

**Second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the
United Nations Human Settlements Programme****Nairobi, 5 to 9 June 2023****Notification by the Executive Director****I. General information for Member States****Governance of UN-Habitat**

1. On 20 December 2018, the General Assembly of the United Nations, in its resolution 73/239, decided to dissolve the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and to replace it with a UN-Habitat Assembly with universal membership.
2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly welcomed the work of the open-ended working group established by the chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UN-Habitat pursuant to its resolution 72/226 of 20 December 2018, and also endorsed the findings and recommendations of the open-ended working group on changing the governance structure of UN-Habitat.
3. In accordance with resolution 73/239, the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly was held from 27 to 31 May 2019. During that session, the Assembly adopted its rules of procedure as prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, endorsed the rules of procedure of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat, and elected 36 members to the Executive Board and to the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
4. The UN-Habitat Assembly adopted the following resolutions and decisions at its first session:
 - (a) Resolution 1/1: United Nations Human Settlements Programme strategic plan for the period 2020–2023 (HSP/HA.1/Res.1);
 - (b) Resolution 1/2: United Nations System-Wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements (HSP/HA.1/Res.2);
 - (c) Resolution 1/3: Enhancing capacity-building for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HSP/HA.1/Res.3);
 - (d) Resolution 1/4: Achieving gender equality through the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements (HSP/HA.1/Res.4);
 - (e) Resolution 1/5: Enhancing urban-rural linkages for sustainable urbanization and human settlements (HSP/HA.1/Res.5).
5. The Assembly also adopted a ministerial declaration entitled “Innovation for better quality of life in cities and communities: accelerated implementation of the New Urban Agenda towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals” (HSP/HA.1/HLS.1).
6. In addition, the Assembly adopted the following decisions:
 - (a) Decision 1/1: Rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly (HSP/HA.1/HLS.2);
 - (b) Decision 1/2: Rules of procedure of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat (HSP/HA.1/HLS.3);
 - (c) Decision 1/3: Arrangements for the transition towards the new governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (see document A/74/8).
7. The report of the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly is set out in document A/74/8.

II. Dates, venue, provisional agenda and participation

8. Given the provisions in the rules of procedure and decision 1/3 of the UN-Habitat Assembly, the present notification serves to inform Member States and others that the second session of the Assembly will be held at the headquarters of UN-Habitat in Nairobi from 5 to 9 June 2023.
9. The provisional agenda of the session, as set out in decision 1/3 of the UN-Habitat Assembly and further reviewed by the joint bureaux of the governing bodies of UN-Habitat under the leadership of the President of the UN-Habitat Assembly, is set out in annex I to the present notification. The substantive documents for the session will be issued at least 42 days in advance of the session in accordance with paragraph 3 of rule 30 of the rules of procedure.
10. It is anticipated that the session will be opened at 9 a.m. on Monday, 5 June 2023.
11. Pursuant to the relevant rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly, the following are expected to participate in the sessions of the Assembly:
 - (a) All States Members of the United Nations;
 - (b) The chairs of the intersessional organs of the UN-Habitat Assembly, as appropriate;
 - (c) United Nations specialized agencies, related organizations and other United Nations bodies;
 - (d) The entities, intergovernmental organizations and other entities referred to in rule 66;
 - (e) The organizations referred to in rules 67 and 68 and other relevant stakeholders.
12. The present notification is therefore specifically addressed to the above-mentioned entities in line with rule 8 of the rules of procedure.

III. Theme of the second session

13. In accordance with the relevant paragraphs of Governing Council resolution 20/21, set out in annex II to the present notification, the special theme of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly is “A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crises”.
14. The themes of previous Governing Council sessions and of the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly can be found here.

IV. Key issues to be discussed

15. Among the key issues to be considered by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its second session are the following:
 - (a) Activities of UN-Habitat, including coordination matters;
 - (b) Review of progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
 - (c) Reports on the World Urban Forum;
 - (d) Dialogue on the special theme for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly;
 - (e) Strategic plan of UN-Habitat.
16. In addition, the Assembly will elect its new Bureau and also elect members of the Executive Board.

V. Informal consultations

17. To facilitate the work of the UN-Habitat Assembly, arrangements will be made for informal consultations to be held between the regional groups on various matters, in particular the election of officers. Attention is drawn to the document on the geographical distribution of officers elected at the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly and the expected geographical composition of the next Bureau of the Assembly (see annex III to the present notification).
18. It is expected that various partners and stakeholders, notably subnational governments, parliamentarians and non-governmental organizations, will hold their own informal consultations, events and activities prior to and during the session. Detailed information on those events will be

communicated to all participants by the secretariat as soon as it is available and following guidance by the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

VI. Composition of government delegations

19. 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 and is therefore expected to play a significant role in reinforcing the implementation of General Assembly resolution 73/239, in which the General Assembly sought to strengthen the governance structure of UN-Habitat and guide the work of the Programme, 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.

20. The Executive Director wishes to bring to the attention of Governments resolution 16/12 of the Governing Council, in which Governments were invited to include in their delegations to future sessions of the Governing Council, now the UN-Habitat Assembly, representatives of subnational governments and relevant civil society actors, in particular from the private sector, and of non-governmental organizations and research organizations in the fields of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development. In that regard, the Executive Director also wishes to highlight the importance of the decisions of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul from 3 to 14 June 1996, and of the decision of the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016, with regard to the roles of subnational governments and members of civil society.

21. It should be noted that the provisions of rules 67 and 68 of the rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly provide for the effective participation of subnational governments and other Habitat Agenda partners in the sessions of the Assembly.

22. The Executive Director would also like to emphasize that both UN-Habitat and Member States would benefit greatly if States were to include in their delegations their permanent representatives to UN-Habitat or representatives of other focal points in Nairobi with whom UN-Habitat is continuously engaged. The Executive Director would therefore be grateful if Member States would provide information on the composition of their delegations as soon as possible, preferably by 5 May 2023.

23. In accordance with rules 16 and 17 of the rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly, 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.

VII. Proposed organizational arrangements

24. For the efficient conduct of work during the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, the Executive Director proposes for consideration by Member States the proposed organizational arrangements and timetable set out in annex IV to the present notification. This proposal has been prepared in line with the general practice at the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly and is subject to further review by the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly, as well as by the Committee of Permanent Representatives during its second open-ended meeting, to be held from 29 May to 2 June 2023 to prepare for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

A. Bureau

25. In accordance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly will comprise a president, vice-presidents and a rapporteur elected with due regard for the principle of equitable geographical distribution by rotation among the regional groups of States. Annex III shows the geographical distribution of the Bureau members elected at the first session of the Assembly and the expected geographical distribution of the incoming Bureau of the Assembly to be elected on the final day of the second session. For informational purposes, the composition of bureaux of the governing bodies of UN-Habitat can be found [here](#).

26. As is provided for in rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly, the five members of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives will jointly serve as additional vice-presidents of the Bureau of the Assembly.

B. Plenary

27. Following previous practice, it is recommended that work in the plenary meetings be divided into two segments: a high-level segment, to be held on the first and second days, and a dialogue of Governments with subnational governments and other Habitat Agenda partners, to be held on the third day. Part of the morning meeting on the first day will be devoted to organizational matters, including the election of 36 members of the Executive Board.

C. High-level segment

28. It is expected that the second session will include a high-level segment focusing on the theme for the session and matters related to the provisional agenda, such as item 7 of the provisional agenda, on the activities of UN-Habitat, including coordination matters; item 8, on a review of progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and item 11, on the strategic plan of UN-Habitat

29. To accommodate the many delegations expected to attend the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, it is recommended that, during the high-level segment, each delegation be allowed a maximum of five minutes of speaking time, and that this limit be strictly adhered to.

30. In establishing the list of speakers for the high-level segment, precedence will be given to Heads of State and Government, ministers and deputy ministers. They will be followed by other heads of Government delegations and then by a limited number of representatives of subnational governments, other Habitat Agenda partners and other stakeholders, in accordance with rules 66 and 67 of the rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

D. Dialogue with local authorities and other partners

31. It should be recalled that in paragraph 2 of its resolution 16/12, the Governing Council decided to provide, at future sessions, opportunities for partners to engage in a dialogue among themselves and with Governments. Such dialogues may, as appropriate, serve as an input to the deliberations of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

32. In accordance with the relevant paragraphs of Governing Council resolution 20/21, the theme of the second session is “A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crises”.

33. With a view to increasing the participation in and contribution of subnational governments and other partners to the work of the UN-Habitat Assembly, and attaining common goals to achieve the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, arrangements have been made for the dialogue with subnational governments and other partners to be held during the morning plenary meeting on the third day of the session, as indicated in the proposed organization of work and timetable for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly (see annex IV).

34. To that end, subnational governments and other partners are encouraged to submit to the secretariat, before the start of the session, a written summary of their presentation for advance distribution to all participants.

35. It should also be recalled that Governing Council resolution 20/21 (see annex II) provided that the theme of the dialogue should establish a link between the high-level segment and the dialogue of Governments with subnational governments and other Habitat Agenda partners, and should provide for cohesion in the policy discussions in plenary meetings.

36. It is expected that the presentations made by representatives of subnational governments and other partners will be the outcome of consultations by those groups with non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians, the private sector, professionals, researchers and other partners. Arrangements will be made for subnational governments and other partners, should they so wish, to hold consultations in Nairobi immediately prior to the session.

37. Detailed information on the organization of the dialogue will be forthcoming.

E. Summary by the President

38. At the end of the high-level segment and the dialogue, the President of the UN-Habitat Assembly, drawing on the deliberations of the two plenary meetings, will prepare a summary of the main issues raised in the high-level segment and the conclusions or recommendations

made during the dialogue. That summary will reflect the main thrust of the discussions and key positions set out during the high-level segment and the dialogue and will be submitted for endorsement in plenary. Any draft resolution that may emerge from the discussions in those plenary meetings will be referred to the drafting committee for action.

39. Once endorsed by the UN-Habitat Assembly as an accurate reflection of discussions during the high-level segment and the dialogue, and after completion of the required legislative process, the conclusions and recommendations of the President of the UN-Habitat Assembly will serve as guidelines for follow-up action by Governments, subnational governments and other partners, and the secretariat, specifically in support of the focus areas of the current strategic plan and the work programme and budget.

F. Sessional organs, subcommittees or working group

40. In line with rule 26 of the rules of procedure, during the session the UN-Habitat Assembly may set up such other sessional organs, subcommittees or working groups as it may deem necessary and refer to them any item on the agenda or any other question for consideration and reporting.

1. Sessional committee of the whole

41. Bearing in mind the organization of work of the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly and the above-mentioned recommendations on work in plenary meetings, the Assembly may wish to establish a sessional committee of the whole to be accorded responsibility for the detailed consideration of agenda items 7, 8, 9 and 11.

2. Drafting committee

42. At its first session, on an informal basis, the UN-Habitat Assembly established an ad hoc open-ended drafting committee, chaired by one of the vice-presidents, to pre-screen draft resolutions submitted by delegations with a view to merging, reconciling or clarifying them, as necessary, prior to their consideration by the Assembly in a plenary meeting. The Assembly may wish to continue this practice, which was widely considered to have enhanced the efficiency of its work, with the report of the drafting committee being considered by the committee of the whole for endorsement prior to consideration and possible adoption by the Assembly.

G. Programme and main activities of the second session

43. In addition to the key issues to be discussed during the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, a range of activities are expected to take place, including side events and exhibitions. A programme of official high-level and side events will be prepared by the secretariat under the guidance of the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly and shared in a timely manner prior to the session.

VIII. Second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat

44. Pursuant to rule 23 of the rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly, the Committee of Permanent Representatives, composed of all the permanent representatives of States Members of the United Nations and members of the United Nations specialized agencies that are accredited to UN-Habitat, is to convene twice every four years: once prior to each session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, in preparation for that session, and once for a high-level midterm review. Accordingly, the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to be held in preparation for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, is expected to take place from 29 May to 2 June 2023, in line with recommendation 2021/4 of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The provisional agenda for the second open-ended meeting is set out in annex V to the present notification.

IX. Further information

45. All relevant information and documentation for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly will be made available in due course on the UN-Habitat website at <https://unhabitat.org/governance/un-habitat-assembly>.

46. All communications related to the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly should be addressed to:

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Annex I

Provisional agenda of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Report of the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
4. Credentials of representatives.
5. Election of members of the Executive Board.
6. Adoption of the report of the Executive Board.
7. Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters.
8. Review of progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
9. Reports on the World Urban Forum.
10. Dialogue on the special theme for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
11. Strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2024–2027.
12. Adoption of the report of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
13. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the third session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
14. Election of officers.
15. Other matters.
16. Closure of the session.

Annex II

Resolution 20/21: Organization and themes for future sessions of the Governing Council

The Governing Council,

Recalling its resolution 5/15 of 7 May 1982, in which it decided to designate the subjects of the special themes of its sessions two years in advance,

Also recalling its resolution 16/12 of 7 May 1997, in which it decided to provide, at future sessions of the Council, opportunities for partners to engage in a dialogue among themselves and with Governments,

Further recalling its resolution 19/5 of 9 May 2003, in which it decided that a continuing focus of its twentieth and future sessions should be the implementation and monitoring of the goal of the United Nations Millennium Declaration* on improving the lives of slum-dwellers,

Noting that the World Urban Forum now provides an opportunity for extensive dialogue among Governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners,

Recognizing the importance during sessions of the Governing Council of a focused, interactive high-level segment on priority policy issues,

1. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on improving preparations for the Governing Council, which are contained in the appendix to the present resolution;

2. *Decides* that the special themes referred to in resolution 5/15 shall no longer be chosen two years in advance, but shall instead be selected by the Bureau of the Governing Council at least six months before the start of each session of the Governing Council, on the basis of advice from the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, taking into account the outcome of the sessions of the World Urban Forum and the requirement for a continuing focus on the implementation and monitoring of the goal of the Millennium Declaration on improving the lives of slum dwellers;

3. *Also decides* that the high-level segment and the dialogues referred to in its resolution 16/12 should normally focus on those special themes and should constitute the substantive debate on the special themes;

4. *Requests* the Committee of Permanent Representatives to recommend to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session, through the Bureau of the Governing Council, further proposals for improving the structure and organizational arrangements of the twenty-first and future sessions of the Governing Council including, in particular, the high-level segment;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare a background paper for use by the Committee of Permanent Representatives in complying with the request set forth in the preceding paragraph.

8 April 2005

* General Assembly resolution 55/2.

Annex III

Geographical distribution of officers elected at the previous session of the UN-Habitat Assembly and the expected geographical distribution of offices to be elected at the final meeting of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly

Offices elected at the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly

2019 President: Latin American States
Vice-Presidents: African States
Eastern European States
Western European and other States
Rapporteur: Asia-Pacific States

Offices to be elected during the final meeting of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly

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:

2023 President: Asia-Pacific States
Vice-Presidents: African States
Eastern European States
Western European and other States
Rapporteur: Latin American States

Annex IV

Proposed organization of work and timetable for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, 5 to 9 June 2023

<i>Day/date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Plenary</i>	<i>Committee of the whole</i>	<i>Drafting committee</i>
Monday, 5 June	a.m. p.m.	Opening of the session Organizational matters High-level segment: agenda items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 High-level segment: agenda items 6, 7, 8 and 9	Agenda item 7	Consultations on draft resolutions
Tuesday, 6 June	a.m. p.m.	High-level segment: agenda items, 9, 10 and 11 Continuation of the high-level segment	Agenda item 8	Consultations on draft resolutions
Wednesday, 7 June	a.m. p.m.	Dialogue among Governments and other Habitat Agenda partners Special theme, agenda item 10	Agenda item 9 Agenda item 11	Consultations on draft resolutions
Thursday, 8 June	a.m. p.m.	Plenary Approval of draft reports on items 6, 7, 8 and 9 and report on draft decision on item 11	Review of draft resolutions from drafting committee	Consultations on draft resolutions
Friday, 9 June	a.m. p.m.	Plenary: Chair's summary of the high-level segment and dialogue Draft reports of plenary meetings on items 12 and 13 Draft reports of the committee of the whole Report on draft resolutions and agenda item 14	Review of draft resolutions from the drafting committee	

Annex V

Proposed provisional agenda of the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to be held from 29 May to 2 June 2023

1. Opening of the meeting:
 - (a) Organizational matters;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and the workplan for the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in preparation for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
 2. Strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme:
 - (a) Implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023;
 - (b) Status of preparation of the next strategic plan by the Executive Board;
 - (c) Alignment of the planning cycles of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process.
 3. Status of preparations for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
 4. Preparation of resolutions, declarations and decisions to be considered by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its second session, including the dates and provisional agenda of the third session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
 5. Election of officers of the Bureau.
 6. Draft chair's summary.
 7. Other matters.
 8. Closure of the meeting.
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