



**United Nations Habitat Assembly of the
United Nations Human Settlements Programme
Second session**
Nairobi, 5–9 June 2023
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

**Report of the Chair of the Committee of Permanent
Representatives**

Report of the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its second session

I. Background

1. On 20 December 2018, the General Assembly of the United Nations in resolution [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. In resolution [73/239](#), the General Assembly welcomed the work of the Open-ended Working Group established by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat pursuant to General Assembly resolution [72/226](#) of 20 December 2018, and endorsed its findings and recommendations on changing the governance structure of UN-Habitat ([A/73/726](#)), including that the Committee of Permanent Representatives convene, in an open-ended manner, twice every four years, once prior to the UN-Habitat Assembly, in preparation for that session, and once for a high-level midterm review.
3. In the same resolution, the General Assembly decided 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. The General Assembly also decided that the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat would prepare draft rules of procedure for the UN-Habitat Assembly, to be completed no later than April or May 2019, with a view to their adoption at the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
5. Accordingly, at the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, held in Nairobi from 27 to 31 May 2019, the Assembly adopted its rules of procedure ([HSP/HA.1/HLS.2, annex](#)), providing, in rule 23, for the Committee of Permanent Representatives to convene, in an open-ended manner, twice every four years, once prior to the UN-Habitat Assembly, in preparation for that session, and once for a high-level midterm review. Also at the first session, the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives was elected, on an exceptional basis, to serve until the end of the high-level midterm review meeting of the Committee, to be held in 2021. Eritrea was elected as Chair; Bangladesh, Costa Rica and Serbia as Vice-Chairs; while the position of rapporteur remained vacant.

* HSP/HA.2/1.

6. The first open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives was held in Nairobi from 29 June to 1 July 2021, for a high-level midterm review, and the second open-ended meeting, at which the Committee is to prepare for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, will convene from 29 to 31 May and on 2 June 2023, immediately prior to the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, in line with resolution 73/239 and rule 23 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly.

II. Progress made by the Committee of Permanent Representatives

First open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

7. At its first open-ended meeting, held from 29 June to 1 July 2021, the Committee of Permanent Representatives focused on the high-level midterm review of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023, and a review of progress achieved in the implementation of the decisions and resolutions adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its first session and in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

8. With regard to the review of the strategic plan, the Committee called upon the Executive Director to strengthen the analysis of linkages between the Programme's operational and normative activities to increase the impact of its work across the relevant outcomes of the strategic plan in support of sustainable and inclusive recovery and present the analysis to the UN-Habitat Assembly at its second session and to the Executive Board for further consideration. The Committee also encouraged the Executive Director to support the preparation of voluntary local reviews by local and regional governments through normative guidance and technical assistance, upon request, and by building connections with voluntary national reviews, as appropriate.

9. The outcomes of the first open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives: high-level midterm review are reflected in the four recommendations and one decision adopted at the meeting, as follows:

(a) Recommendation 2021/1: Implementation of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its first session, in May 2019, comprising:

- (i) Part (a): Implementation of resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its first session;
- (ii) Part (b): Enhancing capacity-building in a coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and post-COVID-19 world;
- (iii) Part (c): Stakeholder engagement and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in support of the Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals.

(b) Recommendation 2021/2: Implementation of resolution 1/1 on the United Nations Human Settlements Programme strategic plan for the period 2020–2023;

(c) Recommendation 2021/3: Quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to assess progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, and the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum;

(d) Recommendation 2021/4: Dates and agenda of the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly and dates and agenda for the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives:

- (i) Part (a): Dates and agenda of the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly;
- (ii) Part (b): Dates and agenda of the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in preparation for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.

(e) Decision 2021/1: Election of officers of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for the term 2021–2023.

10. In decision 2021/1, the Committee of Permanent Representatives elected Pakistan (Pacific States) as its Chair, and the United Republic of Tanzania (African States) and Colombia (Latin American and Caribbean States) as its Vice-Chairs for the period 2021–2023. The Western European

and other States and the Eastern European States were not able to nominate candidates during the meeting and the meeting agreed that those groups could nominate their candidate who will be elected on a no-objection basis upon circulation of the nominated candidates to Member States. Subsequently and after the close of the meeting, the Western European and other States nominated Belgium for the position of Vice-Chair and the Eastern European States nominated Slovakia for the position of Rapporteur. The secretariat circulated the nominations, as agreed during the meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, for election on the basis of no objection. Belgium was duly elected as Vice-Chair on a no-objection basis, while the position of rapporteur remains vacant due to an objection by a Member State.

11. The above-mentioned outcomes are set out in document [HSP/OECPR.2021/8](#), the report of the meeting is set out in document [HSP/OECPR.2021/7](#) and the Chair's summary of the meeting is set out in document [HSP/OECPR.2021/9](#).

III. Upcoming meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

12. In 2023, the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives is scheduled to be held in Nairobi from 29 to 31 May 2023 and on 2 June 2023, focusing on the preparations for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. The third open-ended meeting of the Committee is expected to convene in 2025 and will focus on a high-level midterm review. The second open-ended meeting will be suspended at the end of the afternoon session on 31 May 2023 for the "Madaraka Day" public holiday in Kenya on 1 June and will resume on 2 June.

13. More information about the Committee of Permanent Representatives, its Bureau and the high-level midterm review can be found at the following links:

- (a) <https://unhabitat.org/governance/committee-of-permanent-representatives>;
- (b) <https://unhabitat.org/High-level-mid-term-review-meeting-of-the-Committee-of-Permanent-Representatives-to-UN-Habitat>.