

First session of the year 2020 of Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme – 29 June 2020

Proposal enabling the Executive Board to adopt decision during the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic via the silent procedure

Draft decision 2020/1: Adoption of decisions by the Executive Board during the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic via a silent procedure when the Board is not in session

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* with concern of the situation concerning the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the limitations recommended on meetings within the United Nations;
2. *Takes note* of decision 74/544 of the General Assembly dated 27 March 2020 on ‘*Procedure for taking decisions of the General Assembly during the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.*
3. *Recalls* that Decision 74/544, authorized the President of the General Assembly, where, in his view a plenary meeting of the General Assembly is not practicable due to the coronavirus pandemic, to circulate, after consultation with the General Committee, draft decisions of the General Assembly to all Member States under a silence procedure of at least 72 hours; and decided “that, if the silence is not broken, the decision shall be considered adopted, and the General Assembly shall take note of the decision at its first plenary meeting held after the cessation of the precautionary measures as soon as the circumstances allow.”
4. *Takes note* of decision 74/555 of the General Assembly dated 15 May 2020 which decides that its decision 74/544 of 27 March 2020 shall continue to be in effect until the end of June 2020 and that the subsidiary organs of the Assembly may apply the procedure set out in decision 74/544;

Decides as follows:

5. The Chair of the Executive Board may where, in the Chair's view a plenary session of the Executive Board either in person or virtually, is not practicable due to the coronavirus pandemic, circulate, after consultation with the Bureau, draft decisions of the Executive Board to all Executive Board Members under a silence procedure and allow at least 72 hours for response;

6. The formal communication from the Chair of the Board shall be in the form of a signed letter that shall include the text of the draft decision and an indication of the specific time (East Africa time) by which any objections should be raised by Members of the Board. In addition, the communication should, if needed attach information from the Secretariat on programme budgetary implications available at the time of the circulation of the letter;

7. Should the silence not be broken, the decision shall be considered as adopted. The Chair shall circulate a letter confirming adoption and the Executive Board shall take note of the decision at a plenary meeting held physically or by virtual means. Members of the Executive Board shall be able to make written explanations of vote or position, without prejudice to such rights under the rules of procedure of the Board ;

8. Should a single Member of the Executive Board formally object to the draft decision, it shall be considered as not adopted. Should there be an amended or revised draft that the Chair may wish to put to another silence procedure then the same procedure for the circulation of the first draft as set out in paragraph 5 above shall apply; and

9. The above-mentioned procedures set out in this Decision shall be without prejudice to the procedure for the informal consideration of draft decisions to be considered at a virtual or in-person meeting.

ANNEX

Procedures for the consideration and adoption of draft decisions and the communication of objections

The draft decision should be made available at the same time the letter is sent on the Executive Board webpage in all official languages.

Members of the Executive Board wishing to make an explanation of position may do so, without prejudice to the delegations' rights under the rules of procedure to explain their position at a session of the Executive Board, in the following way: electronic versions of the statements in explanation of position received within two

weeks after the end of the silence procedure will be posted on the Executive Board webpage. The title of the draft decision/resolution will be indicated in the subject line of the e-mail to be sent to the Secretary of the Governing Bodies at: unhabitat-sgb@un.org.

Members of the Executive Board wishing to formally object to the draft decision may do so via a letter or Note Verbale addressed to the Chair of the Executive Board, expressing their formal objection. Such correspondence should be sent via email to the Secretary of the Governing Bodies at: unhabitat-sgb@un.org, clearly indicating the title of the draft decision/resolution in the subject line of the communication.

If there are objections, the Chair of the Executive Board shall circulate a letter informing that the silence has been broken. Should there be a further revised draft to be put to another silence procedure then the same procedure for the circulation of the first draft as set out in Section 4 above.
