

Excellencies,

I wish to refer to the question raised by the representative of Egypt during the Bureau meeting of 2 February 2022 regarding which regional group is in line to Chair the Executive Board for the period 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 and to provide you with a response.

If you allow me, I will start with the provision of the rules of procedure of the Executive Board and the agreement reached by Member States during governance review process. Specifically, Member States agreed on the following:

- i. A Regional Group holding the Presidency of the UN-Habitat Assembly shall not, to the extent possible, hold the chairmanship of the Committee of Permanent Representatives or of the Executive Board, to avoid any overlap.
- ii. Rule 9.3 of the rules of procedure of the Executive Board provides that ‘The offices of Chair and Rapporteur shall rotate each year to a different regional group. Each regional group shall occupy the office of Chair and Rapporteur once during a period of five years.’

Similarly, and with respect to the tenure of office, Member States agreed that:

- i. Tenure of office of the Bureau of the Executive Board will be **1 year** with election taking place at the first session each year. This is in line with Rule 9.1 of the rules of procedure of the Executive Board.
- ii. Tenure of office of Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) will be **2 years** with election taking place **at the end of each meeting** of the CPR. This is in line with Rule 27 of rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
- iii. Tenure of office of Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly will be **4 years** with election taking place **during the final meeting of a regular session** of the UN-Habitat Assembly. This is in line with Rule 18.1 of rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly

The composition of the respective Bureaux of the Governing Bodies of UN-Habitat is attached for your reference.

Accordingly, therefore, the recommendation from the Secretariat for GRULAC to be the Chair of the Executive Board from March 2022 to March 2023 is based on the fact that GRULAC holds the Presidency of the UN-Habitat Assembly. The second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly will take place in June 2023. In order that during that session we do not have GRULAC as both Chair of the Executive Board and at the same time as President of the Assembly, which will result in a situation that contradicts the above agreement made by Member States, the secretariat suggested that GRULAC holds the Chair of the Executive from March 2022 to March 2023, before the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. The group of African States can then assume the Chair of the Executive Board from March 2023 so that during the UN-Habitat Assembly session, we at least avoid a situation whereby GRULAC would be holding the Chair of the Executive Board and at the same time also holding the Presidency of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

Accordingly, the only two options for consideration and recommendation by the Bureau towards the election of the next Chair of the Executive Board which is expected on 31 March 2022 during the 2022 first session of the Executive Board for the period 2022 – 2023 and the subsequent elections in March 2023 for the same position for the period 2023 – 2024 are as follows :

Chairmanship for 2022-2023	Chairmanship for 2023-2024
<b>OPTION 1</b>	
<b>GRULAC</b>	<b>GROUP OF AFRICAN STATES</b>
<p>GRULAC holds the position of Chair the Executive Board from March 2022 to March 2023, GRULAC’s term as Chair of Executive Board will end before the start of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly to be held from 5 to 9 June 2023 presided over by Mexico until the end of the session.</p> <p>There will be no overlap among two members of GRULAC in the leadership of the Governing Bodies of UN-Habitat between March 2023 and June 2023, a critical stage for preparation of second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly</p>	<p>The group of African States holds the Chairmanship of the Executive Board for the period March 2023-March 2024, after GRULAC.</p> <p>In this case, there will be no overlap between March 2023 and June 2023 by two Members of GRULAC leading two Governing Bodies of UN-Habitat.</p>
<b>OPTION 2</b>	
<b>GROUP OF AFRICAN STATES</b>	<b>GRULAC</b>
<p>The Group of African States holds the position of Chair of the Executive Board for the period March 2022- March 2023.</p> <p>This implies that GRULAC is automatically the next Chair of the Executive Board for the period March 2023- March 2024. In this case, two members of GRULAC will hold the leadership positions of the Executive Board and the UN-Habitat Assembly between March 2023 and June 2023 with Mexico’s tenure as President of the UN-Habitat Assembly ending on the last day of the second session of UN-Habitat Assembly.</p>	<p>GRULAC will be Chair of the Executive Board for the period March 2023 to March 2024. There will be overlap between March 2023 and June 2023 with GRULAC’s tenure as President of the UN-Habitat Assembly.</p>

I would be grateful for any reaction and comments that you may have, if possible by **COB Monday 7 February 2022 15:00 EAT**.

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

Chris Mensah  
Secretary to the Governing Bodies

ANNEX

**ROTATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF THE GOVERNING BODIES OF UN-HABITAT**

**A - Presidents of the UN-Habitat Assembly:**

<b>Cycle</b>	<b>Exact Period</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Original Plan</b>
Year 1 to year 4	May 2019 to June 2023	Mexico	GRULAC	GRULAC
Year 5 to year 9 (or year 7 to align with the expected next cycle of the Strategic Plan of UN-Habitat)	June 2023 to June 2027 (or June 2025 to align with the expected next cycle of the Strategic Plan of UN-Habitat)	To be decided	To be decided on the principle that a Regional Group holding the Presidency of the UN-Habitat Assembly shall not, to the extent possible, hold the chairmanship of the Committee of Permanent Representatives or of the Executive Board, to avoid any overlap.	Not decided

**B- Chairs of the Executive Board:**

<b>Cycle</b>	<b>Exact Period</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Original Plan</b>
Year 1	May 2019 to June 2020	United States of America	WEOG	WEOG
Year 2	June 2020 to April 2021	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Asia-Pacific Group	Asia-Pacific Group
Year 3	April 2021 to March 2022	Republic of Poland	Eastern European Group	Eastern European Group
Year 4	March 2022 to April 2023	To be elected in March 2022 GRULAC	<b>GRULAC</b> GRULAC holds the Presidency of the UN-Habitat Assembly. The second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly will take place in June 2023. In order to ensure that during that second session we do not have GRULAC as both Chair of the Executive Board and at the same time as President of the Assembly, which will result in a situation that contradicts the above agreement made by Member States, the secretariat suggested that GRULAC holds the Chair of the Executive from March 2022 to March 2023, before the UN-Habitat Assembly. The group of Africa States can then assume the Chair of the Executive Board from March 2023 so that during the UN-Habitat Assembly, we at	<b>Group of Africa States</b>

Cycle	Exact Period	Country	Region	Original Plan
			least avoid a situation whereby GRULAC would be holding the Chair of the Executive Board and at the same time also holding the Presidency of the UN-Habitat Assembly.	
Year 5	April 2023 to March 2024	To be elected in March 2024.	Proposed for the group of African States who will be Chair of the Executive Board during the second session of the Assembly	Not planned

**C- Chairs of the Committee of Permanent Representatives:**

Cycle	Exact Period	Country	Region	Original Plan
Year 1 and 2	May 2019 to June 2021	Eritrea	Africa States	Africa States
Year 3 and 4	June 2021 to June 2023	Pakistan (Islamic Republic of)	Asia-Pacific Group	WEOG
Year 5 and 6	June 2023 to June 2025	To be elected in June 2023	WEOG	Asia-Pacific Group
Year 7 and 8	June 2025 to June 2027	To be elected in June 2025	Not defined	Not defined
Year 9 and 10	June 2027 to June 2029	To be elected in June 2027	Not defined	Not defined