Committee of Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
Second open-ended meeting: preparations for the
second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly
Nairobi, 29–31 May and 2 June 2023
Agenda item 9 - Consideration of the Chair’s draft summary
of the second open-ended meeting of the
Committee of Permanent Representatives.

Second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent
Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
in preparations for the second session of the United Nations Habitat
Assembly

Summary by the Chair (Draft)

I. Introduction

1. The Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) held its second open-ended meeting in preparation for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly. More than 400 participants took part in the meeting, both in-person and online, including Ministers and Ambassadors and other representatives of Member States.

2. The present summary by the Chair captures the proceedings of the meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in preparation for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly. The summary complements the report and the outcomes of the meeting, contained in documents HSP/OECPR.2023/L1 (report) and also the following outcomes:

   - HSP/OECPR.2023/CPR2/Rev.2-Draft Ministerial Declaration
   - HSP/OECPR.2023/CPR3/Rev.2–Procedural Decisions
   - HSP/OECPR.2023/CPR4/ Rev.2 –Smart Cities
II. Agenda item 1: opening of the meeting

Opening of the meeting

3. At the first plenary meeting of the Committee, on Monday, 29 May 2023, the Chair, Ms. Saqlain Syedah, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to UN-Habitat, called to order, the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, welcomed participants and representatives and invited regional and political groups to deliver opening remarks.

A. Opening statements

4. In her welcoming remarks, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, noted that homelessness was increasing at a time of enormous wealth with the strongest manifestations being in cities. This was heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic as reported by the UN-Habitat World Cities Report published in June 2022. The Report indicated that over 150 million people slipped into poverty with more than 1 billion people living in slums. Noting that SDG 11 is the docking station of 63% of all the other SDGs, she emphasized the crucial role of the Committee of the Permanent Representatives in revitalizing the Sustainable Development Goals.

B. Organizational matters

5. The Chair briefed participants on the work conducted by the Bureau in preparation for the meeting and presented the organization of work as supported by the Secretariat. The presentation by the Secretariat focused on the clustering of draft resolutions for consideration by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

C. Adoption of the agenda and workplan for the second session of CPR 2023

6. The meeting adopted the agenda (document HSP/OECPR.2023/1) and agreed with the workplan for the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
III. Agenda item 2: Adoption of the report of the CPR on the work of its first open-ended meeting

A. Presentation

7. The Committee of Permanent Representatives presented the report of its work for the first open-ended meeting for a high-level midterm review from 29 June to 1 July 2021, as cleared by the Rapporteur. The report is contained in document HSP/OECPR.2021/7.

B. Opening statements by regional groups

Group of Asia-Pacific States

8. Mr. Belal Fannoun, Deputy Permanent Representative of the State of Palestine to UN-Habitat on behalf of the regional group of Asia-Pacific States, emphasized the importance of providing full support to UN-Habitat by Member States, in recognition of its crucial role in helping the world achieve the SDGs. He extended the groups’ gratitude to UN-Habitat, under the leadership of the Executive Director Maimunah Mohd Sharif, for its remarkable efforts in improving the Organization’s financial stability, overall effectiveness, and emerging from challenging circumstances which has positioned UN-Habitat to better address the needs of Member States. In acknowledging the importance of aligning the strategic planning cycles of UN-Habitat with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) process, the regional group of Asia-Pacific States fully supported the extension of the current UN-Habitat Strategic Plan until 2025.

European Union

9. Ms. Caroline Vicini, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Sweden to UN-Habitat on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States, expressed their support to UN-Habitat and its programmes through the engagement in various efforts to improve urban areas. She highlighted the groups readiness to continue its efforts to make urban areas across the world more sustainable in the most efficient manner. It is through this that she encouraged Member States to collaborate towards broadly supporting resolutions with maximum convergence and agreement. The group emphasized the need to deliver substantive and realistic, implementable and value adding resolutions by building on existing work of UN-Habitat and its three main priority areas.

C. National opening statements

10. The representative of Ghana, posted a statement, taking note of the technical assistance provided by UN-Habitat to the Country over the years. The invaluable guidance and contributions from various experts helped enrich Ghana’s draft revised National Urban Policy as their perspectives in the global context were brought to bear on the policy document. It is through close collaboration with UN-Habitat that the Government of Ghana launched the Report on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda on 3rd October 2022 as part of the commemoration of the World Habitat Day. Ghana continues to encourage Member States to consider issues related to urban-rural linkages and the commitment to ensure ‘no one is left behind’ in the delivering the Sustainable Development Goals.

D. Conclusions

11. The Committee of Permanent Representatives

a. Took note of the Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the work of its first open-ended meeting (HSP/OECPR.2021/7), the Decisions of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the work of its first open-ended meeting (HSP/OECPR.2021/8) and the Summary by Chair of the Committee of
III. Agenda item 3: - Strategic plan of United Nations Human Settlements Programme

A. Implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020-2023

Presentation by UN-Habitat

12. The Executive Director introduced the agenda item and called upon a representative of the Secretariat to proceed with presenting the status of implementation of the Strategic Plan for the period 2020-2023.

13. A representative of the secretariat presented an overview of the results achieved during the implementation of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2020–2023. The Strategic Plan has proven to be a robust framework for recovery and roadmap to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The outcome-oriented nature of the Strategic Plan has strengthened programming and allowed for more integrated solutions and programming, delivering results across the Strategic Plan. Furthermore, the alignment with the UN system-wide Strategy on Sustainable Urban Development has created much stronger strategic partnerships with other UN entities. Three policy priority areas, namely climate, housing and crisis, and two drivers for sustainable urban development, including localization and finance, have emerged from multilateral processes over the Strategic Plan period, and in full alignment with the four domains of change of the Strategic Plan 2020-2023. Highlights of impact include access to basic services for 3.4 million people in slums and informal settlements in more than 45 countries; safe access to more than 137 upgraded public spaces in 30 cities for 2.32 million people; adoption of people centered smart city approaches by more than 30 local governments and adoption of an urban recovery framework by 68 cities, among others.

Discussions

14. No member States asked for the floor.

B. Status of preparations of the strategic plan for the next period by the Executive Board

Presentation by UN-Habitat

15. The Executive Director introduced the agenda item and called upon a representative of the Secretariat to proceed with presenting the status of preparations of the strategic plan for 2026-2029 by the Executive Board.

16. A representative of the secretariat started the presentation by referring to the ongoing OIOS evaluation of the implementation of Strategic Plan and previous evaluation recommendations which would be taken into account in the preparation of the next Strategic Plan. The key considerations in the drafting of the next Strategic Plan were highlighted and in that respect, UN-Habitat will draw on a stronger evidence-base gathered from the Quadrennial Report on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the report on the progress made towards SDG 11, the analysis done in the World Cities Report and the outcomes of this meeting and the up-coming session of the UN Habitat Assembly and other key inter-governmental meetings such as the High-Level Meeting, convened by the President of the General Assembly last year, the upcoming High Level Political
Forum which will cover SDG 11 and the SDG Summit in September. UN-Habitat would further carefully review and integrate lessons learnt and recommendations from various assessments and evaluations of it work both normative and operational at all levels. UN-Habitat would further hold consultations with a wide range of urban stakeholders including within the UN system through the UN-system-wide Strategy on Sustainable Urban Development and leveraging other national and global fora engaging relevant stakeholders. The preparation will commence following the conclusion of the OIOS evaluation of the implementation of the strategic plan during the 2020-2024 period after which consultations within the UN and with stakeholders will begin, with a view to presenting the draft plan for adoption in 2025 by the UN-Habitat Assembly.

Discussions

17. No member States asked for the floor.

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

Presentation by UN-Habitat

18. The Executive Director introduced the agenda item and presented three options on how to align the strategic planning cycles of UN-Habitat with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review.

a. Option 1: hold a resumed session of the of the second regular session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly in 2025 (UNHA2.2) and then convene the third Regular Session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly in 2029. This would enable Member States to adopt in 2025, the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan for the period 2026-2029 in line with the QCPR 2025-2028, and the third regular session in 2029 would enable Member States to adopt the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2030-2033 in line with the QCPR 2029-2032.

b. Option 2: hold a Special Session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly in 2025 and hold the third regular session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly in 2027. While providing Member States the opportunity to adopt the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026-2029, this option would not provide a long-term solution. Member States would not be able to align UN-Habitat strategic planning cycles with cycles of the QCPR and would be required to hold sessions in 2025, 2029, and 2033 to adopt the strategic plans, and then hold regular sessions in 2027, 2031, and 2035.

c. Option 3: maintain the status quo by holding the third regular session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly in 2027. This option is less favorable as it would take place two years late, thus preventing the third regular session from adopting the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026-2029.

Discussions

19. The representatives of Kenya, Morocco, the United States and South Africa welcomed the remarks of the Executive Director and expressed support for option 1. This allows for the alignment of UN-Habitat’s Strategic Planning cycle with the QCPR and the approval of the next UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026-2029 at a resumed session of the UN Habitat Assembly in 2025.

E. Conclusions

20. The Committee of Permanent Representatives:

IV. Agenda item 4 - Review of the status of preparations for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly

A. Presentation

21. The Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat, providing a briefing on the preparations for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, focused on the following:

   a. Notification of the Executive Director, Provisional Agenda, and pre-session documents for the session.
   b. The theme of the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
   c. Overview of the Detailed Programme of the Assembly including Plenary meetings, Committee of the Whole and Drafting Committee and National Statements.
   d. Draft Outcomes of the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
   e. Other High-level sessions and events during the session.
   f. Participation of Least Developed Countries.
   g. Registration in Numbers.

22. The Secretariat sent the Notification of the Executive Director to Member States on 30 December 2022 with attached Agenda. The pre-session documents for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly can be accessed [here](#). The list of documents can be found as document as [HSP/HA. 2/INF/1](#), on the dedicated website.

23. The theme of the Assembly is titled “A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: Achieving the SDGs in times of global crises” which was agreed upon through informal consultations with the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The theme focuses on five key action areas to help structure the deliberations of the UN-Habitat Assembly on global urban policies namely universal access to adequate housing, urban climate action and environmental protection, urban crisis recovery, localization of the SDGs and multi-level governance, prosperity, and finance. These reflect the priorities expressed by Member States during the United Nations General Assembly’s High-Level Meeting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, held in New York in April 2022.

24. The programme of the Assembly also includes several key events including a Presidential Dialogue on Monday, 5 June 2023, a First Ladies’ roundtable on Tuesday, 6 June 2023, and a High-Level Dialogue on the theme on Wednesday 7 June 2023. The High-Level Dialogue would have two keynote statements by experts, and four panels as follows:

   a. Panel 1: The big challenges of our time
   b. Panel 2: The Key-enablers driving the SDGs in the time of crisis
   c. Panel 3: Multi-level Governance and SDG Localization
   d. Panel 4: Closing Panel Key Takeaways and Directions for the Summit of the Future
25. As of 25 May 2023, the total number of registered participants was 4500 with 51 Ministers and 27 Vice Ministers confirmed to participate in the session, surpassing that of the first session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.

**Discussions**

26. One representative emphasized the need to adhere to the United Nations Habitat Assembly Rules of Procedures on the need to present credentials for the second session of the Assembly.

27. Some representatives noted that while the United Nations Habitat Assembly Rules of Procedure provided the submission of credentials, it was not specific on whether it should be signed by the Head of State or Government or by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Some felt that formal communications including Note Verbales from Permanent Missions accredited to UN-Habitat are sufficient to qualify as credential pursuant to Rule 17 of the Rules of procedure of the Assembly.

28. Other representatives responded that credentials generally mean a formal document signed by the Head of State or government or the Minister of Foreign Affairs to attend meetings such as an Assembly. Examples of the fact that even when accredited to the United Nations in New York, accreditation signed by the Head of State or Government, or the Minister of Foreign Affairs is required to attend certain meetings of the United Nations including the General Assembly.

29. It was also noted that in practice, notwithstanding Rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly on credentials, member States have attended meetings with formal documents not signed by the Head of State or government of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

**B. Organization of work on resolutions**

30. The Chair shared the proposed organization of work for Agenda Item 5 that would be structured around 4 main clusters as follows.

   a. Cluster 1: Reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities.
      i. Adequate Housing for All
      ii. Accelerating Transformation of Informal Settlements and Slums by 2030

   b. Cluster 2: Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions
      i. Localization of the SDGs
      ii. International Guidelines on people-centered smart cities

   c. Cluster 3: Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment.
      i. World Clean Up Day
      ii. Biodiverse and Resilient Cities
      iii. Enhancing the Linkage between Urbanization and Climate Change

   d. Cluster 4: Effective urban crisis prevention and response
      i. Urban Planning and Sustainable Infrastructure
      ii. Creation of a Humans Settlements Resilience

31. It was clarified that the discussion on the Draft resolution on “Equitable Financing and Effective Monitoring of the Implementation of Resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly” would take place in plenary.
C. Conclusions

32. The Committee of Permanent Representatives:

   a. Took note of the Status of preparations of the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly: Note by the Secretariat (HSP/OECPR.2023/INF2)

**Agenda item 5— Preparation of draft resolutions, declarations and decisions of the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, including on the dates and provisiona of the third session**

A. Introduction of draft resolutions

33. The Chair invited proponents of resolutions that had not been introduced to proceed with introductions. Accordingly, proponents introduced the following resolutions:

   a. Draft resolution titled “Urban Planning and Sustainable Infrastructure”.

B. Discussion on the draft Ministerial Declaration

34. The Chair asked the Secretariat to display the Ministerial Declaration which incorporated inputs from the informal consultations dated Wednesday 24 May 2023 from 16:30-17:00. The Chair then invited member States to discuss the Ministerial Declaration.

35. In the ensuing discussions, the specific actions related to inclusive and effective multilateralism were discussed and proposals were made to add references to specific issues and initiatives including the positive aspects of urbanization, human rights, people-centered smart cities, discussions of the UN 2023 Water Conference, urban-rural dimension of urbanization, ‘universal right’ to adequate housing, circular economy and sustainable consumption and production, Urban October, Sharm El Sheikh Adaptation Plan on cities and climate change, need developing countries in particular, the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda, among others. Discussions also sought to clarify specific language and concepts including in relation to human settlements versus communities, balanced territorial development, multiple crises, transformative approaches and solutions. There was also further discussion on whether or not to include some issues and proposals including the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation (SURGe) initiative and the “UNHabitat@50” commemoration proposed for 2025, among others.

C. Discussion on draft resolutions

Cluster 1: Reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities

36. On the draft resolution on “Adequate Housing for All” sponsored by Kenya, France, Bahrain, Jordan and Malaysia, the discussions considered the proposal to establish an intergovernmental working group on adequate housing, with expressed requests for clarification on its purpose, scope, operations, costs and impact and its connection to ongoing UN-Habitat’s ongoing work. In this regard, the modalities for involving experts in the proposed working group was further queried with some proposals to include civil society representatives, international financial institutions, among others. A call was made to ensure accurate use of language on housing, vulnerability and marginalization from International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural
Rights (ICESCR), Sustainable Development Goal 11 and the New Urban Agenda. Discussions also considered the inclusion of concepts such as “sustainability”, “climate neutral housing”, women’s equal rights to adequate housing. The establishment of a publicly accessible platform to provide the most recently available data, case studies, tools and best practices was supported. The discussions also proposed the inclusion of references to the role and work of the UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, multilevel governance, among others.

37. On the draft resolution on “Accelerating Transformation of Informal Settlements and Slums by 2030” sponsored by South Africa, the discussions queried the reference to a Global Action Plan and its attendant components. Requests were made to provide revised language in reference to the Global Action Plan and the endorsement of ten key actions for slum transformation which governments were invited to support. Discussions also centered around the accuracy and source for data on slums and informal settlements, concepts and definition of slums. There were further discussions on the scope, feasibility and need for asks to UN-Habitat to continue placing slum transformation at the center of the Strategic Plan implementation and producing technical guidelines for slum transformation.

Cluster 2: Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions

38. On the draft resolution on “Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals” sponsored by Brazil, the discussions proposed the strengthening of references to coordination with international initiatives including the Local 2030, G20 Platform on SDGs Localization and Intermediary Cities (PLIC). In addition, substantial discussions were centred on the multilevel coordination for SDG implementation and reporting, including stronger linkages between VLRs, VSRs and VNRs, as well as financing options, including possibly concessional financing. The discussion also focused on the inclusion of the principle “leave no one behind”, and specifically on the participation of local communities, and those in vulnerable situations, in decision-making and implementation process. In line with other resolutions, the terminology “local and regional authorities and governments” was adopted. The discussion also considered how to reference UN-Habitat’s normative and/or operational work and to reflect on the potential implications for UN-Habitat’s core budget.

39. On the draft resolution on “International Guidelines on people-centered smart cities”, there were extensive discussions on references to privacy rights, human rights, marginalized and vulnerable groups. Moreover, to address concerns about the legal implications of the guidelines, the proposal of using non-binding to describe the nature of the guidelines was agreed across the resolution. Discussions also considered the process for the preparation of the guidelines including the modalities for experts’ consultations and its adoption by the UN Habitat Assembly. There was also consideration of whether the resolution should include references and asks for the implementation of the people centered smart city approaches, beyond their adoption. The differentiated needs and circumstances of countries was expressed through calls for knowledge and technology transfer and financial support from Member States to developing countries.

Cluster 3: Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment

40. On the draft resolution on “World Cleanup Day” sponsored by Estonia, the discussion considered the how and to what extent to reference previous similar initiatives in specific countries and regions. While there was a view to include a specific example, there was an alternative suggestion to refer to prior similar initiatives generically. There was also discussion of the budgetary implications for UN-Habitat to implement the resolution, and whether there would be any such costs. A request was made for the estimated costs to be carefully reconsidered and aligned to the asks within the resolution.

41. On the draft resolution on “Biodiverse and Resilient Cities” sponsored by Costa Rica, Colombia, Singapore, Ecuador, and Germany, discussions considered making the preambular paragraphs more concise, while adding several more. There were also discussions on how to clarify and refine several key conceptual terms in OP1, including embedding biodiversity in cities, mapping natural habitat, measuring ecosystem services, promoting multilevel governance and preservation. Calls were made to also reference related prior agreements including under the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and others. There was also a request to make clear, UN-Habitat’s
collaboration with relevant entities in implementation the resolution. There were also discussions on whether to mandate UN-Habitat to produce international guidelines.

42. On the draft resolution on “Enhancing the Linkage between Urbanization and Climate Change” sponsored by the Group of African States and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and presented by the Arab Republic of Egypt, there were extensive discussion on holding the Ministerial Meetings on Urbanization and Climate Change “as a regular agenda item of UNFCCC COP” as opposed to such meeting being held on the margins of the COP. There were also discussions on the SURGe Initiative, including the genesis of the initiative and whether the governing bodies of UN-Habitat had previously endorsed the initiative, the role of UN-Habitat as one of the coordinators with the COP27 Presidency and ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability. Further discussions focused on the interpretation of “operationalization” of the initiative, and if this operationalization was not already ongoing. Discussions also focused on the role of member states within the initiative. The proponents of the resolution and the secretariat informed that the initiative was presented to Member States at a briefing by the COP27 Presidency and the Executive Director in Nairobi in September 2022 and that 17 Member States and a total of approximately 180 stakeholders had endorsed SURGe. Some member states requested to reserve new paragraphs, emanating from the incorporation of text from the resolution proposed by Pakistan as they had no time to consult with their capitals.

Cluster 4: Effective urban crisis prevention and response

43. On the draft resolution on “Urban Planning and Sustainable Infrastructure” sponsored by the Africa Group, discussions considered and sought to clarify the purpose, scope and target audience of the proposed global digital platform on Global Technical Digital Platform for Urbanization and Infrastructure Development, including in relation to UN-Habitat’s existing tools and work in this area. The discussion further considered how to clearly reference and leverage existing UN-Habitat platforms on urban planning and infrastructure. Clarification was further sought on the scope of existing UN-Habitat’s platforms and the gaps to be addressed.

44. On the draft resolution on the “Creation of a Human Settlements Resilienc...
5. Election of the members of the Executive Board.
6. Strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2026–2029.
7. Adoption of the report of the resumed regular session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
8. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the next regular session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
10. Other matters.
11. Closure of the session

48. On decision 1/3 on …
49. On decision 1/4 on …
50. On decision 1/5 on …

D. CONCLUSIONS

51. The latest versions of draft resolutions, declarations and decisions discussed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its second open-ended meeting will be forwarded to the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly for further consideration. They are available under “Draft outcomes of the CPR” at [Open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to prepare for the Second Session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly | UN-Habitat (unhabitat.org)]

Agenda item 6 - Election of the officers of the Bureau.

52. ……………
53. ……………
54. ……………

CONCLUSIONS

55. The Committee of Permanent Representatives:

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Agenda item 7 – Consideration of the Chair’s draft summary of the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

56. ……………
57. ……………
58. ……………

CONCLUSIONS
59. The Committee of Permanent Representatives:

a. Draft proceedings of the second open-ended meeting of the CPR Committee of Permanent Representatives, in preparation for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (In-session document).

**Agenda item 8 – Any other matters**

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61. .................
62. .................

**Agenda item 9 – Closure of the meeting**

63. .................
64. .................
65. .................