

Draft Stakeholder Engagement Policy

1. This Stakeholder Engagement Policy (hereafter referred to as “policy”) is intended to promote consistency in the way UN-Habitat engages stakeholders at global, regional, national and local levels. The policy responds to the UN-Habitat Governing Council Resolution GC26/7 – Accreditation of 12 May 2017. It supports implementation of General Assembly resolutions A/RES/72/226 and A/RES/68/234.

2. The policy supports implementation of UN-Habitat’s strategic plan and its partnership strategy. It takes in account UN-Habitat GC resolution 19/8, the UN-Habitat Governing Council Rules of Procedures and proposed Rules of the UN-Habitat Assembly, and the Economic and Social Council Resolution (ECOSOC) 1996/31 on Consultative Relationships between the United Nations and Non-Governmental Organisations.

3. The policy provides a framework for engagement of and consultations with stakeholders who are impacted by UN-Habitat policies and programmes or may influence UN-Habitat decision-making processes. These include non-members of UN-Habitat and their representatives, including other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies; other entities and intergovernmental organizations; local authorities; non-governmental organizations and other Habitat partners.

4. The policy builds on UN-Habitat’s unique stakeholder engagement approaches including through other mediums such

as the World Urban Forum (WUF), the World Urban Campaign, and networks, partnerships and advisory boards. These and other platforms give voice to stakeholders, especially those often left behind, and promote the sharing of experiences, good practices, policies, and practical measures to address the challenges of providing adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements in a rapidly urbanizing world.

5. The policy focuses on stakeholders' consultations in UN-Habitat intergovernmental processes through accreditation, engagement in UN-Habitat work, and partnerships for sustainable urban development within the context of the NUA and SDGs with the intent to contributing to the overall achievement of the strategic vision of UN-Habitat.

A. Enhanced stakeholder engagement and consultation in UN-Habitat work

1. UN-Habitat will encourage exchange of expertise, best practices and innovative solutions in support of sustainable urbanization and facilitate networking and the exchange of knowledge between stakeholders and UN-Habitat programmes, to strengthen and improve capacities for addressing the challenges posed by rapid urbanization.

2. Stakeholders shall be consulted during the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of UN-Habitat policies and programmes. Stakeholders Advisory Groups on sustainable urban development comprising of experts from diverse backgrounds, existing UN-Habitat Networks/groups and geographical locations may be appointed by the Executive Director in their individual capacity and based on experience, to advise UN-Habitat.

3. Stakeholders shall be involved in implementation, follow-up, review and monitoring of the New Urban Agenda and relevant SDGs including the preparation of relevant reports on implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG11 and the quadrennial report on the NUA. Stakeholders shall be invited to participate in Expert Group Meetings, Advisory Boards and other mechanisms set up to facilitate report preparations, as appropriate, and within available resources. This may include encouragement of local tripartite meetings for example, with local governments, trade unions and business communities working together on specific issues.

4. UN-Habitat will strengthen stakeholder intelligence to identify strategic partners and increase collaboration for joint actions, leverage resources and mobilize various forms of investments in urbanization (from traditional and non-traditional sources). This may include working with the private sector, member states, development partners, philanthropists, foundations, civil society and other stakeholders.

5. UN-Habitat will utilize various forms of information, communication and technology including the use of webinars to facilitate stakeholder engagement and consultations on policy and programme matters. Through the Partnership Information Management System UN-Habitat will provide an on-line platform for internal and external use, especially to improve communication and exchange of information across partnerships groups and with UN-Habitat programmes.

6. UN-Habitat will support, upon request and within available resources, Members States and stakeholders' efforts to increase advocacy, communication, and partnerships for sustainable urbanization and human settlements development

at the local, national, regional and global level, with active engagement of women, youth, urban poor, grassroots and informal sector organizations, academia, local governments, parliamentarians, and other stakeholders.

7. UN-Habitat will make every effort to ensure active stakeholder engagement in UN-Habitat's unique partnership platforms, advocacy campaigns and outreach initiatives such as the World Urban Forum (WUF), regional and national urban forums, the World Urban Campaign (WUC) and thematic campaigns, World Cities Day and World Habitat Day.

8. UN-Habitat shall facilitate National Habitat Committees and/or national stakeholder advisory groups on sustainable urban development, where applicable, to spearhead, advocacy, resource mobilization, implementation and monitoring of relevant resolutions, and global agendas.

9. Stakeholders are encouraged to apply as implementing partners of UN-Habitat programmes through open and transparent processes in accordance with the UN-Habitat Implementing Partners Policy and Operating Procedures as well as UMOJA guidelines.

B. Accreditation

1. [Governing Council] Rules of Procedure, Rules 61-67 apply to the participation and accreditation of non-members [of UN-Habitat] in the deliberations of the [Governing Council] [UN-Habitat Assembly]. Those rules, as they apply to non-member States; other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies; entities, intergovernmental organizations; local authorities; and other Habitat partners, shall continue to apply *mutatis*

mutandis, as appropriate to the newly established governance structure of Habitat, including the Assembly and Executive Board and subsidiary bodies.

2. This policy is intended to streamline and strengthen the accreditation process as elaborated upon in the attached accreditation procedure which forms part of this policy.

C. Accreditation benefits [

1. Given the intergovernmental nature of the governing bodies of UN-Habitat, Member States have the prerogative to make final decisions and determine the level of participation of non-member state stakeholders, in accordance with these rules. Stakeholders have an opportunity to [provide contributions] CHI+ ~~be consulted~~—CHI- on agenda setting, policy and decision-making processes. Accredited organizations shall enjoy privileges, which include the following:

- (i) Observer status at all public meetings of the UN-Habitat governing bodies and subsidiary organs.
- (ii) Representatives of organizations shall receive official notification and invitation to make an oral or written statement, speak on a panel or organize a side event in accordance with the governing rules of procedure. These submissions may include contributions and recommendations for agenda items of sessions of the governing body and its subsidiary organs and recommendations on the subject matter of draft decisions for consideration by Member States. Advance notification shall be given, if a participation in a meeting is restricted. [Session presidents or chairs are encouraged to provide opportunities for accredited stakeholders to speak on topics of interest and areas of competency in such public meetings]; CHI-
- (iii) Stakeholder representatives are entitled to a ground pass, which allows them to attend all public meetings and events.
- (iv) Designated seats will be reserved for Major Groups in

all public meetings of the governing bodies for designated representatives.

- (v) Accredited stakeholders will have access to documents publicly available on the UN-Habitat websites and portals, official documents and reports of UN-Habitat, and documentation related to the work of the governing bodies and their subsidiary organs, including pre-session and in-session documents made available in public meetings. The UN-Habitat Secretariat will make every effort to provide access to such documents in a timely manner, using electronic and other modern information systems to facilitate delivery.
- (vi) Stakeholders shall be granted access to other relevant information portals. The UN-Habitat Secretariat will ensure that input received from Major Groups and other Stakeholders is made available on the relevant web portals.

D. Other matters

1. Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum

- (i) Prior to each session of the UN-Habitat's governing bodies and within available resources, the Secretariat shall facilitate the organization of a Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum that provides an opportunity for accredited stakeholders to consolidate their views and prepare their input to the session and its subsidiary organs.
- (ii) Member States and representatives of international organizations may participate in the Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum as observers. Major groups and stakeholders are encouraged to submit the main outcomes of such meetings in writing to the governing bodies, through the UN-Habitat secretariat, by the first working day of the session.

2. Major Groups and Stakeholders Mechanism

Accredited stakeholders may form stakeholder bodies or other groups to organize their contributions and facilitate their participation in UN-Habitat processes. While self-organized, such bodies must adhere to the principles of transparency, responsibility and accountability, and respect the diversity of views among stakeholders on all issues.

3. Use of information and communications technology to enhance effective participation

The use of modern information and communications technology will enhance the effective participation of stakeholders in a cost-effective manner. In addition to physical presence at meetings, virtual and online participation through webcasting of relevant meetings of the governing bodies and their subsidiary organs, UN-Habitat events, information platforms and discussion forums in accordance with the rules of procedure and the related access to information policy, is encouraged, to the highest degree possible, within available resources.

4. Participation of non-accredited stakeholders

[While retaining the intergovernmental nature of the Assembly and its subsidiary organs, Executive Director, the President of the Assembly or the chairperson of a subsidiary organ, in consultation with the relevant Bureau, may invite a non-accredited organization or individual, on the basis of their competency, expertise and experience, to meetings of the Assembly and its subsidiary organs for a specific task or purpose, in accordance with the existing rules of procedure.]
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E. The role of the UN Habitat Secretariat

- (i) The Secretariat, in consultation with the Habitat Executive Board, shall support stakeholder consultation in UN-Habitat policy and decision-making processes, programme design,

implementation, strategies, reports, monitoring and evaluation.

- (ii) The Secretariat liaising with Stakeholder Advisory Boards, Major Groups and Stakeholders, stakeholder's platforms, alliances, networks, civil society, grassroots, informal sector and community-based organizations shall facilitate stakeholder consultation in the monitoring and reporting on implementation of the NUA and SDGs.
- (iii) The Secretariat, through a Partner Information Management System, shall facilitate the accreditation process by processing applications for accreditation.
- (iv) The Secretariat shall also facilitate identification of new stakeholders, sharing of relevant policy and programme information with stakeholders, and linking new partners with relevant stakeholders and UN-Habitat programmes.

F. Stakeholder engagement guidance

- (i) The Secretariat shall prepare and periodically update, a stakeholder engagement handbook to guide stakeholders on how to engage and participate in UN-Habitat policy and decision-making processes in the context of intergovernmental processes, and in programme design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- (ii) The Member States take special note of ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31 "Consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations" and

where interpretation of this policy or annex is unclear, will look to that resolution for direction.

G. Funding

1. Funding for stakeholder participation shall be accounted for in the UN-Habitat programme of work and budget. UN-Habitat strives to mobilize adequate funding including through extra-budgetary resources, to support stakeholder participation, particularly for the least developing countries where sustainable urbanization is a major concern.
2. Member states are invited to provide financial resources or take other initiatives to support participation of stakeholders in relevant processes, particularly those from the least developing countries where sustainable urbanization is a major concern.

H. Conclusion

This stakeholder engagement policy, when implemented effectively is intended to enhance trust and a sense of contribution to UN-Habitat's work and agenda by stakeholders at various levels by promoting transparency, accountability, and equality of stakeholders in their engagement and participation towards common goals.