1. The group identified the need for a United Nations policy making body dedicated to the promotion of sustainable urban development and human settlements under the authority of the General Assembly. This body would provide the political and strategic framework under which UN-Habitat shall function. It should have universal membership and convene in Nairobi every two years to, inter alia, i) provide guidance on 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) refine global norms and standards in human settlements and sustainable urbanization; iv) adopt resolutions and decisions, and reviews their implementation; v) recommend strategies for coherent implementation of urban and human settlements dimensions of the 2030 Agenda and other global agendas, including of the work of the United Nations System vi) examine and approve UN-Habitat’s strategic plan, including its Medium Term Strategy, 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” and would replace the current UN-Habitat’s Governing Council as the Programme’s main governing body. The Assembly could also deliberate on its rule and procedures at its first session. Furthermore, provisions could be made for the active engagement of local authorities and other stakeholders in the Assembly. This has the potential to enhance the attractiveness and usefulness of UN-Habitat for these non-state actors, and generate new partnerships, innovative sources of funding and interest from a wider public.

2. The Group also identified the need for a dedicated executive body to increase Member States oversight of UN-Habitat’s operations and to improve the accountability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the Programme. Focused on implementation, this body would provide greater efficiency in decision-making, help build trust and attract core 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 membership criteria established for the current UN-Habitat Governing Council. The Executive Board would meet three times a year in Nairobi to, inter alia: i) oversee the implementation of UN-Habitat’s normative and operational activities; ii) ensure accountancy, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness; iii) oversee implementation of resolutions and decisions; iv) 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; 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; viii) submit periodic reports to the UN-Habitat Assembly. All member states that are not elected members may participate as observers to Board meetings, through their permanent missions in Nairobi or otherwise. The Executive Board would report to the General Assembly through UN-Habitat Assembly which could choose to delegate authority for the Executive board to report directly in even years. The Board could also deliberate on its rule and procedures at its first session.
3. The Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) would convene in an open ended manner in Nairobi two times a year as an advisory body of the UN-Habitat Assembly. The Open Ended CPR (OECPR) would be a universal body and allow for the participation of officials from capital and representatives from countries without permanent missions in Nairobi. It would be tasked with preparing the work of the Assembly in the inter-sessional period, including by: i) drafting resolutions and decisions for the consideration of the Assembly; ii) considering the Secretary-General’s quadrennial report on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda; iii) support the Assembly in monitoring the implementation of global norms and standards in human settlements and sustainable urbanization; iv) supporting the Assembly in monitoring coherence in the implementation of urban and human settlements dimensions of the 2030 Agenda and other global agendas, including of the work of the United Nations System, v) monitoring the quadrennial report process, vi) engaging in the preparations of the World Urban Forum.

4. Furthermore, the Group understands that UN-Habitat’s financial rules and regulations and personnel, procurement and budgetary matters should be underpinned by the following principles: i) the need to maximize efficiency, effectiveness, accountability and oversight of UN-Habitat’s work; ii) the acknowledgement of the unique nature of UN-Habitat as a composite entity, that may enable it to implement its mandate, through a combined normative, operational and coordination role, in support of the inter-governmental agenda; iii) the recognition of the principle of exceptionality when addressing UN-Habitat’s specific rules and procedures so that it can operate in a manner similar to other programmes and agencies; iv) the alignment of the institutional architecture of UN-Habitat and the consistency of its rules and regulations with the relevant changes incorporated in the Secretary-General’s Management Reform, as agreed by the UNGA . 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 by the future governance structure of UN-Habitat.