

THE STRATEGIC PLAN

2020-2023

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UN-HABITAT

First session of the year 2022
29-31 March 2022

AGENDA ITEM 14

Agenda item 14

Progress made in the implementation of the working methods of the Executive Board pursuant to its decision 2020/6 and on the basis of a survey conducted by the secretariat following the request by the Executive Board at its second session of 2021 to evaluate the effectiveness of that session so as to further improve the process and outcome of future sessions, including discussions on the schedule of future sessions of the Board



| Agenda Item 14

Background document : HSP/EB.2022/INF/2

Introduction to the survey and procedure

Outcomes

- Alignment of the functions and competence of the Executive Board with the provisional agenda of the sessions of the Board
- Pre-session Documents
- Pre-session briefing by the Executive Director
- Number of sessions per year of the Executive Board
- Preparations and implementation of the second session of 2021 of the Executive Board
- Other questions



Background



The Executive Board of UN-Habitat requested the Secretariat to **conduct a survey** following its second session of 2021 through its Decision 2021/8, paragraph 9.

The aim of the survey was to **evaluate the effectiveness** of that session and explore ways to further improve both the **process and outcome of future sessions**.



The report was to be submitted for the **consideration by the Executive Board** at its first session for the year 2022

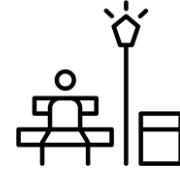


Survey



In **consultation with the Chair and the Bureau of the Executive Board for the period 2021–2022**, the Secretariat prepared a survey of the effectiveness of the 2021 second session.

Survey link circulated to all Member States on 20 January 2022. Deadline for responses extended to 7 February 2022.



- **24 responses** received by 7 February 2022 (N = 24)
- Survey with open-ended and closed (rating) questions
- 31 questions in total



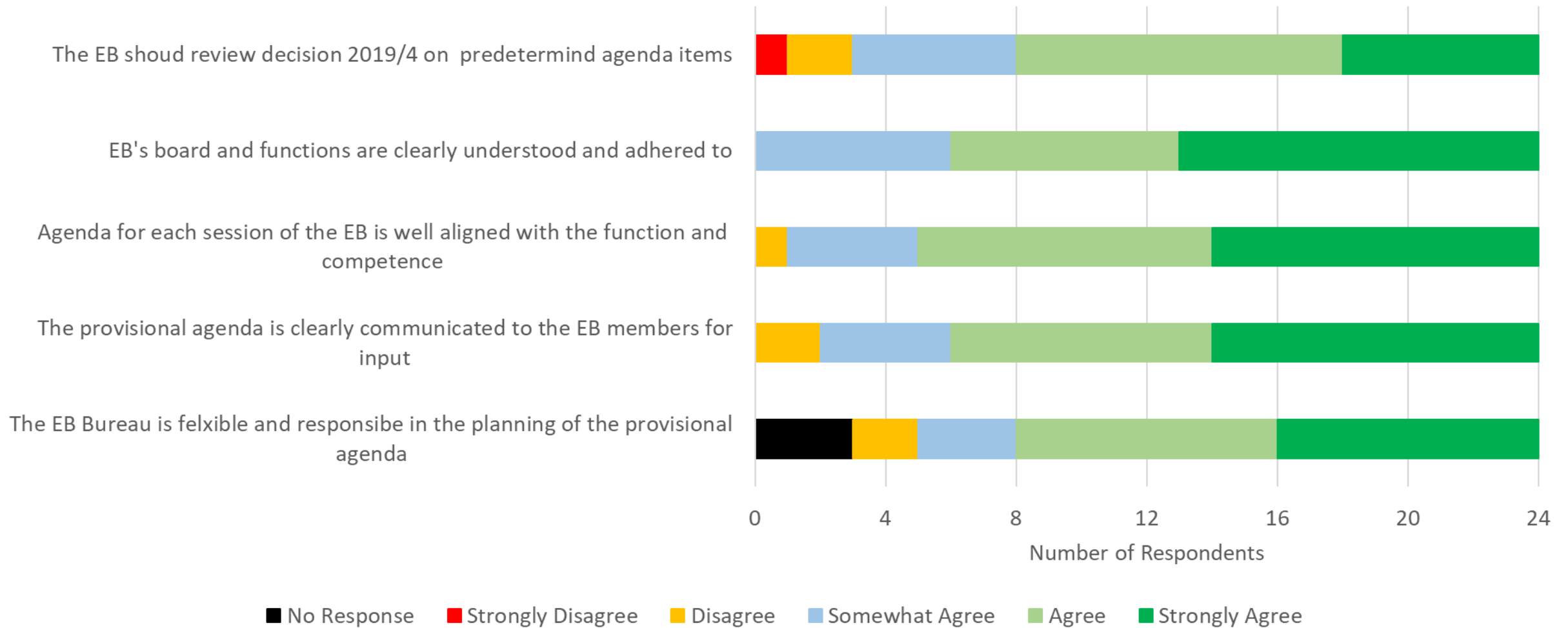


The survey was structured in 6 sections:

1. The **alignment of the functions and competence of the Executive Board** with the **provisional Agenda** of the sessions of the Board;
2. Pre-session documents;
3. Briefing by the Executive Director;
4. The number of sessions per year of the Executive Board;
5. Preparations and implementation of the 2021 second session of the Executive Board;
6. Other items.



An overview of feedback from Member States on the alignment of the functions and competence of the Executive Board



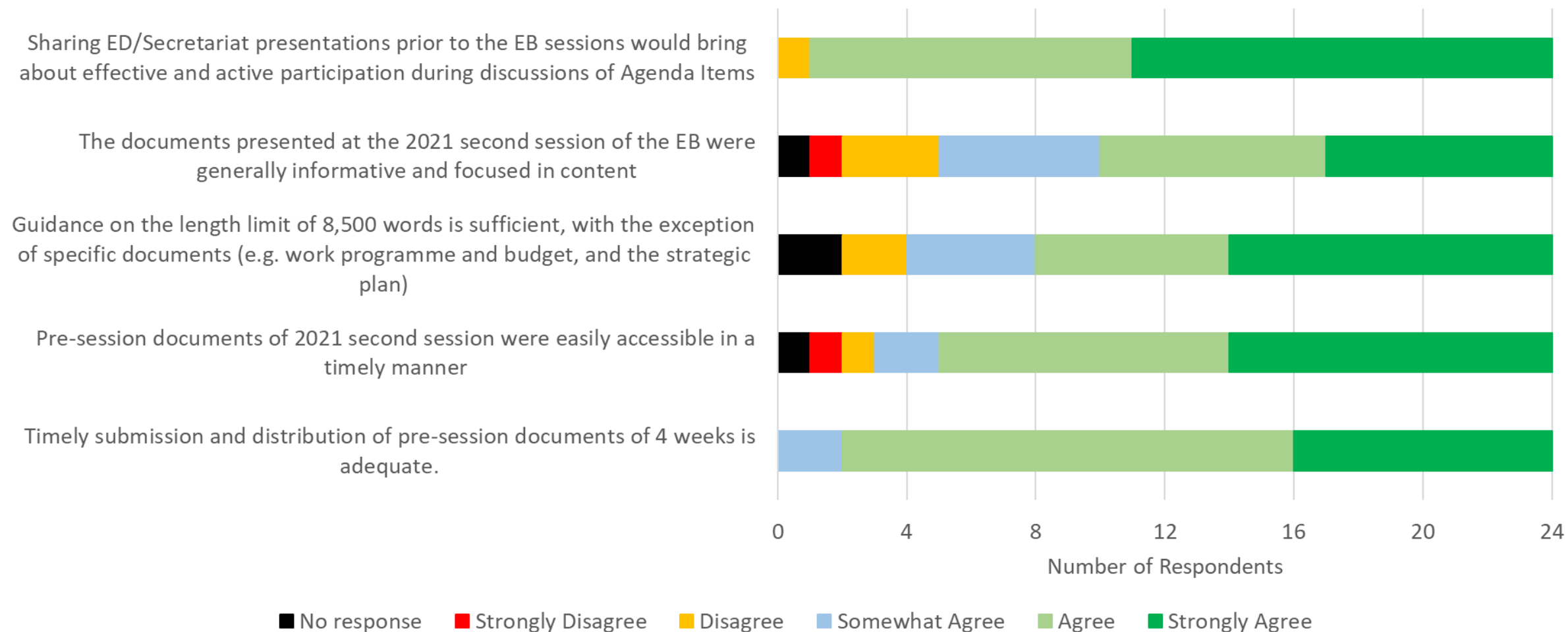
Alignment of the functions and competence of the Executive Board with the provisional agenda of the sessions of the Board

- Respondents made several suggestions:
 - Hold induction seminars for delegations;
 - Capacity-building and regular briefings;
 - Clearer and more summarised briefs;
 - Reflection of all languages on UN-Habitat website.

- Comments related to the agenda drafting process:
 - Enhance involvement of regional groups;
 - Agenda should be focussed and fit-for-purpose;
 - Flexibility of the agenda to be adjusted according to developments.



An overview of feedback from Member States on the provision of pre-session documents



Pre-session documents

- Suggestions to strengthen pre-session documents (11 respondents):
 - (a) all pre-session documents **should be focused and kept up to date** to the extent possible;
 - (b) lengthy pre-session documents should be accompanied **by abstracts or summaries**;
 - (c) **a streamlined** provisional agenda and pre-session documents were needed to guide the Executive Board towards its decisions and support those decisions;
 - (d) The role of the Executive Board was not **as a general briefing forum for Member States**, nor should it be a place for UN-Habitat to demonstrate all its work;
 - (e) The second session of 2021 of the Executive Board had had **too many pre-session documents** and that those documents were too long, taking into account the two-day duration of the session;
 - (f) draft decisions should be more **clearly connected with the relevant items of the provisional agenda** and supporting pre-session documents.



Pre-session briefing by the Executive Director

With respect to the pre-session briefing by the Executive Director, respondents noted the following:

- (a) Of the 24 respondents, 8 provided a comment with regard to this question.
- (b) Of the remaining 16, 12 respondents said that they found the **pre-session briefing useful and sufficient**;
- (c) Two respondents said that their delegations would benefit from receiving **a short-annotated agenda of the briefing prior to the briefing**;
- (d) The pre-session briefing should be conducted in such a manner as to encourage more discussion and a fuller **exchange of ideas between delegates, the Executive Director and the secretariat**.

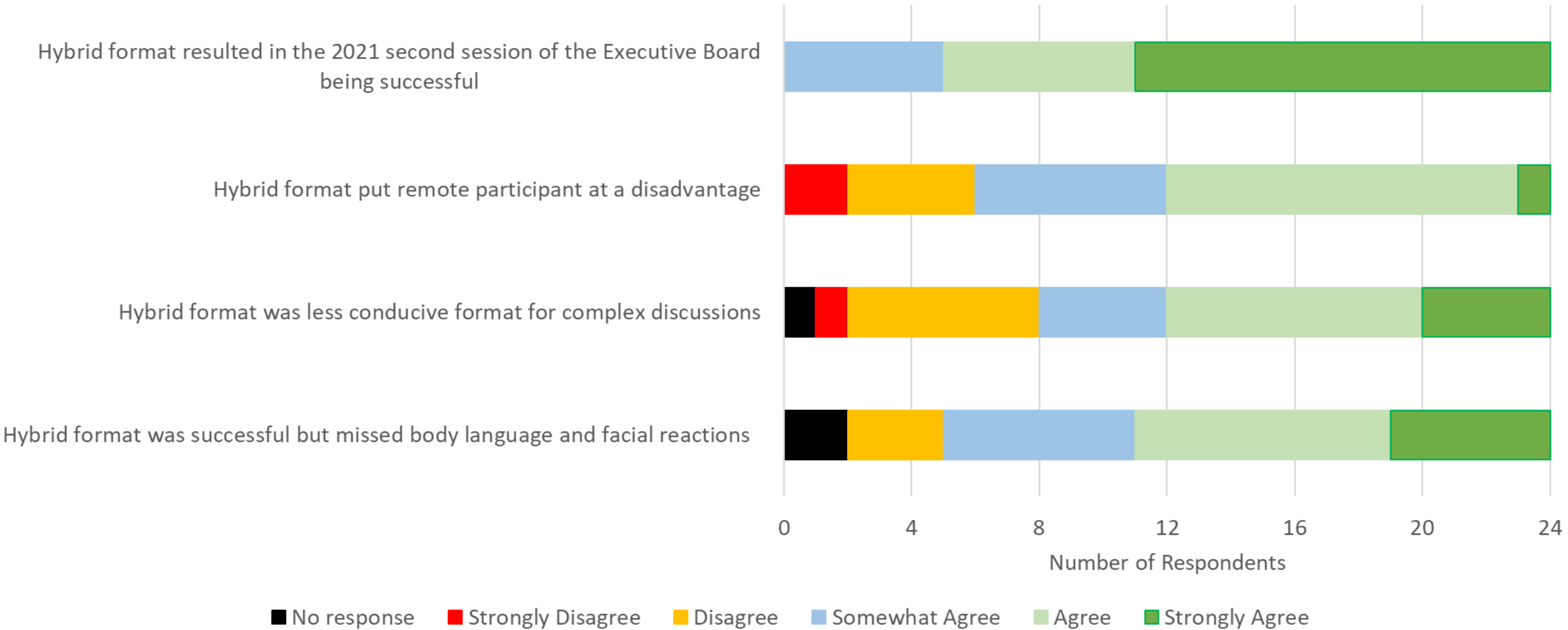


Views of respondents on how many sessions of the Executive Board are needed per year (multiple responses possible)

Response	Frequency
No response	3
Two sessions of two days	1
Four sessions (quarterly)	2
Increase the quality of the sessions, not the frequency	2
Three sessions	6
Two sessions	11
Total	25



Overview of feedback from Member States on the preparation and implementation of the second session of 2021 of the Executive Board



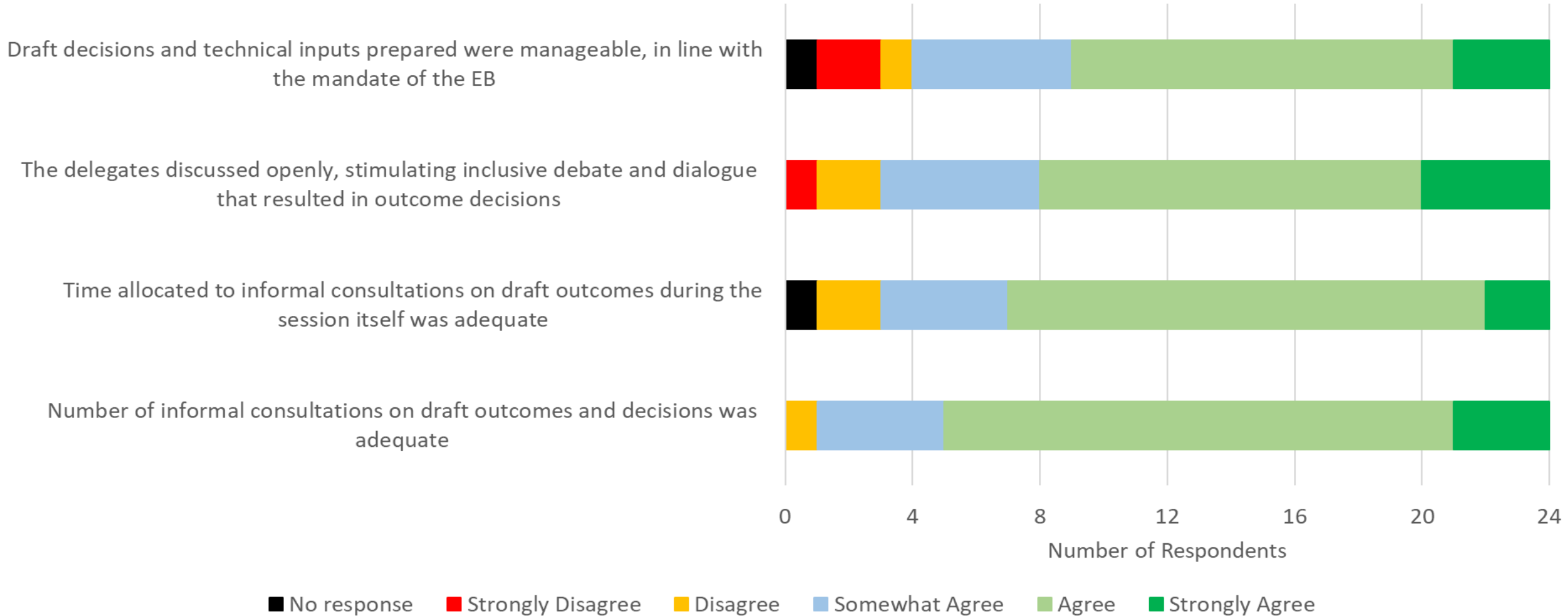
Preparations and implementation of the second session of 2021 of the Executive Board (ii)

- **Modality of upcoming sessions:**

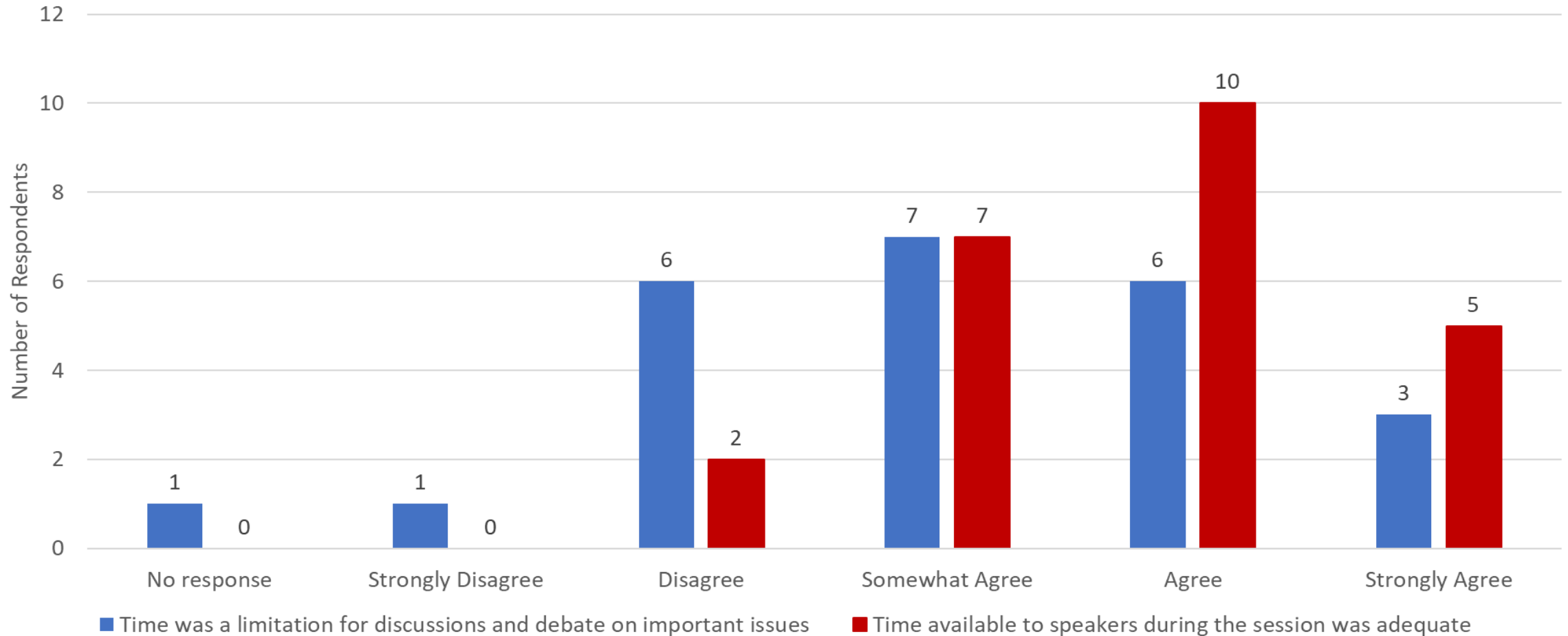
- Very low response rate, likely due to uncertainty around COVID-19;
- Preference for in-person sessions but recognition that this is unlikely;
- Consensus the hybrid sessions are most likely
- Noted advantages of hybrid modality:
 - Easier planning
 - Lower costs
 - Lower Carbon footprint
 - Fewer barriers could lead to higher participation rates.



Overview of feedback from Member States on the adequacy of the preparation for the second session of 2021 of the Executive Board



Overview of feedback from Member States on the allocation of time for statements



Findings: Preparations and implementation of the second session of 2021 of the Executive Board (v) Time management

Time management could be improved by :

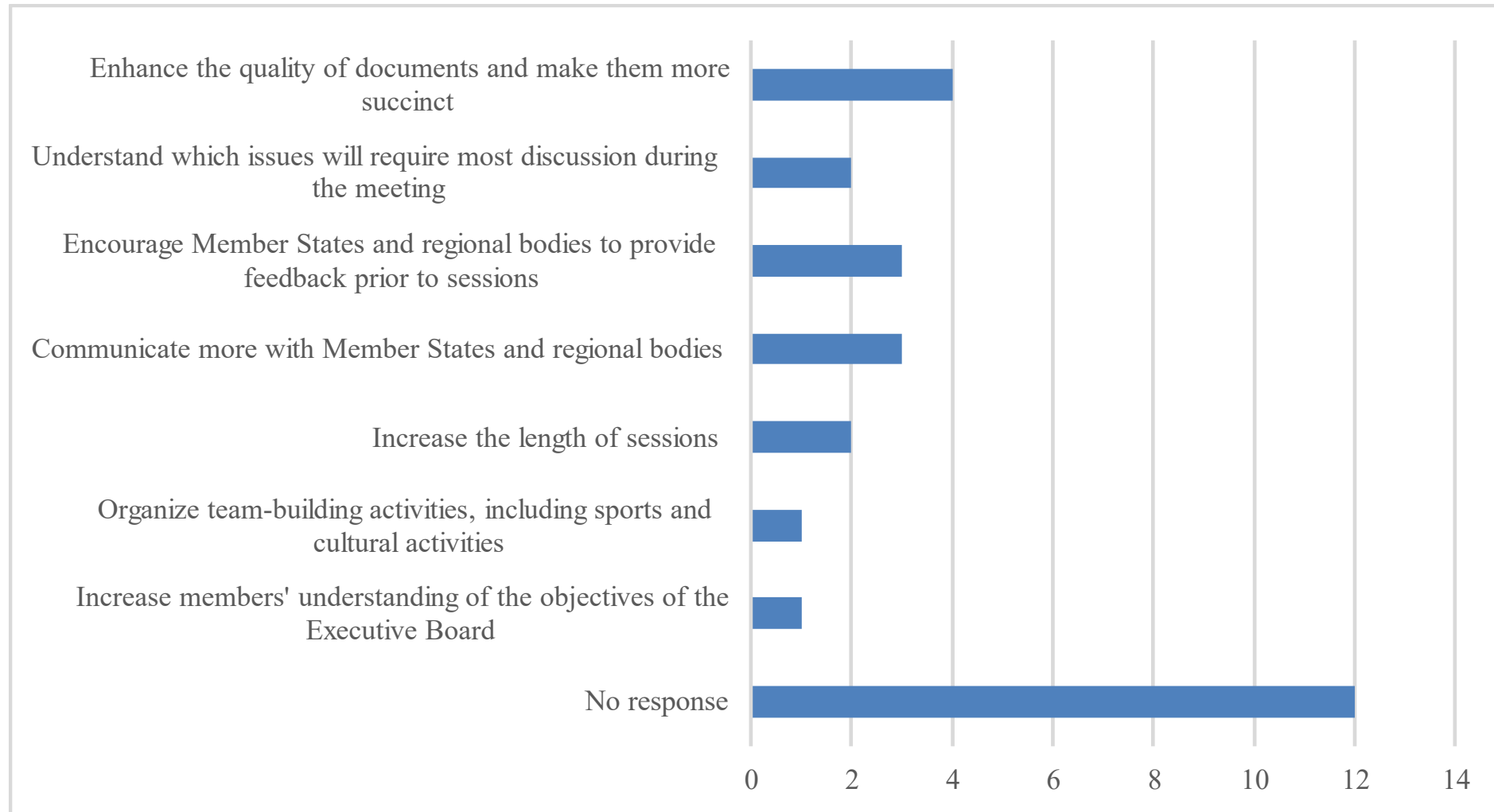
Allocating more time to the plenary for discussion;
Suggestion to complete the informal consultation ahead of the sessions;
Organising additional pre-session meeting to streamline the actual meeting.

Suggestions for the ED and Secretariat:

Create a better awareness of the most important issues for discussion;
Secretariat to liaise with COs to ensure concise contributions;
Provide more clarity on substantive contents during preparatory process;
Shorter the annotated provision agenda
Draft decision should be clearly linked to agenda items.



Overview of suggestions from respondents on ways in which the Executive Director and the secretariat could better support Member States



Cycle of preparation of the annual draft work programme and budget of UN-Habitat



Cycle of preparation of the annual draft work programme and budget

Slide to be inserted (MACS)



THANK
YOU

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