
Third meeting of the Joint Bureaux of the Governing Bodies of UN-Habitat

Tuesday, 18 October 2022

17:30 - 19:00 EAT

Hybrid meeting-UN-Habitat OED Boardroom

MEETING SUMMARY

1. H.E Mr. Erasmo Roberto Martinez Martinez, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Mexican States, which is holding the office of Presidency of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, chaired the meeting on behalf of Hon. Martha Delgado Peralta, Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights at the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs and President of the UN-Habitat Assembly. He declared the meeting opened at 17:35 pm EAT.

The following UN-Habitat Assembly Bureau members were present:

- H.E. Mr. Erasmo Martinez, Permanent Representative of the United Mexican States to UN-Habitat (in-person)
- Mr. Porfirio Martinez Morales, Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Mexican States to UN-Habitat (in-person)
 - Mr. Ernesto Valdes, UN-Habitat focal point for the United Mexican States (online)
 - Mr. Rodolfo Osorio UN-Habitat focal point for the United Mexican States (online)
 - Ms. Doris Ritcher, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Ghana (in-person)
 - Mr. Sylvanus Kofi Adzomu, UN-Habitat focal point for the Republic of Ghana (online)
 - Mr. Samuel Seth Passah, UN-Habitat focal point for the Republic of Ghana (online)
 - Ms. Pamela Adofo Ansong, UN-Habitat focal point for the Republic of Ghana (online)
 - Mr. Martin Adjei- Mensah Korsah, UN-Habitat focal point for the Republic of Ghana (online)
 - Mr. Martin Row, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to UN-Habitat (in-person)
 - Ms. Tong Guichan, Deputy Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to UN-Habitat (online)
 - Ms. Joanna Szymanska, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to UN-Habitat (online)

The following Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureau members were present:

- H.E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to UN-Habitat (in-person)
- Ms. Felista Rugambwa, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of the United Republic of Tanzania to UN-Habitat (online)
- H.E. Mr. Peter Maddens, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Belgium to UN-Habitat (in-person)
- Ms. Machteld Cattryssee, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Belgium to UN-Habitat (in-person)

- Mr. Sergio Salazar Alzate, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Colombia to UN-Habitat (in-person)

The following Executive Board Bureau members were present:

- H.E. Mr. Silvio Albuquerque, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Federative Republic of Brazil to UN-Habitat (online)
- H.E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to UN-Habitat (in-person)
- H.E. Ms. Jean Kimani, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to UN-Habitat (online)
- Ms. Winnie Mwanjala, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to UN-Habitat (online)
- Ms. Shelly Nyawira, Third Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Kenya to UN-Habitat (online)
- Mr. Clement Payeur, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of France to UN-Habitat (in-person)

The following UN-Habitat Secretariat members were also present:

- Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director.
 - Mr. Raf Tuts, a.i. Deputy Executive Director and Director, Global Solutions Division.
 - Mr. Chris Mensah, Secretary to the Governing Bodies.
 - Mr. Neil Khor, Chief of Staff.
 - Mr. Stephen Slawsky, Director, Management Advisory and Compliance Service
 - Mr. Chris Williams, Director of UN-Habitat Liaison Office, New York
 - Mr. Saidou N'Dow, Legal Office
2. The Chair welcomed all participants to the meeting and recognized the presence of H.E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to UN-Habitat and Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to UN-Habitat for 2021-2023 and of H.E. Mr. Silvio Albuquerque, Permanent Representative of the Federative Republic of Brazil to UN-Habitat and Chair of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat for 2022-2023.
 3. The Chair expressed on behalf of the President of the UN-Habitat Assembly, Hon. Martha Delgado Peralta, his appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Türkiye as the host of the Global Observance of the World Habitat Day held in the City of Balikesir on 3 October 2022 under the theme “Mind the Gap and Leave No One and no Place Behind”. He noted that the event encouraged through-provoking discussion and focused on the immediate actions needed at the national and local levels to narrow the gap between the urban poor, the rural and urban areas, or different neighborhoods within cities.
 4. The Chair noted that the President of the UN-Habitat Assembly valued immensely the significant role of the Governing Bodies of UN-Habitat in guiding the Executive Director towards a stronger position in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.
 5. The Chair recalled that rule 28 of the [rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly](#) provides for the possibility of a joint Bureau meeting as follows; “the respective Bureaux of the UN-Habitat Assembly, the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the Executive Board may, for the purpose of coordinating their activities, conduct joint Bureaux meetings”.

6. The Chair also recalled that the purpose of the meeting was to advance the preparations for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly and to select the special theme for the session.

Agenda item 1: Adoption of the provisional Agenda

7. The provisional agenda was adopted without any changes as follows:
 1. Adoption of the provisional Agenda.
 2. Review of the provisional Agenda for the Assembly.
 3. Briefing by the Executive Director on the status of preparations for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, including on the special theme and on the resource mobilization and fundraising efforts.
 4. Discussion on the special theme of Assembly.
 5. Any other matters.

Agenda item 2: Review of the provisional Agenda for the Assembly

8. The Chair noted that at its first session, the United Nations Habitat Assembly decided in its Decision one-third that the second session will be held from 5 to 9 June 2023. In paragraph 7 of Decision one-third, the UN-Habitat Assembly also decided on the provisional Agenda for its second session.
9. The Chair recalled that the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat, during its first open-ended meeting for a high-level mid-term review held in June 2021, further reviewed, and confirmed the dates and provisional Agenda for the second session of the Assembly. The Chair noted that in addition, the provisional Agenda was reviewed during the second Joint-Bureaux meeting of the Governing Bodies of UN-Habitat held on 29 June 2022 and that no objections were raised with respect to the provisional Agenda.
10. The Chair further noted that the process for amending the provisional Agenda is prescribed in rules 12.1 and 12.2 of the [rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly](#). He indicated that although the rules provide that after the UN-Habitat Assembly has considered the provisional agenda for the following session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, States Members of the United Nations and members of the United Nations specialized agencies, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Executive Director may propose supplementary items for inclusion in that agenda, not less than 49 days in advance of the opening date of the session. Such a proposal, unless made by the General Assembly, shall be examined by the Committee of Permanent Representatives during its meeting to prepare for the regular session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, and shall be accompanied by a supporting statement from the party proposing it, explaining the urgency of the consideration of the item. The Executive Director shall communicate to the UN-Habitat Assembly, through the Committee of Permanent Representatives, any request for the inclusion of the supplementary items received before the start of the regular session, with the accompanying supporting statements, where applicable, together with any comments or observations that the Executive Director may wish to make on such matters.
11. The provisional Agenda for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly can be accessed [here](#).
12. The update by the Chair was followed by an exchange of views with Bureaux members.

13. Subsequently, the Joint-Bureaux reviewed and confirmed the provisional Agenda for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly which can be accessed [here](#).
14. The Joint Bureaux requested the Secretariat to prepare and circulate a tentative roadmap on the preparations for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
15. The Joint Bureaux further requested the Secretariat to circulate in time a guidance note on the modalities for submission of potential draft resolutions by the Member States for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
16. The Secretariat clarified that as requested it would provide draft technical inputs to feed into potential draft resolutions to be considered by the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
17. The Secretariat also noted that draft resolutions to be adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly will be discussed by the open-ended meeting of the CPR to UN-Habitat to be held in preparation for the session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly from 29 May to 2 June 2022.
18. The Secretariat noted that any outcomes of the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, including the draft resolutions as well as highlights of the discussions on the key theme, will be reflected in the report of the session. The Secretariat also noted that the outcomes of the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly will be adopted under Agenda item 12 of the provisional Agenda, namely ‘Adoption of the report of the United Nations Habitat Assembly’.
19. One Bureau member sought further clarification on the process required to align the existing Strategic Plan for 2020 - 2023 of UN-Habitat to the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review process of the United Nations.
20. The Secretariat informed that the Executive Board, in its [Decision 2021/6 adopted by its second session of 2021](#), recommended that the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its second session of 2023 consider approving the extension of the current strategic plan for the period 2020–2023 until 2025 to cover the period 2020–2025 in order to align the planning cycle of UN-Habitat with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. The Secretariat further noted that the modalities for extension of the current strategic plan were yet to be discussed by the United Nations Habitat Assembly and that the final recommendation on the matter would be reflected in a decision of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.

Agenda item 3: Briefing by the Executive Director on the status of preparations for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, including on the special theme and on the resource mobilization and fundraising efforts.

21. The Chair noted that [Resolution 20/21 adopted by the former Governing Council of UN-Habitat in 2005](#) provides that the special themes for the sessions shall be selected by the Bureau at least six months before the start of each session, on the basis of advice from the Executive Director.
22. Upon invitation by the Chair, the Executive Director briefed the Joint Bureaux on the status of preparations for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, including the special theme and on the resource mobilization and fundraising efforts. The presentation by the Executive Director can be accessed [here](#). The statement by the Executive Director can be accessed [here](#).
23. The draft concept note on the theme initially proposed by the Executive Director for the second session of the United Nations Assembly “**Inclusive, transformative and effective multilateralism for a better urban future: Just and sustainable urban transformation to achieve the SDGs in times of global crises**” can be accessed [here](#).

24. The Secretariat further provided an update on UN-Habitat's resource mobilization and fundraising efforts. The detailed presentation can be accessed [here](#).
25. The Joint Bureaux took note of the briefing by the Executive Director on UN-Habitat's resource mobilization and fundraising efforts with no further comments.

Agenda item 4: Discussion on the special theme of Assembly

26. Upon invitation by the Chair, the Joint-Bureaux discussed the draft concept note on the theme proposed by the Executive Director for the second session of the United Nations Assembly **“Inclusive, transformative and effective multilateralism for a better urban future: Just and sustainable urban transformation to achieve the SDGs in times of global crises”** which can be accessed [here](#).
27. The Joint-Bureaux expressed its preliminary support to the proposed theme, with the understanding that some Bureau members were yet to receive feedback from their respective Capitals on the matter.
28. One Bureau member recommended either detailing the cause of the energy, finance, and food crises being referred to in the third paragraph of the draft Concept Note or omitting the reference to the global crisis in the third paragraph of the draft Concept Note.
29. One Bureau member recommended that the theme should emphasize just, green, and healthy urban transformation.
30. The Joint Bureaux recommended the Secretariat further streamlines the language of the proposed theme considering the comments received.
31. The Joint Bureaux further requested the Secretariat to circulate under a no-objection silence procedure on Wednesday 19 November 2022 States at least until Wednesday 26 October 2022, a revised version of the theme title and the Concept Note. The Joint Bureaux noted that this would ensure concurrence and ownership of all Member States on the proposed theme.

Agenda item 5: Any other matters

32. Upon invitation by the Chair, one member of the Bureau of the Executive Board requested the addition of three items to the provisional Agenda for the 2022 second session of the Executive Board to be held from 21-to 23 November 2022, as follows:
 - a) A briefing by the Board of Auditors on the report for 2021.
 - b) An update by UN-Habitat on action to strengthen protection against sexual and any other type of exploitation and abuse and against sexual harassment in the workplace.
 - c) A briefing on the “Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation”
32. The Secretariat took note of the request to include additional items of the provisional Agenda of the upcoming session of the Executive Board and recommended that this be further discussed during the meeting of the Bureau of the Executive Board scheduled for 7 November 2022.

The third meeting of the Joint Bureaux of the Governing Bodies of UN-Habitat was adjourned at 19:15 hrs EAT.