

**First open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent
Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements
Programme: high-level midterm review**

29 June–1 July 2021

Notification by the Executive Director

I. General information for Member States

A. Strengthening the governance of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

1. In its resolution 73/239, the General Assembly of the United Nations decided to dissolve the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and replace it with the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat Assembly). It also decided that the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly would be held in May 2019.
2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly welcomed the report of the Open-ended Working Group, established by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/226, and endorsed its findings and recommendations on changing the governance structure of UN-Habitat. Those findings and recommendations, transmitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General in document A/73/726, call for the governing body of UN-Habitat to have a universal intergovernmental membership and to convene in Nairobi, for a five-day period, every four years.
3. Accordingly, the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly was held at the headquarters of UN-Habitat in Nairobi from 27 to 31 May 2019.
4. At that session, the UN-Habitat Assembly, in its decision 1/1, adopted its rules of procedure (HSP/HA.1.HLS.2). In line with rule 23 of the rules of procedure, the Committee of Permanent Representatives is required to convene, in an open-ended manner, twice every four years: once prior to the UN-Habitat Assembly session, in preparation for that session, and once for a high-level midterm review.

B. Dates, agenda, venue and participation

5. Pursuant to decision 1/1 of the UN-Habitat Assembly on the rules of procedure of the Assembly, in particular rule 23, the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, at its meeting held on 24 February 2021, recommended that the high-level midterm review meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat be held from 29 June to 1 July 2021.
6. The provisional agenda, as recommended by the Bureau at its meeting held on 24 February 2021, is available on the meeting website [here](#). Pursuant to paragraph 3 of rule 30 of the rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly, the substantive documents for the meeting will be issued by 18 May 2021, 42 days prior to the start of the meeting.
7. The Bureau recommended that, owing to the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the session should be held in a hybrid format, combining an online meeting for representatives who are not located in Nairobi with a face-to-face meeting for representatives of permanent missions located in Nairobi, depending on the pandemic-related precautionary measures that will be necessary. The Bureau further recommended that the Executive Director make preparations for simultaneous interpretation in the six official languages of the United Nations. The Bureau also requested the Executive Director to continue to review the situation in consultation with the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi and the representative of the Government of Kenya, both of whom are monitoring the situation, in order to determine the best possible format for the session.

8. The session will be opened at 9 a.m. (Nairobi time (UTC+3)) on Tuesday, 29 June 2021. Participants joining the meeting online should be online and logged in to the meeting by 8.45 a.m.

9. Instructions for accessing the online session will be shared with participants on or after 24 June 2021.

10. In accordance with rule 23 of the rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly, high-level midterm review meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives are open to all States Members of the United Nations and members of the United Nations specialized agencies that are accredited to UN-Habitat. In accordance with rule 29 and rule 64, any State not a member of the United Nations may participate in the deliberations of the Committee of Permanent Representatives without the right to vote, but may submit proposals, which may be put to a vote by request of any member of the Committee. Similarly, in line with rule 65, representatives of other United Nations bodies, the United Nations specialized agencies and related organizations may participate, without the right to vote or make proposals, in the deliberations of the Committee on matters within the scope of their activities. Finally, in accordance with rules 66 to 69, local authorities, Habitat Agenda partners and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council may participate as observers in public meetings of the UN-Habitat Assembly and its intersessional organs, which includes meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

II. Key issues to be discussed

11. Among the key issues to be considered by the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the high-level midterm review meeting are the following:

- (a) Midterm review of the implementation of the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2020–2023;
- (b) Implementation of the New Urban Agenda;
- (c) Implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its first session;
- (d) Implementation of the UN-Habitat COVID-19 response plan;
- (e) Preparations for the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum;
- (f) Alignment of the planning cycles of UN-Habitat with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process;
- (g) Election of officers of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

III. Informal consultations

12. To facilitate the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, arrangements will be made, upon request, for informal online consultations between the regional groups on various matters, including any draft outcomes, for consideration and possible adoption by the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the high-level midterm review. Such requests may be sent by email to chris.mensah@un.org and unhabitat-sgb@un.org.

IV. Proposed organizational arrangements for the first open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

13. The Executive Director proposes the organizational arrangements and timetable set out in the annex to the present notification for consideration by Member States.

A. Bureau

14. In accordance with rule 27 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives consists of a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur, who shall be elected by the UN-Habitat Assembly for a two-year term. As stipulated in rule 18, the five members of the Bureau shall jointly serve as additional Vice-Presidents of the Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly. The members of the present Bureau, who were elected by the Assembly at its first session, will preside over the conduct of the first open-ended meeting.

15. The geographical distribution of the membership of the present Bureau is as follows:

Chair: African States (Eritrea)

Vice-Chairs: Latin American and Caribbean States (Costa Rica)
Eastern European States (Serbia)
Asia-Pacific States (Bangladesh)

Rapporteur: Western European and other States (vacant) (Note: the United States of America was nominated in March 2021 by the Western European and other States to act as Rapporteur.)

16. Pursuant to rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly, the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall, at the end of the high-level midterm review meeting for 2021, elect from among the Member States of the United Nations, and taking into consideration the need to ensure equitable geographical representation, a new Bureau, which shall be composed of a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur, for a term of two years until the end of the meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives that is scheduled to be held in June 2023 in preparation for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

17. Rule 27 also stipulates that in electing the five Member States to hold those offices, the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall ensure that each of the five regional groups is equally represented in the Bureau. Taking into account the requirement for equitable geographical representation, the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives proposed for election for the period 2021–2023 is as follows:

Chair: Western European and other States

Vice-Chairs: African States
Latin American and Caribbean States
Asia-Pacific States

Rapporteur: Eastern European States

B. Proposed organization of work

1. Day 1 of the meeting

18. Following consultations within the Bureau, it is recommended that most of the work of the high-level midterm review meeting be undertaken in plenary session. It is proposed that the first day of the meeting be devoted to the opening of the session (agenda item 1); the midterm review of the implementation of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2020–2023 (agenda item 2); and progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (agenda item 3).

2. Day 2 of the meeting

19. It is proposed that the second day be devoted to progress in the implementation of the decisions and resolutions adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its first session (agenda item 4); the report on the implementation of the UN-Habitat COVID-19 response plan (agenda item 5); and that the remainder of the day be dedicated to dialogues on selected topics and consultation on draft outcomes.

3. Day 3 of the meeting

20. It is proposed that the third day be devoted to the preparations for the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum (agenda item 6); the alignment of the planning cycles of UN-Habitat with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process (agenda item 7); the review of the provisional agenda for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly (agenda item 8); the dates and provisional agenda for the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (agenda item 9); the election of officers of the Bureau (agenda item 10); other matters (agenda item 11); and the closure of the session (agenda item 12).

C. Dialogue during the high-level midterm review meeting

21. Following further consultations within the Bureau, it is recommended that the plenary sessions of the high-level midterm review meeting should include dialogues on topics related to the provisional agenda as an innovative way to encourage effective participation by Member States and Habitat Agenda partners. The dialogue session is expected to take place on the afternoon of day two of the meeting and may cover such topics as the New Urban Agenda, preparations for the 2022 high-level meeting to assess progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, and cities and the COVID-19 pandemic.

D. Registration

22. All delegates are encouraged to pre-register online [here](#). Participation in the official sessions of the high-level midterm review meeting is restricted to Member States, Habitat Agenda partners and accredited stakeholders.

23. Additional information will be made available on the UN-Habitat website [here](#). Enquiries regarding these and any other matters concerning the organizational aspects of the meeting should be directed to:

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Annex

Proposed organization of work and timetable for the first open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, 29 June–1 July 2021

<i>Day/date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
Tuesday, 29 June 2021	a.m.	1. Opening of the meeting. <i>Regional statements</i> 2. Midterm review of the implementation of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2020–2023.
	p.m.	3. Progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda: (a) Preparation of the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda; (b) Implementation of the ministerial declaration adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its first session; (c) High-level meeting to assess progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. <i>National statements</i>
Wednesday, 30 June 2021	a.m.	4. Progress in the implementation of the decisions and resolutions adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its first session. 5. Report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme coronavirus disease (COVID-19) response plan.
	p.m.	<i>Dialogue on selected topics</i> <i>Consultation on draft outcomes</i>
Thursday, 1 July 2021	a.m.	6. Preparations for the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum. 7. Alignment of the planning cycles of UN-Habitat with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process. <i>Consultations on draft outcomes</i>
	p.m.	8. Review of the provisional agenda for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. 9. Dates and provisional agenda for the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. 10. Election of officers of the Bureau. <i>Adoption of outcomes</i> 11. Other matters. 12. Closure of the session.