



UN-HABITAT

**Meeting of the Expanded Bureau of the Committee of Permanent
Representatives**

Friday, 5 July 2024, 11:00 hrs. to 13:00 noon East Africa Time

Statement by the Executive Director
(Draft of 3 July)

SLIDE 1: Title slide

SLIDE 2: Provisional Agenda

1. Review of the revised proposed provisional Agenda for the third OECPR to be held from 26 to 28 May 2025.
2. Proposed organizational arrangements towards the third OECPR.
3. Review of the provisional Agenda for the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly to be held from 29 to 30 May 2025.
4. Any other matters.

NOTE! Adoption of the Agenda to be led by AED



SLIDE 3: (Title Slide) Agenda item 1. Review of the revised proposed provisional Agenda for the third OECPR to be held from 26 to 28 May 2025.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Excellencies,

Good morning.

I welcome all of you to this expanded meeting of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representative to UN-Habitat. As the Chairman has said, it was important to have this meeting so that jointly, the Members of the various Bureaux can give us any preliminary guidance as we start the preparations for the third meeting of the OECPR and the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, if you allow me, let me begin by the biggest news for UN-Habitat. As you know, on the 7th of June, the General Assembly elected our new Executive Director, Ms. Anaclaudia Rossbach, following the nomination by the Secretary-General. Ms. Rossbach is joining us officially in mid-August, from her current position as Director for Latin America and the Caribbean at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy in Boston in the United States. She is an economist with more than 20 years of experience working on issues of housing, including informal settlements, land, and urban policies.



In her different roles, she has worked on designing institutional and operational strategies to expand access to adequate housing; promoting knowledge exchange and transfer and providing advisory services on housing and urban policies in the Global South; establishing an urban practitioner hub; and implementing large-scale housing and slum upgrading programmes in Latin America. She has also worked directly with informal communities on improving their quality of life.

In addition to being a true urban development champion and practitioner, she has published academic articles and has taught in different universities. We are very glad to have her join us as our incoming Executive Director, promoting UN-Habitat's global mandate.

Excellencies, I thank you all for the opportunity to serve as the Acting Executive Director for the last half a year. I truly appreciated working closely with all of our Member States on expanding our mandate and delivering our programmes effectively, and continuing our fruitful relationships and partnerships with and in your countries.

I would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Members of the various Bureaux of the Governing Bodies who are present today, for the recent joint meeting of the Bureaux of the Governing Bodies which took place in March 2024 in Mexico City. That meeting which very well attended enabled us to begin sharing our initial thoughts regarding the upcoming resumed second session of the Assembly next year and to highlight some of our work and priorities for 2024.



Let me also appreciate the CPR Bureau for the very rich discussions we had two weeks ago on 21 June 2024 particularly on the upcoming third OECPR. Based on the preliminary guidance from that Bureau meeting, we have shared a revised proposed provisional agenda of the third OECPR which I will shortly go through.

In addition, based on the concerns raised at that meeting about the length of time assigned for the holding of the OECPR, which is proposed for three days and the valid expectation that as some agendas might attract considerable input and discussion from Member States, we hope to discuss today a preliminary proposed organizational arrangement for third OECPR which I will cover under agenda item 3. As Members of the CPR Bureau would recall, the third OECPR is tentatively agreed to be held for a duration of 3 days from 26 to 28 May 2024, just before the resumed session of the UN-Habitat Assembly which is to take place from 29 to 30 May 2024.

SLIDE 4 TO SLIDE 6: Item 2a. Review of the revised proposed provisional Agenda for the third OECPR to be held from 26 to 28 May 2025.

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies

Following the initial guidance by the CPR Bureau, the revised proposed provisional agenda for the OECPR as you can see on the screen is as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting:



- (a) Organizational matters;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and the workplan for the third open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

2. Adoption of the report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the work of its second open-ended meeting.

3. Progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda:
 - (a) Briefing on the preparation of the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

4. Report of the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum and preparations for the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum.

5. Progress in the implementation of the decisions and resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its adjourned second session.

6. Strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme:
 - (a) Implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2025, including its midterm review;
 - (b) Status of preparation of the strategic plan for the next period 2026–2029 by the Executive Board.



7. Review of the status of preparations for the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.

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

9. Election of the officers of the Bureau.

10. Consideration of the Chair's draft summary of the third open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

11. Other matters.

12. Closure of the meeting.

Excellencies,

This Agenda was initially proposed by the Secretariat and further adjusted based on the guidance by the CPR Bureau, taking into consideration that the upcoming third OECPR should have mixture of elements that work towards the adequate preparations for the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, and elements that ensure the CPR can continue to undertake its functions associated with a midterm review.

Allow me to move straight to item 3 with the permission of the Chair.



SLIDE 7(TITLE SLIDE) Agenda item 3. Proposed organizational arrangements towards the third OECPR.

Excellencies,

As earlier stated, under this item we wish to propose how the organizational arrangements towards the third OECPR could like.

SLIDE 8 3a. Proposed organizational arrangements prior to the third OECPR

Prior to the meeting, besides **Bureau meetings** which can be expected to be quite regular especially from January 2025, we wish to propose that **informal consultations be held at least from February 2025** to begin discussions on the various elements of the Agenda items before the OECPR.

Specifically, any draft decisions and resolutions that the UN-Habitat Assembly should eventually consider at its resumed second session should first go through the **informal consultations** prior to the OECPR and benefit from final consultations and recommendation to the Assembly during the OECPR.

You would recall that during our previous meetings and in the absence of a subcommittee of the CPR as provided for in Rule 23 of the rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly, the Chair of the CPR prior to the second OECPR meeting in 2023, successfully used this mechanism to advance the discussions on draft resolutions and draft decisions.



Allow me to emphasize here that unlike the second OECPR meeting and the adjourned second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, we do **expect a very limited number of draft decisions and resolutions to be considered. The whole idea is to conclude** only the unfinished business emanating from the adjourned second session of the Assembly.

SLIDE 9: 3b. Proposed organizational arrangements during the third OECPR

Excellencies

Coming to the organization of work during the third OECPR itself, this is what we wish to propose as you can see on the screen.

On Day 1 of the OECPR, at the morning plenary we propose that the following items be considered by the OECPR:

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting:

- a) Organizational matters;
- b) Adoption of the agenda and the workplan for the third open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the work of its second open-ended meeting.



- In addition, we propose that Chairs of Regional Groups be given the space to make Regional Statements as was done during the first and second open-ended OECPR meetings in 2021 and 2023.
- During Lunch break on day 1, we hope that informal consultations on draft decisions and resolutions can continue.

In the Afternoon of Day 1, we propose to focus on the following agenda items:

Agenda item 3: Progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda:

a) Briefing on the preparation of the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

Agenda item 4: Report of the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum and preparations for the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum.

- In the evening of Day 1, following the end of translation services, informal consultations on draft decisions and resolutions may continue

In the morning of Day 2, we propose to focus on the following agenda items:

Agenda item 5: Progress in the implementation of the decisions and resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its adjourned second session.



Agenda item 6: Strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme: with the subitems

- a) Implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2025, including its midterm review;
- b) Status of preparation of the strategic plan for the next period 2026 -2029 by the Executive Board.

- Again informal consultations can continue during Lunch break of Day 2

In the Afternoon of Day 2, we propose to focus on the following agenda items:

Agenda item 7: Review of the status of preparations for the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.

This will be followed by:

Agenda item 8: Preparation of draft resolutions, declarations and decisions of the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, including the dates and provisional agenda of the third session.

Agenda Item 8 will usher in the final informal and formal consultations on draft decisions until they are in good shape for recommendation to the Assembly by the **end of the Morning of Day 3**.



Agenda item 8 is therefore proposed to remain the focus of Day 3, in the morning and early part of the afternoon, should that be required.

The **final plenary of the OECPR in the afternoon of Day 3** will conclude with the following items:

Agenda item 9: Election of the officers of the Bureau.

Agenda item 10: Consideration of the Chair's draft summary of the third open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

Agenda item 11: Other matters.

and

Agenda item 12: Closure of the meeting.

In our view, this proposed provisional organizational arrangements for the OECPR, starting with heavy lifting prior to the meeting and dedicating a good amount of time to each agenda item during the session, and particularly allocating more time to agenda item 8 on draft decisions and resolutions will help towards the successful conclusion of the business of the OECPR.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

Back to you.



SLIDE 10: (TITLE SLIDE): Agenda item 3. Review of the provisional Agenda for the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly to be held from 29 to 30 May 2025.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Excellencies,

On this item I will simply repeat what I already highlighted to the CPR Bureau at the meeting of 21 June for the benefit of Members of the other Bureaux joining us today and to allow for any preliminary observations.

SLIDE 11: Provisional agenda of the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly to be held from 29 to 30 May 2025.

Excellencies,

You would recall that in Decision 2/2 of the Assembly, it is stated that the resumed second session should take place from 29 to 30 May 2025. The CPR Bureau at its meeting of 21 June took note of these dates.

Further, in line with Decision 2/2, the provisional Agenda for the resumed second session should be as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.



3. Report of the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
4. Credentials of representatives.
- 5. Election of the members of the Executive Board.**
- 6. Strategic plan for the period 2026–2029.**
7. Adoption of the outcomes of the meeting.
8. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the third session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
- 9. Election of officers.**
10. Other matters.
11. Closure of the session.

SLIDE 12: Provisions of rule 10, 11 and 12 on drawing up the provisional agenda and supplementary items

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies

At this point it is important to bring to your attention that the rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly has made provisions for drawing up the agenda and adding supplementary items, should those be required.



Specifically, in line with Rule 12, the Provisional agenda as adopted in Decision 2/2 may or may not benefit from further supplementary items which could be proposed by:

- a) The UN-Habitat Assembly;
- (b) States Members of the United Nations and members of the United Nations specialized agencies;
- (c) The General Assembly;
- (d) The Economic and Social Council;
- (e) The Executive Director.

In line with Rule 12, supplementary items must be presented for inclusion in the agenda not **less than 49 days in advance of the opening date** of the session and be examined by the CPR at its preparatory meeting prior to the session.

SLIDE13: (d) Considerations for the review of the provisional Agenda

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies

Within this context, allow me to bring to your attention, one or two areas we see as not yet visibly reflected in the Agenda as contained in Decision 2/2 of the Assembly and which emanate from the resolutions and decisions of the Assembly at its adjourned second session in 2023. These are:



- a. Consideration and **adoption of the draft Smart Cities Guidelines** in line with Resolution 2/1 of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
- b. Consideration and **adoption of the draft stakeholder engagement policy** in line with Decision 2/5 of the UN-Habitat Assembly

The Bureau and Member States may consider these, and other items based on current or emerging issues. The idea is not to expand the Agenda unnecessarily but to ensure that the Assembly effectively undertakes all its functions and guides us accordingly especially given that we only have two days of business, and that the next session of the UN-Habitat Assembly will be in 2029.

Indeed at the CPR Bureau meeting of 21 June, we suggested that consideration and **adoption of the draft Smart Cities Guidelines** and the consideration and **adoption of the draft stakeholder engagement** could simply be part of **Agenda item 7** on “Adoption of the outcomes of the meeting”.

Thank you and back to you Mr. Chairman

SLIDE 14: Agenda item 4: Any other Matters.

UNDER AOB: AED may add any pertinent issues under this item.

I wanted to raise one topic, Excellencies: During our last Executive Board meeting, it was confirmed to hold the first inter-governmental working group on housing on 9-11 December. This is a key opportunity for UN-Habitat to strengthen its role as a global convener on adequate housing and demonstrate our expertise while collaborating closely with all our member states. I would like to call upon your support in mobilizing housing experts from your respective governments to join us



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for this important session in Nairobi. Invitations will shortly be issued via Note Verbales.