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**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**

## **Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on the work of its second open-ended meeting**

### **I. Opening of the session**

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 of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (UN-Habitat Assembly) and recommendation 2021/4 of the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its first open-ended meeting,<sup>1</sup> recommended at its meeting on 1 December 2022 that the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives be held from 29 to 31 May 2023 and on 2 June 2023, in Nairobi, to prepare for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
2. Accordingly, the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat was opened at 9.20 a.m. on Monday, 29 May 2023 by the Chair of the Committee, Saqlain Syedah, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to UN-Habitat, who delivered an opening statement.
3. An opening statement was delivered by Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN-Habitat.

### **A. Organizational matters**

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

### **B. Adoption of the agenda and the workplan for the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives**

5. The Committee of Permanent Representatives adopted the agenda for its second open-ended meeting on the basis of the provisional agenda (HSP/OECPR.2023/1) and the annotated provisional agenda (HSP/OECPR.2023/1/Add.1), as follows:
  1. Opening of the meeting:
    - (a) Organizational matters;
    - (b) Adoption of the agenda and the workplan of the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

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<sup>1</sup> See HSP/OECPR.2021/8.

2. Adoption of the report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the work of its first open-ended meeting.
3. Strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme:
  - (a) Implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023;
  - (b) Status of preparation of the strategic plan for the next period by the Executive Board;
  - (c) Alignment of the planning cycles of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process.
4. Review of the status of preparations for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
5. Preparation of draft resolutions, declarations and decisions of the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, including on the dates and provisional agenda of the third session.
6. Election of the officers of the Bureau.
7. Consideration of the Chair’s draft summary of the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
8. Other matters.
9. Closure of the meeting.

6. A representative of the secretariat summarized the proposed organization of work for the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as set out in annex II to the notification by the Executive Director of 10 March 2023 and as recommended by the Bureau at its meeting on 26 May 2023, including the recommendation that under agenda item 5 the draft resolutions, draft decisions and draft ministerial declaration be grouped into clusters and considered in two working groups meeting in parallel.

7. Statements were made by the representatives of Morocco, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States of America.

8. The Committee of Permanent Representatives agreed to the organization of work for the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

### **C. Adoption of the agenda and the workplan for the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives**

9. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following Member States: Algeria, Angola, Austria, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Greece, India, Japan, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia, Zimbabwe.

10. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following observers: African Union, European Union, State of Palestine.

11. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following intergovernmental organization: League of Arab States.

## **II. Adoption of the report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the work of its first open-ended meeting**

12. The Committee of Permanent Representatives adopted the report of the first open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (HSP/OECPR.2021/7).

13. Following the adoption of the report, regional statements were made by the representatives of the State of Palestine, speaking on behalf of the group of Asia-Pacific States; and Sweden, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States.

### **III. Strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme**

14. Introducing the item, the Chair drew the attention of the Committee to the draft strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2020–2023 (HSP/HA/1/7); resolution 1/1 of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme strategic plan for the period 2020–2023; the report of the Executive Director on the proposed extension of the current strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2020–2023 to cover the period 2024–2025, including alignment of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process with UN-Habitat planning cycles (HSP/HA.2/8); and the note by the secretariat on the midterm evaluation of the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023 (HSP/HA.2/9).

#### **A. Implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023**

15. The Executive Director and a representative of the secretariat provided briefings on the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023.

16. The Committee of Permanent Representatives took note of the briefings provided by the Executive Director and the representative of the secretariat.

#### **B. Status of preparation of the strategic plan for the next period by the Executive Board**

17. The Executive Director and a representative of the secretariat provided briefings on the status of preparation of the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029 by the Executive Board of UN-Habitat and the recommendation by the Executive Board for the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023 to be extended to also cover the period 2024–2025.

18. The Committee of Permanent Representatives took note of the briefings provided by the Executive Director and the representative of the secretariat.

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

19. The Executive Director provided a briefing on the alignment of the planning cycles of UN-Habitat with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process.

20. Following the briefing, statements were made by the representatives of Kenya, Morocco, South Africa and the United States.

21. The Committee of Permanent Representatives took note of the briefing provided by the Executive Director and of documents HSP/HA.2/8 and HSP/HA.2/9.

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

22. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the note by the secretariat on the status of preparations for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (HSP/OECPR.2023/INF/2).

23. The Executive Director provided a briefing on the item, and the Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Michal Mlynár, gave a presentation on the status of preparations for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

24. Following the briefing and presentation, statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States.

25. The Deputy Executive Director, the Legal Advisor and a representative of the secretariat responded to the statements and questions of the Member States.

26. The Committee of Permanent Representatives took note of document HSP/OECPR.2023/INF/2.

## V. Preparation of draft resolutions, declarations and decisions of the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, including on the dates and provisional agenda of the third session

27. The Chair introduced the item and explained that as outlined in the organization of work, the issues for discussion under agenda item 5 had been grouped into four clusters to be considered in two working groups meeting in parallel outside plenary sessions, as follows:

- (a) Cluster 1, focusing on reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities, which would consider the draft resolutions on adequate housing for all and accelerating transformation of informal settlements and slums by 2030;
- (b) Cluster 2, on enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions, which would consider draft resolutions on localization of the Sustainable Development Goals and international guidelines on people-centered smart cities;
- (c) Cluster 3, on strengthened climate action and improved urban environment, which would consider draft resolutions on World Cleanup Day, biodiverse and resilient cities, and enhancing the linkage between urbanization and climate change;
- (d) Cluster 4, on effective urban crisis prevention and response.

28. Following the discussions on the above-mentioned resolutions within the working groups, the co-facilitators for each cluster would provide briefings on the work undertaken for each cluster in a plenary session, for further discussion in plenary.

29. The Chair then drew the attention of the Committee to four draft resolutions submitted by the group of African States on 24 May 2023 which had not benefited from informal consultations by Member States prior to the commencement of the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as set out in a conference room paper, and to the related technical notes prepared by the secretariat and circulated to Member States on 29 May 2023 to support discussions on each draft resolution. A representative of the secretariat gave a briefing on the four draft resolutions and the related technical notes.

30. The representative of Nigeria, speaking on behalf of the group of African States, introduced a draft resolution on urban planning and sustainable infrastructure, as set out in a conference room paper. Following the presentation, statements were made by the representatives of the European Union and the United States. The representative of Nigeria responded to the issues raised.

31. The representative of Morocco, speaking on behalf of the group of African States, presented a draft resolution on the creation of a human settlements resilience framework, as set out in a conference room paper.

32. The representative of Kenya, speaking on behalf of the group of African States, presented a draft resolution on equitable financing and effective monitoring of the implementation of resolutions adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly. A representative of the secretariat provided a briefing on the related technical note, including the programme budget and funding sources of UN-Habitat. Following the presentation, statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, Egypt, the European Union, France, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, the Philippines, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States. The Executive Director and a representative of the secretariat responded to the issues raised. The representative of Kenya, speaking on behalf of the group of African States, also responded to the issues raised.

33. The representative of Egypt, speaking on behalf of the group of African States, presented a draft resolution on enhancing the linkage between urbanization and climate change, as set out in a conference room paper.

34. The Chair drew the attention of the Committee to the draft ministerial declaration, as set out in a conference room paper. Statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Egypt, the European Union, Germany, Ghana, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, the Philippines, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Somalia, Sweden, Thailand, Türkiye, the United States, Uruguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The Chair and a representative of the secretariat responded to the issues raised.

35. The Chair introduced a draft decision on the extension of the 2020–2023 strategic plan of UN-Habitat until the year 2025, as set out in a conference room paper. The representatives of Argentina, the European Union, Portugal and the United States made statements.

36. The Chair introduced a draft decision on the date of the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, as set out in a conference room paper. The representatives of the European Union, Morocco, the Philippines and the United States made statements. A representative of the secretariat responded to the issues raised.

37. The Chair introduced a draft decision on the terms of office of the members of the Executive Board and the Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, as set out in a conference room paper. A representative of the secretariat provided further information on the draft decision, which was also discussed in a meeting held between the Chair of the Committee and the chairs of the regional groups. Following that discussion, in a plenary session the Committee agreed to recommend, for consideration by the United Nations Habitat Assembly, the extension of the terms of office of the members of the Executive Board and the members of the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly to 2025.

38. The Chair introduced a draft decision on the stakeholder engagement policy of UN-Habitat, as set out in a conference room paper. The representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, the European Union, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, the Russian Federation, Türkiye and the United States made statements. A representative of the secretariat provided clarifications on the issues raised.

39. The Chair introduced a draft decision on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the review of the management and administration of UN-Habitat, as set out in a conference room paper. The representatives of Brazil, Egypt, Morocco, the European Union and the United States made statements.

40. Following further discussions on the draft resolutions, draft decisions and draft ministerial declaration in working groups, the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in a plenary session, agreed to forward the latest versions of the following draft resolutions, draft decisions and draft ministerial declaration, as the outcomes of the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to the UN-Habitat Assembly for consideration at its second session:

(a) Draft resolutions:

- (i) International guidelines on people-centred smart cities;
- (ii) Accelerating the transformation of informal settlements and slums by 2030;
- (iii) World Cleanup Day;
- (iv) Biodiverse and resilient cities: mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into urban and territorial planning;
- (v) Enhancing the interlinkages between urbanization and climate change resilience;
- (vi) Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (vii) Adequate housing for all;
- (viii) Urban planning and sustainable infrastructure;
- (ix) Creation of a human settlements resilience framework for early warning, foresight, risk reduction, crisis response and post-crisis recovery and reconstruction;
- (x) Equitable financing and effective monitoring of the implementation of resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly;

(b) Draft decisions:

- (i) Extension of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023 until the year 2025;
- (ii) Dates of the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly;
- (iii) Terms of office of the members of the Executive Board and the Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly;
- (iv) Stakeholder engagement policy of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;
- (v) Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the review of management and administration in the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

(c) Draft ministerial declaration entitled “A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crisis”.

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

41. The Chair stated that the extension of the current terms of office of the members of the Bureau had been agreed to through informal consultations. There was no objection to the extension of the terms of office of the members of the Bureau until 2025. The composition of the Bureau until 2025 would therefore be as follows:

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

## **VII. Consideration of the Chair's draft summary of the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives**

42. The Chair informed the Committee that her summary would be made available on the website of the meeting in due course and finalized by the end of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. The summary is set out in document HSP/OECPR.2023/3.

## **VIII. Other matters**

43. No other matters were raised.

## **IX. Closure of the meeting**

44. The Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.40 p.m. on Friday, 2 June 2023.

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