

## **2023 Second Bureau Meeting of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat**

Hybrid format – Tuesday, 14 March 2023

14:30-16:00 hrs. East Africa Time (EAT)

**Statement by the Executive Director**

*(Draft 12 March 2023 )*

### **SLIDE 0: Title slide**

#### **Slide 1: Provisional Agenda**

*Adoption of the Agenda led by the Chair.*

- 1) Adoption of the provisional Agenda.
- 2) Briefing on progress made on preparations for the session.
- 3) Status of draft decisions to be possibly adopted during the first session of the Executive Board in 2023.
- 4) Any other matters.

#### **Slide 2 (Title slide): AGENDA ITEM 2 - Briefing on progress made on preparations for the session**

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,

Good afternoon and welcome to this second meeting of the Bureau of the Executive Board for the year 2023.

Thank you Mr. Chairman for your presence yesterday as we briefed Member States on the preparations for the upcoming 2023 first session of the Executive Board and for guiding that meeting.

Excellencies,

Since we already provided a general update yesterday on the preparations for the upcoming session allow me not to repeat what has already been shared at that meeting in terms of the items of the provisional agenda and the organization of work

which as a matter of fact this Bureau already approved at the 2023 first Bureau meeting held on 8 February 2023.

Instead I wish to simply highlight some the expectations we have for the session for which the Bureau may further react and give guidance as necessary.

### **Slide 3. Item 2. Expectations on the 2023 first session of the Executive board**

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies

1.First, with regard to the **financial status of UN-Habitat**, we will update the Executive Board on our current financial status. As you now know, the non-earmarked Foundation is in a historically healthy position and our current operation is based on the \$3 million budget approved by the Board for 2023. In this regard, I welcome any recommendation by the Bureau and subsequently any guidance by the Board with respect to our finances, including on the financial reserve and on the principles of the scalability model.

2.Second, with regard to the **Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation**, we hope to present to the Executive Board the findings of the analysis of the reputational risks related to the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation as requested by the Executive Board at the 2022 second session under decision 2022/5. Our expectation is that the Executive Board may issue further guidance to enable UN-Habitat to enter into a contribution agreement with Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation and receive the donation from the Foundation.

3.Third, at the upcoming session, the agenda item related to the **Normative and Operational activities** of UN-Habitat as you now know will focus on the need for and the possible benefits of the development of the model of Sustainable Development Goals Cities certification

Our expectation is that any decisions made by the Executive Board will enable us to rally Governments, our partners across the United Nations system, the private sector and other actors so that we can jointly further develop the Sustainable Development Goals Cities certification model.

As stated yesterday, I am very grateful for continued interest of Member States on this subject, and I look forward to your further guidance at the upcoming session of the Executive Board.

4. Fourth, with respect to **the upcoming second session of United Nations Habitat Assembly**, the Executive Board will be briefed on the preparations for that session. We expect that the Executive Board will consider and recommend to the Assembly a draft stakeholder engagement policy for further consideration. The Executive Board may also make additional recommendations for the consideration by the Assembly at its second session.

I take this opportunity to thank all Member States through the Bureau in actively engaging in the informal consultations under the leadership of the Chair of the CPR to prepare for the Assembly, which has provided us a very important pathway to consult and efficiently work with Member States towards a successful second session of the Assembly.

Mr. Chairman

Before I conclude my remarks, I wish to confirm that we have communicated with the office of the President of the UN-Habitat Assembly, the Host country Kenya, as well as the office of the Director General of UNON regarding the possibility of making brief remarks at the opening of the upcoming session . We will keep the Bureau updated of any confirmations.

We are also ready to respond any questions that the Bureau may have with regard to the general preparations for the upcoming session of the Executive Board.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

Back to you.

**Slide 4: Status of draft decisions to be possibly adopted during the first session of the Executive Board in 2023.**

*To be led by the Chairman*

*Briefing to be done by PR of Pakistan in her capacity as Chair of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters (PBA) that is handling draft decisions.*

**Slide 3: AGENDA ITEM 4- (TITLE SLIDE). Any other matters**

*(To be led by the Chair).*

1. **AOB by the Chair: Refer to the letter from the DSG, the checklist developed to facilitate the oversight of the implementation of the repositioning of the United Nations development system by the governing bodies** of the respective entities of the United Nations and the request to put this as an agenda item of the EB.
2. **Suggested AOB by the Executive Director: Possible risks that may be associated with the upcoming elections.** *(To be introduced by the Executive Director and be detailed by Chris Mensah)*

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,

We as a Secretariat wish to share with the Bureau at this point what we would like to consider as the **possible risks that may be associated with the upcoming elections** to be held during the second open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat (CPR) and during the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.

Focusing specifically on elections during the upcoming second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, you would recall that the 36 members of the Executive Board are to be elected by the UN-Habitat Assembly at that session for a new term of four years, following which the Executive Board will hold its 2023 second session on the margins of the UN-Habitat Assembly to elect its own Bureau from among the newly elected 36 Members.

Mr. Chairman

Allow me to call on Mr. Mensah to highlight some of the risks and options available regarding the elections, keeping in mind particularly that the Executive Board has

already recommended for consideration by the UN-Habitat Assembly, that the current strategic plan 2020 – 2023 be extended to cover the period 2020 – 2025 and that the planning cycles of UN-Habitat be aligned with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR).

With your permission, Mr. Chairman, Chris, you have the floor.

*(after the briefing by Chris)*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman back to you.