



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

27 June 2018

Excellency,

In accordance with resolution 72/226 of 25 January 2018 entitled “Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)”, I have the honour to transmit to you the letter of H.E. Mr. Fernando E. Lins de S. Coimbra, Permanent Representative of the Federative Republic of Brazil to UN-Habitat, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat and the attached findings and recommendations of the open-ended Working Group established pursuant to the resolution 72/226.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Lajčák', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Miroslav Lajčák

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

Nairobi, 26 June 2018

Excellency,

**Findings and recommendations of the Open-ended Working Group established
by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UN-Habitat in
line with General Assembly Resolution A/RES/72/226**

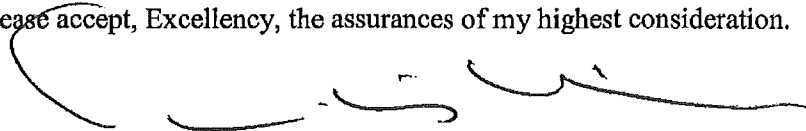
As the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UN-Habitat, I established, pursuant to paragraph 6 of United Nations General Assembly's resolution 72/226, an Open-ended Working Group in Nairobi to examine options for strengthening Member States' oversight of UN-Habitat and to consider the appropriateness of financial rules and regulations, as well as personnel, procurement and budgetary matters. The Group met 8 times, on the following dates: 7, 14 and 26 March 2018, 18 April 2018, 9 and 16 May 2018 as well as, 5 and 18 June 2018. Several informal consultations were also held, as well as 3 meetings of a "Friends of the Chair" group.

On 18 June 2018, the Open-ended Working Group agreed, by acclamation, on a set of findings and recommendations, which I herewith submit for consideration and appropriate action by the General Assembly.

I note that, at the moment of adoption of the document on 18 June 2018, the delegations of Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of Congo expressed a reservation regarding the recommended reporting procedure of the Executive Board, during the years when the United Nations Habitat Assembly does not meet. Upon the presentation of the report of the work of the Open-ended Working Group during the 69th regular meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives held on 21 June 2018, other delegations, while reaffirming their general endorsement of the document, expressed a similar concern. Statements submitted in the context of the consideration of item 5 of the agenda of the 69th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives will be fully captured in the minutes of that meeting.

I recommend that the General Assembly at its seventy-second session forward the findings and recommendations of the Open-ended Working Group, as contained in the attachment to the present letter, to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session for consideration and appropriate action.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Amb. Fernando E. Lins de S. Coimbra

Permanent Representative of the Federative Republic of Brazil to UN-Habitat
Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat

**His Excellency
Mr. Miroslav Lajčák
President of the General Assembly
of the United Nations, New York**

Cc. Office of the Secretary General of the United Nations, New York
Executive Director, UN-Habitat, Nairobi



Open-Ended Working Group Findings and Recommendations

June 2018

**Report on work of the Open-ended Working Group established by the Chair of the
Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat in line with General Assembly
Resolution A/RES/72/226 of December 2017**

UN-HABITAT
Open-Ended Working Group

Findings and Recommendations

1. The Group identified the need for a body to provide the political and strategic framework under which UN-Habitat shall function, dedicated to the promotion of sustainable urban development and human settlements, under the authority of the General Assembly. It should have universal intergovernmental membership and convene in Nairobi, during a five day period, every four years to, inter alia, i) identify key issues and areas of focus for the normative and policy work of UN-Habitat, ii) review major trends related to human settlements and urbanization; iii) examine global norms and standards in human settlements and sustainable urbanization; iv) adopt resolutions, declarations, recommendations, formal decisions, reports and other documents pertaining to strategic vision and political guidance in accordance with its mandate; v) recommend strategies for coherent implementation of urban and human settlements dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda and other global agendas, including of the work of the United Nations System vi) examine and approve UN-Habitat's strategic plan, to be prepared by the Executive Board; vii) review the Secretary-General's quadrennial report on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. This body could be called "UN-Habitat Assembly" (UNHA) and would replace the current UN-Habitat's Governing Council. The Assembly could also deliberate on its rule and procedures at its first session. The Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) will convene in Nairobi, in an open ended manner, twice every four years: once prior to the UNHA for preparation of that meeting and a second time for a high level mid-term review meeting.

2. The Group identified the need for a dedicated executive body to increase Member States oversight of UN-Habitat's operations and to strengthen the accountability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the Programme. This body would provide greater efficiency in decision-making, help build trust and attract sufficient, sustainable and predictable funding. It would take the form of an Executive Board to be comprised of 36 members, to be elected by the "UN-Habitat Assembly" according to equitable geographic representation, following the formula established for the current UN-Habitat Governing Council.¹ The Executive-Board would meet two or three times a year, as appropriate, in Nairobi to, inter alia: i) oversee the implementation of UN-Habitat's normative and operational activities; ii) ensure accountability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness; iii) approve and oversee the implementation of the annual program of work and budget and of the resource mobilization strategy in accordance with the strategic plans and political guidelines given by the UN-Habitat Assembly; iv) Adopt decisions, under its mandate, on, inter alia, programmatic, operational and budgetary issues, for the adequate and effective implementation of the resolutions and other decisions adopted by the UNHA v) guide and support efforts to finance UN-Habitat; vi) oversee UN-Habitat's compliance with evaluations and support auditing functions; vii) collaborate with other UN Agency Executive Boards as per UN Reform. The Executive Board shall have delegation of authority from UNHA to submit periodic reports to UNGA through ECOSOC on issues pertinent to the Executive Board's mandate in years when UNHA is not in session. All member states

¹ The Executive Board seat distribution would be as follows: 10 seats for the African Group, 8 seats for the Asia-Pacific Group, 4 seats for the Eastern European Group, 6 seats for the Latin America and Caribbean Group, 8 seats for the Western European and Others Group.

and members of specialized agencies may actively participate in the deliberations as observers to Board meetings, through their permanent missions in Nairobi or otherwise. The Board could also deliberate on its rule and procedures at its first session.

3. The Group recognizes that UN-Habitat applies the financial rules and regulations and personnel, procurement and budgetary policies and practices of the United Nations which are underpinned by the principles of efficiency, effectiveness, accountability and oversight. The Group also acknowledges that UN-Habitat shall build its global normative role and enhance its UN coordination role on matters relating to sustainable human settlements and urbanization, and continue to engage countries operationally in line with the guidance it receives from Assembly and Board. The Group trusts that the review of regulations, rules and operational arrangements incorporated in the Secretary-General's Management Reform will facilitate the improved delivery of UN-Habitat programmes and the enhancement of its collaboration with other programmes and agencies. The Group further understands that the detailed consideration of rules and regulations and matters associated with the day to day running of the Programme should be examined in detail and acted upon by the Executive Board of UN-Habitat.

4. Furthermore, the UNHA should ensure the active engagement of local authorities and other stakeholders in the Assembly, in its subsidiary bodies and in intersessional meetings, in accordance with the "Stakeholder Engagement Policy" currently under discussion by Member States. Efforts should be made to enhance the attractiveness and usefulness of UN-Habitat for these relevant stakeholders and to generate new partnerships, innovative sources of funding and interest from a wider public.