

ANNOTATED AGENDA

First Bureau meeting of the UN-Habitat Assembly for the year 2023

Wednesday, February 15th, 2023

Virtual Meeting.

Location: Nairobi, Kenya.

15:30 – 17:00 h. East Africa Time (EAT).

Protocol:

- Virtual Meeting

[Enlace de la reunión:](#) Microsoft Teams (Haga click en el hipervínculo).

Subject:

Virtual meeting between UN-Habitat Assembly representatives, Executive Director and Assembly President

Objectives of the meeting:

The proposed provisional agenda of the meeting is as follows

- 1) Adoption of the Provisional Agenda
- 2) General update on the status of preparations for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly
- 3) Preparations for the elections of the members of the Executive Council for the period 2023-2027 and the members of the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly for 2023-2027
- 4) Other matters

Assistants:

- 1. Undersecretary Martha Delgado**, President of the UN-Habitat Assembly
- 2. Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif**, UN-Habitat Executive Director
- 3. Mr. Chris Mensah**, Representative of the Governing Bodies, UN-Habitat
- 4. Mr. Sergio Salazar Alzate**, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Colombia
- 5. Mr. Dragoş Viorel ȚIGĂU**, Permanent Representative of Romania to UNON
- 6. Mr. Jacek Bazanski**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland
- 7. Mr. Arnaud Suquet**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of France
- 8. Ms. Jean Kimani**, Permanent Representative of Kenya to UN-Habitat
- 9. Dr. John Stephen Simbachawene**, Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to UN-Habitat
- 10. Małgorzata Jarosińska-Jedynak**, Secretary of State, Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy, Republic of Poland
- 11. Mr. Peter Maddens**, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Belgium to UN-Habitat
- 12. Ms. Saqlain Syedah**, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to UN-Habitat and Chair of the CPR
- 13. Ms. Shirley Ayorkor Botchway**, Minister for Foreign Affairs / Vice Chair of the UN-Habitat Assembly Republic of Ghana
- 14. Mr. Silvio Albuquerque**, Permanent Representative of the Federative Republic of Brazil to UN-Habitat and Chair of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat

15. **Ms. Susanne Dorasil**, Head of Water Division, Urban Development and Mobility, BMZ Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Federal Republic of Germany
16. **Mr. ZHOU Pingjian**, Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to UN-Habitat

Introductory remarks:

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

- It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you all to the first meeting of the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly for the year 2023. This being our very first Bureau meeting for this year and even if a bit late, allow me to wish all of you a very happy new year.
- Let me start by offering my condolences to the families of the victims, the Governments, and the people of Türkiye and of Syria following the earthquake on Monday, 6 February 2023.
- I am very excited to work with all of you in the upcoming months, to deliver a successful second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
- My gratitude for the presence of the Bureau Members at this meeting. I thank you for the good work you have been doing since the establishment of the Assembly.
- In that respect and with your permission, I wish to take note of the presence of:
 - Your Excellency, Ms. Saqlain Syedah Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to UN-Habitat, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat for 2021-2023. Thank you for your leadership in our obligation to guide the Organization.
 - I wish to also thank the distinguished members of the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly and of the Bureau of the CPR for the support to the Chair in carrying out her duties.
 - I wish to also recognize the presence of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, my sister, Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, and members of the Secretariat,

Statement of President of the UN Assembly:

- In my capacity as President of the Assembly, I would like to emphasize the importance of this meeting, which brings us together today, and the responsibility of continuing to offer innovative solutions to the world through the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda. Allowing us to face the different problems of the world's ecosystems; providing the necessary tools and mechanisms to continue working with strategic planning.
- Promoting citizen participation in all territories including returning public spaces to the people and transforming them into a form of expression and sources of prosperity and peace, are the means that will allow us to build self-sustainability and equality for children, the young, women, men and more.
- Once again, I thank each one of the Representatives gathered today and let's begin this meeting.

(End of the Statement)

- I just wish to also recall that Rule 18.1 of the rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly provides that the five members of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall jointly serve as additional Vice-Presidents of the Bureau of the Assembly. The idea is that together, we hope to provide guidance to the Executive Director as she prepares for the UN-Habitat Assembly in June 2023.

Distinguished Delegates,

- Let us now proceed to the adoption of the proposed provisional Agenda for our meeting today.

Agenda item 1: Adoption of the provisional Agenda

- The draft provisional Agenda for this meeting was circulated by the Secretariat on 8 February 2023 as follows:
 - 1) Adoption of the provisional Agenda
 - 2) General update on status of preparations of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly
 - 3) Preparations for the elections of the members of the Executive Board for the term 2023-2027 and officers of the 2023-2027 Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly
 - 4) Any other matters

DECISION

- May I take it that the Bureau wishes to adopt the provisional Agenda for this meeting as circulated?
- (Madam President, pause to see if anyone wishes to take the floor)

- I don't see anyone asking for the floor so shall I take it that the proposed Agenda is acceptable to everyone. The agenda is so adopted.
- We shall now proceed to Agenda item 2 which is "General update on status of preparations of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly".

Agenda item 2: General update on status of preparations of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly

- You would recall that the second session of the UN-Habitat will be held from 5 to 9 June 2023, and pursuant to paragraph 7 of Decision 1/3, the first session of UN-Habitat Assembly also decided on the provisional Agenda for its second session which was further reviewed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat, during its first open-ended meeting for a high-level mid-term review. The provisional Agenda was also reviewed and confirmed during our Joint Bureaux meetings held on 29 June and 18 October 2022.
- I now give the floor to the Executive Director who will brief us on the status of preparations of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. After the briefing by the Executive Director, I will then open the floor for discussion and invite the Bureau to make comments and recommendations.

- Madam, you have the floor.

[After the briefing by the Executive Director]

- Thank you, Madam for this briefing.

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

- I now open the floor for discussion on the recommendation presented by the Executive Director and invite the Bureau to make comments and suggestions.
- I will start with a sub-item a) on the format of the session, followed by a sub-item b) on high-level representation at the session, followed by a sub-item c) on guidance on the preliminary proposed organization of work for the session. This will then be followed by sub-item d) on recommendation for the submission of draft resolutions and sub-item e) on creation of a sub-committee of the CPR.

A) Format of the session

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

- The floor is now open for recommendation by the Bureau on the format of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

[After that]

- I thank you all.

DECISION

- At this point shall, I take it that the Bureau recommends that the Executive Director can continue her preparations for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly to be held in a hybrid format?
- **(Madam President, pause to see if anyone wishes to take the floor)**
- I don't see anyone asking for the floor, so shall I take it this is acceptable to everyone. It is so decided.

B) High-level representation at the session

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

- I welcome any views in enhancing high-level participation at this second session. As indicated by the Executive Director, given that the UN-Habitat Assembly is expected to discuss key issues related to human settlements and urbanization, I count on the support of the members of this Bureau in conveying to their Regional Groups the need for a high-level representation at the Ministerial level and for substantive representation at the session.
- I now open the floor for discussions on the high-level mobilisation, sub item b).
- The floor is now open.

[After that]

- I thank you all.

C) Guidance on the preliminary proposed organization of work for the session

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

- The Executive Director has recommended under this sub-item a preliminary proposed organization of work for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, which is now on the screen.
- The floor is now open for recommendation by the Bureau on the option presented by the Secretariat.

[After that]

- I thank you all.

DECISION

- At this point shall I take it that the Bureau recommends that the Executive Director can continue her preparations for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly in line with the preliminary organization of work as presented today, with the understanding that this is not cast in stone but just to guide our work for now?

(Madam President, pause to see if anyone wishes to take the floor)

- I don't see anyone asking for the floor, so shall I take it this is acceptable to everyone. It is so decided.

DECISION

- Shall I also take it that the Bureau recommends that the informal consultations by the CPR in preparation towards the open-ended meeting of the CPR and the Assembly continue to congregate to look into what is before the CPR and the Assembly ?

(Madam President, pause to see if anyone wishes to take the floor)

- I don't see anyone asking for the floor, so shall I take it this is acceptable to everyone. It is so decided.

D) Recommendation for the submission of draft resolutions

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

- Notwithstanding the fact that it is the prerogative of any Member State to introduce a resolution at the Assembly, it is crucial that we provide clear guidance as a Bureau for the submission of resolutions, including a timeline for such submission. I indeed foresee that our guidance would allow a very seamless transition from the open-ended meeting of the CPR (OECPR) to the Assembly. It is expected that those resolutions will be formally considered by the OECPR following which the Chair of the CPR will forward the drafts in their most updated version to me as the President of the UN-Habitat Assembly for consideration by the Assembly.
- The floor is now open for recommendation by the Bureau on the option presented by the Secretariat.

[After that]

- I thank you all.

DECISION

- May I take it that the Bureau recommends that Member States that are ready can start submitting draft resolutions immediately starting February 2023 and further recommends that any draft resolutions to be considered by the OECPR be submitted by 30 April 2023 at the latest?

(Madam President, pause to see if anyone wishes to take the floor)

- I don't see anyone asking for the floor, so shall I take it this is acceptable to everyone. It is so decided.

E) Creation of a sub-committee of the CPR

- Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, we heard from the Executive Director that Rule 23.2 provides for the possibility of the CPR to establish a subcommittee to efficiently implement its mandate.
- I would strongly support, in my capacity as President of the UN-Habitat Assembly and on the basis of consensus, the establishment of such subcommittee by the CPR at its next open-ended meeting in preparation of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. The subcommittee would indeed be instrumental in the future in considering

draft resolutions and in providing a framework both to Member States and to the Secretariat for the preparations towards the meetings of the CPR and sessions of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

- The floor is now open for recommendation by the Bureau.

[After that]

- I thank you all.

DECISION

- May I take it that the Bureau recommends for consideration by the CPR that at its next open-ended meeting in preparation of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, establish a subcommittee as provided in Rule 23.2 ?

(Madam President, pause to see if anyone wishes to take the floor)

- I don't see anyone asking for the floor, so shall I take it this is acceptable to everyone. It is so decided.
- I now move to Agenda item 3 which is “preparations for the elections of the members of the Executive Board for the term 2023-2027 and officers of the 2023-2027 Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly”.

Agenda item 3 : Vacant position of Rapporteur in the Bureau of the CPR for 2021-2023, preparations for the elections of the members of the Executive Board for the term 2023-2027 and officers of the 2023-2027 Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly

Vacant Position of Rapporteur in the Bureau of the CPR for 2021-2023

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates, let me provide a little background on this Agenda Item.

- Pursuant to Rule 27 of rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly, the Bureau of the CPR was elected at the end of the high-level mid-term review meeting held in June 2021.
- The composition of the elected Bureau was as follows:

- Chair: Pakistan
 - Vice-Chairs: Tanzania and Colombia. One position of Vice-Chair remained vacant pending the nomination of the representative of Western European and other States (WEOG).
 - Rapporteur: The position of Rapporteur remained vacant pending the nomination of the representative of Eastern Europe.
- The CPR elected the members of the Bureau on the understanding that it would have an opportunity, on a no objection basis, to elect the remaining members of the Bureau upon nomination by the regional groups.
 - On 13 October 2021, the Chair of WEOG informed the Secretariat of the nomination of Belgium for the position of Vice-Chair of the CPR Bureau.
 - On 15 November 2021, the Chair of the Regional Group of Eastern European States informed the Secretariat of the nomination of Slovak Republic for the position of Rapporteur of the CPR Bureau.
 - On 16 June 2022, and after consultation with the Bureau on 15 June 2022, the Secretariat circulated a letter on behalf of the Chair of the CPR inviting all Member States to approve the respective nominations on a no objection basis.
 - On 21 June 2022, the Secretariat received an email from the Russian Federation informing of the Country's objection to the nomination of Slovakia to the position of Rapporteur.
 - Referring to the CPR Bureau meeting on December 1, 2022, one of the options considered was that the Eastern European Group switch the office of Rapporteur with another Regional Group where the position of Rapporteur will be assumed by another Regional Group, and the Eastern European Group would assume the position as Vice Chair instead.
 - Let me give the floor to the Secretariat Government Bodies to explain to us how this will work. But before that does the CPR Chair wish to take the floor on this.?

[AFTER THAT AND IF THE CHAIR OF THE CPR TAKES OR DOES NOT TAKE THE FLOOR.]

- Allow me to give the floor to the Secretariat of the Governing Bodies of UN-Habitat.

[AFTER THAT]

- Thank you.
- **Does any delegation wish to make any remarks?**

[AFTER THAT]

- In light of the presentations, including the information provided by the Secretariat, I would suggest that we leave this to the CPR Chair to continue the possibility of consulting with the Eastern European Group with a view to seeing if there could be any consensus prior to the elections.
- Otherwise, we would have to consider voting by secret ballot to elect the position of Rapporteur. It will bring about a negative atmosphere, but we really have no choice.
- I now open the floor for reaction by the Bureau. Allow me to first give the floor to the Chair of the Regional Group of Eastern European States.

- **Ambassador, you have the floor.**

[After that]

- Thank you.
- **Does any delegation wish to make any remarks?**

[AFTER THAT]

- I thank you all.

DECISION

- May I take it that the CPR Chair be given the opportunity to consult with the Eastern European Group and if that fails the CPR could be prepared by voting by secret ballot ?

(Madam President, pause to see if anyone wishes to take the floor)

- I don't see anyone asking for the floor, so shall I take it this is acceptable to everyone. It is so decided.

Elections of the members of the Executive Board

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

- In line with rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the Executive Board, the Executive Board shall consist of 36 Member States, to be elected by the UN-Habitat Assembly in accordance

with the following criteria: 10 seats for African States; 8 seats for Asia-Pacific States; 4 seats for Eastern European States; 6 seats for Latin American and Caribbean States; and 8 seats for Western European and other States. The members of the Executive Board hold office for a term of four years commencing with their election during a session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

- I invite all regional groups to start caucusing towards nominations for their respective representatives to the Executive Board for 2023-2027.
- I now open the floor for reaction by the Bureau.

[After that]

- I thank you all.

Election of the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly for 2023-2027

- As you are aware, in accordance with the principle of geographical rotation provided for in rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly, the following regional groups are to provide candidates for the offices of the Bureau to be elected during the final meeting of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly:
 - President: Asia-Pacific States
 - Vice-Presidents: African States, Eastern European States, Western European and other States
 - Rapporteur: Latin American States
- I invite all regional groups to start caucusing towards nominations for their respective representatives to the 2023-2027 Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
- I now open the floor for reaction by the Bureau.

[After that]

DECISION

- May I take it that the Bureau recommends that the Secretariat sends a Note Verbale to the Chairs of the Regional Groups inviting them to start caucusing towards identifying nominations for their representative to the new Bureau?

[Madam President, pause to see if anyone wishes to take the floor]

- I don't see anyone asking for the floor so I shall take it that it is acceptable to everyone. It is so decided.
- I now move to Agenda item 4 which is "Any other matters".

Agenda item 4: Any other matters

- Is there anything anyone wishes to bring up at this stage.?

(Pause to see if anyone wishes to take the floor)

- Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, ladies, and gentlemen, I thank you all for your great contributions and active participation. If there is not any other matter that delegations wish to bring up at this stage, the Bureau meeting is now adjourned.