



UN-HABITAT

2024 First Meeting of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

Friday, 21 June 2024, 10:00 hrs. to 12:00 noon East Africa Time

Statement by the Executive Director

(Draft of 20 June 2024 – 9 pm)

SLIDE 1: Title slide

Provisional Agenda

1. Opening remarks by the Acting Executive Director.
2. Preparations for the third open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR) in 2025.
 - a. Consideration of the type OECPR meeting: Is the third OECPR (i) a High-level midterm review meeting, (ii) a fully preparatory meeting towards the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly or iii) a hybrid meeting of High-level midterm review and preparatory meeting?
 - b. Discussion and recommendation on number of days and the dates of the third OECPR.
 - c. Discussion on the provisional Agenda of the third OECPR.
 - d. Elections to be held during the third OECPR.
3. Review of the dates and Agenda of the resumed second Session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
4. Elections to be held during the resumed second Session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly in 2025.
5. Roadmap to the resumed second Session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
6. Any other matters.



UN-HABITAT

NOTE to AED: *The Chair will first give you the floor for some opening remarks before agenda is adopted.*



SLIDE 2: (Title Slide) Agenda item 1. Opening remarks by the Acting Executive Director.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Excellencies,

Good morning.

I welcome all of you to this first meeting of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representative to UN-Habitat for the year 2024.

I believe we had our last meeting in June 2023 as we fine-tuned the preparations for the adjourned second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. Let me thank you very much for your guidance, commitment, availability and flexibility during that very busy and important period.

I also want to thank you very much for the recent joint meeting of the Bureaux of the Governing Bodies which took place in March 2024 in Mexico City and during which this Bureau was very well represented. That meeting enabled us to begin sharing our initial thoughts regarding the up-coming resumed second session of the Assembly next year and to highlight some of our work and priorities for 2024.

Let me proceed to share a couple of highlights of our work recently.

Firstly, as you are fully aware, we have officially received the confirmation of the appointment of Ms. Anaclaudia Rossbach as our **new Executive Director**. We are very pleased to have already started consultations and online engagements with her in the past weeks, and she will start her official capacity as Executive Director in early August. Regarding her background, she is an economist with over 20 years of experience in housing, informal settlements and urban policies more broadly, having worked with many significant institutions, including the World Bank, Cities Alliance and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.



Next, let me give you a brief update on our engagement at the **High-Level Political Forum** taking place in New York this July. While this year, the focus SDGs of the HLPF are **Goal 1** on poverty eradication; **Goal 2** on food; **Goal 13** on climate change; **Goal 16** on partnerships and strong institutions; and **Goal 17** on the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, UN-Habitat will still play a significant role. We are hosting and co-organizing several events related to the above SDGs, but also bringing in our expertise and contributions through a Local and Regional Governments Forum, a Local2030 Coalition Special Event, our own corporate UN-Habitat event on “*Urban Finance for Social Impact: Financing Strategies for SDGs Localization*”, and we are also organizing many other side events on climate action and decarbonization, data and digitalization, basic services and water governance, as well as on our Quality of Life and SDG Cities initiatives, among other issues.

Excellencies, UN-Habitat has worked tirelessly in the last decade to enhance the recognition of the critical role of sustainable urban development and local level contributions to achieving the SDGs. Up to 70% of the world’s population will live in cities by 2030. As we are moving towards the **Summit of the Future** taking place in September in New York, we are fully aware that the Pact for the Future must address this demographic development adequately. The Co-Chairs of the “*Group of Friends of UN-Habitat, Sustainable Urbanization and the New Urban Agenda*” are spearheading this effort, ensuring that the Pact for the Future, and the two annexes, the Global Digital Compact and Declaration for Future Generations, effectively represent this sustainable urban development perspective.

We cannot think of our world without the urban and digital transitions. Cities and local and regional governments play a key role in shaping the opportunities for sustainable development. In addition, the growing urban population is predominantly young, particularly in regions such as sub-Saharan Africa where approximately 44% are under 15 years of age. Mobilizing youth for positive transformations is crucial for cities to tackle the complexities of the 21st century.



In our many engagements with Member States, we have highlighted the urgent need for support in pushing for this agenda to be recognized at the global scale, so that we can collectively rescue the SDGs and achieve sustainability for people, the planet and peace.

The Secretary-General has also constituted an **Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments**, and UN-Habitat's role as the secretariat of this body is to facilitate the recommendations from the LRG to strengthen multistakeholder participation in multilateral agreements, which is key for achieving the ambitions set out in Our Common Agenda and Agenda 2030. This Advisory Group has already managed to insert specific text into the first draft of the Pact for the Future, focused on clarifying the stakeholder status of the LRGs within the UN system and the role they can play to achieve the global agreement at all scales.

Your support as our Member States continues to be crucial in the run-up to the Summit of the Future.

Excellencies, we are currently in the middle of a busy process to draft UN-Habitat's **new Strategic Plan 2026-2029**, which will be endorsed by next year by you. We have held multiple consultations internally and externally with yourselves already, which has made this process truly inclusive. Many of you attended the retreat for Member States we held in May, deliberating on our "*why*" – the challenges that the world is exposed to in an increasingly urbanized world, the "*what*" – what impact areas we will focus on to address these challenges, the "*who*" – which outlines UN-Habitat's distinct role, and the "*how*" – which is our means of implementation.

We have listened attentively to your statements in the regional retreats and the First Session of the Executive Board of 2024, and through much of the feedback received, we have built on the key themes but adjusted our approach, which follows the guiding principles many of you supported: increasing our relevance, a better focus, fewer priorities, and a simpler structure. We articulated UN-Habitat's priorities more clearly – as you encouraged us to do, connecting to the global challenges where UN-Habitat will play a key role in leading the transformative change.



In this upcoming Strategic Plan, our designated Task Force is building on the established strengths of UN-Habitat, but also ensuring to indicate areas where UN-Habitat must build stronger competencies to remain fully relevant. And as I have said to you previously, Excellencies, we cannot do so without the strong support, guidance and leadership from our Member States. This is why we look forward to further engaging with you in another retreat in the next two months, for which you will soon receive formal invitations. Thereafter, we also hope to schedule regional consultations before the end of the year that will involve all of you, where our new Executive Director and yourselves will have the chance to delve more deeply into the priority impact areas and means of implementation, before moving to the finalization of the Strategic Plan and its adoption at the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.

Finally, let me use this opportunity to invite you, Excellencies, once more to our upcoming **World Urban Forum**, taking place on 4-8 November 2024 in Cairo, Egypt. As of last week, we have received over 4,000 registrations from 151 countries, and over 1,100 applications for partner-led events. These figures highlight the global community's eagerness to engage in meaningful dialogue and collaboration at WUF12. Our team is currently in the process of selecting the most impactful partner-led events by the end of June or early July. All in all, these events, as well as our six main dialogues, will bring together a diverse range of perspectives and innovative ideas aligned to this year's theme: *"It all starts at home: Local actions for sustainable cities and communities"*. Our line ministries in your respective countries should have by now all received their invitations, and we continue to encourage you to push for high-level attendance from your countries at ministerial levels, as well as to invite mayors, so that we will benefit from a wide array of expertise and leadership in these significant global discussions.

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Mr. Chairman

Excellencies



The meeting today offers yet another opportunity specifically for the CPR Bureau to begin preparation in earnest, towards the third open ended meeting well as the resumed session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, in line with the mandate of the CPR

As you have seen in our Agenda for today which the Chair will shortly lead the Bureau in adopting, we will focus our discussions with initial thoughts on what the nature and agenda of the third OECPR meeting should look like, what dates are preferred for that OECPR meeting, the upcoming elections both at the OECPR and at the Assembly, a quick review of the Agenda of the resumed session of the Assembly and finally some key dates in the roadmap towards the resumed second session of the Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, the meeting today does not necessarily need to make firm final decisions, rather, suggestions and guidance from Members of the Bureau, which may be further crystallised in upcoming meetings including a planned joint Bureau meeting very early in September. We as a secretariat remain available and stand ready to support you in your work over the coming few months.

Thank you Excellencies.

Let me hand over back to you Mr. Chairman.

Slide 3: Provisional Agenda -*Adoption of the Provisional Agenda led by the Chair.*

1. Opening remarks by the Acting Executive Director.
2. Preparations for the third open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR) in 2025.
 - a. Consideration of the type OECPR meeting: Is the third OECPR (i) a High-level midterm review meeting, (ii) a fully preparatory meeting towards the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat



- Assembly or iii) a hybrid meeting of High-level midterm review and preparatory meeting?
- b. Discussion and recommendation on number of days and the dates of the third OECPR.
 - c. Discussion on the provisional Agenda of the third OECPR.
 - d. Elections to be held during the third OECPR.
3. Review of the dates and Agenda of the resumed second Session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
 4. Elections to be held during the resumed second Session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly in 2025.
 5. Roadmap to the resumed second Session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
 6. Any other matters.

SLIDE 4 (TITLE SLIDE) Agenda item 2. Preparations for the third open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR) in 2025:

- (a) Consideration of the type OECPR meeting: Is the third OECPR (i) a High-level midterm review meeting, (ii) a fully preparatory meeting towards the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly or (iii) a hybrid meeting of High-level midterm review and preparatory meeting?**
- (b) Discussion and recommendation on number of days and the dates of the third OECPR.**
- (c) Discussion on the provisional Agenda of the third OECPR.**
- (d) Elections to be held during the third OECPR.**

Thank you Mr. Chairman

On this item let me start by subitem 2(a) on Consideration of the type OECPR meeting, specifically whether the upcoming meeting should be a High-level



midterm review meeting, or a fully preparatory meeting towards the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat or a mixture of both.

Slide 5: Item 2a. Consideration of the type of OECPR meeting

As you are aware, the rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly states that the CPR “shall convene, in an open-ended manner, twice every four years: once prior to the UN-Habitat Assembly, in preparation for that session, and once for a high-level midterm review. If necessary to efficiently implement its mandate to prepare the next session of the Assembly”.

You would further recall that during the second OECPR in 2023 and at the second adjourned session of the Assembly in 2023, Member states successfully took a number of actions in order to ensure that UN-Habitat aligns its planning cycles with the Quadrennial Comprehensive review process (QCPR). We believe this was done in the best interest that also ensures efficient business continuity both for our Organization and for our Governing bodies.

With this in mind, we wish to recommend 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 ensures the CPR can continue to undertake its functions associated with a midterm review.

As witnessed last year, I believe we all understand that the CPR is responsible for preparing draft decisions and resolutions to be considered by the Assembly and that should be the case for the OECPR is 2025. On the other hand in 2021 the CPR at its high level Midterm review was quite instrumental in considering and making recommendations on the progress in implementing resolutions adopted by the Assembly at its first session in 2019, progress in implementing the New Urban Agenda including the Secretary General’s report in that regard, the review of the implementation of the Strategic plan, among other matters of importance at that time.



We see value in carefully identifying priorities for the CPR at this time for similar functions at the upcoming third OECPR, bearing in mind the that the CPR is a a body of universal membership.. This is also with the firm understanding that with the full alignment of the planning cycles with the QCPR in 2025, the fourth OECPR expected in 2027 will be fully a high-level midterm review OECPR.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies

Taking these factors into consideration, allow me to proceed to subitem 2(b) on number of days and the dates of the third OECPR and subitem 2 (c) the provisional Agenda of the third OECPR.

Slide 6: Item 2b. Discussion and recommendation on number of days and the dates of the third OECPR.

On the number of days, we wish to propose 3 days of the third OECPR from 26 to 28 May 2025, which will be immediately followed by the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly from 29 to 30 May 2025. These dates have been booked in the universal calendar of the UN by the Division of Conference Services, pending your recommendation.

Slide 7 to Slide 9: Item 2c : Discussion on the provisional Agenda of the third OECPR

Excellencies,

On the agenda for the OECPR, we have carefully considered a proposed provisional agenda that would offer a balanced mixture for a preparations towards the Assembly and a midterm review OECPR. That proposed Agenda is on the screen and 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. 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.
6. Progress in the implementation of the decisions and resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its adjourned second session. Specifically:
 - (a) Resolution 2/1 on “International guidelines on people-centred smart cities” (HSP/HA.2/RES.1).
 - (b) Resolution 2/5 on “Enhancing the interlinkage between urbanization and climate change resilience” (HSP/HA.2/RES.5).
 - (c) Resolution 2/7 on “Adequate housing for all” (HSP/HA.2/RES.7).
 - (d) 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).
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 is our proposed provisional Agenda for your consideration and further discussion. We are willing to provide additional information in relation to each of these items should the Bureau require.

Slide 10. Item 2d. Elections to be held during the third OECPR

To conclude my briefing on agenda item 2, let me touch a bit on item 2d which is on elections to be held during the third OECPR and which you can see has been added as an item to the proposed provisional agenda.

In line with the decision of the CPR at its second meeting last year, the term of office of the current CPR Bureau will come to an end at the final meeting of the third OECPR. As such it is important that regional groups begin to caucus on the next representatives to the CPR Bureau which is expected to hold office for two years from 2025 to 2027. The composition of that Bureau as you can see on the screen is as follows:

CHAIR: Western European and Others State (WEOG)

VICE-CHAIRS:



1. Asia – Pacific States
2. Eastern European States
3. Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC)

RAPPORTEUR: African States

Thank you and back to you Mr. Chairman.

SLIDE 11: TITLE SLIDE: 3. review of the dates and agenda of the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly

SLIDE 12: dates of the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly

Excellencies,

As already alluded to, the resumed second session is scheduled to take place from 29 to 30 May 2025 in line with Decision 2/2 of the Assembly which you can see is quoted on screen.

We suggest that the Bureau of the CPR recommends to the Bureau of the Assembly that the dates be maintained as such.

SLIDE 13: Provisional agenda of the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly

Excellencies, also 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 14: 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 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 that 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.

Slide15: (d) Considerations for the review of the provisional Agenda

Within this context Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, allow me to bring to your attention one or two areas we see as not yet adequately 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.

Thank you and back to you Mr. Chairman

Slide 16: (TITLE SLIDE) Agenda item 4. Elections to be held during the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.



Excellencies,

In 2025, the UN-Habitat Assembly is expected to elect its new Bureau for a term of four years from 2025 to 2029. It is also expected to elect the 36 Members of the Executive Board based on equitable geographical representation as adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 73/239.

Slide 17: Expected composition of the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly

Accordingly, the composition of the next UN-Habitat Assembly Bureau is expected to be as follows

PRESIDENT:

Asia – Pacific States

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

1. African States
2. Eastern European States
3. Western European and Others State (WEOG)

RAPPORTEUR:

Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC)

Slide 18: 4(b) election of the 36 members of the Executive Board

On the screen now is the listing of the current Members of the Executive Board whose term will come to an end in May 2025. This is only for information as you being to caucus among your regional groups towards the elections of the 36 Members of the Executive Board for a new four-year term until 2029.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Back to you.



Slide 19: (TITLE SLIDE) Agenda item 5. Roadmap to the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.

Excellencies

On this item I wish to quickly highlight some key dates as we prepare for the third OECPR and the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

Slide 20 and 21: Key dates in the roadmap

- **3 September 2024** or earlier: **Joint Meeting of the Bureaux** of the Governing Bodies to plan for upcoming sessions.
- **30 September 2024:** Submission to the Division of Conference Services the Notification and Provisional Agenda for the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly for editing and translation.
- **30 November 2024:** Transmission of the **Notification** of the Executive Director and provisional Agenda in all six languages to Member States and partners.
- **First week of December 2024:** 2024 Second session of the Executive Board with possible recommendations for the UN-Habitat Assembly, particularly on the draft Strategic plan 2026-2029 and the draft Stakeholder engagement policy
- **January 2025: Invitations** to Government officials for the second resumed session of the Assembly, particularly Ministries of Foreign Affairs and line Ministers. *On this aspect I wish to add that the general expectation is that Ministers do not necessarily need to travel for the OECPR or the Assembly by rather a more technical representation from the capital could suffice. We say this considering that no National Statements are expected as that was already taken care of in the adjourned session of 2023. Obviously, this is only a suggestion, and the composition of delegations remains the prerogative of each delegation.*
- **January 2025: Notification** to Member States for the **third OECPR**
- **End of March 2025- Early April 2025:** First session of the Executive Board for the year 2025 with final recommendations for the UN-Habitat Assembly.



- **March 2025:** Final submission of **supplementary items to the provisional Agenda** of the resumed second session in line with Rule 10.3 for further consideration by the CPR.
- **April 2025:** Transmission of **pre-session documents** for the UN-Habitat Assembly and OECPR to all Member States in all languages
- **26 -28 May 2025:** third **OECPR**
- **29-30May:** **Resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly**

Excellencies,

Thank you for your kind attention. Back to you Mr. Chairman.

SLIDE 22: Agenda item 6: Any other Matters.

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