

## Summary of the second informal consultation of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat towards the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly

**Monday, 6 March 2023** – 10:00 – 12:00 East Africa Time – Conference Room 4

**Chair:** H.E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah

Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to UN-Habitat

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am EAT. The informal consultation adopted the provisional agenda for its second meeting without any change as follows:

1. Preliminary breakdown of the programme for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
2. Proposed Structure of the special theme and dialogue of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
3. Recommendations emanating from the meeting of the Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly held on 15 February 2023.
4. Briefing on side-events and exhibitions.
5. Any other matters.

### **Agenda item 1 – Preliminary breakdown of the programme for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.**

**Upon invitation by the Chair, the Secretariat presented the preliminary breakdown of the programme for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.**

- i. The presentation by the Secretariat can be accessed [here](#).

**After the presentation by the Secretariat, the discussions highlighted the following:**

- ii. Several Member States expressed the need for circulation of background documents before the informal consultations to allow reflection and feedback from capitals, and requested the Secretariat to post on-line, the presentations made during the meeting.
- iii. One Member State requested the Secretariat to consider holding side events on the Sunday before the United Nations Habitat Assembly and thereafter, daily, from 6pm to 7pm after the plenary sessions during the week of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
- iv. A Member State enquired when the guidelines for side events would be circulated to enable capitals to be provided with updates.
- v. Another Member State enquired about the structure of dialogue of the Heads of States and First Ladies Roundtable and further requested who will be invited, and what would be the theme of these segments.

**In light of the views expressed by Member States, the Secretariat responded as follows:**

- vi. The Secretariat noted that the background documents for the informal consultation were not shared because the draft documents were still under further development pending inputs from Member States.
- vii. The Secretariat noted that it was looking into availability of rooms for side events and informed that the call for application for side events will be released on 13 March 2023 with a deadline for submission of 11 April 2023. The Secretariat indicated that it would look into holding side events in the evening and would coordinate to ensure it does not interfere with the legislative sessions.
- viii. The Secretariat stated that the guidelines for side events had not been shared yet because it was still under revision. The Secretariat noted that the guidelines would be posted on 13 March 2023 and Member States would be alerted once they were posted. The link for application to side events can be accessed [here](#).
- ix. The Secretariat recommended that side events should be designed in a manner to complement the legislative segments by echoing the theme of the United Nations Habitat Assembly which is: “A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crises” as well as the five main topics associated with the theme which include i) universal access to adequate housing, ii) urban climate action and environmental protection, iii) urban crisis recovery, iv) localization of the SDGs and multi-level governance, v) prosperity and finance.
- x. Regarding the structure of the dialogue of the Heads of States and the First Ladies Roundtable, the Secretariat noted that it did not have sufficient details to provide at that time but reiterated that the information would be shared in due course.
- xi. The Secretariat informed that that invitations to Heads of State would come from the Head of State of Kenya. In that respect, the Secretariat noted that it would be the Host Country that share the list of Heads of States attending the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
- xii. The Secretariat responded that the purpose of the session of the Executive Board on Thursday 8 June 2023 on the margins of the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly would be to conduct elections of the 2023-2024 Bureau of the Executive Board. The Secretariat noted that at the request of the Bureau, it had sent out letters to the Chairs of Regional Groups encouraging them to caucus with a view to recommending a clean slate towards the elections.

## **Agenda item 2 - Proposed Structure of the special theme and dialogue of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.**

**Upon invitation by the Chair, the Secretariat presented the proposed structure of the special theme and dialogue of the United Nations Habitat Assembly**

- xiii. The presentation on the proposed structure of the special theme and dialogue of the United Nations Habitat Assembly by the Secretariat can be accessed [here](#).

**After the presentation by the Secretariat, the discussions highlighted the following:**

- xiv. One Member State wanted to know how the Secretariat would select the high-profile keynote speakers. The Member State also enquired about the time allocated to the speakers and the Q&A session during the Dialogue. The Member State welcomed the idea of introducing videos presentations showcasing the work of UN-Habitat during the Dialogue.
- xv. The Chair enquired if there would be provision for Member States to suggest keynote speakers for the Dialogue.
- xvi. One Member State pointed that the Secretariat should ensure good representation of all geographical regions in the Dialogue.
- xvii. Another Member State expressed concerns that the high-level segment would be imbalanced because from the information available thus far, the ministerial intervention is slated for 45 minutes leaving only 15 minutes for the interactive discussion and suggested that a more balanced segment that would allow a 25 to 30 minutes interactive discussion.

**In light of the views expressed by Member States, the Secretariat responded as follows:**

- xviii. The Secretariat responded that a high-profile keynote speaker would be someone who had i) written on urbanization, ii) been talking about issues of the current global crises facing the planet and had iii) been talking about issues of governance and inclusive multilateralism. The Secretariat informed that it had shortlisted four names thus far.
- xix. The Secretariat further informed that that the high-level dialogue would comprise of three ministerial segments, each with a moderated panel discussion. A full segment would last for 60 minutes inclusive of back-to-back ministerial intervention for 15 minutes and thereafter an interactive panel discussion between the three panelists, the moderator, and the audience.
- xx. The Secretariat anticipated that the videos that would be presented during the session should cover the wide range of UN-Habitat projects on the ground that related to the theme of the United Nations Habitat Assembly. In addition, the videos would also bring the experiences of stakeholders by showing how their lives had been transformed by using case studies. The videos would also be used for communication on social media and on the UN-Habitat website to publicize and share extensively, the work of UN-Habitat in the field.
- xxi. The Secretariat welcomed the idea of Member States suggesting keynote speakers for the high-level segment.

**Agenda item 3 – status of the draft resolutions to be considered by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its second session**

**Upon invitation by the Chair, the Secretariat made a presentation on the draft resolutions to be considered by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its second session**

- xxii. The presentation by the Secretariat on the draft resolutions to be considered by

the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly can be accessed [here](#).

**After the presentation by the Secretariat, the discussions highlighted the following:**

- xxiii. Colombia and Costa Rica updated that they submitted a draft resolution on BiodiverCities. Their full statement can be accessed [here](#).
- xxiv. One Member State thanked the Secretariat for the presentation on the status of the resolutions and urged Member States to condense and combine resolutions to avoid a high number of draft resolutions in comparison to the first session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
- xxv. A Member State expressed that the scope of resolutions should not go beyond the implementation capacity of UN-Habitat but welcomed an expanded number of resolutions as compared to the first session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
- xxvi. One Member State enquired how UN-Habitat would ensure that draft resolutions tabled had not already been explored by other United Nations entities.
- xxvii. The representative of France provided an update on the status of the draft resolution on Smart Cities.
- xxviii. The representative of South Africa also provided an update on the status of the proposed draft resolution on “Global Action Plan for Slum Prevention” and informed that the Government of South Africa would sponsor implementation the of the resolution.
- xxix. One Member State urged Member States who proposed draft resolutions to share the related draft concept notes.
- xxx. Another Member State urged Member States to send draft resolutions early enough to allow for proper consultations and further suggested the allocation of more time for the informal consultations. The Member State emphasized that the informal consultations should also discuss the draft of the Ministerial Declaration and in that respect, noted the importance of a transparent and inclusive process for discussions.
- xxxi. One Member State noted that procedural resolutions should also be shared by the Secretariat.

**In light of the views expressed by Member States, the Secretariat responded as follows:**

- xxxii. The Secretariat referred Member States to the latest revised guidelines for submission of draft resolutions which can be accessed [here](#). The Secretariat further noted that it had reviewed past resolutions and works by other UN entities to prevent repetitions.
- xxxiii. The Secretariat noted the possibility of other draft resolutions emerging from the topics discussed during the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on

the progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda held on 28 April 2022 and during the upcoming session of the Executive Board.

- xxxiv. The Secretariat emphasized that it would be available to meet with the respective Regional Groups to support with technical inputs for draft resolutions. The Secretariat appealed to Member States to submit their draft resolutions early enough for consideration.
- xxxv. The Secretariat noted that the draft resolutions would be discussed by the informal consultations of the CPR.

#### **Agenda item 4 - Recommendations emanating from the meeting of the Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly held on 15 February 2023.**

**Upon invitation by the Chair, the Secretariat provided a briefing on the recommendations emanating from the meeting of the Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly held on 15 February 2023**

- xxxvi. The presentation by the Secretariat on recommendations emanating from the meeting of the Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly held on 15 February 2023 can be accessed [here](#).

**After the briefing by the Secretariat, the discussions highlighted the following:**

- xxxvii. One Member State thanked the Secretariat for offering technical inputs and guidance to Member States and suggested that the technical assistance should also apply to the wider membership (i.e., not only proponents of draft resolutions) and further noted that the potential cost of the implementation of the resolutions should be provided.
- xxxviii. Several Member States supported the establishment of a subcommittee of the CPR because it would provide legitimacy to the intersessional meetings of the CPR in preparation for the United Nations Habitat Assembly and the mid-term review and some did not.
- xxxix. Regarding the elections expected to take place during the upcoming session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, several Member States encouraged the respective Regional Groups to share their nominations early enough to save time during the session to focus on substantive matters.
  - xl. One Member State requested the Secretariat to provide a one pager on the difference between establishment of a subcommittee of the CPR and using the informal consultation process.
  - xli. Two Member States highlighted the need to develop a roadmap for the Ministerial Declaration.

**In light of the views expressed by Member States, the Secretariat responded as follows:**

- xlii. The Secretariat responded that the discussions on the draft Ministerial Declaration would be led by the President of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.

- xliii. The Secretariat noted that [Rule 23.2 of the Rules of Procedures of the UN-Habitat Assembly](#) gives Member States the mandate to establish a subcommittee for the CPR during the open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to efficiently implement its mandate and to prepare for the next session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly. It being understood that the decision whether or not of establishing a subcommittee would be up to Member States
- xliv. The Secretariat also pointed that if the subcommittee were to be established the informal consultations would not be needed and would cease to exist.

#### **Agenda item 4 –Briefing on side-events and exhibitions.**

- xlv. The briefing on side events and exhibitions by the Secretariat can be accessed [here](#).
- xlvi. The Secretariat noted that it envisioned 50 slots for the exhibition space.
- xlvii. The Secretariat highlighted that this year marked UN-Habitat’s 45th anniversary in Kenya and in that respect, it was working with the Government of Kenya to hold an exhibition on Urban Development in Kenya in the last 45 years.
- xlviii. The Secretariat informed that there would be an exhibition dedicated to the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum in partnership with the Government of Egypt.
- xlix. The Secretariat noted that the draft guidelines for side events and exhibitions had been posted online and can be accessed [here](#). The link to apply for side-events can be accessed [here](#).

#### **Agenda item 5- Any other matters**

- 1. The Secretariat requested the permission of the Member States to allocate three hours for morning meetings instead of two hours so as to finish everything in the morning.

**The Chair noted that the next informal consultation by the CPR was scheduled for 25 April 2023 at 9:30 am - 12: 30 am EAT.**

**There were no other matters considered and the Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:25 hrs East Africa Time**