



United Nations Human Settlements Programme

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**Second Bureau meeting of the United Nations Habitat Assembly for the year 2023**

Wednesday, 24 April 2023

14:30 hrs - 16:30 hrs, East Africa Time

Hybrid meeting-UN-Habitat OED Boardroom

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Agenda item 1: Adoption of the provisional Agenda.**

1. Hon. Martha Delgado Peralta, Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights at the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs and President of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, opened the meeting at 14:40 hrs EAT.

**The following UN-Habitat Assembly Bureau members were present:**

Hon. Martha Delgado Peralta, Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights at the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs and President of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (online)

H.E. Mr. Erasmo Martinez, Permanent Representative of the United Mexican States to UN-Habitat (in-person)

Mr. Porforio Martinez, Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Mexican States to UN-Habitat (in-person)

Ms. Tong Guichan, Deputy Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to UN-Habitat and Rapporteur of the Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (in-person)

Ms. Zhao Wenhua, First Secretary of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China (in-person)

Mr. Martin Row, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to UN-Habitat and Vice President of the Bureau of United Nations Habitat Assembly (in-person)

Mr. William Anani-Abotsi, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Ghana to UN-Habitat and Vice President of the Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (online)

Ms. Joanna Szymanska, Deputy Permanent Representative of Republic of Poland to UN-Habitat and Vice Chair of the Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (online)

**The following Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureau members were present:**

Ms. Felista Rugambwa, Head of Chancellery of the United Republic of Tanzania and Vice-Chair of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (in-person)

Mr. Sergio Salazar Alzate, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Colombia to UN-Habitat and Vice-Chair of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (online)

Ms. Cattrysse Machteld, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Belgium to UN-Habitat and Vice-Chair of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (online)

**The following UN Habitat Secretariat members were also present:**

Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director.

Mr. Michal Mlynar, Deputy Executive Director.

Mr. Raf Tuts, Director, Global Solutions Division.

Mr. Chris Mensah, Secretary to the Governing Bodies.

Mr. Erfan Ali, Chief of Staff.

Mr. Chris Williams, Director of UN-Habitat Liaison Office, New York

Mr. Stadler Trengove, Principal Legal Officer

2. The Chair welcomed all participants to the meeting. The provisional agenda was adopted without any changes and can be accessed [here](#).

**Agenda item 2: Status of draft resolutions to be considered by the second open-ended meeting of the CPR in preparations for the second session of the United Nations Assembly.**

3. The President recalled that at its first meeting for the year 2023 held on 15 February 2023, the Bureau recommended that Member States should submit any draft resolutions by 15 April 2023. A revised guidance note on the submission of resolutions including the recommendations formulated by the Bureau at that meeting which can be accessed [here](#) and was circulated to all Member States.
4. Upon invitation by the President, the Executive Director provided an update on the status of submission of draft resolutions. The statement by the Executive Director can be accessed [here](#) and her detailed presentation can be accessed [here](#). The Executive Director informed that the Secretariat had received nine ideas towards substantive resolutions in addition to the set of procedural resolutions as follows:
  - a. The list of the ideas towards the substantive resolutions can be accessed [here](#).
  - b. The list of the proposed procedural resolutions can be accessed [here](#).
5. Upon invitation by the President, the Deputy Executive Director provided an update on the status of preparations of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. The statement by the Executive Director can be accessed [here](#).
6. The Bureau took note of the presentation made by the Secretariat.

**Agenda item 3: Briefing and discussion on the alignment of the UN-Habitat planning cycles and cycle of election of the offices of the governing bodies with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review process (QCPR).**

7. The President recalled the United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) on the operational activities for development of the United Nations system and highlighted that the QCPR is now the primary policy instrument of the General Assembly to define the way the UN development system operations to support program countries in their development efforts.
8. The President further indicated that following that the General Assembly resolution on the QCPR, UN entities are expected to operationalize their respective strategic plans in line with the QCPR to which UN-Habitat has yet to align.

9. Furthermore, the President recalled that the Executive Board, in its Decision 2021/6 paragraph 14, recommended that the United Nations Habitat Assembly (the Assembly) at its second session of 2023 consider approving an extension of the current strategic plan for the period 2020–2023, to end in 2025 to cover the period 2020–2025 in order to align the planning cycle of UN-Habitat with the QCPR.
10. The President further noted that the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) met on 12 April 2023 and considered options for the alignment of the UN-Habitat strategic planning cycles with the QCPR, and election of the offices of the Governing Bodies. These options can be accessed [here](#). The Bureau of the CPR carefully considered the options presented by the Secretariat on the possible alignment of the UN-Habitat Planning cycle, the election of offices of the Governing Bodies, with the QCPR process, decided to recommend an alignment in 2025. The recommendation took into consideration the following:
  - a. That the Executive Board at its 2021 second session already recommended that the Assembly consider an extension of the current strategic plan 2020 to 2023 to cover the period 2020 to 2025 and therefore no new Strategic plan has been prepared.
  - b. That UN-Habitat was in the minority of UN organizations that had not already aligned with the QCPR and that it was within the mandate of Member States to ensure such an alignment occurs.
  - c. The need for offices of the Governing Bodies to be elected to also be aligned in terms of their tenure of office, with the proposed early alignment in 2025. The CPR Bureau noted that the elections may require the suspension of some rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly, but it was a desired option so that from 2025 onwards UN-Habitat becomes fully aligned with the QCPR and that each Governing Body is able to discharge its functions seamlessly in line with the rules of Procedure.
11. Upon the invitation by the President, the Secretariat presented the option for the alignment of the UN-Habitat strategic planning cycles with the QCPR as recommended by the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives during its meeting held on 20 April 2023 for an early alignment in 2025 as follows:
  - a. The option recommended by the Bureau of the CPR and presented by the Secretariat can be accessed [here](#).
  - b. In addition, the Secretariat presented a legal note on the elections of the offices of the governing bodies which can be accessed [here](#).
12. The presentation was followed by an exchange of views among Bureau members.
13. The Bureau endorsed the recommendation by the Bureau of the CPR, namely that:
  - a. The alignment of UN-Habitat planning cycles with the QCPR should take place in 2025;
  - b. The current 2020-2023 Strategic Plan of UN-Habitat be extended to cover the period until 2025, as already recommended by the Executive Board in [paragraph 14 of its Decision 2021/6](#)
  - c. The regular second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly to be held from 5 to 9 June 2023 be adjourned, and resume in 2025 for the purpose of approving a new Strategic Plan to be prepared by the Executive Board for the period 2026-2029, which will align with the QCPR.
  - d. The third regular session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly held in 2029 to ensure full alignment of UN-Habitat planning cycle with the QCPR.

14. The Bureau further recommended that the Secretariat conveys the recommendation to all Member States and that be discussed during the informal consultations of the CPR to be held on 25 April 2023.

**Agenda item 4: Any other matters**

15. The Bureau noted with concern that only three substantive resolutions have been formally submitted so far within the suggested deadline.

**The second meeting of the United Nations Habitat Assembly for the year 2023 was adjourned at 16:00 hrs. East African Time (EAT).**