



UNITED  
NATIONS

HSP

HSP/WUF/12/INF/4



UN-HABITAT

## World Urban Forum

Distr.: General  
Date: 4 November 2024

English only

### Twelfth Session

Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt

4 – 8 November 2024

Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda\*

## Working arrangements for the World Urban Forum

### Note by the secretariat

1. The present note sets out proposed working arrangements for the World Urban Forum on the basis of a proposal submitted to and adopted by the Forum at its first session.

### I. Background

2. As indicated in paragraph 10 of resolution 18/5 of the Commission on Human Settlements, in paragraph 3 of section I B of General Assembly resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, the Forum is clearly not meant to be an intergovernmental meeting, and consequently the use of rules of procedure such as those of the Governing Council<sup>1</sup> of UN-Habitat would be inappropriate. The use of such rules would limit the full and effective participation of Habitat Agenda partners in the deliberations and recommendations of the Forum. Furthermore, since both the Urban Environment Forum and the International Forum on Urban Poverty lacked formal rules of procedure, it is recommended that the World Urban Forum should function without such rules of procedure so as to facilitate maximum participation by Habitat Agenda partners in its work.

3. Accordingly, instead of formal rules of procedure, it is proposed that the Forum adopt, with some modifications, the innovative working arrangements that were used effectively and successfully by the second committee of the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996), for the dialogues between Governments and Habitat Agenda partners held during the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the Commission on Human Settlements (Nairobi, 5–14 May 1999 and 5–9 February 2001, respectively) and in the thematic committee of the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of implementation of the outcome of the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (New York, 6–8 June 2001).

### II. Proposed working arrangements for the Forum

4. It is proposed that the main discussions of the Forum be conducted as dialogues among all participants. Short presentations by selected panellists on specific issues will be followed by discussions between the participants and panellists on those issues.

\* HSP/WUF/12/1.

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 73/539 of 20 December 2018 dissolved the UN-Habitat Governing Council and replaced with the UN-Habitat Assembly

5. It is envisaged that after each dialogue the chair of the panel will prepare a summary of the main issues raised during the presentations and discussions and any conclusions or recommendations stemming from the discussions. These summaries should reflect the gist of the presentations, discussions and recommendations and shall be an accurate reflection of what transpired in the dialogues and its conclusions and recommendations will be submitted as part of the official report by the Executive Director to the UN-Habitat Assembly<sup>2</sup> of UN-Habitat at its next session for consideration and appropriate action.
6. It is proposed that, at the beginning of each session of the Forum, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat should establish an advisory group that will advise and assist the Executive Director with regard to the organization, management and conduct of the meetings of that session of the Forum and shall prepare an outcome document for presentation at the closing ceremony. The Chair of the advisory group will also serve as the Chair of that session of the Forum.
7. The Forum will meet in years when the UN-Habitat Assembly<sup>3</sup> of UN-Habitat does not meet, with the date and venue of each session to be proposed by the secretariat in consultation with national governments.
8. The provisional agenda for each session of the Forum will be prepared by the secretariat in consultation with national governments and stakeholders.
9. English will be the official working language of the Forum. Interpretation and translation of the main sessions into the six UN Languages, and also in other languages, will be made available as well as to other sessions subject to the availability of additional extrabudgetary resources.
10. Recommendations of the Forum will be adopted in form of an outcome document by consensus by the participants.
11. UN-Habitat will serve as the convener and secretariat of the Forum. It will also be responsible for preparation of the report of each session.

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2 Formerly referred to as Governing Council

3 *ibid.*

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**Annex****World Urban Forum: Objectives and participation**

1. Building on the valuable experiences of the Urban Environment Forum and the International Forum on Urban Poverty, the unified World Urban Forum will have international cooperation on issues relating to shelter and urban development as its substantive focus, and will serve as an advisory body to the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) on these issues. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of section I B of General Assembly resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, the Forum is a non-legislative technical forum in which experts can exchange views in the years when the Governing Council<sup>4</sup> of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme does not meet. Accordingly, the meetings of the Forum will facilitate the exchange of experiences and the advancement of collective knowledge among cities and their development partners. At Forum meetings there will also be strong emphasis on the participation of other stakeholders and relevant international programmes, funds and agencies, which will ensure their inclusion in the identification of new issues, the sharing of lessons learned and the exchange of best practices and good policies. Among other functions of the Forum will be the elimination of overlaps and the identification of synergies among development agencies in implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Reports and recommendations of Forum sessions will be presented to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat for consideration and appropriate action, including transmittal to the biennial sessions of the Governing Council<sup>5</sup> of UN-Habitat.

2. Participation in the Forum will be open to representatives of national Governments and other stakeholders. The latter include local and regional authorities; global parliamentarians; non-governmental organizations; community-based organizations; human settlement professionals; research institutions and academies of science; the private, business and non-profit sectors; foundations; relevant United Nations organizations; and other international agencies.

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4 General Assembly resolution 73/539 of 20 December 2018 dissolved the UN-Habitat Governing Council and replaced with the UN-Habitat Assembly

5 *ibid.*