

Hab Post

Updates from
UN-Habitat

UN HABITAT

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A time for review:
preparations towards the
meeting of the Committee of
Permanent Representatives

HAB POST | June 10 2021



Editor's note

Dear Reader,

We're soon hitting the mid-year mark, and it's time for the high level mid-term review of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. Coincidence? Very much so. Preparations for the meeting taking place every two years are under way, and some high-level guests might be joining in the event itself, providing our work greater visibility. Keep an eye out for more on this and explore some of the substance that will be discussed at the meeting in this issue of HabPost.

We're also pleased to announce that we are morphing the alert section of HabPost to make way for some top news that relate to us as an organization. We start this week exploring where UN-Habitat is mentioned in the news, and we'll add links to stories and articles relating to the core of our work – our four domains of change – in future issues. Not to worry, we'll bring back alerts whenever necessary.

Happy reading!

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UN-HABITAT IN THE NEWS



Turkey's first lady honoured with UN-Habitat award for environment work (Daily Sabah)



UN-Habitat expands its response to urban internal displacement as the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre releases its latest Report (Reliefweb)



ISWA Joins the UN-Habitat Waste Wise Partnership (Waste Management World)



Waste management big challenge for cities: UN-Habitat head (Yeni Safak)



NORCAP expertise vital to Beirut urban response (Norwegian Refugee Council)



A time for review: preparations towards the meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives



The Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to UN-Habitat will hold its first open-ended meeting – which will also be the first high-level midterm review since UN-Habitat’s governance structure reform – from 29 June to 1 July 2021. Depending on the COVID-19 situation, the meeting may combine physical and online participation, with interpretation in all six official languages of the UN.

The CPR is one of the three governing bodies at UN-Habitat together with the [Executive Board](#) and the [United Nations Habitat Assembly](#) (UN-Habitat Assembly). It enjoys universal membership – meaning it comprises all States Members of the United Nations – and meets every two years, in an open-ended manner: once prior to the UN-Habitat Assembly for preparation of the session of the Assembly, and once for a high-level mid-term review. Through the meetings of the CPR, UN-Habitat can not only present its work but also strategically interact and reconnect with Member States for the latter to provide guidance on ways to strengthen our mandate.

The upcoming review will take stock of the first 18 months of implementation of the 2020-2023 strategic plan and guide our work in implementing the remaining period. The meeting will also be an opportunity to re-engage with Member States on the New Urban

Agenda and localizing the Sustainable Development Goals, emphasising the importance of these efforts in support of post-pandemic recovery.

With interaction at the heart of the coming mid-term review, the meeting is expected to catalyse dialogue between Member States on the strategic plan as well as other resolutions adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly – including the impact of COVID-19 on their implementation. An interactive dialogue on “Cities and Pandemics” on 30 June will offer not only Member States but also partners the chance to contribute to debates with a more comprehensive focus on our mandate and its relevance for building back better in the context of the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic. The dialogue will focus on the key findings and recommendations of the recently launched UN-Habitat report [Cities and Pandemics: Towards a more Just, Green and Healthy Future](#).



Who will participate?

Member States will participate through their Permanent Missions in Nairobi and New York, as well through their capital-based representatives. UN-Habitat expects the participation of special high-level guests which would bring great significance to the meeting and enhance the visibility of our work. The meeting is also open to UN agencies, local authorities and partners who are accredited to ECOSOC or to the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly held in 2019.



Review of the implementation of the strategic plan

UN-Habitat will brief the CPR on progress made in implementing the 2020-2023 strategic plan, focusing on the approach for integrated delivery of our four domains of change and on the lessons learned and knowledge gained from implementation to date. Expect some regional highlights, success stories, example of innovative projects and ground-breaking approaches.

We will also brief the CPR on the [Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review \(QCPR\) of operational activities for development of the United Nations system](#) – specifically on the opportunities for UN-Habitat to ensure its effective implementation within the current strategic plan.



Progress in implementing the New Urban Agenda

UN-Habitat will present to the CPR an interim review of the work under way to prepare the second edition of the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The work is being undertaken in accordance with the role of UN-Habitat as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements in collaboration with other entities of the United Nations system.

We will also brief the CPR on progress made by UN-Habitat and Member States on the implementation of the ministerial declaration [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](#). We will present how the ministerial declaration converges with the 2020-2023 strategic plan, and host a dialogue between national governments, subnational governments and other Habitat Agenda partners on the implementation of the ministerial declaration.



Resolutions and decisions by the UN-Habitat Assembly

We will brief the CPR on implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly in May 2019. The briefing will outline progress made on specific resolutions and convergence with the 2020-2023 strategic plan including safer cities, gender equality, capacity-building in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, and enhancing urban-rural linkages for sustainable urbanization and human settlements.



Preparations for the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum

The CPR will be briefed on the status of preparations for the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum, to be held in Katowice, Poland, in 2022.



Alignment of the planning cycles of UN-Habitat with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process

The CPR will consider the steps taken by the governing bodies for alignment of the planning cycles of UN-Habitat with the QCPR – an instrument that enables the General Assembly to provide the United Nations system with policy guidance and strategic direction and ensure adequate oversight and accountability.

How can I help?

You are all encouraged to familiarize with the roles and responsibilities of the CPR, and what is required of us as an organization. Specific information on the June meeting – including the agenda and meetings documents – is available [here](#). Do also get involved in the publicity campaign towards the CPR review by using the hashtags [#CPR](#) [#TakeAction4Cities](#) [#ForABetterUrbanFuture](#) [#StrategicPlan](#) on social media.

Upcoming events and corporate calendar



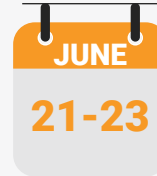
Other organizers



G20 Urban 20 Summit 2021

The G20 Urban 20 Summit 2021 will take place ahead of the [G20 Leaders Summit 2021](#), which is to be hosted by Italy in October 2021. Urban 20 (U20) is one of the G20 Engagement Groups. The 2021 G20, under the Italian Presidency, will focus on three broad, interconnected pillars of action: People, Planet, Prosperity. Within these pillars, the G20 aims to take the lead in ensuring a swift international response to the COVID-19 pandemic – able to provide equitable, worldwide access to diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines – while building up resilience to future health-related shocks.

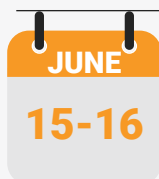
[More information](#)



World Cities Summit 2021: Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Adapting to a Disrupted World

The World Cities Summit is an exclusive platform for government leaders and industry experts to address liveable and sustainable city challenges, share integrated urban solutions and forge new partnerships. Since its inauguration in 2008, the biennial Summit has been attended by over 250 global cities and supported by leaders from government, business, international organisations and academia. Jointly organised by Singapore's Centre for Liveable Cities and the Urban Redevelopment Authority, the World Cities Summit is held in conjunction with the Singapore International Water Week (SIWW) and the CleanEnviro Summit Singapore (CESG). Highlights of the Summit include the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize, the WCS Mayors Forum and City Solutions Singapore.

[More information](#)



UN Global Compact Leaders Summit: 2021

The UN Global Compact 2021 Leaders Summit will elevate ambition for strategic collective action, with focused objectives and clear paths to recovery from the continued climate crisis, global pandemic, economic disparities and social inequalities. The annual Summit will once again virtually convene more than 25,000 leaders from business, Government, the UN, and Civil Society, to take stock of the state of progress, highlight the areas for greater influence, and drive collective action on focused issues to make lasting change. [More information](#)



Smart City Talks: ICT Solutions

The last webinar of the Smart City Talk series hosted by the EU-funded project mySMARTLife and Steinbeis-Europa-Zentrum will introduce the ICT solutions applied within mySMARTLife and European smart city projects MAKING-CITY, POCITYF and STARDUST. Supporting ICT solutions are key to implement positive energy districts and smart grids to name a few fields of energy transition. The activities carried out within the mySMARTLife project aim at the transition of EU cities towards a new concept of smart life and economy. [More information](#)

Vacancies

Role
Staff Assistant,
G5
Duty Station
New York, United
States
Deadline
17 June 2021
[Apply here](#)

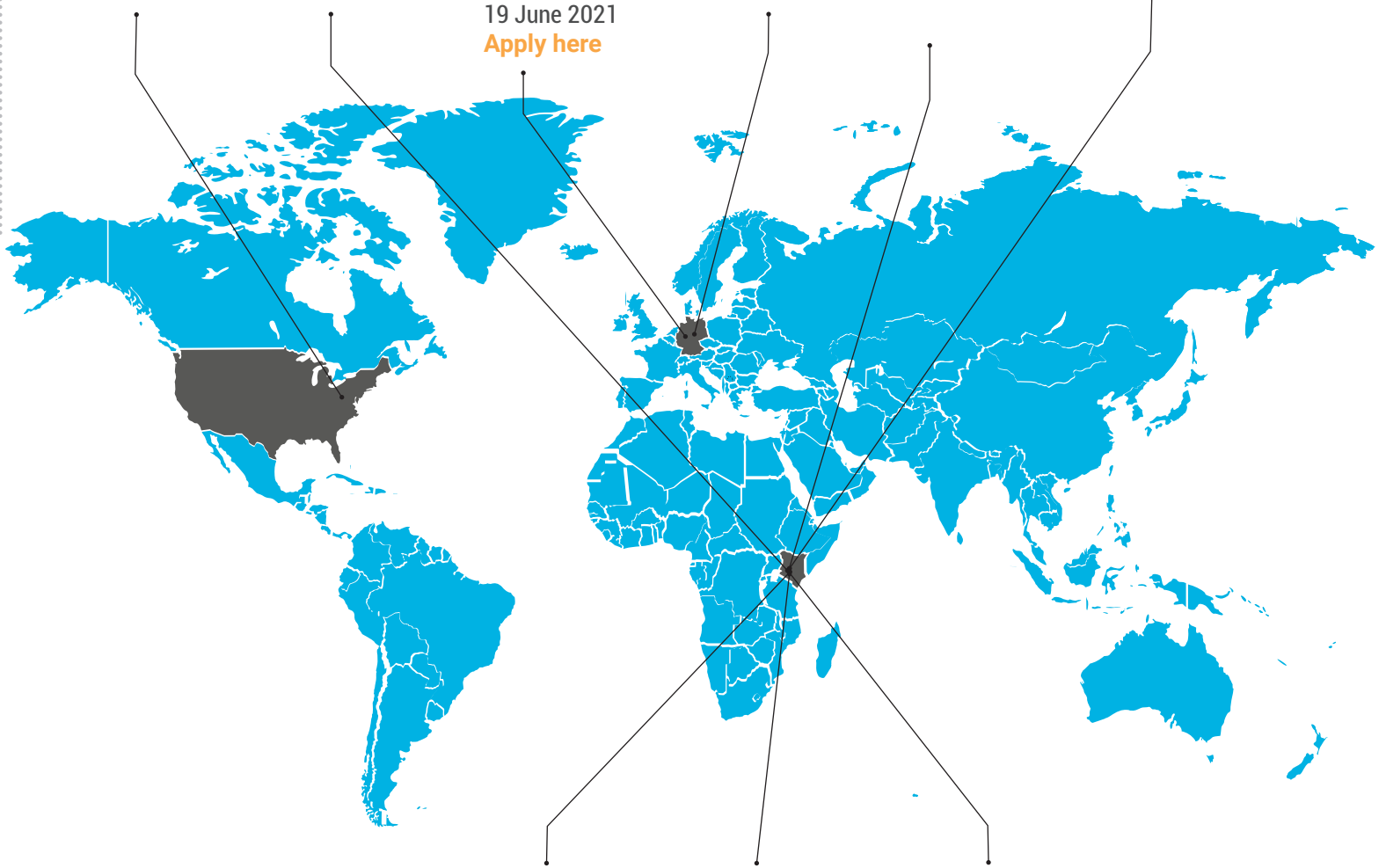
Role
Programme
Management
Officer, Human
Settlements, P3
Duty Station
Nairobi, Kenya
Deadline
22 June 2021
[Apply here](#)

Role
Senior
Programme
Management
Officer (Project
Post), P5
Duty Station
Hamburg,
Germany
Deadline
19 June 2021
[Apply here](#)

Role
Information
Systems Officer,
P3
Duty Station
Hamburg,
Germany
Deadline
3 July 2021
[Apply here](#)

Role
Programme
Management
Officer, Human
Settlements, P3
Duty Station
Nairobi, Kenya
Deadline
25 June 2021
[Apply here](#)

Role
Programme
Management
Officer, P3
Duty Station
Nairobi, Kenya
Deadline
22 June 2021
[Apply here](#)



Role
Programme
Officer, Human
Settlements, P3
Duty Station
Nairobi, Kenya
Deadline
14 June 2021
[Apply here](#)

Role
Programme
Management
Officer, P3
Duty Station
Nairobi, Kenya
Deadline
15 June 2021
[Apply here](#)

Role
Senior Finance
and Budget
Assistant, G7
Duty Station
Nairobi, Kenya
Deadline
17 June 2021
[Apply here](#)



Innovation corner

Digital Tools and Apps at UN-Habitat

Psst! Did you know that there are many [digital tools and apps](#) created by UN-Habitat and its partners for you to use in your projects, including open-source digital tools for **data collection, mapping, co-designing, and action planning** purposes?

To wrap your head around these, our very own innovation section has developed a [catalogue of digital tools and apps](#) following the [outcomes of the first roundtable which explored](#) digital tools and apps being developed and used in UN-Habitat to effectively deliver our programmes and projects.

The catalogue captures information on each tool including access, potential value for future projects, training material availability, and contact persons for assistance.

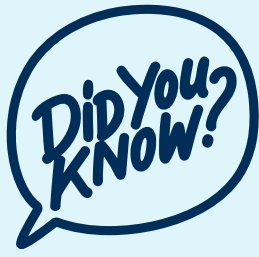
The catalogue is part of broader efforts to promote engagement with and the repurposing of existing resources. It also allows UN-Habitat to avoid duplication as we move away from a siloed approach to developing and using digital tools to a more integrated and interoperable set of digital tools.

The [Principles for Digital Development](#), which UN-Habitat is a signatory to, advocates for this approach and promotes the use of open standards, open data, open source and open innovation – this tells us why it's important we all make the most of available digital tools and apps.



Do you have digital tools and applications that are not listed in the catalogue?
Connect with the innovation unit colleagues (un-habitat-innovation@un.org) to have them included or reach out if you have any questions or require more information.

Need training on a particular tool or app?
Connect with the contact person listed in the catalogue.



UN-Habitat attended the 20th session of the High-level Committee (HLC) on South-South Cooperation, which took place on 1-4 June.

The session focused on accelerating achievement of the SDGs through implementation of the [outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation](#), while responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and similar global crises.

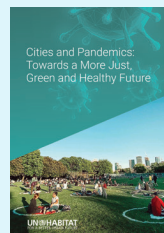
Member States highlighted the plight of cities and countries – mainly in the developing world – faced with the sudden outbreak of COVID-19. The pandemic has dramatically affected progress made in human development since 2016 following the adoption of the SDGs, and has contributed to widening inequalities – weakening health and social security systems and amplifying the digital divide.

But lessons learned show how quickly cities and nations can act and regions and countries can rally when facing common challenges to demonstrate solidarity with one another. In recent months, over 120 countries around the world have been supporting each other in pivotal areas by procuring and sharing life-saving medical supplies, dispatching health workers to breach gaps and capacities where needed, mobilizing vital finances and food supplies, or collaborating in science, technology and innovation.

To sustain this new momentum, three key areas of collaboration emerged:



UNDP and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), mandated to coordinate the UN support to [South-South and Triangular Cooperation](#), have committed to circulate the final outcomes of the 20th HLC as quickly as possible and to work with other entities to accelerate their implementation.



In May 2020, UN-Habitat signed a MoU with UNOSSC facilitating our engagement at both the inter-agency and country programming levels. Apart from UN-Habitat's COVID-19 Response Plan, the Cities and Pandemics Report recently launched represent two key inputs for the Programme to contribute to the ongoing debates.

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Participate!

Want your story featured? Submit your ideas or reach out to us at unhabitat-habpost@un.org.

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