



First Joint meeting of the Bureaux of the UN-Habitat Governing Bodies and field visit

21 to 23 March 2024

Mexico City, United Mexican States

MEETING SUMMARY

Agenda item 1: Adoption of the provisional Agenda.

1. Honourable Román Meyer Falcón, President of the United Nations Habitat Assembly and Minister for Agrarian, Territorial and Urban Development of the United Mexican States opened the meeting at 9:20 hrs (GMT-6) Mexico City Time.

The following UN-Habitat Assembly Bureau members were present:

1. Honourable Román Meyer Falcón, President of the United Nations Habitat Assembly and Minister for Agrarian, Territorial and Urban Development of the United Mexican States.
2. Hon. Dong Jianguo - Vice Minister of the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People's Republic of China (Rapporteur of the UN-Habitat Assembly)
3. H.E. Mr. Maciej Ziętara - Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Mexico, (Vice Chair of the Executive Board and representing Poland as Vice President of the UN-Habitat Assembly)
4. Ms. TONG Guichan, Deputy Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to UN-Habitat
5. Ms. Carolyn Abena Anima Oppong-Ntiri – Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Ghana to the United Nations, representing Ghana as Vice Chair of the UN-Habitat Assembly
6. Ms. Simone Franke – Head of Development Cooperation at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Mexico City, representing Germany as Vice President of the UN-Habitat Assembly

The following Committee of Permanent Representatives Bureau members were present:

1. 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)
2. H.E. Mr. Johan VERKAMMEN - Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to Mexico representing Belgium as Vice-Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

3. Mr. Saeed ur Rahman, Charge d’Affairs (a.i) of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Mexico representing Pakistan as Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

The following Executive Board Bureau members were present:

1. Hon. Alice Wahome - Cabinet Secretary for Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development of the Republic of Kenya (Chair of the Executive Board)
2. H.E. Mr. Maciej Zięta - Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Mexico, representing Poland as Vice Chair of the Executive Board
3. Mr. Ronney Almeida e Silva Filho - Deputy Permanent Representative of the Federative Republic of Brazil to Kenya representing Brazil as Vice Chair of the Executive Board
4. Mr. Saeed ur Rahman, Charge d’Affairs (a.i) of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Mexico representing Pakistan as Rapporteur of the Executive Board
5. Mr. Bruno Margueritte - Counselor for global affairs at the Embassy of the Republic of France in Mexico representing France as Vice Chair of the Executive Board
6. Dr. Victory Tamunobelema Jaja - Acting Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Incoming Chair of the Executive Board)

The Following are other participants in the Joint Bureau Meeting.

1. Mr. Li Xiaolong, Director-General, Department of Real Estate Market Supervision, Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People’s Republic of China.
2. Ms. Yang Jiayan, Director-General, Department of Housing Provident Fund Management, Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People’s Republic of China.
3. Mr. Guo Wei, Director, Department of Social Housing Management Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People’s Republic of China.
4. Ms. Luo Hong Director, Department of Planning, Finance and Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People’s Republic of China.
5. Mr. Sun Chao Secretary General Office, Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People’s Republic of China
6. Mr. DHOM Klaas KEIRSE, Deputy Head of the Belgium embassy in Mexico
7. Mr. Daniel Kottut, Charge d’affaires, Kenya Permanent Mission to UN-Habitat
8. Ms. Anna Bazanska – Minister Counsellor at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Mexico
9. Mr. Piotr Łukowicz, Third Secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Mexico
10. Mr. Ezekiel Chege, Assistant Director of Housing of the Republic of Kenya
11. Mr. Ian Marins Seixas, Coordinator of Strategic Issues at the International Office of the Ministry of Cities of the Federative Republic of Brazil
12. Ms. Caroline Gakenia Ngotho, Technical Officer from the Republic of Kenya
13. Eng. Stella Muthungu, Technical Assistant from the Republic of Kenya

The following UN Habitat Secretariat members were also present :

Mr. Michal Mlynar, Acting Executive Director of UN-Habitat

Mr. Raf Tuts, Director, Global Solutions Division.

Mr. Chris Mensah, Secretary to the Governing Bodies.

Mr. Elkin Velasquez Monsalve, Regional Director of UN-Habitat in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Ms. Katerina Bezgachina, Chief of Communications.

2. The President welcomed all the participants to the meeting. The provisional Agenda was adopted without any changes and can be accessed [here](#).
3. The President informed that the meeting of the Joint Bureaux of the Governing Bodies was crucial in preparing towards the upcoming resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (UN-Habitat Assembly) to be held from 29 to 30 May 2025. He also noted that the meeting of the Joint Bureaux was being held in line with Rule 29 of the rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly which provides that: “The respective Bureaux of the UN-Habitat Assembly, the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the Executive Board may, for the purpose of coordinating their activities, conduct Joint Bureaux meetings.”
4. Upon invitation by the President, the Acting Executive Director expressed gratitude to the President of the UN-Habitat Assembly and the Government of Mexico for hosting the meeting of Joint Bureaux and also highlighted collaborative efforts with the Government of Mexico since 2019 in the creation of strategic projects tailored to promote inclusivity, capacity building programmes and territorial management, enhancing public spaces and creation of urban planning instruments at the municipal level. In addition, the Acting Executive Director provided an overview of upcoming events, including the United Nations Civil Society Conference in May in Nairobi, Kenya, the Summit of the Future in September in New York, World Habitat Day in October in Queretaro, Mexico, the World Urban Forum in November in Cairo, Egypt and COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The Acting Executive Director also provided an update on UN-Habitat global initiatives in the different regions.
5. Upon invitation by the President, opening statements were made by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Chair of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat, the Republic of Kenya. In addition, opening statements were made by the heads of delegations, including representatives of the People’s Republic of China, the Republic of Ghana, the Kingdom of Belgium, the Republic of Colombia and the Federative Republic of Brazil.

Agenda item 2: Preparations for the global celebration of World Habitat Day 2024 to be held in Querétaro, Mexico.

6. The President noted that World Habitat Day, celebrated on the first Monday of October each year, is one of the key advocacy platforms for sustainable urbanization and human settlements. He noted that Mexico would be the next host of the 2024 World Habitat Day celebrations in the City of Queretaro. The President invited the Acting Executive Director and the Secretariat to provide an update on the preparations for the global celebration of World Habitat Day 2024 to be held in Querétaro, Mexico.

7. The Secretariat, in its briefing on the activities towards the preparations for World Habitat Day in October noted the deliberate and highly welcomed involvement of the youth in this year's up-coming World Habitat Day to ensure inclusive urban policies, fostering multilateralism, raising awareness about the environment, human settlements, quality of life and research and innovation. The presentation by the Secretariat can be accessed [here](#).
8. The Governor of the State of Queretaro also informed the Bureaux on the preparations on their part and extended invitation to all the Joint Bureaux Members to the celebrations of World Habitat Day.
9. The Bureaux congratulated the Governor, the people, and the City of Queretaro as the host of the 2024 World Habitat Day celebrations and expressed gratitude for the preparations made so far towards the event.
10. The Bureaux took note positively of the engagement of the youth in the preparations for World Habitat Day.
11. A Bureaux member requested the Secretariat for information on the process of hosting World Habitat Day and the possibility of developing a network to connect past and future hosts of World Habitat Day.
12. The Secretariat took note of the comments by the Bureaux members.

Agenda item 3: Implementation of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its first and the adjourned second sessions.

13. The President recalled that at the adjourned second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly held in Nairobi from 6 to 9 June 2023, ten (10) substantive resolutions, five (5) decisions as well as a Ministerial Declaration were adopted. In that regard, the President noted that the agenda item would allow the Joint Bureaux to gauge the progress made so far in implementing the resolutions which were adopted at the adjourned session, and to provide any further advise and recommendations on their implementation, including to the Assembly at its resumed second session to be held in May 2025. The President invited the Acting Executive Director to brief the Joint Bureaux on the status of implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly at its first and adjourned second sessions.
14. The Secretariat provided an update on the status of the implementation of all resolutions adopted at the first and adjourned second sessions of the UN-Habitat Assembly including the timelines, challenges, and steps being taken to ensure equitable implementation of all the resolutions. The presentation by the Secretariat can be accessed [here](#).
15. Members of the Joint Bureaux expressed appreciation for the update on the implementation of resolutions and the on-going regular briefing to Member States in this regard.
16. Several Bureaux members provided updates on their own national commitments towards the implementation of the resolutions.
17. A member of the Joint Bureaux took note of the challenge in the implementation of resolution 2/4 on biodiverse and resilient cities and emphasized the importance of finding resources towards its implementation.
18. With respect to those resolutions that have no clear time frames for implementation, the Joint Bureaux suggested that the Secretariat provide moderate timelines for their implementation.

19. The Bureaux expressed concerns over the financial constraints that may impact the implementation of the resolutions, particularly resources under the foundation non earmarked.
20. The Joint Bureaux emphasized the importance of equitable implementation of all resolutions.
21. The Joint Bureaux also called for focus on the implementation of resolution 2/10 on the Urban Action Funding Window as the anchor for implementation of all resolutions.
22. The Joint Bureaux emphasized the importance of mobilization of resources towards the implementation of all resolutions.

Agenda item 4: Status of preparation of the next Strategic Plan for the period 2026-2029.

23. The President recalled that in Decision 2/1 of the UN-Habitat Assembly, the Assembly requested the Executive Director, in consultation with the Executive Board, to start preparations for the development of the Strategic Plan for the period 2026–2029. The President also noted that it was important that Member States jointly own the Strategic Plan of UN-Habitat and support its implementation. As such, one of the most important responsibilities of the UN-Habitat Assembly is to approve the Strategic Plans of UN-Habitat as prepared by the Executive Board pursuant to the rules of procedure. The President noted that it was important for the Joint Bureaux to carefully monitor the process of development of the draft Strategic Plan for the period 2026 to 2029 and continuously make recommendations that will enable its subsequent adoption by the UN-Habitat Assembly at the upcoming resumed second session in May 2025. The President invited the Acting Executive Director to provide an update on the status of preparation of the next Strategic Plan for the period 2026-2029.
24. The Secretariat noted that the strategy for the formulation of the Strategic Plan, from the perspective of the UN-Habitat mandate would involve the selection and articulation and prioritization of the challenges in the formulation of attainable goals for the medium-term period, and definition of actions to be taken by UN-Habitat in the multi-lateral system to attain the objective goals of the Strategic Plan. The Secretariat also presented a roadmap towards the preparation of the up-coming Strategic Plan for the period 2026–2029 which will be presented at the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly in May 2025 for possible adoption. The full presentation by the Secretariat can be accessed [here](#).
25. The Joint Bureaux commended and noted the importance of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary, and administrative matters of the Executive Board in providing input towards the Strategic Plan.
26. The Joint Bureaux noted the importance of a realistic Strategic Plan taking into account resource constraints.
27. The Joint Bureaux noted the important nexus between the Strategic Plan and demands from the field.
28. The Joint Bureaux enquired about how the current Strategic Plan would feed into the 2026-2029 Strategic Plan.
29. The Joint Bureaux enquired about when the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) midterm review of the current Strategic Plan would be available as part of the process of developing the up-coming Strategic Plan.
30. The Joint Bureaux strongly recommended that a clear and more detailed roadmap on the development of the Strategic Plan be shared with Member States. That roadmap should include details of the topics and expected outcomes of each meeting in the roadmap.

31. The Secretariat took note of the comments by the Bureaux members.

Agenda item 5: Discussions on upcoming elections of the UN-Habitat Governing Bodies and Membership of the Executive Board.

32. The President recalled Decision 2/3 of the UN-Habitat Assembly on “Term of office of the members of the Executive Board and the Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly”, where the Assembly decided that:
 - a. The Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly elected during the first session in 2019, remain in office until the final meeting of the resumed second regular session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
 - b. The current members of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat who were elected in 2019, remain in office until the closure of the resumed second regular session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
33. The President invited the Acting Executive Director to provide an update on the up-upcoming elections of the Bureaux of UN-Habitat Governing Bodies and Membership of the Executive Board.
34. The Secretariat indicated that the following offices would be elected in 2025:
 - a) Elections of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for a term of two years (2025 to 2027),
 - b) Elections of 36 members of the Executive Board for a term of four years (2025 to 2029),
 - c) Elections of the Bureau of the Executive Board for a term of one year- (2025 to 2026) and
 - d) Elections of the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly for a term of four years (2025 to 2029).
35. The Secretariat also shared the expected composition of the Bureaux within each respective UN-Habitat Governing Body. The full presentation by the Secretariat can be accessed [here](#).
36. The key question by the Bureaux was on the term of office of the current Chair of the Executive Board which the Executive Board session, to be held in November 2024, would need to consider.
37. The Bureaux took note of the presentation by the Secretariat.

Agenda item 6: Briefing on the upcoming resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly to be held in May 2025.

38. The President recalled that the United Nations Habitat Assembly adjourned its second regular session held in June 2023 and would resume in May 2025. Specifically, Decision 2/2 of the Assembly decided that the session will be held from 29 to 30 May 2025 and also further decided on the Agenda for that session.
39. The President invited the Acting Executive Director to provide an update on the upcoming resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly to be held in May 2025.

40. The presentation by the Secretariat which includes the provisional Agenda and key timelines towards the preparations for the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly and can be accessed [here](#).
41. The representative of Kenya assured that as the Host Country of the UN-Habitat Headquarters, Kenya would be committed to a successful hosting of the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. Kenya also noted that it was ready to host UN-Habitat at 50 celebrations at the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
42. A Joint Bureaux member suggested online participation during the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly be made possible. It was agreed by the Bureaux that discussions on the suggestion be deferred to later discussions.
43. A member of the Joint Bureaux noted that the focus of the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly should be the next Strategic Plan.

Agenda item 7: Status of the 12th session of the World Urban Forum, Cairo, Egypt, 4-8 November 2024: inputs and connection with the New Urban Agenda and the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan.

44. The President noted that the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum would be held in Cairo from 4 to 8 November 2024 and invited the Acting Executive Director to provide an update on the status of preparations and its connection with the New Urban Agenda and the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan.
45. The Presentation by the Secretariat highlighted the theme for WUF12 which is: “It All Starts at Home: Local Actions for Sustainable Cities and Communities”. The Secretariat, in addition to the theme, briefed the Bureaux on the registration process, partner led events, dialogues and engagement opportunities at the World Urban Forum. The full presentation by the Secretariat can be accessed [here](#).
46. The Joint Bureaux took note of the update on the status of preparations for the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum.

Agenda item 8: Visit to the National Museum of Housing.

47. The Members of the Joint Bureaux visited the National Museum of Housing. Related information on the Museum can be found [here](#).

Agenda item 9: Field Visit to Bicentennial Park, Ecatepec within the framework of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and localization of the SDGs.

48. The Members of the Joint Bureaux went on a field visit to Bicentennial Park, Ecatepec which is within the framework of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and localization of the SDGs. Related information on the field visit can be found [here](#).

Agenda item 10: Overview and feedback on the Field visit to Ecatepec.

49. The President invited Members of the Joint Bureaux to provide feedback on the field visit to Bicentennial Park, Ecatepec particularly in regard to the work on sustainable urbanization.

50. The Joint Bureaux expressed gratitude to the Government of Mexico for facilitating the field visit to Bicentennial Park, Ecatepec and noted lessons learnt from the visit. The Members of the Joint Bureaux also congratulated the Government of Mexico for the successful implementation of the Bicentennial Park.
51. A Member of the Joint Bureaux noted the success in the empowering of women and people in the informal settlements in Ecatepec.
52. Several Joint Bureaux Members noted the prioritization of the needs of the people of Ecatepec by the Government of Mexico. Many noted the lessons learned from the visit and expressed their desire to follow up with Mexico to provide further guidance on the implementation.
53. The Acting Executive Director thanked the Government of Mexico for facilitating the field visit which showcased work on the ground on the implementation of SDG Cities. The Acting Executive Director noted that there was a lot to be learned from the field visit regarding sustainable human settlements.
54. The Acting Executive Director informed the Bureaux that UN-Habitat was in the process of hiring the new Head of UN-Habitat office in Mexico City at a senior level to ensure a fully-fledged office to support the work of the Government of Mexico and the United Nations activities in the Country.
55. The President thanked the Joint Bureaux for their great inputs and overview of the field trip.

Agenda item 11: Contributions to the upcoming priorities of the United Nations in 2024 and 2025

56. The President noted that there are priority areas within the UN multilateral landscape in 2024 and 2025 on which Member States would need to keep a keen interest to ensure how best UN-Habitat would continue to align itself with those priorities and keep the dimension of sustainable urbanization alive in those processes. The two specific key meetings of the United Nations in 2024 and 2025 which are crucial in shaping the future global agenda include: (a) the UN Summit of the Future, 2024 and, (b) the World Social Summit 2025.
57. The President invited the Acting Executive Director to provide an update on UN-Habitat's contributions to the upcoming priorities of the United Nations in 2024 and 2025.
58. The presentation by the Secretariat highlighted that the Summit of the Future seeks to create an opportunity for Member States to shape future global agenda, adapt to emerging challenges and forge a new consensus for reinvigorated effective multilateralism. UN-Habitat has engaged with Member States to strengthen the local dimension of the Pact for the Future, mainly by promoting the New Urban Agenda as a vehicle to accelerate the achievement of the Agenda 2030 and other actions that the Summit of the Future seeks to initiate. In addition, the Secretariat noted that the Secretary General recommended the convening of the World Social Summit in 2025 to cover issues such as universal social protection including universal health coverage, adequate housing, education for all and decent work, and give momentum towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In the lead up to the Social Summit, UN-Habitat is advocating for a stronger focus on adequate housing as a critical pathway to realise several other human rights and avenues of social economic development. The presentation by the Secretariat can be accessed [here](#).
59. The representative of Belgium expressed that his Country was honoured to co-facilitate the 2025 World Social Summit with the Kingdom of Morocco.
60. The Acting Executive Director noted that UN-Habitat would continue to rely on Member States in the implementation of the SDGs.

61. The Joint Bureaux took note of the update on UN-Habitat's contributions to the upcoming priorities of the United Nations in 2024 and 2025.

Agenda item 12: Multilevel governance, cooperation with local and regional governments.

62. The President noted that multi-level governance is an essential cross-cutting function across the ten resolutions adopted by Member States during the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, and UN-Habitat promotes it through different avenues. He also noted that UN-Habitat is increasingly visible and recognised within the UN system for its important contribution to localising the SDGs and accelerating the implementation of the New Urban Agenda through multi-level governance and noted further that such visibility and presence is critical, so people know what the Organization does. The President invited the Acting Executive Director to provide an update on multilevel governance and cooperation with local and regional governments.
63. The Secretariat, in its presentation emphasized that multi-level governance is an essential mechanism across the ten UN-Habitat Assembly resolutions, and that UN-Habitat promotes it as a cross-cutting feature of its Strategic Plan 2020-2025. The Secretariat noted that it advances multi-level governance through different avenues such as the National Urban Policies, supporting over 60 countries in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and review of their national and sub-national urban policies, and sectoral multi-level governance processes which play an important role in enhancing the effectiveness of national and global policy initiatives. The Secretariat also highlighted the fact that UN-Habitat serves as the secretariat to the Secretary General's Advisory on Local and Regional Governments, which was launched by the Secretary General on October 6th, 2023. The full presentation by the Secretariat can be accessed [here](#).
64. The Joint Bureaux Members took note of the update on multilevel governance and cooperation with local and regional governments.

Agenda item 13: Next steps in the preparations for the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly including the next meeting of the Joint Bureaux.

65. The President noted that the Secretariat would advise on the next date of the Joint Bureaux meeting which would most likely be held in a hybrid or online format in September 2024 and on the sidelines of the WUF 12 in November 2024.
66. A member of the Joint Bureaux suggested that the next meeting of the Bureaux be held in Nairobi due to financial constraints incurred by meetings outside Nairobi and also to allow all Nairobi based missions to participate.
67. The representative of Belgium noted that after the selection of the new Head of UN-Habitat Mexico City Office, it would be willing to host a meeting between Ambassadors based in Mexico and UN-Habitat for an update on the work of the Organization.

Agenda item 14: Any other matters

68. Members of the Bureaux thanked the Government of Mexico for hosting the 2024 first meeting of the Joint Bureaux of the UN-Habitat Governing Bodies and field visit.
69. A Member of the Joint Bureaux thanked the Government of Mexico for supporting its participation to the meeting of the Joint Bureaux of the Governing Bodies of UN-Habitat in Mexico.
70. Other Members of the Bureaux reiterated their support towards the work of UN-Habitat

Agenda item 15: Closure of the meeting.

The first Joint meeting of the Bureaux of the UN-Habitat Governing Bodies and field visit for the year 2024 was adjourned on 22 March 2024 at 17:05 hrs (GMT-6) Mexico City Time.