



2026 First meeting of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UN-Habitat

Thursday, 22 October 2026, 16:00 – 17:30 East Africa Time

Statement by the Executive Director

SLIDE 1: Title slide

SLIDE 2: Agenda Item 1. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

- 1. Adoption of the agenda*
- 2. Preparations for the fourth open-ended meeting of the CPR in 2027:*
 - a. Review of dates and number of days of the fourth open-ended meeting*
 - b. Review of the provisional agenda*
 - c. Review of the proposed organization of work*
- 3. Preparations towards the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of UN-Habitat*
- 4. Roadmap towards the fourth open-ended meeting of the CPR in 2027*
- 5. Any other matters*

Opening remarks by the Executive Director

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Excellencies,

Good morning, good afternoon.

It is a pleasure to see you all at the meeting today. I join the Chair in warmly welcoming all of you to the first meeting of this Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives this year. I am very pleased to join you for this meeting, as we kick-start the preparations for the fourth meeting of the OECPR and a high-level midterm review in June 2027. I am sorry that I cannot join you in person today, due to a very busy meeting travel period in October.

Distinguished Bureau Members, before we address today's agenda, let me share a few highlights from Urban October, and upcoming important UN-Habitat meetings in November 2026.

First, on 5 October 2026, UN-Habitat launched the Urban October, an annual month-long campaign to raise awareness and mobilize action on adequate housing and sustainable urban development, beginning with the global observance of World Habitat Day in Muscat, Oman.

I would like to thank the Sultanate of Oman for hosting an outstanding event that brought together more than 800 in-person participants. At the ministerial segments, ten ministers and deputy ministers delivered statements. More than 2,200 people from 72 countries followed the celebration online.

Away from Oman, World Habitat Day was marked in Afghanistan, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Mozambique, India, Pakistan, Thailand and Sri Lanka, among many others.

The observance received international media and social media coverage, including through major UN News channels, with an estimated audience of 7 to 10 million people. Video addresses from the global observance recorded more than 35,000 views on social media. World Habitat Day materials received over 8,000 views through the UN Web TV.

Importantly, this year, one of the highlights of Urban October was the 50th anniversary of Habitat I, the first United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976. The conference adopted the landmark Vancouver Declaration, which recognized adequate shelter as a basic human right and laid the foundation for the establishment of UN-Habitat.

To mark this anniversary, I am joining you today from Vancouver, where the University of British Columbia and UN-Habitat are hosting a two-day symposium, reflecting on 50 years of progress and the global housing crisis affecting up to 3.4 billion people, including more than 1.1 billion living in informal settlements and slums.

To date, more than 181 Urban October events have been registered across 52 countries and 119 cities. Special urban circuits and hundreds of additional activities are expected across Brazil and Mexico, further expanding the campaign's global reach.

Second, we are preparing to conclude Urban October with the global observance of World Cities Day – which this year will be generously hosted by the city of Fuzhou, China on 31 October. The focus will be “Regenerating the City: Adequate Housing for All”, offering a rich and engaging programme, including a ceremony for the Shanghai Award for Sustainable Development in Cities, as well as a dedicated ministerial segment, and interesting high-level dialogues. Several high-level participants and ministers are expected attend the event, including the President of the UN-Habitat Assembly. We also expect thousands of people to attend the ceremony and follow the event through UN Web TV. I want to thank China for their leadership and generosity in making this important event a success.

Third, the preparations for the next session of the Executive Board on 24-25 November are now in at an advanced stage. All background documentation has been prepared and made available online. The ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters have met several times to consider the main agenda items, and technical inputs for draft decisions from the secretariat will be shared today with Member States for consideration at the upcoming working group meetings in November, in preparation for final consideration by the Board. The Bureau of the Executive Board will meet in Fuzhou, China, on 1 November, to consider the state of play and provide additional guidance to Member States and the secretariat. As you are aware, the most important decision for the Executive Board at its next meeting is to consider and adopt the draft work programme and budget for 2027. I count on all Member States' support to ensure a successful outcome.

Finally, a few words about the third session of the Open-Ended Working Group on Adequate Housing for All, which will meet immediately after the Executive Board, on 26-27 November. All documentation and draft recommendations have been finalized and made available to Member State experts. I am thrilled to note that the number of Member States that nominated national experts have increased significantly in the past few months, now reaching over 100, and we expect to have a great turnout for the meeting. I am also happy to note that, thanks to support from Germany, we are on solid ground to provide full conference services and interpretation at the meeting, and support the participation of experts from LDCs. Nevertheless, the budget situation for this unique and important process remains challenging, and we will count on other Member States to step in to financially support next year's meeting and preparatory process.

With that, back to you Mr. Chairman. I look forward to fruitful discussions on the preparations for OECPR-4 and the Habitat@50 commemoration.

Slide 3 (Title Slide): Agenda Item 2: Preparations for the fourth open-ended meeting of the CPR in 2027:

- a. Review of dates and number of days of the fourth open-ended meeting**
- b. Review of the provisional agenda**
- c. Review of the proposed organization of work**

Slide 4: 2a. Review of dates and number of days of the fourth open-ended meeting

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,

As already highlighted by the Chair, the fourth meeting of the open-ended meeting Committee of Permanent Representatives will be held from 14 to 18 June 2027, as decided by the OECPR at its third meeting in May 2025 (Decision 2025/1).

The fourth OECPR meeting will provide the opportunity for Member States to undertake a high-level midterm review of the implementation of our mandate, since the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly in 2025. In particular, the OECPR is expected to assess progress in the implementation of our Strategic Plan 2026-2029, the New Urban Agenda and the most recent decisions and resolutions adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly relating to urbanization and housing.

Excellencies,

Before I proceed to brief you the provisional agenda of the fourth meeting of the OECPR, allow me to first recall that the UN General Assembly, through resolution 79/214 of December 2024, requested that a commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of UN-Habitat be organized in Nairobi in 2027, prior to the third regular session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. A first discussion on the commemoration was held at the meeting of the Joint Bureaux of the Governing Bodies 1 September 2026. As you will recall, the members of the joint Bureaux welcomed a proposal of the host country, Kenya, to hold the fiftieth anniversary commemoration of UN-Habitat in Nairobi back-to-back with the fourth meeting of the OECPR, possibly on 18 June 2027 – the last day of the meeting. We will specifically revert to this matter later today, under agenda item 3. However, it will be important to keep this aspect in mind already when considering the dates and provisional agenda for the fourth OECPR under the current agenda item.

The Bureau may therefore wish to recommend to maintain the dates 14-18 June 2027 for the fourth OECPR meeting, with the aim of celebrating the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of UN-Habitat on its final day - 18 June 2027.

Slide 5: (2b). Review of the provisional agenda

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,

The provisional agenda for the fourth OECPR meeting was approved by Member States through Decision 2025/1, adopted at the third meeting of the OECPR in May 2025. Following the proposal to include the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of UN-Habitat as part of the fourth meeting of the OECPR, a revised provisional agenda has been prepared accordingly, by adding this item to the proposal. The revised agenda, which is now displayed on the screen, reflects this additional item for your consideration and recommendation.

Slide 6: Provisional Agenda of the fourth session of the open-ended meeting Committee of Permanent Representatives

1. *Opening of the meeting:*
 - a. *Organizational matters;*
 - b. *Adoption of the agenda and the workplan for the fourth open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for a high-level midterm review.*
2. *Adoption of the report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the work of its third open-ended meeting.*
3. *Midterm review of the implementation of the strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2026–2029.*
4. *Progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda:*
 - a. *Preparation of the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda;*
 - b. *Follow-up on progress in the implementation of the actions set out in the ministerial declaration adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its second session;*
 - c. *High-level meeting to assess progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.*
5. *Progress in the implementation of the decisions and resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly.*
6. *Preparations for the fourteenth session of the World Urban Forum.*
7. *Review of the provisional agenda for the third session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.*
8. *Dates and provisional agenda for the fifth open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.*
9. *Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of UN-Habitat*
10. *Election of officers of the Bureau.*
11. *Consideration of the draft Chair's summary.*
12. *Other matters.*
13. *Closure of the meeting.*

Slide 7: (2c). Review of the proposed organization of work

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,

With regard to the organization of work for the five-days allocated to the fourth meeting of the OECPR, we would like to request the opportunity to prepare the draft organization of work for consideration at the next meeting of the Bureau, following your recommendations today on the

agenda and dates of the fourth OECPR meeting, as well as on the format of the commemoration – which will be discussed under agenda item 3.

As a starting point, we intend to propose that all agenda items before the OECPR be fully considered within the first four days of the meeting, to leave space, to allow for the self-standing high-level commemoration to take place on the fifth and final day. At a later stage and based on a proposed work programme from the secretariat, the Bureau may need to consider how to prioritize the time allocation for each of the agenda items, to ensure that the Committee fulfils its mandate and can conclude its meeting on within the allocated time frame.

We further recommend that the intersessional preparatory process for the fourth OECPR meeting be undertaken through informal consultations, under the leadership of the CPR Chair and Bureau, with a view to ensuring thorough and effective preparations for the meeting and its outcomes.

This marks the end of my remarks under agenda item 2.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and back to you.

Slide 7: (TITLE SLIDE) Agenda item 3: Preparations towards commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of UN-Habitat

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,

On this item, and as previously mentioned, we are very much guided by the approach proposed by Kenya and the guidance provided at the meeting of the Joint Bureaux on 1 September, as well as from the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the President of the UN Habitat Assembly.

For now, I will limit my intervention by saying that I fully support the approach as outlined by Kenya just now, and which is also captured by the concept note that has been made available to this meeting. I also welcome the additional guidance provided by the UN-Habitat Assembly Presidency.

On this basis we will work towards organizing the commemoration as a one-day event on the last day of the OECPR meeting, Friday, 18 June 2027. We foresee a high-level opening with Heads of State and Government, and a set of high-level panel discussions focusing on past achievements and future opportunities. And we will plan for the preparation of an ambitious Chair's Summary as the main outcome. We will also plan for a host of interesting side events and exhibitions

throughout the OECPR week, as well as a handover ceremony of the Presidency of the UN-Habitat Assembly from Malaysia to the UAE for the period 2027 to 2029.

Finally, I wish to inform the Bureau that we will now also advance preparation of a dedicated budget and resource mobilization strategy, the preparation of background documents, promotion of stakeholder engagement, preparation of a dedicated communication plan, and support to upcoming consultations with Member States.

We look forward to further guidance from this bureau on this important commemoration.

Thank you and back to you Mr. Chairman.

Slide 8: (Title Slide): Agenda Item 4: Roadmap towards the fourth open-ended meeting of the CPR in 2027

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

With your permission, I would like to call on Ulf to provide a quick overview of the roadmap of meetings towards the fourth open-ended meeting of the CPR in 2027, for possible further review by the Bureau.

Ulf, over to you.

Slide 9: Key meetings in the roadmap towards the fourth open-ended meeting of the CPR in 2027

Thank you, Ulf. Back to you, Mr. Chairman.

Slide 10: (Title Slide): Agenda Item 5: Any Other Matters.