



Committee of Permanent Representatives to the
United Nations Human Settlements Programme
First open-ended meeting/High-level midterm review
Nairobi, 29 June–1 July 2021

Outcomes of the first open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for a high-level midterm review

Recommendation 2021/1: Implementation of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its first session, in May 2019

The Committee of Permanent Representatives

(a) **Implementation of resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its
first session**

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on the status of implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its first session;¹

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its second session and to the Executive Board on the mobilization of financial resources, within the broader resource mobilization strategy, to accelerate the further implementation of United Nations Habitat Assembly resolution 1/2 on United Nations System-Wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements;² resolution 1/3 on enhancing capacity-building for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;³ resolution 1/4 on achieving gender equality through the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements⁴ and resolution 1/5 on enhancing urban-rural linkages for sustainable urbanization;⁵ in support of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme strategic plan for the period 2020–2023;

(b) **Enhancing capacity-building in a coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and post-COVID-19
world**

3. *Recalls* resolution 1/3, adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its first session,⁶ in which it requested the development of a draft capacity-building strategy, and paragraph 3 of Executive Board decision 2020/5,⁷ in which the Board decided to adopt the draft capacity-building strategy for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda⁸

¹ HSP/OECPR.2021/4.

² HSP/HA.1/Res.2.

³ HSP/HA.1/Res.3.

⁴ HSP/HA.1/Res.4.

⁵ HSP/HA.1/Res.5.

⁶ HSP/HA.1/Res.3.

⁷ HSP/EB.2020/29.

⁸ HSP/EB.2020/13/Add.1.

and takes note of paragraph 4 of Executive Board decision 2021/3,⁹ in which the Board recommended the acceleration of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme's digital transformation and the mobilization of financial resources, within the broader resource mobilization strategy, to support the development of innovative capacity-building and learning tools;

4. *Takes note* with appreciation of the progress made by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the implementation of the capacity-building strategy for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda and, in particular, the accelerated digitalization of its capacity development tools in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, while recognizing the limitations due to the lack of available resources;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to develop a plan to further develop the institutional anchoring of capacity-building as a cross-cutting function, to continue the integration of capacity-building into programming and quality assurance as a way also to increase impact across the outcomes of the strategic plan, to promote innovation and new technologies for capacity-building, in particular the use of digital capacity-building tools and approaches, and to do so through strengthened stakeholder engagement and partnerships, and to present the plan to the Executive Board for its further consideration and possible approval;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Director to facilitate a dialogue with Member States and relevant stakeholders on how to scale up the financing of capacity-building activities, in particular in developing countries and fragile settings, reviewing different sources to finance and leverage capacity-building efforts and to report to the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its second session and to the Executive Board on relevant actions taken;

(c) **Stakeholder engagement and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in support of the Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals**

7. *Acknowledges* that in the context of increasingly complex and intertwined crises that threaten to derail the progress achieved towards the Sustainable Development Goals, local and regional governments are crucial actors to build a more resilient future; and takes note of the importance of advancing the localization of the Goals and accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Paris Agreement, with strong support from national Governments, as appropriate;

8. *Encourages* the Executive Director to work closely with local and regional governments, through national Governments where applicable, as well as their networks and associations, and other local stakeholders, to support their efforts towards a sustainable and inclusive, recovery and long-term resilience;

9. *Urges* the Executive Director to fully engage in the reform of the United Nations development system, including by participating in common country analyses and in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework processes led by United Nations resident coordinators at the country level;

10. *Encourages* the Executive Director, subject to approval by the Executive Board of the work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for 2022, to support the preparation of voluntary local reviews by local and regional governments through normative guidance and technical assistance, upon request, and by building connections with voluntary national reviews, as appropriate.

Recommendation 2021/2: Implementation of resolution 1/1 on the United Nations Human Settlements Programme strategic plan for the period 2020–2023

The Committee of Permanent Representatives,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Executive Director on the midterm review of the implementation of the strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2020–2023¹⁰ and the note by the Executive Director providing a summary of the annual

⁹ HSP/EB.2021/11.

¹⁰ HSP/OECPR.2021/2.

progress report for 2020 on the implementation of the strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2020–2023;¹¹

2. *Recognizes* that the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates the value of the strategic plan, which serves both as a framework for recovery and as a road map for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

3. *Also recognizes* the challenges associated with monitoring the implementation of the strategic plan, the results framework and the means of verification of certain indicators;

4. *Acknowledges* the adequate extrabudgetary earmarked funding to the Programme and the shortfall in extrabudgetary non-earmarked funding, which has severely restricted the ability of the Programme to achieve balanced progress in the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023 and to monitor its implementation, and requests the Executive Director to present to the Executive Board at its second session of 2021 a focused draft work programme for 2022;

5. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Executive Director, taking into account the financial constraints, to strengthen integrated programming and synergies, contributing to different outcomes across the strategic plan;

6. *Also welcomes* the efforts made by the Executive Director to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in its technical assistance activities and in its strategic orientation, analysis and contribution to United Nations system-wide coordination;

7. *Encourages* the Executive Director to further adjust and strengthen its support to Member States in responding to new vulnerabilities and risks in terms of resilience and climate change, and in creating conditions for sustainable and inclusive recovery in response to the pandemic, and to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

8. *Calls upon* the Executive Director to strengthen the analysis of linkages between its operational and normative activities to increase the impact of its work across the relevant outcomes of the strategic plan in support of sustainable and inclusive recovery and present the analysis to the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its second session and to the Executive Board for further consideration.

Recommendation 2021/3: Quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to assess progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, and the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum

The Committee of Permanent Representatives,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Executive Director on the update on the preparation of the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda;¹²

2. *Takes note* of paragraph 17 of General Assembly resolution 75/224 on the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)¹³ and welcomes the remarks of the Executive Director on the preparation of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to assess progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of utilizing the regional forums for sustainable development in each of the five regions convened by the respective regional economic commissions to prepare inputs to the high-level meeting to assess progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 75/224;

4. *Recommends* that the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the urban dimensions of the discussions of the regional forums for sustainable development, the high-level meeting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum be aligned strategically to strengthen the

¹¹ HSP/OECPR.2021/INF/2.

¹² HSP/OECPR.2021/3.

¹³ A/RES/75/224.

implementation the New Urban Agenda and to accelerate the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals;

5. *Reiterates* its support for the World Urban Forum process and its commitment to providing continued cooperation to the next hosts of the Forum, while recognizing that it is the foremost global arena for interaction among policymakers, local government leaders, non-governmental stakeholders and expert practitioners in the field of human settlements and recommends that the Executive Director continue implementing the Forum's results-based approach and pursuing action-oriented outcome documents at sessions of the Forum that contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda.

Recommendation 2021/4: Dates and agenda of the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly and dates and agenda for the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

The Committee of Permanent Representatives,

(a) Dates and agenda of the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly

1. *Recalls* paragraph 1 of decision 1/3 on the arrangements for the transition towards the new governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its first session, in May 2019,¹⁴ and notes that the Assembly decided that the dates of its second session shall be 5 to 9 June 2023;

2. *Also recalls* paragraph 7 of decision 1/3 and recommends that the provisional agenda for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly shall be as follows:

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. Elections 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 and progress in implementation of resolutions adopted at the first session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
8. Review of progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
9. World Urban Forum.
10. Dialogue on the special theme for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
11. Strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and alignment of planning cycles of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process.
12. Adoption of the report of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
13. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the third session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
14. Election of officers.
15. Other matters.
16. Closure of the session.

¹⁴ A/74/8.

(b) **Dates and agenda of the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in preparation for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly**

3. *Decides* that the dates of the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in preparation for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly shall be 29 May to 2 June 2023;

4. *Also decides* that the provisional agenda for the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in preparation for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly shall be as follows:

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 United Nations Habitat Assembly.
2. Adoption of the report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the work of its first open-ended meeting.
3. Strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme:
 - (a) Implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023;
 - (b) Status of preparations 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.
4. Status of preparations for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
5. Preparation of resolutions, declarations and decisions of the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its second session, including dates and provisional agenda for the third session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.
6. Election of officers of the Bureau.
7. Draft Chair's summary.
8. Other matters.
9. Closure of the meeting.

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to enhance engagement with Member States in the preparation and delivery of future high-level midterm reviews of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure.

Decision 2021/1: Election of officers of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for the term 2021-2023

The Committee of Permanent Representatives,

Decides to elect from among its members, taking into consideration the need to ensure equitable geographical representation, for a term of office starting at the end of the first open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for a high-level midterm review of 2021, the new Bureau of the Committee, as follows:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Chair: | Pakistan (Asia-Pacific States) |
| Vice-Chair: | United Republic of Tanzania (African States) |
| Vice-Chair: | Colombia (Latin American and Caribbean States) |
| Vice-Chair: | (vacant) (Western European and other States) |
| Rapporteur: | (vacant) (Eastern European States) |