

**Second meeting of the Bureau of the Executive Board for the year 2023**

Tuesday, 14 March 2023

14:45 hrs - 16:15 hrs, East Africa Time

Hybrid meeting-UN-Habitat OED Boardroom

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Agenda item 1: Adoption of the provisional Agenda.**

1. H.E. Mr. Silvio Albuquerque, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Federative Republic of Brazil opened the meeting at 14:45 hrs EAT.

**The following Executive Board Bureau members were present:**

**In-person**

H.E. Mr. Silvio Albuquerque, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Federative Republic of Brazil.

H.E. Ms. Jean Kimani, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya

H.E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Mr. Clement Payeur, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of France

Ms. Lucianara Andrade Fonseca, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Federative Republic of Brazil

**On-line**

Ms. Joanna Szymanska , Deputy Permanent Representative of Republic of Poland

**The following UN Habitat Secretariat members were also present :**

Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director.

Mr. Raf Tuts, Director, Global Solutions Division.

Mr. Chris Mensah, Secretary to the Governing Bodies.

Mr. Erfan Ali, Chief of Staff

Mr. Chris Williams, Director of UN-Habitat Liaison Office, New York

Mr. Justin Bonongwe, Management Advisory and Compliance Service

Mr. Paulius Kulikauskas, Senior Coordination officer

2. The Chair welcomed all participants to the meeting. The provisional Agenda was adopted without any changes and can be accessed [here](#).

## **Agenda item 2: Briefing on progress made on preparations for the session**

1. The Chair recalled that at its last meeting held on 8 February 2023, the Bureau recommended that the provisional Agenda for the two-day session Executive Board from 28-29 March 2023, and also recommended that the session be held in a hybrid format, noting that there are no longer limitations with respect to delegates' in-person participation in the session and further that the choice and level of representation remains at the discretion of delegations.
2. Upon invitation by the Chair, the Executive Director provided an update on the status of preparations for the first session of the Executive Board to be held on 28 and 29 March 2023. The presentation by the Executive Director can be accessed [here](#) and her detailed statement can be accessed [here](#).
3. In addition to the statement by the Executive Director, the UNON Division of Conference Services briefed the Bureau on the current practice regarding interpretation for hybrid meetings as follows:
  1. Cumulative interpretation time of statements made by on-line participants is strictly limited to 30 minutes for each plenary of 3 hours.
  2. The above does not apply if a full script of the statement is provided in advance to interpreters.

## **Agenda item 3: Status of draft decisions to be possibly adopted during the first session of the Executive Board in 2023**

4. The Chair noted that in response to the recommendation by the Bureau of the Executive Board at its meeting on 8 February 2023, the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters met to consider the draft decisions to be presented to the 2023 first session of the Executive Board.
5. Upon invitation by the Chair, the Chair of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters briefed the Bureau on the status of draft decisions as of 8 March 2023, to be hopefully adopted during the first session of the Executive Board in 2023 which can be accessed 2023 [here](#). Her statement can be accessed [here](#).
6. The update of the Chair of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters was followed by an exchange of views among Bureau members.
7. Subsequently, the Bureau took note of the update provided by the Chair of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters.
8. The Bureau further recommended:
  - a) That discussions on current paragraph 10 of draft Decision 2023/[B] regarding the engagement of the Local 2030 Coalition in the process of further developing the Sustainable Development Goals Cities certification concept.
  - b) The need for reassurance from the Secretariat on the financial feasibility of the Sustainable Development Goals Cities certification concept during the upcoming session of the Executive Board.

- c) That an additional meeting of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters be scheduled prior to the upcoming session of the Executive Board so that the Secretariat can brief Member States further on the concept of the ‘Sustainable Development Goals Cities certification’ to enable finalization of paragraph 10 of Draft Decision 2023/[B].
- d) That Pakistan and Kenya as Vice-Chairs of the Bureau of the Executive Board to chair the informal consultations on the draft decisions which will take place during the upcoming session of the Executive Board.

#### **Agenda item 4: Any other matters**

- 9. The Chair drew the attention of the Bureau to the checklist developed to facilitate the oversight of the implementation of the repositioning of the United Nations development system by the governing bodies of the respective entities of the United Nations, as requested in United Nations General Assembly resolution 76/4 on the review of the Resident Coordinator system. The checklist aims to elicit information on the implementation by United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) entities of Member States’ mandates given in General Assembly resolution 72/279 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system.
- 10. The Chair noted that the checklist is a tool for governing bodies, that it is to be completed by the entities themselves, and that governing bodies may choose to complement with additional questions related to their entities’ specific mandates.
- 11. The Chair further noted that it is proposed by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Ms. Amina J. Mohamed that the governing bodies consider using reporting against the checklist as part of governing bodies’ annual programme of work, either as an additional agenda item on the implementation of the reform of the United Nations development system, or to complement or replace reporting on an existing agenda item on the topic.
- 12. The Chair noted that the Bureau should recommend to the Executive Board when to consider reporting against the checklist.
- 13. Upon invitation by the Chair, the Executive Director further indicated that reporting against the checklist is discussed at the governing bodies level and in that respect proposed that the reporting be done during the sessions of the Executive Board since it meets twice a year. The Executive Director further suggested for consideration by the Bureau that the checklist containing questions and responses by the Secretariat be considered by the Executive Board during its 2023 second session as part of the Agenda item on the ‘implementation of the United Nations development system reform’ for the Executive Board to analyze and discuss the responses by the Secretariat.
- 14. The Chair requested the Secretariat to circulate to the members of the Bureau the check-list document so that the members of the Bureau share it with their respective Regional Groups.
- 15. The Bureau had no objection in the Executive Board considering the checklist and a briefing on the matter during t the 2023 second session of the Executive Board as part of the Agenda item on the ‘implementation of the United Nations development system reform’ pending further consultations with the Regional Groups on this matter.

#### **Scenario of the elections**

- 16. Upon invitation by the Chair the Secretariat shared the possible scenarios and options that may be associated with the upcoming elections to be held during the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat and during the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, keeping in mind that the Executive Board has already recommended for consideration by the UN-Habitat Assembly that the current strategic plan 2020 – 2023 be

extended to cover the period 2020 – 2025 for the planning cycles of UN-Habitat to be aligned with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR).

17. The Chair recommended that the Secretariat circulate to the Bureau, the note on the possible scenarios associated with the upcoming elections to be held during the second OECPR and during the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
18. The Executive Director informed the Bureau that she had been invited by the President of the United Nations General Assembly to the General Assembly meeting on Zero Waste which is scheduled to take place on 30 March 2023 with the participation of the UN Secretary General and the President of the General Assembly. She further noted that this invitation would coincide with the second day of the upcoming first session of the Executive Board for the year 2023. The Executive Director noted her commitment to the work of the Executive Board and also outlined the importance of the General Assembly meeting on Zero Waste in relation to the work of UN-Habitat.
19. The Bureau took note of the need for the participation of the Executive Director in the General Assembly meeting on Zero Waste and noted in that respect, that the Executive Director would consider following online, the proceedings of the second day of the Executive Board.

**The second meeting of the Bureau of the Executive Board for the year 2023 was adjourned at 16:10 hrs. East African Time (EAT).**