Monday, 31 August 2020 12:26

To: Nairobi Embassy Of Serbia [EMBASSYOFSERBIA OR] <nairobi@embassyofserbia.or.ke>; Consular@embassyofserbia.or.ke Consular@embassyofserbia.or.ke [EMBASSYOFSERBIA OR] <consular@embassyofserbia.or.ke>

Cc: Chris Mensah <chris.mensah@un.org>; Bridget Oballa <bridget.oballa@un.org>; Marie-Pia Tixier <marie-pia.tixier@un.org>; Mary Oyiolo <mary.oyiolo@un.org>; Damaris Waigwa <damaris.waigwa@un.org>; Antonina Madara <antonina.madara@un.org>

Subject: SERBIA : Proposal to hold a special session of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat in December 2020 specifically focused UN-Habitat's COVID-19 response

Excellency,

I have the honor on behalf of the Chair of the Executive Board to refer to the first meeting of the newly elected Bureau of the Executive Board held on Monday 10 August 2020 and to note that at that meeting, the Bureau agreed to discuss during its next meeting the proposal suggested by you regarding the possibility for a special session of the Executive Board in December 2020 to specifically focus on UN-Habitat's COVID-19 response. It was further noted by the Bureau that you communicate your proposal to the Chair of the Executive Board.

The next Bureau meeting to be held on Thursday 10 September 2020 will therefore include an Agenda item to discuss such proposal.

I would be truly grateful if as agreed by the Bureau, you could share a proposal with us in that regard. This proposal will be transmitted by the Secretariat of the Governing Bodies on your behalf to the Chair of the Executive Board and members of the Bureau ahead of the upcoming Bureau meeting.

Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Chris Mensah
Secretary to the Governing Bodies