

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday 7 May 2019
2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri
Conference Room 4

UN Environment Programme engagements at events under the UN Habitat Assembly

Following a Member State request made at the Subcommittee meeting on 7 May, this note presents an overview of how the UN Environment Programme is engaging with UN-Habitat at its first Assembly in Nairobi 27 – 31 May 2019.

Engagement is grounded in the longstanding cooperation with UN-Habitat under the Greener Cities Partnership, responds to the UN system-wide strategy on sustainable urban development in which the UN Environment Programme was involved as a member of the task group, and builds on the Cities Summit held at the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly jointly organized by UN Environment Programme together with UN-Habitat and key city and local government networks. The activity report of the Greener Cities Partnership is part of the official documents in support of the upcoming UN-Habitat Assembly.

Key engagements of the UN Environment Programme in the Habitat Assembly include the following.

1. Participation of the Acting Executive Director

Ms. Joyce Msuya, Acting Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme, will participate in the following sessions:

- UN Habitat Assembly Opening Plenary (10am to 1pm) on Monday, 27 May.
- UN Habitat Assembly Interactive Strategic Dialogue – High-Level Policy Segment: Creating and Enabling Environment for Innovation (10am to 1pm, 3pm to 6pm) on Wednesday, 29 May.
- Ahead of the Assembly, a Planet Unplugged session will be organized with Mr. Victor Kisob, Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat, and Ms. Joyce Msuya. The session will take place on 15 May, on the topic of innovation for a healthy environment in urban areas.

2. Official side events

- The UN Environment Programme, as host of the Secretariat of the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction, will co-sponsor alongside UN-Habitat the official side

event *Efficiency for affordability: How energy efficiency can drive affordable housing*. Exact timing of the event is still to be confirmed.

- The UN Environment Programme will co-sponsor alongside UN-Habitat the official side event *Strengthening urban-rural linkages to reduce spatial inequalities and poverty by leveraging sustainable food systems actions*. Exact timing of the event is still to be confirmed.
- The UN Environment Programme will participate in the UN-Habitat organised official side event “*Blue Economy and Cities: The role of urban planners, communities and the private sector in developing innovative solutions for environmental protection in coastal cities*”. Tuesday, 28th May, lunch time.

3. Other events

- The UN Environment Programme will participate in the One UN Meeting on the UN system-wide strategy for Sustainable Urban Development which will take place on Tuesday, 28 May, 1:30pm to 2:45pm.
- A ministerial level roundtable event with UN Environment Programme participation will take place on Monday 27 May at 6 pm focusing on how to engagement in the upcoming Climate Change Summit in New York, under the cluster ‘infrastructure, cities and local actors’.
- The UN Environment Programme will assist Habitat in organizing two Inter-faith dialogue sessions, including a Ramadan breakfast, during the Assembly – on 27 and on 30 May, 5pm to 8pm.
- A Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC) Regional Roundtable – Africa will be organized on 28 May. This full day event is not part of the official agenda of the Assembly, and will be held offsite. The UN Environment Programme is the host of the Secretariat of the GlobalABC and UN-Habitat is a member of the Alliance. Results from this technical Roundtable will be shared at the official UN-Habitat Assembly side-event.

For further information/questions, kindly contact Ms. Martina Otto, Head of Cities Unit and Head of GlobalABC Secretariat (martina.otto@un.org) and Mr. Iyad Abu Moghli, Principal Coordinator Faith for Earth (iyad.abumoghli@un.org), with a copy to the Secretariat (unep-sqb@un.org).