[Joint Meeting of the incoming and outgoing Bureau of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat

Hybrid format - Wednesday 8 June 2022
10:00 am to 12:00 noon East Africa Time (EAT)

Statement by the Executive Director
(Draft 7 June 2022 - 11.00am)

SLIDE 0: Title slide

Slide 1: Provisional Agenda
(Adoption of the Agenda led by the Chair)

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Hand-over discussions between the outgoing Bureau and the incoming Bureau of the Executive Board.
3. Review of the conduct of the 2022 first session of the Executive Board.
4. Preparations for the 2022 second session of the Executive Board including review of the dates and provisional Agenda for that session.
5. Roadmap of the meetings of the Governing Bodies for the year 2022.
6. Feedback by the Executive Director on the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on progress in implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
7. Update on the Mission by Member States and Partners to Katowice to review preparations for the eleventh session of the World urban Forum (WUF 11).
8. Establishment of the open-ended informal contact group on Resource Mobilization matters.
9. Any other matters.

(NOTE: HERE THE ED MAY OFFER GREETINGS TO THE BUREAU SHOULD THE CHAIR GRANT HER THE FLOOR AT THIS MOMENT. OTHERWISE ED WILL SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEM 3).
Slide 2: (Title slide): AGENDA ITEM 2 - Hand-over discussions between the outgoing Bureau and the incoming Bureau of the Executive Board.

(To be led by the CHAIR).
(Chair to call on ED)
(ED to offer congratulations and gratitude to the current and former Bureau as indicated in slide 3 below).
(ED may react only to specific points being raised for her attention)

SLIDE 3: subitem 2a. Thank you to the Members of the outgoing Bureau 2020-2021 and Congratulations to incoming Bureau 2021-2021

Your Excellency Mr. Silvio Albuquerque, current Chair of the Executive Board.

Your Excellency Mr. Marek Rohr-Garztecki, immediate former Chair of the Executive Board and current Vice Chair of the Board.

Excellencies,

Distinguished immediate former and current members of the Bureau, good morning, good afternoon wherever you are. It is a great pleasure to have all of you in this meeting.

First and foremost, allow me to extend my congratulations to the new members of the Bureau for the period 2022/2023.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to reiterate my commitment to work with you, and the representatives Poland, Kenya, France, and Pakistan, for the good of our Organization and the duty we have towards Member States, as you take up your roles, and for some of you, your continuing roles in the current Bureau.

I am happy to see some continuity in the work of the Bureau with Poland, France and Pakistan serving in the current Bureau. Your re-election to the 2022/2023 Bureau will certainly enhance a smooth start to the continuous functioning of the present Bureau.
My sincere gratitude to Egypt as outgoing Vice Chair of the Executive Board having served in the past two Bureaus of the Board. Your guidance and immense support to myself and to the organization has been of great significance and I still look forward to working closely towards COP 27 and WUF 12.

My sincere gratitude to Chile from whom I have enjoyed great support during her tenure as Rapporteur of the Executive Board and I hope I can continue to count on that support.

Your Excellency Mr. Marek Rohr-Garztecki of Poland, I am very grateful for your stewardship of the Bureau and of the Executive Board in the past year and for your continued support as we plan for WUF 11.

Your Excellency Mr. Silvio Albuquerque of Brazil, I offer you my full support and that of the secretariat in your role as the Chair of the Executive Board. I look forward to receiving the guidance of the new Bureau and we still hope to count on the support of the Members of the outgoing Bureau especially as we begin to focus on the preparations of the UN-Habitat Assembly in June 2023.

For the new members of the Bureau I welcome you to review rule 5 of the rules of procedure which outlines the Functions of the Executive Board and rule 10 of the rules which outlines the functions of the Bureau. I have requested the Secretariat to share this with you.

Thank you, Excellencies.

(Note: at this point, the Chair may pause the meeting and members of the former Bureau may exit the meeting – only Chile and Egypt may exit the meeting since Poland, France and Pakistan are still members of the current Bureau)

Slide 4: (Title slide): AGENDA ITEM 3. Review of the conduct of the 2022 first session of the Executive Board

(To be led by the Chair)
(Chair to call on ED for her remarks)
Mr. Chairman, Excellencies

With regard to the 2022 first session, I am grateful for the effort by all Member States and the stewardship of that session by the outgoing Bureau which led to its successful outcome. I also thank the Permanent Representative of Brazil who chaired the “friends of the Chair” group that was instrumental in negotiating the difficult language related to our work in post conflict areas. I thank the Representative of Pakistan very much for chairing the informal consultations on draft decisions which were ultimately adopted by the Board at its closing plenary on 31 March 2022.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies

I am happy to inform you that the report of the 2022 first session as well as the outcome document are now ready in English versions these have been shared with Member States following clearance by the outgoing Rapporteur, Chile. Translation into the six UN official languages is underway and we shall share these with all Member States once concluded by the UNON Division of Conference Services.

As requested by the Executive Board, we have also recently sent out the survey for the first session of 2022 that will inform the agenda item 13 of the provisional agenda for the 2022 second session of the Board which is on “Working methods of the Executive Board, including a review of the results of the survey conducted by the secretariat following the first Executive Board session of 2022”.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, back to you.

**Slide 5: - AGENDA ITEM 4 (TITLE SLIDE). Preparations for the 2022 second session of the Executive Board including review of the dates and provisional Agenda for that session.**

*The Chair will first introduce the Agenda item and will then give ED the floor* 

Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Under this item, since you already have the Agenda for the second session, which is also projected on the screen, we would be grateful for the Bureau’s guidance on three items which I will address as follows:
a. The review and confirmation of the dates of that session.
b. The review and confirmation of provisional agenda for the second session of 2022.
c. Your views on my proposal to show case the work we do on the ground to give member states a better feel of what our work entails especially the focus on post conflict recovery in line with agenda item 7 of the provisional agenda for the session.

**Slide 6: Subitem 4a. Dates of the 2022 second session of the Executive Board**

Excellencies,

As you will recall in decision Decision 2022/3, the Executive Board decided that “the second session of 2022 of the Executive Board will be held for a duration of three days, subject to the availability of funds, between 15 and 17 November 2022”.

It is now apparent that the dates coincide with COP 27 which will be held in Egypt from 6 to 18 November 2022 and the expected imminent engagement of Member States in that meeting as well as significant involvement of UN-Habitat in COP27 requires our reconsideration of the dates.

We have checked with the Division of Conference services and the options available for holding the session of the Executive Board are as follows:

- 21-23 November 2022
- 17-21 October 2022
- 5-7 December 2022
- 13-16 December 2022

We welcome your guidance and recommendation on the most appropriate dates for the second session. As the secretariat, our recommended date to you to consider is November because December tends to be unpredictable and full with many activities before the end of the year. We also need to abide by the availability of document rules, so we need to pace ourselves to provide you with the documents on time and in good quality.

**Slide 7: Subitem 4b. Provisional Agenda for the 2022 second session of the Executive Board**
Mr. Chairman

With regards to the provisional agenda for the next session, this was also already decided upon during the first session of 2022 under decision 2022/3 and is on the screen and I so I will not read it out. *(NOTE: ED DO NOT READ OUT THE AGENDA AS IT IS ON THE SCREEN)*

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organizational matters:
   (a) Adoption of the agenda and the workplan for the second session of 2022;
   (b) Adoption of the report of the first session of 2022.
3. Reports of the ad hoc working groups established by the Executive Board.
4. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters, including the implementation of the resource mobilization strategy in accordance with the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023 and action by UN-Habitat to address geographical and gender imbalances in the composition of its staff.

*Slide 8: Subitem 4b. Provisional Agenda for the 2022 second session of the Executive Board contd.. (NOTE: ED DO NOT READ OUT THE AGENDA)*

7. Normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including reporting on the programmatic activities of UN-Habitat in 2021 and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities, and update on the
UN-Habitat response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the engagement of UN-Habitat in countries, territories and areas affected by conflict and disaster.

8. Outcome of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the review of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.


13. Working methods of the Executive Board, including a review of the results of the survey conducted by the secretariat following the first Executive Board session of 2022.

14. Briefing by the Joint Inspection Unit on the findings of its management and administration review of UN-Habitat.

15. Consideration and adoption of the outcomes of the session, including the provisional agenda for the first session of 2023 of the Executive Board.

16. Other matters.

17. Closure of the session.

As a Secretariat we have no changes to propose to the agenda, but we welcome a review and final recommendation on the agenda which will help us to prepare in earnest for the session, particularly the notification and the other pre-session documents for the session.

Mr. Chairman, in the subsequent meetings of the Bureau we hope to discuss in detail the expectations of the second session of the Board in line with the provisional Agenda.
Slide 9: Subitem 4c. Proposed methodology of presentation for Agenda 7 of the provisional agenda for the 2022 second session of the Executive Board

Finally, on this item Mr. Chairman, as mentioned earlier we would like to share with you the proposal on how we would like to present agenda item 7 during the second session. We would like to focus on our work in the field, experiences and added value in urban crisis situations especially in light of decision 2022/2 which was negotiated carefully during the last session. Would wish to bring examples of our work into focus and if possible, we intend to organize for one or two of our partners to share their experience with the Executive Board.

I now call upon Mr. Raf Tuts, the Director for Programme Division to share with the Bureau our proposal on this item.

(RAFTAKES OVER)

Slide 10: UN-Habitat’s work on Post conflict recovery
(Raf to brief- this should be short)

Slide 11: UN-Habitat’s work on Post conflict recovery
(Raf to brief –this should be short)

(after that ED gives back the floor to chair)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Back to you.

Slide 12: (TITLE SLIDE) AGENDA ITEM 5 - Roadmap of the meetings of the Governing Bodies for the year 2022

[The Chair will first introduce the Agenda item and will then give ED the floor]

Mr. Chairman

Excellencies,
We have shared with you in advance of this meeting the proposed roadmap for the remainder of 2022. As you can see following the 2022 first session of the Board, we fully engaged on final preparations of the HLM which was held on 28 July 2022. I further briefed you on the outcome of the HLM and the preparations for WUF 11 on 21 May 2022. Next week we expected to hold one meeting of the ad hoc working group on stakeholder engagement policy, chaired by Switzerland on 15 June 2022 in the morning. The CPR Bureau will also hold its first meeting for 2022 on 15 June 2022 in the afternoon. WUF 11 will be at the end of June 2022 from 26 to 30 June 2022.

Thereafter, we propose that from September 2022 we have several meetings to prepare for the 2022 second session of the Board.

**Slide 13: 5a. Bureau meetings before the 2022 second session of the Executive Board**

Excellencies,
The proposed Bureau meetings are as follows:

- 8 June 2022 (today)
- 12 September 2022
- 18 October 2022
- 15 November 2022

Though our aim is to plan ahead, these are proposed dates subject to further confirmation closer to those dates.

**Slide 14: Meetings of the ad-hoc working groups before the 2022 second session of the Executive Board**

We will also have at least nine (9) meetings of the ad-hoc working group on programmatic, Budgetary and administrative matters which as is practice will also hold informal consultations on any draft decisions prior to the session. Four of the meetings of that working groups will be on thematic discussions while five (5) of the proposed meetings of the working groups are to be dedicated to informal consultations on draft decisions prior to the session.

We have planned for two (2) meetings of the ad-hoc working group on the development of a stakeholder engagement policy with a high likelihood of a third
meeting prior to the second session of the Board. Hopefully this will help to advance the work that working group which ideally is to be concluded by the time of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly in June 2023.

For the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters the proposed dates are:

- 12 September and 21 September
- 5 October
- 10, 12 and 19 October
- 2 and 9 November

For the ad hoc working group on stakeholder engagement policy the dates are:

- 15 June, and
- 21 September 2022

These proposed are to be confirmed with each of the chair prior to each meeting.

**Slide 15: Informal consultations with regionals Groups before the 2022 second session of the Executive Board**

Further, as is practice, I hope to hold consultations with each regional group prior to the session as indicated on the screen during the first week of November 2022. As required by the rules of procedure we will also hold the briefing to Member States on the preparations for the second session of the Board, two weeks to the session.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies,

May I take this opportunity to inform you that the President of the UN-Habitat Assembly intends to hold a joint Bureaux meeting, probably in a hybrid format, of the three governing bodies of UN-Habitat as provided for in the rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly. This is tentatively scheduled for 29 June 2022 on the side lines on WUF 11. It is my hope that all of you will be at WUF 11 and can take part physically in that joint Bureaux meeting.
Mr. Chairman, this concludes my briefing on this item on the roadmap.
Thank you and back to you.

**Slide 16: AGENDA ITEM 6 (TITLE SLIDE). Feedback by the Executive Director on the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on progress in implementation of the New Urban Agenda**

Honorable Chair,
Distinguished Permanent Representatives,

As I already mentioned, last month on 21 May 2022 I provided a briefing to Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat on the outcome of high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda held on 28 April 2022.

It is important that we focus on how Member States might use the 2022 second session of the Executive Board to further the outcomes of the HLM potentially show casing some of the practical work of UN-Habitat.

Before highlighting these outcomes for the consideration of members of the Bureau, I would like once again to thank members of the Executive Board for their active engagement in the preparatory process leading up to the HLM. Permanent Representatives in Nairobi played a crucial role in mobilizing support of their counterparts in New York and senior officials in respective capitals. This contributed to over 87 Member States being inscribed in the HLM, the most well attended meeting of the General Assembly in many years. Thanks for this.

Excellency,

Member States not only came to New York in large numbers, but they also put forth actions and declared commitments as part of their official statements to the HLM. We may want to use the 2022 second session of the Executive Board to show case work by UN-Habitat and its partners to promote four action areas.

Regarding, affordable and well-serviced housing, many Member States at the HLM called upon the international community for assistance, unable to counter the growing housing deficit and glaring gaps in basic service delivery, to alleviate poverty and social inequality. During the Executive Board we could highlight the
work of UN-Habitat with governments to promote housing policies that ensure compact, green, well-planned cities, where all people can live in relative proximity to their workplace and where adequate housing is not a luxury but a common good.

Concerning, climate adaptation and mitigation, Member States at the HLM noted that car usage and construction in cities are causing a large share of the global CO₂ emissions, and the effects of climate change are disproportionally affecting the urban poor; and that urban sprawl contributes to environmental degradation and biodiversity loss. UN-Habitat works with cities to promote resilient and low carbon building and planning standards, resources, and capacity building. At the Executive Board we could showcase examples to promote sustainable public transit, and climate adaptive basic service provision and building standards to reduce emissions.

On conflict response, Member States at the HLM emphasized that in 2021 more than 84 million people had been forcibly displaced due to persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations, and climate change. Many pledged to amplify the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in post-conflict scenarios and for the international development community to provide guidance on post-conflict reconstruction, including urban recovery frameworks. UN-Habitat and partners could share at the Executive Board, field projects that promote urban recovery framework and inclusive urban planning and durable solutions.

As regards multi-level governance and localization, Member States emphasized that few local governments are equipped to respond to the multiple crises. UN-Habitat has been actively working with neighborhood organizations, cities, and national governments to improve multi-level urban governance system to localize the SDGs and respond to the complex global political environments. We could invite to the Executive Board mayors and policy makers working with UN-Habitat to share experiences to decentralize public administration and generate revenue.

Distinguished Representatives,

In conclusion, I would like to share with the Bureau my thoughts about how, in addition to the 2022 second session of the Executive Board, we might utilize other intergovernmental meetings and processes to further the outcomes of the HLM. Clearly the upcoming 11th Session of the World Urban Forum offers governments and other constituencies opportunities to advance the above action areas.
So too do the G7 meeting in Germany, the G20 meeting in Indonesia, COP27 in Egypt, the 2023 opening session of the African Union, the Second Session of the Habitat Assembly, and the 2023 High-Level Political Forum that will feature SDG 11. Strategically we need to utilize these international processes to promote relevant action areas, for example organizing and urban climate track for COP27 with the support of the Prime Minister of Egypt. In addition, I hope to promote the action areas in consultation with the Group of Friends and as Co-Chair of the Local2030 Coalition and the partnership with DCO on Sustainable Urbanization.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Back to you

**Slide 17: AGENDA ITEM 7 (TITLE SLIDE): Update on the Mission by Member States and Partners to Katowice to review preparations for the eleventh session of the World urban Forum (WUF 11).**

*The Chair will first introduce the Agenda item and will then give ED the floor*

*[NOTE: ED YOU MAY ALSO INVITE NEIL TO PRESENT THIS ITEM]*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

With your permission I will now provide an update to the Bureau of the Executive Board on the advance mission towards the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum (WUF11), in line with invitation extended by the Government of Poland during the first session of the Executive Board in March 2022. This also includes an update on the state of registration for participation as well as implications on the WUF11 programme.

**Slide 18: Intro to agenda item 7 on WUF 11: Venue of WUF 11**

Excellencies,

I am pleased to reaffirm and welcome you to WUF11 in Katowice later this month. The venue of the event is already abuzz with preparations, and this is a clear commitment from the government of Poland in ensuring that WUF11 is a mega success in achieving its goal.
**Slide 19: WUF11 MS Advance mission**

Excellencies

This **advance mission** started in Katowice on **20 April** and completed its work on **22 April 2022**.

The **mission’s mandate** was to assess level of preparations of WUF11 with the following objectives:

1. To conduct a **realistic assessment** of the current situation from a holistic perspective, including such matters as safety and security, programme, logistics and operations.
2. To provide **recommendations on feasibility of organising** the WUF11 in June 2022

*(Pic) These are some of the members of the advance mission during one of the sessions in Katowice.*

**Slide 20: WUF11 MS Advance mission: Composition**

This mission comprised of:

1. Ambassador Ms. Jean Kimani, Permanent Representative (**Kenya**) (**Chair**)
2. Ambassador Marek Rohr-Garztecki, Permanent Representative (**Poland**)
3. Mr. Peter Oborn, Senior Vice-President of Commonwealth Association of Architects, UN-Habitat Stakeholder Advisory Group Enterprise (**SAGE**)
4. Mr. Clément Payeur, Deputy Permanent Representative (**France**) – attended online

This mission also included some senior officers from UN-Habitat especially dealing with the Domain of change 4 of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2023.

**Slide 21: Advance Mission recommendations and observations**

Excellencies and distinguished delegates, the **members of the mission had the following recommendations and key observations.**
1. They were confident that the WUF11 will be able to convene at Katowice on 26 to 30 June 2022 as scheduled
2. **Recommended** the development clear communications with a **joint press release**
3. **Recommended** that UN-Habitat continues to monitor the security situation in coordination with the Government of Poland and updates the Executive Board appropriately

**Observations**

1. **They appreciated** the Host Country and City’s preparations including efforts to address safety and security as well as health measures
2. **They were impressed** with the Government of Poland’s management and **empathic care for refugees** from Ukraine

With these findings, *(and also as noted by His Excellency Amb. Marek,)* we would like to assure all partners that the government of Poland, together with the UNDSS are committed to ensuring that the event runs smoothly and are also constantly monitoring the situation.

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**Slide 22: From Advance Mission to Road to Katowice – Side Event at HLM - New York**

Excellencies and distinguished delegates, the journey to WUF11 will follow the roadmap established by the New Urban Agenda: a **global shared vision for a better and more sustainable future with equal rights and access to the benefits and opportunities that cities can offer.** It wound its way through the High-Level Meeting gathering a diverse spectrum of partners and policy actors.

This side event on WUF at HLM **presented the opportunities for the constituencies** of the New Urban Agenda to draw upon the outcome of the HLM and discuss the **means of implementation of the New Urban Agenda** during the constituent assemblies taking place at the WUF11 and further meetings.

It **also raised awareness of the WUF11** by highlighting the **engagement opportunities and roles** of member states, local governments, civil society, grassroots organisations, academia, and the private sector, among other relevant stakeholders.
Slide 23: WUF11 Updates on Programme Sessions

WUF11 will feature an opening and closing session, dialogues, roundtables, and a series of events hosted and facilitated by UN-Habitat, the Government of Poland and partners. These will set the tone and identify pathways to shareable solutions to **transform cities for a better urban future**.

The five-day event will conclude with declared actions: recommendations that representatives of government, civil society and private sector take back to their home cities for further discussion and implementation.

Important highlight is the new **“Extraordinary Dialogue on Urban Crisis Response”** on the 27th of June, and two aligned **Special Sessions on 27th and 28th**. The programme has also included **about 30% events aligned with the Domain of Change 4; Effective urban crisis prevention and response**” of the UNH Strategic plan 2020-23.

In the current updated programme, up to approximately **30% of the partner-led events, with majority under the Networking Events**, have incorporated crisis and resilience dimensions to sufficiently address and highlight urban crisis response, bridging the focus on building back better.

Slide 24: Partner-Led Events Selection and Outcome

Excellencies,

Partnership, collaboration, and sharing are core to Forum’s interest to be a marketplace of knowledge and solutions: driving cities towards transformation that is inclusive, equitable, green, and resilient.

There will be **seven types of partner-led events**, including the **Urban Expo**, and most can accommodate up to 100 people with facilitation of the online platform as the hybrid event.

The online event application closed on **21 March** with nearly **1000 applications** received and the Selection Committee commenced and concluded the review of all events as of **Friday 22nd April 2022**, slotted into the programme, and the outcomes
communicated to the successful partners from the **first week of May 2022**, and we are happy to inform you that all partners have been notified of these outcomes. We shall be **continuously updating** the programme as we move closer to WUF11, and we therefore encourage you to visit the WUF11 website for the current updates.

**The Urban Expo:**
Excellencies and distinguished delegates, the **Urban Expo** is the most popular attraction at every World Urban Forum, and this year’s Eleventh Session in the **gleaming Katowice International Conference Centre** is likely to be the biggest ever.

This year, UN-Habitat has received a record total of **184 applications** for exhibition space from **60 countries**.

Over **110 exhibitors will be selected to** showcase their best practice, cutting-edge technology, and demonstrations of how cities are finding the answers to the challenges of housing, transport, energy, and access that so often hinder inclusive and equitable development.

We would like to thank you for the sheer volume and high quality of applications received.

**Slide 25: Registration Updates**

Excellencies and distinguished delegates, with the date for the WUF11 closing in, I am happy to inform you that we have registered **7,445 participants** from **over 157 countries**.

Of these, **approximately 80%** have expressed an **in-person participation**. It is important to reiterate that this WUF, unlike the predecessors, shall be **fully hybrid** in most of the sessions, and thus allowing inclusiveness for participants unable to travel to Katowice.

**Conclusion:**
Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, thank you for the opportunity to highlight the activities of the World Urban Forum 11 in relation to agenda item 7. My team, Mr. Neil Khor and Mr. Wataru Kawasaki stand ready to answer any questions that may arise.
Slide 26: AGENDA ITEM 8 (TITLE SLIDE): Establishment of the open-ended informal contact group on Resource Mobilization matters

(fully led by the Chair)

(ED possible remarks on this item)

Mr Cariman, I would like thank you very much for taking the initiative to establish the open-ended informal contact group on resource mobilization matters to enable the Organization to benefit from the guidance of the group which is very much in line with one of the functions of the Executive Board which is “to guide and support efforts to finance the work of UN-Habitat”.

We avail ourselves fully to support you towards the success of the contact group.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Slide 27: AGENDA ITEM 9- (TITLE SLIDE). Any other matters

(To be led by the Chair).