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**Committee of Permanent Representatives to the  
United Nations Human Settlements Programme**  
**First open-ended meeting/  
High-level midterm review**  
Nairobi, 29 June–1 July 2021

## **Report of the first open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme: high-level midterm review**

### **I. Opening of the meeting**

1. The Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), guided by rule 23 of the rules of procedure, recommended at its first meeting, held on 1 October 2019, that the first open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for a high-level mid-term review be held in June 2021. Subsequently, the Bureau met on 8 December 2020 and 24 February 2021 to prepare for the meeting, and recommended that it be held in Nairobi and online from Tuesday, 29 June to Thursday, 1 July 2021.

2. Accordingly, the first open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat for a high-level midterm review was opened at 9 a.m. (Nairobi time, UTC + 3) on Tuesday, 29 June 2021 by the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Beyene Russom, Permanent Representative of Eritrea to UN-Habitat, who delivered an opening statement and welcomed participants to the meeting.

3. Opening statements were delivered by Ms. Zainab Hawa Bangura, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi; Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN-Habitat; Mr. Volkan Bozkir, President of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations; Ms. Martha Delgado Peralta, President of the United Nations Habitat Assembly; and Ms. Farida Karoney, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Lands and Physical Planning, Kenya, on behalf of Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya.

#### **A. Organizational matters**

4. The Chair presented a summary of the organizational arrangements for the current meeting.

#### **B. Adoption of the agenda and the workplan for the first open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for a high-level midterm review**

5. The Committee of Permanent Representatives adopted the agenda for its first open-ended meeting for a high-level midterm review on the basis of the provisional agenda (HSP/OECPR.2021/1) and the annotated provisional agenda (HSP/OECPR.2021/1/Add.1/Rev.1), as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting:
  - (a) Organizational matters;
  - (b) Adoption of the agenda and the workplan for the first open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for a high-level midterm review.

2. Midterm review of the implementation of the strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2020–2023.
3. Progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda:
  - (a) Preparation of the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda;
  - (b) Implementation of the ministerial declaration adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its first session;
  - (c) High-level meeting to assess progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
4. Progress in the implementation of the decisions and resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its first session.
5. Report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme coronavirus disease (COVID-19) response plan.
6. Preparations for the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum.
7. Alignment of the planning cycles of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process.
8. Review of the provisional agenda for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
9. Dates and provisional agenda for the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
10. Election of officers of the Bureau.
11. Other matters.
12. Closure of the meeting.

6. The Committee of Permanent Representatives agreed to the workplan and organization of work for the first open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for a high-level midterm review, including the arrangements for informal consultations on the draft outcomes and formal consideration of items for adoption, as summarized by the Chair. The Committee also agreed that the informal consultations on the draft decisions would be chaired by Ms. Saqlain Syedah, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to UN-Habitat, assisted by the Vice-Chairs, representing Costa Rica and Serbia.

7. Following the adoption of the agenda and workplan, regional statements were made by the representative of Malawi, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; the representative of the European Union, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, with Serbia and Ukraine aligning with the statement; the representative of South Sudan, speaking on behalf of the African States; the representative of Argentina, speaking on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States; and the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, speaking on behalf of the Western European and other States.

8. National statements were made by the representatives of Botswana, Egypt, Italy, Malawi, Oman, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States of America.

9. Additional statements were made by the representatives of Algeria; Colombia; Costa Rica; Egypt; South Sudan, speaking also on behalf of the African States; Switzerland and Zimbabwe. The Executive Director, the representative of the secretariat and the Chair responded to the issues raised.

### **C. Attendance**

10. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following 71 Member States: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of

Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

11. The meeting was also attended by the following observer: State of Palestine.

## **II. Midterm review of the implementation of the strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2020–2023**

12. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Executive Director on the midterm review of the implementation of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2020–2023 (HSP/OECPR.2021/2), the note by the secretariat on the summary of the annual progress report for 2020 on the implementation of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2020–2023 (HSP/OECPR.2021/INF/2), and the annual progress report for 2020 on the implementation of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2020–2023.

13. The Executive Director gave a briefing on the item, and the representative of the secretariat gave a presentation on the midterm review of the implementation of the strategic plan.

14. Following the briefing and presentation, statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Egypt, Germany, Kenya, Malaysia, Serbia, Switzerland and Zimbabwe. The Executive Director and the representative of the secretariat responded to the issues raised.

15. The Committee took note of the report of the Executive Director (HSP/OECPR.2021/2), the note by the secretariat (HSP/OECPR.2021/INF/2), and the 2020 annual progress report.

16. The Committee took note of the briefing of the Executive Director on the midterm review of the implementation of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2020–2023.

17. The Committee of Permanent Representatives adopted recommendation 2021/2 on the implementation of resolution 1/1 on the United Nations Human Settlements Programme strategic plan for the period 2020–2023. The recommendation is set out in document HSP/OECPR.2021/8.

## **III. Progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda**

18. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the documents of relevance to the Committee's consideration of sub-items 3 (a), 3 (b) and 3 (c) of the agenda: for 3 (a), the report of the Executive Director on an update on the preparation of the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (HSP/OECPR.2021/3); for 3 (b), the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the ministerial declaration adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its first session (HSP/OECPR.2021/INF3) and the ministerial declaration of the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its first session (HSP/HA.1/HLS.1); and, as a background document for the discussion of 3 (c), General Assembly resolution 75/224 on implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/RES/75/224).

### **A. Preparation of the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda**

19. Introducing the sub-item, the Executive Director delivered a briefing on the work under way to prepare the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. A representative of the secretariat gave a presentation providing further information on the guidelines, data sources, monitoring framework, the main constraints and how Member States might support efforts to address them.

### **B. Implementation of the ministerial declaration adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its first session**

20. Introducing the sub-item, the Executive Director delivered a briefing on the progress made by UN-Habitat and Member States in implementing the ministerial declaration adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its first session (HSP/HA.1/HLS.1). A representative of the secretariat gave a presentation highlighting the progress on the 10 core commitments of the declaration and presenting recommendations on the way forward.

### **C. High-level meeting to assess progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda**

21. Introducing the sub-item, the Executive Director delivered a briefing on the status of preparations for the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting to assess progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, to be convened by the President of the seventy-sixth session, as mandated in paragraph 17 of General Assembly resolution 75/224. A representative of the secretariat gave a presentation providing additional information, including possible dates, organization of work and prospective outcomes of the meeting and the regional preparatory forums.

### **D. Discussion and conclusion of the item**

22. Following the Executive Director's briefings and the presentations by the secretariat, statements were delivered by the representatives of Argentina, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Egypt, Finland, Germany and Senegal. The Executive Director responded to the comments and took note of the feedback and guidance.

23. Following that discussion, the Committee of Permanent Representatives took note of the reports of the Executive Director on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (HSP/OECPR.2021/3) and on the implementation of the ministerial declaration adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its first session (HSP/OECPR.2021/INF3) and the respective updates thereto, as provided by the Executive Director.

24. The Committee of Permanent Representatives also took note of the Executive Director's briefing on the preparations for the General Assembly high-level meeting to assess progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

25. The Committee of Permanent Representatives adopted recommendation 2021/3 on the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on progress 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. The recommendation is set out in document HSP/OECPR.2021/8.

## **IV. Progress in the implementation of the decisions and resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its first session**

26. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Executive Director on the status of implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its first session (HSP/OECPR.2021/4).

27. The Executive Director gave a briefing on the item, and the representatives of the secretariat gave a presentation on progress in the implementation of the decisions and resolutions adopted by the Assembly at its first session, including convergence with the strategic plan for the period 2020–2030, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the decision or resolution, and what could be achieved with additional resources.

28. The Committee of Permanent Representatives took note of the report and update of the Executive Director on progress in the implementation of the decisions and resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its first session (HSP/OECPR.2021/4).

29. The Committee of Permanent Representatives adopted recommendation 2021/1 on the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its first session. The recommendation is set out in document HSP/OECPR.2021/8.

## **V. Report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme coronavirus disease (COVID-19) response plan**

### **A. Consideration of the report of the Executive Director**

30. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the UN-Habitat coronavirus disease (COVID-19) response plan (HSP/OECPR.2021/5).

31. The Executive Director gave a briefing on the item and the representative of the secretariat gave a presentation on the UN-Habitat response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the health response, the humanitarian response and the socioeconomic response.
32. Following the briefing and presentation, statements were made by the representatives of Argentina and Egypt. The Executive Director responded to the issues raised.
33. The Committee of Permanent Representatives took note of the report and update of the Executive Director on the implementation of the UN-Habitat COVID-19 response plan (HSP/OECPR.2021/5).

## **B. Dialogue on cities and pandemics**

34. Subsequently, the Committee took part in an interactive dialogue on the theme “Cities and pandemics”, moderated by Ms. Victoria Rubadiri, journalist.
35. Introducing the dialogue, the Chair drew attention to the UN-Habitat report *Cities and pandemics: Towards a more just, green and healthy future*. The Executive Director gave a statement on the background and key objectives of the dialogue. A representative of the secretariat delivered a presentation on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on cities and urban living.
36. Expert inputs relevant to the theme were made by a panel of experts composed of Mr. Etienne Krug, Director of Social Determinants of Health, World Health Organization; Ms. Mariana Mazzucato, Professor in the Economics of Innovation and Public Value, University College London; Mr. Lee Kinyanjui, Governor, Nakuru County, Kenya; and Mr. Balakrishnan Rajagopal, Special Rapporteur on adequate housing.
37. Statements were delivered by the representatives of Colombia and Costa Rica. A representative of the UN-Habitat Stakeholder Advisory Group also gave a statement. The panel of experts responded to questions and comments and delivered their takeaway message on the theme.
38. A summary of the dialogue is contained in the Chair’s summary of the proceedings of the first open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for a high-level midterm review (HSP/OECPR.2021/9).

## **VI. Preparations for the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum**

39. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Executive Director on preparations for the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum (HSP/OECPR.2021/6).
40. The Executive Director gave a briefing on the item, and the representative of the secretariat gave a presentation on preparations for the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum, including information on the theme, goal and objectives, and planned outcomes.
41. Following the briefing and presentation, a statement was made by the representative of Poland, to which the Executive Director responded.
42. The Committee of Permanent Representatives took note of the briefing and report of the Executive Director on preparations for the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum (HSP/OECPR.2021/6).
43. The Committee of Permanent Representatives adopted paragraph 5 of recommendation 2021/3 on the 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. The recommendation is set out in document HSP/OECPR.2021/8.

## **VII. Alignment of the planning cycles of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process**

44. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the note by the secretariat on the alignment of the planning cycles of UN-Habitat with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process (HSP/OECPR.2021/INF/4).

45. The Executive Director gave a briefing on the item and the representative of the secretariat gave a presentation on the alignment of planning cycles, including analysis of the various options under consideration to achieve alignment.

46. Following the briefing and presentation, a statement was made by the representative of Egypt, to which the Executive Director responded.

47. The Committee of Permanent Representatives took note of the report and briefing of the Executive Director on the alignment of the planning cycles of UN-Habitat with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process (HSP/OECPR.2021/INF/4).

## **VIII. Review of the provisional agenda for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly**

48. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to a draft recommendation on the dates and agenda for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, as set out in a conference room paper.

49. The Committee of Permanent Representatives adopted recommendation 2021/4 on the dates and agenda of the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly and the dates and agenda for the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The recommendation is set out in document HSP/OECPR.2021/8.

## **IX. Dates and provisional agenda for the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives**

50. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to a draft recommendation on the dates and agenda for the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as set out in a conference room paper.

51. The Committee of Permanent Representatives adopted recommendation 2021/4 on the 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. The recommendation is set out in document HSP/OECPR.2021/8.

## **X. Election of officers of the Bureau**

52. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to paragraph 32 of the annotated provisional agenda for the meeting (HSP/OECPR.2021/1/Add.1/Rev.1), setting out the expected composition of the Bureau for the period 2021–2023.

53. In accordance with rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly and in the light of the fact that the Western European and other States did not nominate a candidate for the position of Chair, the Committee of Permanent Representatives elected the following members of the Bureau to serve as of the closure of its first open-ended meeting for the period 2021–2023:

Chair:	Pakistan (Asia-Pacific States)
Vice-Chair:	United Republic of Tanzania (African States)
Vice-Chair:	Colombia (Latin American and Caribbean States)
Vice-Chair:	(vacant) (Western European and other States)
Rapporteur:	(vacant) (Eastern European States)

54. The Committee of Permanent Representatives elected the members of the Bureau on the understanding that it would have an opportunity, on a no objection basis, to elect the remaining members of the Bureau upon nomination by the regional groups.

55. As recommended by the outgoing Bureau, the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives encouraged the chairs of the regional groups who had yet to nominate their representatives to the incoming Bureau to consistently participate in all the meetings and activities of the Bureau pending the elections to fill the vacant positions. There was no objection to the recommendation.

56. The Committee of Permanent Representatives adopted decision 2021/1 on the election of officers of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for the term 2021–2023. The decision is set out in document HSP/OECPR.2021/8.

## **XI. Adoption of the report of the meeting**

57. The Committee of Permanent Representatives adopted the draft report of the first open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for a high-level mid-term review on the basis of the draft that had been circulated, on the understanding that the report would be finalized by the Chair with the support of the outgoing Bureau.

58. A Chair's summary of the proceedings of the first open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for a high-level mid-term review is set out in document HSP/OECPR.2021/9.

## **XII. Other matters**

59. Closing statements were delivered by the representatives of Egypt, Morocco, Bufete de Estudios Interdisciplinarios, the Huairou Commission, the UN-Habitat Stakeholder Advisory Group Enterprise, United Cities and Local Governments and the World Blind Union. A closing statement was also delivered by the Executive Director.

## **XIII. Closure of the meeting**

60. The Chair declared the meeting closed at 12 noon on Thursday, 1 July 2021.

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