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**UN HABITAT United Nations
Human Settlements
Programme**

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**Open-ended meeting of the Committee
of Permanent Representatives of the
United Nations Human Settlements Programme
Second session of 2023**

Nairobi, 29-31 May and on 2 June 2023

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

**Review of the status of preparations for the
second session of the United Nations Habitat
Assembly**

Status of preparations for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly **

Note by the secretariat.

I. Introduction

1. In line with rule 23.2 of the rules of procedure of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, the Committee of Permanent Representatives “shall 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. If necessary to efficiently implement its mandate to prepare the next session of the Assembly, the Committee may, on a basis of consensus, establish subcommittees”.

2. This report provides an update on the status of preparations for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (UN-Habitat Assembly) to be held from 5 to 9 June 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya.

II. Notification of the Executive Director and Provisional Agenda for the session

3. The notification of the Executive Director was issued in the UN official languages on 30 December 2022 in line with the rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly. The notification contains the provisional Agenda for the session and confirms the dates of the session which are 5 to 9 June 2023 as decided upon by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its first session in 2029 through decision 1/3.

* HSP/OECPR.2023/1.

4.The Notification further presents the theme of the session and highlights the key issues to be discussed in line with the provisional Agenda.

5.The Notification in all six official languages of the United Nations is available as follows: [English](#) [Русский](#) [Español](#) [Français](#) [中文](#) [العربية](#)

6.The provisional Agenda in six official languages of the United Nations is available [here](#).

III. Theme of the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly

7.The theme of the second session was arrived at on 16 December 2022 is: “**A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: Achieving the SDGs in times of global crises**”.

8.This theme was arrived at based on the proposal of the Executive Director, with the guidance of the President of the UN-Habitat Assembly, the Joint-Bureaux of the Governing Bodies and through the informal consultations chaired by Pakistan as Chair of the CPR.

9.To concretize the special theme, five key action areas were identified to help structure the deliberations of the UN-Habitat Assembly on global urban policies: 1) universal access to adequate housing, 2) urban climate action and environmental protection, 3) urban crisis recovery, 4) localization of the SDGs and multi-level governance, 5) prosperity and finance.’ These reflect the priorities expressed by Member States during the High-Level Meeting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

10.The special theme is therefore expected to explore action areas for sustainable urban transformation to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to achieve the SDGs in times of global crises. It is also expected to help prepare for the ‘Summit of the Future: Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow’ in New York in September 2024.’

11.The Executive Director’s paper on the theme of the Assembly is available in all six UN official languages and can be found [here](#).

IV. Pre-session documents

12.Pre-session documents to aid discussion under each of the agenda items of the provisional agenda for the session have been made available in the six UN Official languages on the session dedicated website at : [The second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly | UN-Habitat \(unhabitat.org\)](#).

The list of documents can be found [here](#).

V. Overview of the programme for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly

13. The programme of the Assembly consists of plenary meetings and high-level dialogues and can be accessed [here](#).

a. Plenary meetings and high-level segment

14.The detailed programme highlights plenary meetings between Monday 5 June 2023 to Friday 9 June 2023. The high-level segments will be on Monday and Tuesday, 5 and 6 June 2023.

15. As part of the high-level segment of the Assembly, the programme will include a Presidential Dialogue on Monday 5 June 2023. In addition, a First Ladies’ roundtable focused on “women shaping cities and communities” will be held on Tuesday 6 June 2023.

16. The interactive high-level dialogue on the special theme to be held on Wednesday 7 June 2023 also forms part of the high-level segment of the session.

17. The plenary meetings will take place daily from 10 am to 1 pm and from 3pm to 6pm.

b. National Statements

18. The programme of the Assembly also includes provision for National Statements to be delivered by Ministers and Heads of Delegations on Monday 5 June, Tuesday 6 June, and if required, on Thursday 8 June 2023. Delegates are encouraged to register for speaking slots to deliver statements which can be accessed [here](#). The last date for the application of speaking slots will be Tuesday 6 June 2023.

c. Sessional Committees - Committee of the Whole and Drafting Committee

19. In line with rule 26 of the rules of procedure of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, the Assembly “may set up such other sessional organs, subcommittees or working groups, composed of States Members of the United Nations and members of the United Nations specialized agencies, as it may deem necessary and refer to them any item on the agenda or any other question for consideration and reporting”. In this regard, it is proposed that during the upcoming session, the Assembly may set up the Committee of the Whole and the drafting committee to consider in-depth discussions of the substantive agenda items on the Provisional Agenda and the draft resolutions before the session, respectively.

VI. High-Level Dialogue on the special theme of the session

20. During the session, Wednesday, 7 June 2023 will be dedicated a high-level interactive, strategic dialogue on the theme of the Assembly which is “**A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crises**”. The highlights of the Intercative Dialogue on the special theme of the UN-Habitat Assembly are as follows.

a. Wednesday, 7 June 2023, from 10 am to 1pm

- First Keynote Address on the theme of the second session

High-level Panel 1: The big challenges of our time

The dialogue will include a high-level panel with ministerial-level speakers on three of the key themes of the special theme report – housing, climate and crisis.

Panel discussion followed by a moderated Q&A among Ministers and with the Assembly participants.

Panel 2: The Key-enablers driving the SDGs in the time of crisis

The second panel will focus on key enablers such as data, financing, digital transformation and territorial approaches. A moderated panel discussion between national governments and international institutions on the key enablers such as data, financing, digital transformation, territorial approaches etc.

Panel discussion followed by a moderated Q&A with the Assembly participants.

b. Wednesday, 7 June 2023, from 3pm to 6pm.

- Second Keynote Address on the theme of the second session

Panel 3: Multi-level Governance and SDG Localization

A third panel will cover multilevel governance and Sustainable Development Goal localization, which will involve national and subnational governments and stakeholders, potentially also bringing in voices from the

United Nations resident coordinator system. A moderated panel discussion between national and sub-national governments and stakeholders on the topic of multi-level governance and SDG localization. It could potentially also bring in voices from the UN Resident Coordinators.

Panel discussion followed by a moderated Q&A with the Assembly participants.

Panel 4: Closing Panel Key Takeaways and Directions for the Summit of the Future

A closing fourth panel will synthesize the key take-away messages of the dialogue through a moderated panel discussion between the UN-Habitat Executive Director and key influencers shaping the Summit of the Future in 2024.

Panel discussion followed by a moderated Q&A with the Assembly participants.

VII. Other High-Level Events at the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly

21. Three high-level sessions intended to complement the discussion on the special theme of the Assembly are planned to take place outside of plenary settings between 1.30 pm to 3pm as follows:

- a. High Level Session on Cities and Crisis – Monday, 5 June 2023
- b. High Level Session on Housing – Tuesday, 6 June 2023
- c. High Level Session on SDGs Localization and Financing – Thursday, 8 June 2023

VIII. Side Events and Exhibitions.

22. The urban Expo at the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly will showcase urban projects, best practices, and cutting-edge solutions to tackle the challenges of housing, transport, energy, and climate change. As at 23 May 2023, 545 exhibitors had been approved and confirmed to exhibit at the urban expo.

23. The secretariat has approved 36 side event applications out of 157 applications received. The side events will take place outside of plenary hours, as follows:

- i. from 5 to 8 June 2023 at lunch time and
- ii. 5 June 2023 and 8 June 2023 in the evening.

24. Other partner events to take place prior and/or during the session of the Assembly are as follows:

- a. Global Stakeholders Forum: 3 and 4 June 2023.
- b. Business Roundtable: 4 June 2023.
- c. World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments: 8 June 2023.

IX. Status of Draft Outcomes to be considered by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its second session

a. The draft Ministerial Declaration

25. The draft Ministerial Declaration of the Second Session of the UN-Habitat Assembly was shared with Member States, following approval by the President of the United National Habitat Assembly. The first reading of the draft Ministerial Declarations has been completed at the informal consultations led by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

b. Draft Resolutions

26. There are a total of 6 (six) substantive resolutions that have been submitted and considered at informal consultations led by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

1. draft resolution titled “International guidelines on people-centered smart cities” championed by France and South Korea.
2. draft resolution titled “Accelerating Transformation of Informal Settlements and Slums by 2030” championed by South Africa.
3. draft resolution titled “World cleanup day” championed by Estonia.
4. draft resolution titled “Biodiverse and Resilient Cities-Mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into urban-territorial planning” championed by Costa Rica , Colombia, Singapore, Germany and Ecuador.
5. draft resolution titled “Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals” championed by Brazil and Egypt.
6. draft resolution titled “Adequate Housing for All” championed by Kenya, Bahrain, France and Jordan.

c. Draft Procedural Decisions

27. Draft procedural decisions have also been submitted and considered at the informal consultations led by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. These include:

1. draft Decision on extension of the current Strategic Plan until 2025
2. draft Decision on the next session of the UN-Habitat Assembly aligned with the QCPR and the next Strategic Plan
3. draft Decision on Election of 36 new Members of the Executive Board
4. draft Decision Election of a new President and Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly
5. draft Decision on the stakeholder engagement policy
6. draft Decision related to the report of the JIU on administrative and management review of UN-Habitat, especially as related to governance.

28. The above draft outcomes have undergone at least one reading at the informal consultations. They are expected to be considered by the CPR at its second open-ended meeting to be held from 29 to 32 May and on 2 June 2023, prepared for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly which will be held from 5 to 9 June 2023.

29. Subsequently, the Chair of the CPR is expected to forward the draft outcomes to the President of the UN-Habitat Assembly for further consideration by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its second session.

X. Participation of Least Developing Countries at the session

30. To facilitate the participation of Least Developing Countries (LDCs) and ensure equitable representation, support is being provided for one delegate from each of the 46 LDCs to be funded by the UN-Habitat Assembly Trust. UN-Habitat is grateful for the contribution of Member States to the Trust Fund. In this regard, UN-Habitat is grateful to China, Germany and Kenya for their recent contributions to the Trust Fund.

XI. Registration for the Session

a. Status of registration at 25 May 2023

31. As of 25 May 2023, the secretariat had received a total of 4500 participants from 130 countries to the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (the Assembly).

32. Delegations are encouraged to register online and send credentials as soon as possible in line with rule 17 of the United Nations Habitat Assembly rules of procedure.

b. Online an Onsite registration

33. On-line registration is to close on **25 May 2023** at 23:59 East Africa Time

34. On-site registration will begin at **9.00 am on Sunday, 28 May 2023** within the UNON Compound.

35. All Delegates will be required to **show proof of identity** with a valid national passport upon arrival at the registration area.

XII. Interpretation and Hybrid participation during the session.

36. Interpretation in all six UN official languages will be available for plenary meetings and meetings of the Committee of the Whole.

37. Hybrid participation will only be possible for plenary meetings only.

38. The Drafting Committee is expected to conduct its business in English only.

XI. Additional information

39. Information for Participants which contains further information including visa, information, vehicle access, the UN complex in Nairobi ,among others is available at: [generalinfo participants unha version as 18.05.23.pdf \(unhabitat.org\)](#)

40. Frequently asked questions (FAQs) are available here: [04 2023 unha faqs.pdf \(unhabitat.org\)](#)

41. The dedicated Website for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly is: [The second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly | UN-Habitat \(unhabitat.org\)](#)

42. All communications related to the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly should be addressed to:

Mr. Chris Mensah

Secretary to the Governing Bodies

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

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