



United Nations Human Settlements Programme

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## **Expanded Second Bureau meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat for the year 2024**

Friday, 5 July 2024  
11:00 hrs – 1:00 hrs EAT  
Hybrid Meeting–UN-Habitat OED Boardroom

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

#### **Adoption of the provisional Agenda**

1. H.E Mr. Ibrar Hussain Khan, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, opened the meeting at 11.05 hrs EAT.

#### **The following members of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives were present:**

1. H.E. Mr. Ibrar Hussain Khan, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to UN-Habitat, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and Rapporteur of the Executive Board.
2. H.E. Mr. Pedro Leon Cortes Ruiz, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Colombia to UN-Habitat, Vice-Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
3. H.E Mr. Bernard Yohana Kibesse, Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, Vice-Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
4. H.E Mr. Peter Maddens, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Belgium, Vice-Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
5. H.E Mr. Enrique Ochoa, Permanent Representative of the United Mexican States, representing Mexico as President of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
6. H.E Ms. Danijela Čubrilo Martić, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Serbia, Chair of the regional Group of Eastern European States in Nairobi.
7. Mr. Ronney Almeida e Silva Filho, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Federative Republic of Brazil, representing Brazil as Vice Chair of the Executive Board.
8. Mr. William Anani-Abotsi, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Ghana, representing Ghana as Vice Chair of the UN-Habitat Assembly.



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9. Ms. Zhao Wenhua, First Secretary of the People's Republic of China, representing China as Rapporteur of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
10. Ms. Angelica Gutierrez Galvis, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Colombia to UN-Habitat.
11. Ms. Felista Rugambwa, Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania.
12. Mrs. Rena Asare Danso, First Secretary of the Republic of Ghana.

### **Online**

1. Ms. Joanna Szymanska, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland, representing Poland as Vice Chair of the Executive Board and Vice President of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
2. Dr. Victory Jaja, Deputy Permanent Representative of Federal Republic of Nigeria, representing Nigeria as Chair of the Executive Board.
3. Dr. Martin Row, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, representing Germany as Vice President of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
4. Mr. Samuel Seth Passah, Senior Development Planning Officer, Ministry for Local Government Decentralisation and Rural Development of the Republic of Ghana.
5. Ms. Malgorzata Sprawka, Political Cooperation representative of the Republic of Poland.

### **The following UN-Habitat Secretariat members were also present:**

1. Mr. Michal Mlynar, Assistant Secretary-General and Acting Executive Director
  2. Mr. Raf Tuts, Director, Global Solutions Division
  3. Mr. Chris Mensah, Secretary to the Governing Bodies
  4. Ms. Edlam Yemeru, Director (a.i.), External Relations, Strategy, Knowledge and Innovation Division
  5. Ms. Shipra Narang Suri, Chief, Urban Practices Branch
  6. Mr. Justin Bonongwe, Chief, Budget and Finance, Management, Advisory and Compliance Service (MACS)
  7. Ms. Bridget Oballa, External Relations Officer, Secretariat of the Governing Bodies
2. The Chair welcomed all participants to the meeting. The provisional Agenda was adopted without any changes and can be accessed [here](#).



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### **Agenda item 1: Review of the revised proposed provisional Agenda for the third OECPR to be held from 26 to 28 May 2025.**

3. The Chair noted that the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) Bureau met on 21 June 2024 to discuss a number of important items including the proposed provisional Agenda of the third open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR) and the provisional Agenda of the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (UN-Habitat Assembly). At that meeting, while the CPR Bureau gave their preliminary views on these items, they also felt that they could benefit from the wisdom and guidance of the members of the joint Bureaux of the Governing Bodies of UN-Habitat in an expanded format. The Chair welcomed the Members of the Bureau of the UN- Habitat Assembly, the Members of the Bureau of the Executive Board and the Members of the Bureau of the CPR to the meeting.
4. The Chair invited the Acting Executive Director to provide an update on agenda item 1 on the revised proposed provisional Agenda for the third OECPR to be held from 26 to 28 May 2025.
5. The statement by the Executive Director can be accessed [here](#) and the presentation can be accessed [here](#).
6. A member of the expanded Bureau noted that the proposed provisional Agenda of the OECPR may be too extensive, considering that the main items for the OECPR were the Strategic Plan 2026-2029 and election of officers of the Bureau. In addition, the Bureau member noted that it would be important to have the input of the incoming Executive Director in the preparations towards the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
7. A member of the expanded Bureau noted it may be too early to begin preparations for the OECPR which would be held in May 2025, considering that there may be changes in their Government towards the end of the year and could not commit to any decisions or recommendations at this stage.
8. The Acting Executive Director noted that the CPR Bureau meeting was convened to kick start preparations for the OECPR which would be held just before the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly in May 2025. The Acting Executive Director also noted that it was important to have a roadmap and start preparations early enough because the documentation for both the OECPR and the resumed of the UN-Habitat Assembly have legislative deadlines, and there was need to take into consideration other conference services that require early preparations. The Acting Executive Director added that the preparations at this stage were on a preliminary basis.
9. The Acting Executive Director updated that the incoming Executive Director was elected by the General Assembly on 7 June 2024 and had been fully appointed by the Secretary General with her start date in Nairobi as 12 August 2024. Several meetings would be organized to allow her to meet with the joint Bureaux of UN-Habitat, Chairs of the Regional Groups and the whole diplomatic community. In addition, the Acting Executive Director noted that the incoming



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Executive Director had been briefed on the preparations towards OECPR and the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. The Acting Executive Director also noted that the incoming Executive Director would be attending the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York in her designate capacity where she would not formally speak on behalf of UN-Habitat but would be introduced to partners.

10. A Member of the expanded Bureau enquired why an expanded CPR Bureau meeting was held instead of a joint Bureaux meeting which comprises Bureaux of the Governing Bodies of UN-Habitat.
11. Another member of the expanded Bureau enquired if the meeting would take a decision on the proposed provisional agenda of the OECPR.
12. In response to the above inputs by members of the expanded Bureau, the Secretariat noted the following:
  - a. The CPR Bureau had the mandate to prepare for the OECPR and the UN-Habitat Assembly.
  - b. The CPR Bureau meeting held on 21 June 2024 recommended that before any decisions were made on the preparations towards the OECPR and UN-Habitat Assembly, it would be important to invite members of the Bureau of the Executive Board and of the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly to provide inputs that would assist the CPR Bureau to make decisions.
  - c. A joint Bureaux is only convened by the President of the UN-Habitat Assembly who should also preside over the Bureaux meeting, and not the CPR Bureau
  - d. The expanded CPR Bureau would, in addition, enable the Secretariat to gather preliminary recommendations on the proposed provisional Agenda of the OECPR and the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, and the organization of work of both sessions.
13. The Secretariat further noted that the next meeting for the CPR Bureau scheduled for 2 September 2024 would be the occasion for recommendations to be made by the CPR Bureau.
14. A member of the CPR Bureau representing the Africa Regional Group noted that the regional Group was still reviewing the proposed provisional Agenda of the OECPR and informed that the proposal regarding the duration and agenda of the OECPR were positive and that consultations were still ongoing.
15. A member of the CPR Bureau from the Group of Latin America and Caribbean States (GRULAC) noted that the regional Group had preliminary discussions on the proposed provisional Agenda of the OECPR and consensus had not been achieved but the discussions



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were still ongoing. The Bureau member also noted the Group did not reach a formal consensus about the OECPR meeting being hybrid in terms of combining the midterm review and the preparations for the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

16. As part of the proposed provisional agenda of the OECPR, member of the expanded Bureau requested that the Secretariat shares a preliminary report on implementation of the resolutions adopted at the adjourned second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly held in June 2023.
17. Another member emphasized that the report by the Secretariat on implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly should be brief and should cover all resolutions.
18. Another Member also enquired how the proposed provisional Agenda of the OECPR and UN-Habitat Assembly would differentiate what is discussed in the two sessions particularly on repetitive Agenda items.
19. Two members of the expanded Bureau noted that midterm review by the CPR at its third OECPR meeting should be kept short and simple for the purpose of formality.
20. Several members of the expanded Bureau expressed that Agenda item 8 of the proposed provisional Agenda of the OECPR, on “*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*” would cause confusion amongst Member States by encouraging submission of new resolutions, which should not be the case.
21. The Secretariat thanked the Members of the expanded Bureau and welcomed the recommendations by the Members and, in response, noted the following:
  - a. Some Agenda items appear to be the repetitive in the OECPR and the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly because the OECPR is mandated to prepare towards the Assembly which makes the relevant decisions.
  - b. New resolutions in the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly are not expected, and members of the Bureau are encouraged to informally discuss this matter with their regional groups.
  - c. Under item 5 of the OECPR, on the “*Progress in the implementation of the decisions and resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its adjourned second session*”, all resolutions would be reported on with work specifically on [Resolution 2/10](#) on “*Equitable financing and effective monitoring of the implementation of resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly*” forming the basis for that reporting. In addition, more detailed reporting would be done on time bound resolutions which include [Resolution 2/1](#) on “*International guidelines on people-centred smart cities*” , [Resolution 2/7](#) on “*Adequate Housing for all*” and



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[Resolution 2/5](#) on “*Enhancing the interlinkage between urbanization and climate change resilience*”.

- d. A total of 15 resolutions from the first and the adjourned second sessions of the UN-Habitat Assembly would be covered. In this regard, and with the expectation that as more resolutions get adopted in subsequent sessions, future reporting of each resolution systematically in detail could be difficult and, as such, the dashboard to be provided in the webpage in line with [Resolution 2/10](#) would be important for providing regular updates.
  - e. The title of Agenda item 8 of the OECPR on “*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*” could be changed to discourage the possibility of submission of new resolutions by using “*Draft Outcomes*” instead of “*draft resolutions, declarations and decisions*”.
22. In addition, the Acting Executive Director emphasized that there would be no national statements during the resumed session as they had already been submitted in the second session of the Assembly in June 2023.
23. The Secretariat took note of the preliminary recommendations provided by the expanded Bureau and informed that it would fine tune and make additional improvements in the proposed provisional Agenda of the OECPR for finalization on 2 September 2024. The Secretariat emphasized the importance of the approval of the provisional Agenda of the OECPR by 2 September 2024 to enable the Secretariat to proceed with documentation with the Division of Conferences Services.
24. The Secretariat noted that the recommendations and updated proposed provisional Agenda of the OECPR would be shared before the next CPR Bureau meeting to allow regional groups to consult.

### **Agenda Item 2: Proposed organizational arrangements towards the third OECPR.**

25. Upon invitation by the Chair, the Acting Executive Director noted that prior to the OECPR and besides Bureau meetings which can be expected to be quite regular from January 2025, the Secretariat was proposing 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.
26. The Acting Executive Director recalled that during 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



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- used this mechanism to advance the discussions on draft resolutions and draft decisions. The Acting Executive Director emphasized that unlike the second OECPR meeting and the adjourned second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, a very limited number of draft decisions was expected to be considered. The idea would be to conclude only the unfinished business emanating from the adjourned second session of the Assembly.
27. Several Members the expanded Bureau suggested that more and adequate time be provided to the Strategic Plan which is one of the main substantive items of the OECPR and Assembly.
  28. The Acting Executive Director suggested that Agenda item 5 on “*Progress in the implementation of the decisions and resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its adjourned second session*” be moved to the first day so that the second day can focus on the main deliverables which included the Strategic Plan and preparations for the resumed second session of the Assembly.
  29. Several Members of the expanded Bureau placed caution on the duplication of the work of informal consultations of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters of the Executive Board on the Strategic Plan which was ongoing and the informal consultations of the CPR.
  30. The Secretariat noted that there was a difference in the work of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters of the Executive Board and the informal consultation of the CPR. The Secretariat noted that problems may arise if the ad hoc working group on ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters of the Executive Board assumes the role of discussing matters within the mandate of the CPR. The Secretariat encouraged the need for a subcommittee or consultative group of the CPR to hold informal consultations before the OECPR.
  31. A Member of the expanded Bureau suggested that the Secretariat share future presentations prior to the meeting to allow Member States to prepare and read through before the meeting.
  32. The Secretariat was requested to share the three documents emanating from the meeting as follows: a) updated proposed provisional Agenda of the OECPR, b) updated organizational of work of the OECPR, and c) summary of discussion emanating from the expanded Bureau meeting.
  33. The Secretariat took note of the request by the expanded Bureau Members.

### **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.**

34. The Chair recalled that at the meeting of the Bureau of CPR held on 21 June 2024, the Acting Executive Director and the CPR Bureau had no objections that the resumed second session of UN-Habitat Assembly should be held from 29 to 30 May 2025 as decided by the UN-Habitat





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Assembly in Decision 2/2. The Chair invited the Acting Executive Director to take the Bureau through the provisional Agenda of the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

35. The Acting Executive Director shared the provisional Agenda of the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. Under Agenda item 4 on “*Credentials of representatives*”, he recalled the discussions by the CPR Bureau on 21 June 2024 on the submission of credentials to the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly noting that the same credentials from the adjourned second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly held in June 2023 would be used for delegations at the resumed session if there are no changes to the list of delegations. In case of new representatives, there would be need for updated credentials.
36. The statement by the Acting Executive Director can be accessed [here](#) and the presentation by the Acting Executive Director can be accessed [here](#).
37. A member of the expanded Bureau expressed that Agenda item 4 on “*Credentials of representatives*” could present potential problems and suggested that it be removed from the provisional Agenda of the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
38. Another Member of the expanded Bureau suggested that Agenda item 9 on “*Election of Officers*” be clear on which officers were to be elected under that item.
39. In response, the Acting Executive Director clarified that Agenda item 4 on “*Credentials of representatives*” would simply be a report from the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly on credentials and took note of the need for clarity on Agenda item 9 on “*Elections of Officers*” which should be election of officers of the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly. In this regard the Secretariat undertook to share an updated provisional Agenda of the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

### **Agenda Item 4: Any Other Matters**

40. Upon invitation by the Chair, the Secretariat provided an update that the dates of the first meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on adequate housing for all were confirmed by the Executive Board at its 2024 first session as 9 to 11 December 2024. The draft agenda of the meeting was also proposed by the Executive Board, and it includes 5 substantive items that are included in the UN-Habitat Assembly resolution 2/7 on adequate housing for all. The preparation of the documentation for the meeting is ongoing towards timely submission to the Division of Conference Services for editing and translation by early September 2024. A notification for the meeting had been prepared and would be submitted to Member States in due course. The Executive Board determined that the first meeting of the working group would be funded from extra budgetary contributions and the Secretariat thanked the Governments of Germany and France for the support and noted that the available funds were still short of the minimum budget needed to hold the meeting.
41. The Chair thanked the Members of the expanded Bureau for their contribution to the meeting. Based on a request by the Chair, some Members of the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly





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and Executive Board expressed interest in joining the next CPR Bureau meeting to be held on 2 September 2024.

**There were no other matters under discussion and the second expanded meeting of the Bureau of the CPR for the year 2024 was adjourned at 12.40 hrs East African Time (EAT).**