



UN-HABITAT

HISTORY OF THE MANDATE OF UN-HABITAT AND THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE OF UN-HABITAT

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Secretary to the Governing Bodies

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1. HISTORY OF UN-HABITAT'S MANDATE

WHAT IS A MANDATE?:

A mandate refers to the decision that gives a body authority to carry out its functions and take specific actions



HISTORY OF UN-HABITAT's MANDATE

UN-Habitat's mandate is outlined in :

- **1962 : Committee on Housing, Building and Planning**, established by ECOSOC resolution 903 C (XXXIV) in New York, comprised of professional planners, architects, and engineers, addressing urgent housing shortages and challenges of urbanization.
- **1972 : Stockholm Declaration** on the Human Environment “Planning must be applied to human settlements and urbanization” A/CONF.48/4
- **1975 : Resolution 3327 (XXIX)** established the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (UNHHSF) as part of UNEP, to mobilize finance for housing and human settlements.
- **1975 : A/RES/3438 (XXX)** The General Assembly endorses the decision of the United Nations Environment Programme which calls for a conference on human settlements.

HISTORY OF UN-HABITAT'S MANDATE

- **1976** : Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements (**Habitat I - A/CONF.10/15**)
- **1977** : A/RES/32/162 creating the **United Nations Commission on Human Settlements** and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements. Based in Nairobi, incorporating both the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning *and* the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation.
- **1996** : Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements (**Habitat II - Habitat Agenda - A/CONF.165/14**)
- **1996** : **A/RES/51/177** paragraph 2 endorsed the Istanbul Declaration and the Habitat Agenda adopted by the Conference on 14 June 1996
- **1997** : A/52/181 Implementation of the **outcomes of Habitat II**

HISTORY OF UN-HABITAT'S MANDATE

- **2001-Istanbul +5** Resolution S25.2 on Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium reiterates that the **Istanbul Declaration** and the **Habitat Agenda** will remain the basic framework for sustainable human settlements development in the years to come.
- **2001** : A/RES/56/206 upgrading to a **programme** and **giving birth to UN-Habitat**. Creates the **Governing Council** of UN-Habitat **and** decides that the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN- Habitat shall serve as the Governing Council's intersessional subsidiary body. **Istanbul+5**.
- **2011** : A/RES/65/165 on implementation of **Habitat II**
- **2016** : The United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (**Habitat III – New Urban Agenda**). A/71/256 **endorses the New Urban Agenda** and creates a **high-level panel** to assess and enhance effectiveness of UN-Habitat [Panel's report A/71/1006]
- **2015** : Approval of the SDGs including **SDG 11**

HISTORY OF UN-HABITAT'S MANDATE



- **2017** : A/72/226 Implementation of the outcomes of Habitat III and strengthening of UN-Habitat requesting the Chair of the CPR to establish an **Open-ended working group** to examine different options for strengthening Member States' oversight of UN-Habitat.
- **2018** : A/73/726 Report on the work of the Open-ended Working Group (WG) established by the Chair of the CPR to UN-Habitat
- **2018** : A/RES/73/239 of 20 December 2018 on strengthening of UN-Habitat endorsing the findings and recommendations of the Open-ended WG and **creating the new governance structure.**
- **2019 (27-31 May)** : First session of the UN-Habitat Assembly elects 36 members of the Executive Board and elects the Bureau of the CPR taking into account the distribution of seats described in the report on the work of the Open-ended Working Group (A/73/726) . **UN-Habitat Assembly decisions 1/1 and 1/2** adopting the **Rules of Procedure** of the UN-Habitat Assembly and those of the Executive Board.

HISTORY OF UN-HABITAT'S MANDATE



- **2019 (30 May)** : First session of the Executive Board, after which at least two sessions of the Executive Board have been held each year.
- **2021 (29 June-1 July)** : First open-ended meeting of the CPR for a high-level midterm review
- **2023 (29 to 31 May and 2 June)** Second session of the open-ended meeting of the CPR to prepare for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly
- **2023 (5 to 9 June)** Second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly

KEY INTERNATIONALLY AGREED UPON DEVELOPMENT GOALS



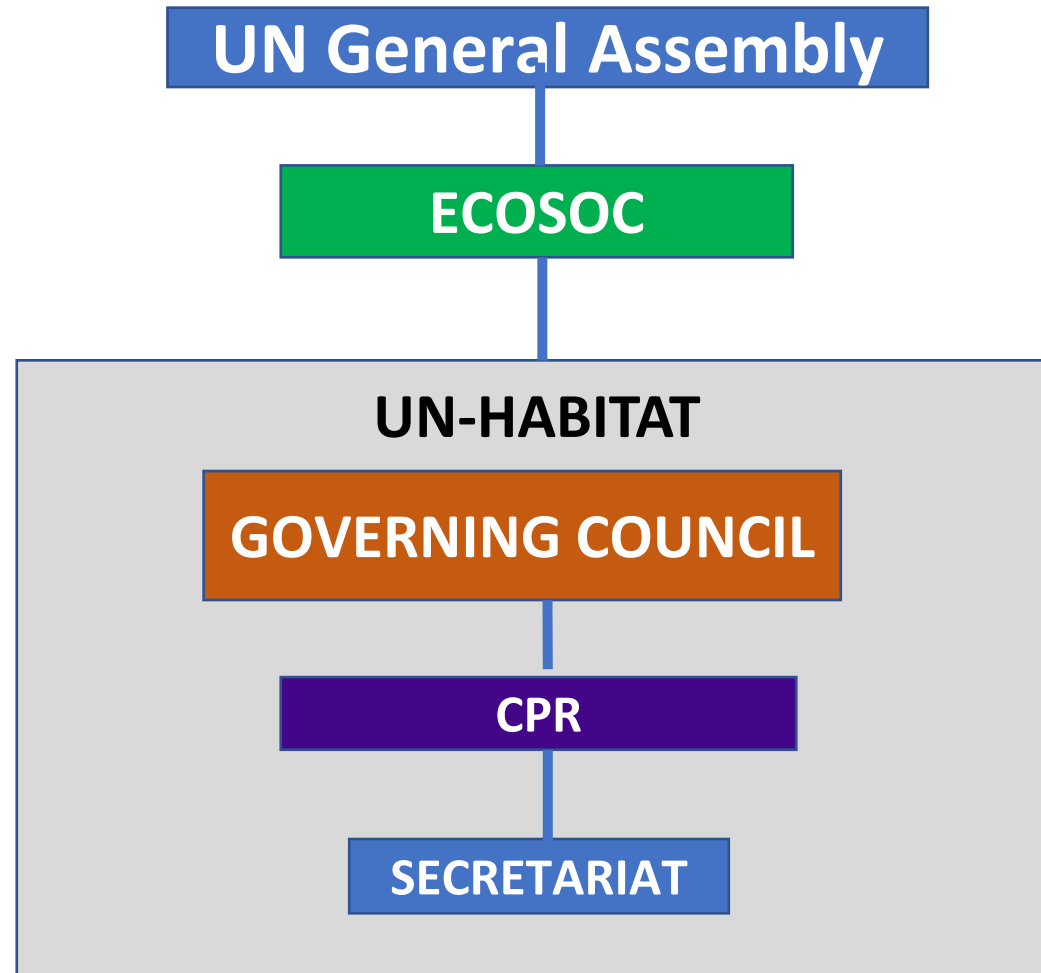
- **United Nations Millennium Declaration (Assembly resolution 55/2)** : target on achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by the year 2020, and the target to halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by the year 2015.
- **UN General Assembly resolution 65/1** : Member States also committed themselves to continue working towards cities without slums, beyond current targets, by reducing slum populations and improving the lives of slum-dwellers.
- **The Sustainable Development Goals** : dedicated goal for urban development, SDG11 which calls to "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable."
- **The New Urban Agenda** : action-oriented document which sets global standards of achieving SDG11.

2. THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE: ROLE AND MANDATE OF THE GOVERNING BODIES OF UN-HABITAT

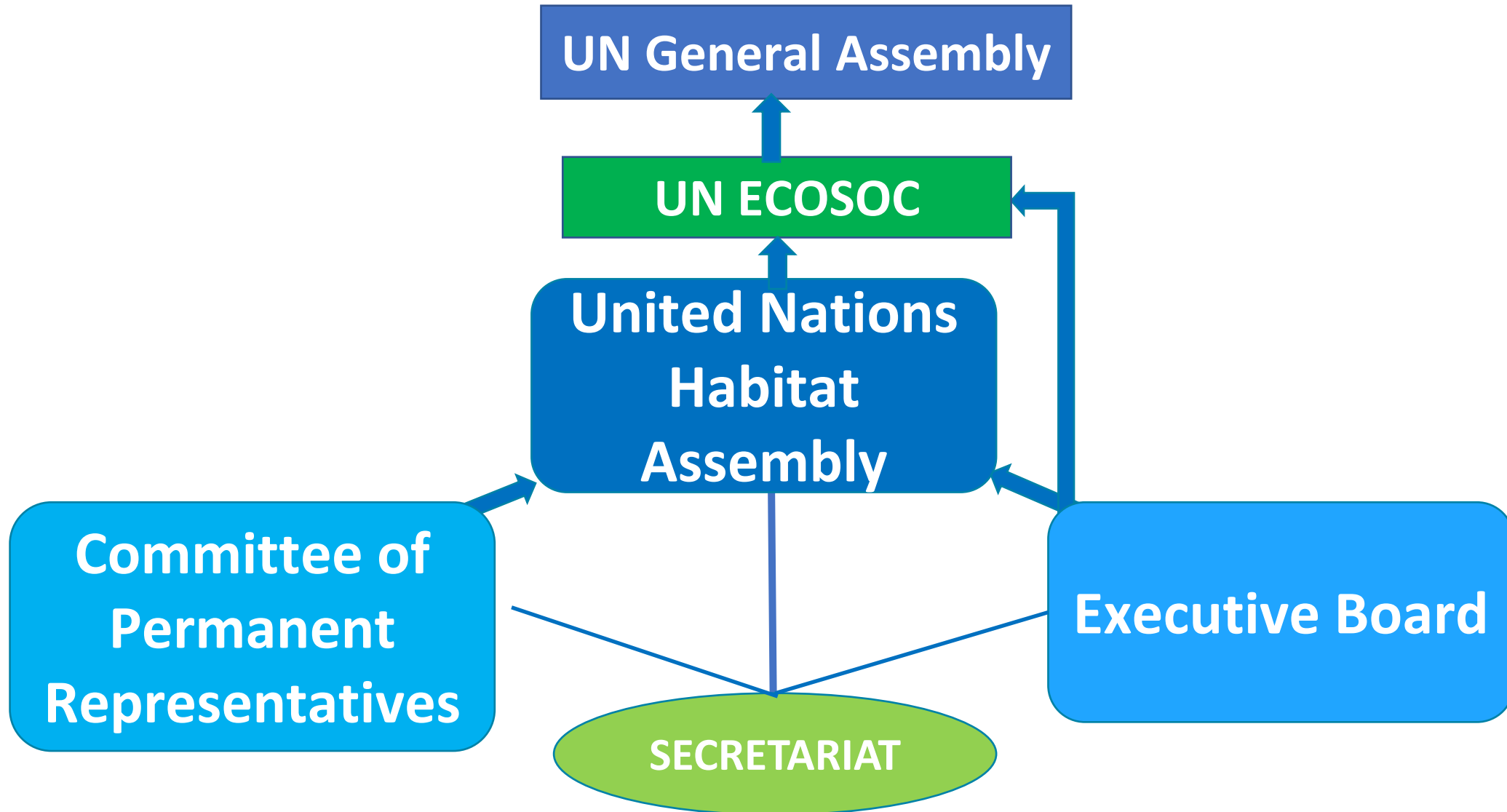


UN-HABITAT

OLD UN-HABITAT GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE



CURRENT UN-HABITAT GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE





Guided by the rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly and the report A/73/726 on the work of the Open-ended Working Group established by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives UN-Habitat, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/226

Universal body composed of the **193** member states of the United Nations.

The **Bureau** was elected during the first session of UN-Habitat Assembly in May 2019 and will serve until 2025 :

Chair:	Mexico
Vice Chair:	Ghana
Vice Chair:	Poland
Vice Chair:	Germany
Rapporteur:	China

FUNCTIONS OF THE UN-HABITAT ASSEMBLY

1. Identify key issues and areas of focus for the normative and policy work of UN-Habitat;
2. Review major trends related to human settlements and urbanization;
3. Examine global norms and standards in human settlements and sustainable urbanisation;
4. Adopt resolutions, declarations, recommendations, formal decisions, reports and other documents pertaining to strategic vision and political guidance in accordance with its mandate;
5. Recommend strategies for coherent implementation of urban and human settlements dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda and other global agendas, including of the work of the United Nations System;
6. Examine and approve UN-Habitat's strategic plan, to be prepared by the Executive Board;
7. Review the Secretary-General's quadrennial report on the implementation of the NUA
8. Ensure the active engagement of local authorities and other stakeholders in the Assembly, in its subsidiary bodies and in intersessional meetings.

THE FIRST SESSION OF THE UN-HABITAT ASSEMBLY (MAY 2019)

During its first session held in May 2019, the UN-Habitat Assembly :

- Adopted its rules of procedure,
- Elected its Bureau,
- Elected the 36 members of the Executive Board,
- Approved UN-Habitat's strategic plan for the period 2020-2023,
- Adopted five resolutions and one decision on [UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan for the period 2020-2023](#), UN System-Wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements, enhancing capacity-building for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, achieving gender equality through the work of UN-Habitat to support inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements, on enhancing urban-rural linkages for sustainable urbanization and human settlements and on transitional arrangements towards the new governance structure of UN-Habitat,
- Concluded its five days of discussions with a [Ministerial Declaration](#) recognizing that the unprecedented rate of urbanization constitutes both a challenge and an opportunity.

a) During its second session held from 5 to 9 June 2023 the UN-Habitat Assembly adopted ten resolutions as follows:

- Resolution 2/1 on “International guidelines on people-centred smart cities” ([HSP/HA.2/RES.1](#))
- Resolution 2/ 2 on “Accelerating the transformation of informal settlements and slums by 2030” ([HSP/HA.2/RES.2](#))
- Resolution 2/ 3 on “World Clean-up Day” ([HSP/HA.2/RES.3](#))
- Resolution 2/4 on “Biodiverse and resilient cities: mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into urban and territorial planning” ([HSP/HA.2/RES.4](#))
- Resolution 2/5 on “Enhancing the interlinkage between urbanization and climate change resilience” ([HSP/HA.2/RES.5](#))

Resolutions adopted at the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly (continued) :

- Resolution 2/6 on “Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals” ([HSP/HA.2/RES.6](#))
- Resolution 2/7 on “Adequate housing for all” ([HSP/HA.2/RES.7](#))
- Resolution on 2/8 “Urban planning and sustainable infrastructure” ([HSP/HA.2/RES.8](#))
- Resolution 2/9 on “Creation of a human settlements resilience framework for early warning, foresight, risk reduction, crisis response and post-crisis recovery and reconstruction” ([HSP/HA.2/RES.9](#))
- Resolution 2/10 on “Equitable financing and effective monitoring of the implementation of resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly” ([HSP/HA.2/RES.10](#))

THE SECOND SESSION OF THE UN-HABITAT ASSEMBLY (JUNE 2023)

b) During its second session held from 5 to 9 June 2023 the UN-Habitat Assembly adopted five decisions as follows:

- Decision 2/1 on “Extension of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023 until the year 2025”.
- Decision 2/2 on “Dates of the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly”
- Decision 2/3 on “Term of office of the members of the Executive Board and the Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly”
- Decision 2/4 on “Stakeholder engagement policy of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme”
- Decisions 2/5 on “Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the review of management and administration in the United Nations Human Settlements Programme”.

The Decisions are contained in document [HSP/HA.2/11](#)

c) The UN-Habitat Assembly also adopted Ministerial Declaration on:

“A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crisis”.

(HSP/HA.2/HLS.1)

NOTE:

The second session of the UN-Habitat Assmebly was adjourned and will resume on 29 and 30 May 2025



THE MANDATE AND COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (CPR)

CPR

- Permanent intersessional subsidiary body of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
- Universal and composed of all Permanent Representatives of Member States of the United Nations.
- The 2021-2023 Bureau was elected at the first open-ended meeting of the CPR for a high-level midterm review:



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

Guided by the Rules 22 and 23 of Procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly and the report A/73/726 on the work of the Open-ended Working Group established by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives UN-Habitat, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/226.

High-level mid-term review meetings to consider :

- i. Mid-term review of the implementation of UN-Habitat Strategic Plan;
- ii. Mid-term review of the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda;
- iii. Mid-term review on the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration as adopted during the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly;
- iv. Briefing by the Executive Director on the implementation of the outcomes of the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly and on the preparations of the upcoming session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

Open-ended CPR session towards preparations for the UN-Habitat Assembly to consider:

- i. Review of the implementation of UN-Habitat Strategic Plan;
- ii. Review of the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda;
- iii. Review of the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration adopted during the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly;
- iv. Review of the status of preparations for the next session of the UN-Habitat Assembly;
- v. Review of draft resolutions, declarations, recommendations and decisions to be discussed during the upcoming session of the UN-Habitat Assembly;
- vi. Briefing by the Executive Director on preparations of the upcoming session of the UN-Habitat Assembly

The CPR met for its first open-ended high-level midterm review meeting from 29 June to 1 July 2021. Among the key issues considered by the CPR at that meeting were :

- a) The midterm review of the implementation of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2020–2023.
- b) The progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda
- c) The progress in the implementation of the decisions and resolutions adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its first session.
- d) The preparations for the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum.
- e) The alignment of the planning cycles of UN-Habitat with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review(QCPR) process

SECOND OPEN ENDED MEETINGS OF THE CPR

CPR

The CPR met for its second open-ended meeting from 29 May to 2 June 2023 in preparations for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. Among the key issues considered by the CPR at that meeting were :

- a) Implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023; and preparation of the strategic plan for the next period by the Executive Board;
- b) Alignment of the planning cycles of the UN-Habitat with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) process.
- c) Review of the status of preparations for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
- d) 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., and
- e) Election of the officers of the Bureau.

COMPOSITION AND MANDATE OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

EXECUTIVE
BOARD

Composed of 36-members as follows:

10 seats for African States;

8 seats for Asia-Pacific States;

4 seats for Eastern European States;

6 seats for Latin American and Caribbean States; and

8 seats for Western European and other States

Bureau 2023-2024

Chair: KENYA (Africa group)

Vice-Chairs: BRAZIL, FRANCE, POLAND,

Rapporteur: PAKISTAN

Guided by the rules of procedure of the Executive Board and the report A/73/726 on the work of the Open-ended Working Group established by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives UN-Habitat, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/226



THE COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Africa Group

1. Angola
2. Cameroon
3. Democratic Republic of Congo
4. Egypt
5. Ethiopia
6. Kenya
7. Malawi
8. Morocco
9. Nigeria
10. Senegal

Eastern Europe Group

1. Poland
2. Romania
3. Russian Federation
4. Serbia

Asia-Pacific Group

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| 1. China | 5. Japan |
| 2. India | 6. Republic of Korea |
| 3. Indonesia | 7. Pakistan |
| 4. Iran | 8. Sri Lanka |

Latin America and the Caribbean

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. Argentina | 4. Colombia |
| 2. Barbados | 5. Mexico |
| 3. Brazil | 6. Uruguay |

WEOG

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Canada | 5. Spain |
| 2. France | 6. Sweden |
| 3. Germany | 7. Turkey |
| 4. Portugal | 8. United States of America |

1. To oversee the **implementation of the normative and operational activities** of UN-Habitat;
2. To ensure **accountability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness**;
3. To approve and oversee the implementation of the **annual programme of work and budget and the resource mobilization strategy**, in accordance with the strategic plans and political guidelines provided by the UN-Habitat Assembly;
4. To adopt decisions, within the scope of its mandate, on, among other things, **programmatic, operational and budgetary issues** for the adequate and effective implementation of resolutions and other decisions adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly;
5. To guide and support efforts **to finance** the work of UN-Habitat;
6. To oversee the **compliance of UN-Habitat with evaluations** and support **auditing** functions;
7. To collaborate with **the executive boards of other United Nations agencies**, funds and programmes, in accordance with the management reform programme of the Secretary-General.

MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board met ten times since its establishment:

- It held one session in 2019 (May 2019 for its first session and November 2019 for its resumed first session)
- Twice in 2020 for its first and second sessions for the year 2020 (June and October 2020)
- Twice in 2021 for its first and second session for the year 2021 (April and November 2021).
- Twice in 2022 for its first and second session for the year 2021 (April and November 2022).
- Three times in 2023 for its first , second and third session for the year 2023 (March June and November 2023).
- The first session of the Executive Board for the year 2024 is scheduled took place from 6 to 8 May 2024.

WHAT ARE THE MANDATES OF THE UN-HABITAT SPECIFIC LEGISLATIVE BODIES?

THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES: THE AD-HOC WORKING GROUPS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD



Ad-Hoc working group on the development of a stakeholder engagement policy:

Established by paragraph 11 of decision 2019/2 adopted by the Executive Board at its resumed first meeting in November 2019.

- Development of a [UN-Habitat stakeholder engagement policy](#) for presentation to the Executive Board for a consensual agreement and further possible approval by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its second session in June 2023.



Ad-Hoc working group on the working methods of the Executive Board:

Established by paragraph 5 of decision 2019/3 adopted by the Executive Board at its resumed first meeting in November 2019.

- Assistance and advice to the Executive Board on [working methods](#) to complete its work
- The Executive Board requested the ad hoc working group to complete its work no later than the second session of 2020.
[It has now completed its mandate.](#)

THE AD-HOC WORKING GROUPS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Ad-Hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters :

Established by paragraph 11 of decision 2019/2 adopted by the Executive Board at its resumed first meeting in November 2019.

Its functions include inter alia :

- Assistance and advice to the Executive Board on **programmatic, budgetary and administrative** matters (para 7, Decision 2019/2)
- Consultation with the Executive Director on additional information required by Member States on **the work programme and budget** of UN-Habitat
- Consultation with the Executive Director **to elaborate upon innovative programmes** within the Strategic Plan to be discussed with the Executive Board taking into account thematic and regional balance
- **para 7 Decision 2019/3**
- Elaboration in consultation with the Executive Director of a **prioritization process within normative and within operational activities** in line with the Strategic Plan **para 8 Decision 2019/3**
- Consultation with the Executive Director on the **restructuring** of UN-Habitat **para 5 Decision 2019/2**

UNHABITAT RULES OF PROCEDURE

Stadler Trengove, Principal Legal Advisor, Law Division, UNEP





MEMBERSHIP



In accordance with **rule 2** of the rules of procedure, the UN-Habitat Assembly, has a universal governmental membership, and convenes in Nairobi for a five-day period every four years.

Rule 16 and 17 provide for credentials: Members States shall be represented by accredited representatives, including a head of delegation, and such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required. The Bureau examines the credentials and submit its report to the Assembly.

Rule 18 provides that during the final meeting of a regular session, the UN-Habitat Assembly elects the five members of its Bureau, composed of Member States to hold the offices of President, Rapporteur and three Vice-Presidents. Each of the five regional groups have to be represented in the Bureau. In addition, the five members of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall jointly serve as additional Vice-Presidents.



QUORUM

Rule 39

The President may declare a meeting of the UN-Habitat Assembly open and permit the debate to proceed when representatives of at least one third of the members of the Assembly are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the members of the Assembly shall, however, be required for any decision to be taken



POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT



Rule 40

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon the President by the present rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the UN-Habitat Assembly, direct the discussions, ensure the observance of the present rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to a vote and announce decisions. The President, subject to the present rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings of the Assembly and the maintenance of order at its meetings. The President shall rule on points of order. He or she may propose to the Assembly the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time allocated to speakers and on the number of times the representative of each member of the Assembly may speak on an item, the adjournment or closure of the debate, and the suspension or adjournment of a meeting.

2. In the exercise of his or her functions, the President remains under the authority of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

DECISION- MAKING



Rule 52

the UN-Habitat Assembly may decide on any motion or proposal without a vote and shall normally make decisions by consensus. A vote shall, however, be taken if a member of the Assembly requests it.

Rule 54

1. Decisions of the UN-Habitat Assembly taken by vote shall be made by a majority of the Member States present and voting.
2. For the purposes of the present rules, the phrase “members present and voting” refers only to Member States casting an affirmative or negative vote and does not include Member States which abstain from voting.

Rule 55

The UN-Habitat Assembly shall normally vote by a show of hands, but any member of the Assembly may, however, request a roll call, which shall then be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members of the Assembly, beginning with the member whose name is drawn by the President. The vote of each Member State participating in a roll call shall be reflected in the relevant document of the Assembly.

THE CPR

The UN-Habitat Assembly has two permanent intersessional organs: the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the Executive Board.

Committee of Permanent Representatives

Rule 23

The Committee of Permanent Representatives is composed of all Permanent Representatives of States Members of the United Nations and members of the United Nations specialized agencies that are accredited to UN-Habitat.

Rule 24 of the Assembly Rules.

The Executive Board shall be composed of 36 members, elected by the UN-Habitat Assembly. They serve for a period of 4 years, commencing with their election during a session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

Rule 7 of the Executive Board Rules

10 seats for African States; 8 seats for Asia-Pacific States; 4 seats for Eastern European States; 6 seats for Latin American and Caribbean States; and 8 seats for Western European and other States.

EXECUTIVE BOARD



EXECUTIVE BOARD



Rule 8

1. Each member of the Executive Board and observers shall appoint and be represented by an accredited representative, who may be accompanied by such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.
2. The names of representatives, alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Executive Board secretariat

Rule 9

1. The Executive Board shall, at its first regular session each year, elect from among its members, taking into consideration the need to ensure equitable geographical representation, a Bureau comprising a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur, who shall hold office until their successors are elected.
2. Eligible for re-election.
3. The offices of Chair and Rapporteur shall rotate each year to a different regional group. Each regional group shall occupy the office of Chair and Rapporteur once during a period of five years.
4. If the Chair cannot preside over a meeting or any part thereof, a Vice-Chair shall be designated by the Chair to temporarily preside over the proceedings.
5. If a Member State resigns from the office of Chair, Vice-Chair or Rapporteur, another Member State of the Executive Board from the same regional group shall be designated to fill the vacancy.

EXECUTIVE BOARD



Decision-making

Rule 16

1. The practice of striving for consensus in decision-making shall be encouraged.
2. In the case of a vote, the rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly shall apply mutatis Mutandis

Participation of non-members

Rule 17

1. Any State Member of the United Nations that is not a member of the Executive Board and any member of a United Nations specialized agency may attend Board meetings and may participate in its deliberations in the capacity of observer with the right to make proposals, but such proposals may only be voted on at the request of a member of the Board



Thank you!

RELEVANT WEBSITES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND CONTACTS



- <https://unhabitat.org/governance>
- <https://unhabitat.org/governance/un-habitat-assembly>
- <https://unhabitat.org/governance/committee-of-permanent-representatives>
- [Executive Board | UN-Habitat \(unhabitat.org\)](https://unhabitat.org/governance/committee-of-permanent-representatives)
- <https://unhabitat.org/governance/un-habitat-assembly/second-session-2023>
- <https://unhabitat.org/meetings/third-session-of-2023-of-the-executive-board>

CONTACT EMAILS:

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Thank you!



UN-HABITAT



IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES

unhabitat.org