

## First UN-Habitat Assembly – Internal Concept Note

On 20 December 2018, the General Assembly adopted the resolution on Strengthening UN-Habitat which established a universal Assembly of UN-Habitat which will hold its first session between 27-31 May 2019, in place of the 27<sup>th</sup> session of the Governing Council. According to the resolution, the UN-Habitat Assembly will establish the Executive Board which will also have its first session during the UN-Habitat Assembly. The Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was tasked to prepare draft rules of procedure for the UN-Habitat Assembly (UNHA) to be adopted at the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

The resolution endorsed the findings and recommendations of the Open-Ended Working Group on the new governing structure of UN-Habitat, which outlines the key responsibilities of the UNHA, the Executive Board and the CPR, as well as the reporting mechanisms of these governing bodies.

This note brings together the elements guiding the organization of the first UN-Habitat Assembly (27-31 May 2019) with the theme '**Innovation for Better Quality of Life in Cities and Communities**'. The concept note should help the overall coordination team to focus the internal decision making and ensure timely action. The note includes complementarity activities that are planned around the Assembly.

### A. Principles

The preparations and format of the Assembly need to:

1. Allow for an efficient and effective Assembly, sufficiently resourced and innovative in nature;
2. Support inclusive and consensus-based decision making among Member States;
3. Ensure a high-level mobilisation of Member States in support of 1) the urban dimensions of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda and of 2) UN-Habitat (political and financial);
4. Allow for the inputs of stakeholders to be heard and made accessible for member states;
5. Ensure global visibility beyond the events in Nairobi.

### B. Events and expected outcomes of the Assembly

#### **Overall**

The Assembly provides significant opportunities to form strategic alliances to advance the sustainable urbanization and human settlements agenda and for UN-Habitat to garner strong political and financial support and strengthen its role as a center of excellence and a global leader.

#### **Specific**

##### **1. Legislative outcomes will include:**

- Adoption of rules and procedures for the Assembly and the Executive Board
- Adoption of UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2020-2025 by the UN-Habitat Assembly
- Adoption of UN-Habitat's Work Programme and Budget by the Executive Board
- Resolutions to include:
  - *Theme of the UN-Habitat Assembly*
  - *Strategic Plan 2020-2025*
  - *Work Programme and Budget 2020*
  - *Safer Cities Guidelines*
- A Nairobi Declaration (Political Commitments) is also proposed
- Interactive Strategic Dialogue on the theme of UN-Habitat Assembly on Wednesday 29 May. Key elements:
  - *Policy segment: policies creating an enabling environment for innovating and shaping sustainable cities and human settlements*
  - *Co-creation for future cities and communities through innovation*

- *Investment in urban innovation*
- Establishment of the Executive Board, including election of members and adoption of rules and procedures. The first meeting of the Executive Board, lasting one day, could take place on Thursday, 30 May 2019

## 2. Non-Legislative Events

### UN-Habitat Events

- First Global Stakeholders Forum on Saturday and Sunday, 25 and 26 May 2019, prior to the UN-Habitat Assembly
- Global Private Sector Dialogue - one day event on Sunday 26 May 2019
- The Strategic Financing Dialogue and Pledging Conference on Tuesday, 28 May 2019 to enable high level participation
- UN Round Table to be held on Tuesday 28 May 2019
- WUF 10 cocktail to be hosted by UAE/UN-Habitat

### External Side Events

- The call for an unspecified number of side events is on the website. These will be restricted to lunchtime events, should be relevant to the overall theme of UN-Habitat Assembly, youth, gender and regional balance consideration, and to the Strategic Plan's Domains of Change. The closing date is 8 April (<https://unhabitat.org/habitatassembly-side-events/>).

### Exhibition – Urban Solutions Expo

- An Urban Solutions Expo promoting innovative and sustainable solutions to the challenges facing cities and communities will take place in support of the theme. Call for Expression of Interest to exhibit at the Expo was sent with the Exhibition Guidelines, to stakeholders with the deadline of 31 March 2019 (<https://unhabitat.org/habitatassembly-exhibitions/>). The applications will be reviewed based on thematic relevance, regional, youth and gender representation, visual interests, innovation and other logistical and safety considerations. The Expo will feature an Urban Tech and Innovation Tent showcasing frontier technologies and cutting-edge initiatives, regular exhibition booths and networking and informal discussion spaces.

## C. Critical time-sensitive preparatory workstreams

1. **Budget and Resource Mobilisation:** to cover the costs related to the Assembly (incl. participation of LDCs) and complementarity activities. UN-Habitat resources need to be mobilized from donors to include LDC Participation (47 countries), Executive Board costs (first and second sessions), Interpretation and Documentation, Interactive Strategic Dialogue on theme of UN-Habitat Assembly, Private Sector Dialogue, Financing and Pledging Dialogue, Moderators/facilitators and hospitality
2. **High level Participation Mobilisation:** UN-Habitat aims to have Heads of State and Ministers, and to ensure geo- and gender-balanced participation of line Ministers and senior stakeholder representation.
3. **Organizational set-up**
  - Overall coordination (Victor Kisob, DED)
  - Substantive Task Team to look at documents and papers with regard to quality and if they are in-line with UN-Habitat policies (Raf Tuts)
  - Administration and Finance (Christine Musisi)
  - Communications, Partnerships and Logistics (Suzy Price)
  - Host country and UNON Liaison Team (Chris Mensah)