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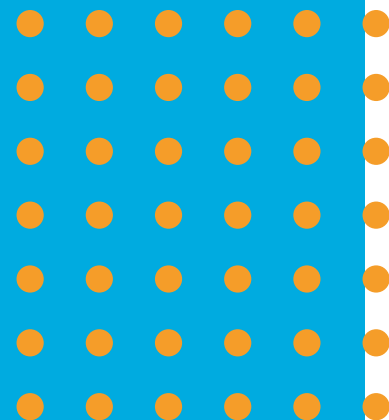


UN-HABITAT

ASSEMBLY

FAQs

Frequently asked questions
for the second session of the
United Nations Habitat Assembly
5 – 9 June 2023



IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA



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What is the vision and mission of UN-Habitat?

UN-Habitat is the United Nations agency responsible for sustainable urban development and human settlements. Its vision is to create a better quality of life for all in cities and human settlements. UN-Habitat's mission is to provide policy and urban planning advice, offer technical expertise on urban development to local, regional, and national governments, and collaborate to implement pilot projects.

What is the United Nations Habitat Assembly?

On 20 December 2018, the General Assembly of the United Nations in its resolution A/RES/73/239 decided to dissolve the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and to replace it with a United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

The United Nations Assembly is a universal body composed of 193 Member States of the United Nations. It is the main legislative body for global urban policy making. It is also the highest decision-making body on sustainable urbanization and human settlements. Convened every four years, Member States focus on legislative work and adopt resolutions that will frame the global urbanization agenda. Specifically, the responsibilities of the United Nations Habitat Assembly are :

- i) Identify key issues and areas of focus for the normative and policy work of UN-Habitat;
- ii) Review major trends related to human settlements and urbanisation;
- iii) Examine global norms and standards in human settlements and sustainable urbanisation;
- iv) Adopt resolutions, declarations, recommendations, formal decisions, reports and other documents pertaining to strategic vision and political guidance in accordance with its mandate;
- v) Recommend strategies for coherent implementation of urban and human settlements dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda and other global agendas, including of the work of the United Nations System;
- vi) Examine and approve UN-Habitat's strategic plan, to be prepared by the Executive Board;
- vii) Review the Secretary-General's quadrennial report on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

What was the theme of the first United Nations Habitat Assembly?

The first session of the universal United Nations Habitat Assembly was held at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), Kenya, from 27 May to 31 May 2019. The theme of the first session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly was "Innovation for a Better Quality of Life in Cities and Communities – Accelerated Implementation of the New Urban Agenda towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals"

What is the theme of the second United Nations Habitat Assembly?

The second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly will take place at UN-Habitat headquarters in Nairobi Kenya, (UNON), from 5 June to 9 June 2023. The theme of the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly is "A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crises."

What is the Committee of Permanent Representatives?

The Committee of Permanent Representative is one of the two permanent intersessional organs of the United Nations Habitat Assembly. It is composed of all Permanent Representatives of States Members of the United Nations and members of the United Nations specialized agencies that are accredited to UN-Habitat. It convenes in an open-ended manner, twice every four years: once prior to the UN-Habitat Assembly, in preparation for that session, and once for a high-level midterm review of the Strategic Plan of UN-Habitat.

The second open-ended meeting of the CPR in preparations for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly will be held at UN-Habitat headquarters in Nairobi Kenya, (UNON), from 29 to 31 May 2023 and on 2 June 2023.

Among the key issues to be considered by the CPR at that meeting are (a) the Strategic plan of UN-Habitat, including implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023 and alignment of the planning cycles of UN-Habitat with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process; (b) Status of preparations for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly; (c) Preparation of resolutions, declarations and decisions of the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its second session, including the dates and provisional agenda of the third session.

The provisional Agenda for the meeting can be accessed [here](#).

What is the UN-Habitat Executive Board?

The Executive Board is one of the two permanent intersessional organs of the United Nations Habitat Assembly. The Board is composed of 36 members elected by the United Nations Habitat Assembly on the first day of its session. The seats distribution, on the basis of equitable geographical representation is as follows: 10 seats for African States, 8 seats for Asia-Pacific States, 4 seats for Eastern European States, 6 seats for Latin America and Caribbean States, and 8 seats for Western European and other States.

The Executive Board meets two to three times a year. It aims to increase the oversight of UN-Habitat's normative and operational activities by Member States and to strengthen UN-Habitat's accountability, transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness. It also approves and oversee the implementation of UN-Habitat's annual work programme and budget and the resource mobilization strategy, in accordance with the strategic plans and political guidelines provided by the United Nations Habitat Assembly. It adopts decisions, within the scope of its mandate, on, among other things, programmatic, operational and budgetary issues for the adequate and effective implementation of resolutions and other decisions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly. The Board is also responsible for guiding and supporting efforts to finance the work of UN-Habitat as well as for overseeing the compliance of UN-Habitat with evaluations and support auditing functions.


The Executive Board will meet on Thursday 8 June 2023 for its second session for the year 2023.

What is the programme for the Assembly?

Draft programme of the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly is available online – [here](#). The provisional Agenda for the session can be accessed [here](#).

Guidelines for national statements during the Assembly

A speakers' list for Member States who wish to inscribe their national statements to be delivered as a contribution to the debate on agenda items during the plenary sessions will be opened, for Member States to indicate their preferred date and timing. The speaking order will prioritize Ministers and heads of delegations.



Guidance for submission of draft resolutions to be considered by the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in preparation for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly

As the pre-eminent intergovernmental platform on housing, human settlements, and sustainable urban development, the United Nations Habitat Assembly offers opportunities for Member States to adopt resolutions that provide policy direction useful to countries in their efforts to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. It is therefore anticipated that the United Nations Habitat Assembly will adopt resolutions, declarations, recommendations, formal decisions pertaining to strategic vision and political guidance. The objective of a resolution may be to offer guidance or recommendations to the Executive Director and/or to Member States or as a decision on a particular matter based upon the provisional Agenda or matters under discussions.

While the submission of draft resolutions for consideration by the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly is the prerogative of Member States., the Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly highly recommended that:

- (a) Member States or group of Member States submit draft resolutions as soon as possible and no later than 15 April 2023 so as to allow sufficient time for negotiations and consensus-building.
- (b) Final submissions of draft resolutions for consideration by United Nations Habitat Assembly should be by the end of day two of the session on 6 June 2023.
- (c) Submission of draft resolutions should be addressed to the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and sent through the Secretary of the Governing Bodies by 15 April 2023 as recommended by the Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly using the email: chris.mensah@un.org with a copy to unhabitat-sgb@un.org.

Member States are encouraged to submit resolutions on the understanding that the preparatory process may involve an exercise, guided by the Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, to consolidate the resolutions to a manageable number. This will ensure adequate time for deliberation and enable the UN-Habitat Secretariat to provide Member States with requisite support.

The Secretariat is available as may be requested or as appropriate, to offer substantive support or technical inputs to Member States in preparing such draft resolutions, including by facilitating discussions with the respective Regional Groups in Nairobi to provide substantive advice or technical inputs. This also includes projected budget implications (PBI), thematic background information and any other technical information required by Member States. Once available, drafts can be accessed [here](#).

A Member State, a group of Member States or a Regional Group seeking substantive support or technical inputs to draft resolutions may contact the Secretary of the Governing Bodies at: chris.mensah@un.org with a copy to unhabitat-sgb@un.org

What are the key expected outcomes of the Assembly?

1. A Ministerial Declaration outlining strong commitment by Member States to multilateral action to strengthen sustainable urbanisation and affordable housing in cities and communities.
2. Strong normative and policy outcomes on the theme of the Assembly: "A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crises".

Are there any expected procedural outcomes?

1. A two-year extension of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan to 2025 to align with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of the United Nations System.
2. Election of 36 new Members of the Executive Board.
3. Election of a new President and Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
4. Decision on an effective stakeholder engagement policy

Will there be side events and how to apply for them?

There will be a number of side events during the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly. Deadline for application closed on 18 April 2023.

Detailed information about side events is available [online](#). A Note Verbale with similar details was shared to Permanent and Observer Mission in Nairobi on 14 March 2023.

How and when does one register to the United Nations Habitat Assembly?

Online registration opened on Monday 13 March 2023 and will close on 25 May 2023 at 23:59 East Africa Time. Link to online registration is available [here](#).

How and when does one register for the open-ended meeting of the CPR?

Online registration will open on Friday 14 April 2023 and will close on 25 May 2023 at 23:59 East Africa Time. Link to online registration is available [here](#).

Accreditation at the venue

Accreditation at the United Nations UNON Compound in Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya will commence at 9:00 am on Sunday 28 May 2023 until the last day of the Assembly. A detailed schedule is found in the [Information for Participants](#) and the [UN-Habitat Assembly website](#). Each individual is also required to present his or her passport (for international participants) or national identification card (for Kenyan nationals) which was used for registration in order to receive a UN-Habitat Assembly badge.

What is the difference between the United Habitat Assembly side events and those that take place at the World Urban Forum?

The United Nations Habitat Assembly is a legislative meeting, and all side events need to be related to the theme of the Assembly and related normative issues of sustainable urban development. These events should align with the policy issues to be considered by the Assembly. On the other hand, the World Urban Forum is a premier conference on sustainable urban development and its agenda is driven by stakeholders. Side events at the forum are determined and shaped by partners and diverse urban actors.

What interpretation will be available at the United Nations Habitat Assembly?

Simultaneous interpretation in the six UN official languages will be available during the main plenary sessions, as well as the Regional and Local Government Forum (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish). Other meetings will be in English.

Who are participants and accredited observers?

The United Nations Habitat Assembly is open to all Member States, Observers, organizations of the United Nations system and specialised agencies, Intergovernmental Organizations, and accredited Habitat Agenda Partners/major groups and other stakeholders including parliamentarians, civil society organizations, local authorities, professionals, researchers and academia, foundations, women organizations, grassroots and informal sector organizations, children and youth groups, trade unions, indigenous peoples organizations, people with disability, older persons, financial institutions, and private sector.

The current rules of [procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly](#) allow duly accredited Habitat Agenda Partners/Major Groups and other stakeholders to attend as observers the public meetings of the Assembly. These include organizations [accredited to the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly](#) held in May 2019, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the [United Nations Economic and Social Council](#), and organizations accredited to the [second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements \(Habitat II\)](#) and the special session of the General Assembly on assessing implementation of the Habitat Agenda, and to [the second](#) and [third preparatory](#) committees of the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). If so, you will be required to bring with you proof of accreditation or consultative status.

Detailed information on accreditation process can be found [here](#). Applications for ad hoc accreditation is closed.

All queries regarding accreditation for stakeholders including civil society organizations should be directed to Ms. Lucia Kiwala (Tel. +254 20 762 23025, mobile +254 708 256 264, email: lucia.kiwala@un.org).

Representation

Member States are encouraged to participate fully in the five-day session. Given that the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly is being held four years after the first session, it is anticipated that Member States will attach great significance to the need for high-level representation, including at the policymaking level, and for substantive representation at the session.

UN-Habitat would be grateful if Member States would provide information on the composition of their delegations as soon as possible, preferably by 5 May 2023. The credentials of accredited representatives, including a head of delegation and such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required, should be submitted to the Executive Director before the first meeting of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly that the representatives are to attend.

The credentials should be issued by the Head of State or the Minister for Foreign Affairs in the form of a letter or a Note Verable.

Will travel for participants be funded?

We must prioritize the principles of inclusivity and fairness in our discussions on the future of urbanization and sustainable human settlements. Subject to the availability of funding, UN-Habitat will support one delegate per Least Developed Country (LDC), covering travel, daily subsistence allowance, and terminal expenses. The Secretariat will directly communicate guidelines and requirements with the respective LDCs.

Additional Information

Please regularly visit the website for updates on the programme, key documents and the Information for Participants with useful information on visa, accommodation etc.

In case of questions concerning the United Nations Habitat Assembly, please contact the Secretariat of the Governing Bodies of UN-Habitat via email to unhabitat-sgb@un.org. In case of queries around accreditation please contact the UN-Habitat Partnership Unit at unhabitat-partners@un.org.



UN-HABITAT

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