

Summary of the tenth meeting of the Ad-Hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and Administrative matters of the Executive Board

Monday 18 January 2021 – 14:30 – 16:30 East Africa Time

Chair: H.E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to UN-Habitat and Co-Chair of the Ad-Hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and Administrative matters

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The tenth Ad-Hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters of the Executive Board adopted the provisional agenda as follows:

1. Adoption of the Agenda,
2. Discussions on the orientation for the development of the draft Work Programme of UN-Habitat for the year 2022
3. Any other matters

After the adoption of the Agenda, the meeting considered Agenda item 2, namely discussions on the orientations for the development of the draft work programme of UN-Habitat for the year 2022.

2. Discussions on the orientations for the development of the draft Work Programme of UN-Habitat for the year 2022

- i. The Chair recalled that during the 2020 second session of the Executive Board held from 27 to 29 October 2021, in paragraph 6 to 9 of Decision 2020/6, the Board took note of the need to align the sessions of the Executive Board for the year 2021 with the preparatory and approval process of the draft 2022 work programme and budget of UN-Habitat. The Executive Board therefore requested, , the Ad-Hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters, to discuss the draft work programme of UN-Habitat for the year 2022 in readiness for submission to the Controller of the United Nations in New York by 15 January 2021, followed by a review by the Committee on Programme Coordination and subsequent approval by the Executive Board.
- ii. Before giving the floor to the Secretariat, the Chair emphasized that subsequent to the instructions contained in Decision 2020/6, UN-Habitat has since received new guidance from the Secretary General of the United Nations and the UN-Controller with respect to the timeline for preparations of the work programme and budget for the year 2022. The tenth meeting of the Ad-Hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and Administrative matters of the Executive Board, has therefore been rescheduled in order to allow time for adequate preparations towards a meaningful discussion on the priorities of the Organization within the context of the strategic plan towards the development of the Work Programme of UN-Habitat for the year 2022.
- iii. The Secretariat provided a briefing on the orientations for the development of the draft Work Programme of UN-Habitat for the year 2022. The full presentation by the Secretariat can be accessed [here](#).

The briefing highlighted the following:

- i. UN-Habitat reiterated that its area of focus and related work programme for 2022 is guided by the strategic plan 2020-2023. Due to the reduction of core resources, certain expected outcomes of the Strategic Plan have been deprioritized, while other outcomes have become more important due to the current existing urban challenges.
- ii. The Secretariat reiterated the following urban challenges faced in 2022, which form the basis

of the proposed priority areas for 2022:

- a) The majority of urban growth continues to be unplanned,
 - b) The urban poor suffers the worst consequences of climate change, crises and conflicts,
 - c) Cities are critical hotspots in the climate crisis,
 - d) The COVID-19 Pandemic revealed the deep systemic inequalities that exist across territories urban areas.
- iii. The Secretariat updated that UN-Habitat's response to these urban challenges is to mobilize the transformative potential of urbanization to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and other global frameworks.
- iv. The Secretariat presented the its proposed area of priorities in the implementation of the sub-programmes of the Strategic Plan:
- Achieving catalytic impact and strengthening the collaboration with other UN agencies and the broad field of urban stakeholders
 - Streamlining human rights, gender and social inclusion to address key cross-cutting issues.
 - Monitoring global progress on urbanization and developing and rolling out the Global Urban Monitoring Framework.
 - Strengthening normative work and capacity building approach to operationalize the digital transformation dimension in sustainable urbanization contexts.
- v. The Secretariat further presented the Sub-Programmes of the Strategic Plan for the period 2020-2023 as follows:
- Reduced spatial equality and poverty in communities across the urban- rural continuum,
 - Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions,
 - Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment,
 - Effective urban crisis prevention and response.
- vi. Three UN-Habitat flagship programmes in 2022, which will operate as vehicles to fast track integration between normative and operational work. These are as follows:
1. Sustainable Development Goal Cities (SDG cities)
 2. RISE-UP (Resilient Settlements for the Urban Poor)
 3. Inclusive Cities: Enhancing the positive impacts of urban migration.

Member States raised no issues under this item when the floor was opened for discussions on the presentation.

3. Any other matters

Update by the Secretariat on the timeline towards the preparation process of the draft work programme and budget of UN-Habitat for the year 2022

- i. The Secretariat updated that the Programme Planning and Budget Division (PPBD) informed that UN-Habitat's submission date for the draft work programme would be 11 February 2021 and 22 February 2021 for the draft budget. The Secretariat took this opportunity to reiterate that the roadmap towards the preparation process of the draft work programme and budget of UN-Habitat for the year 2022, will be in line with the delivery of the 2020-2023 UN-Habitat strategic plan.

- ii. The Chair recalled that during its meeting held on 11 January 2021, the Bureau recommended that should there be any need to adjust the schedule of meetings, it should be done in consultation with the Ad-hoc working group.
- iii. The Chair further emphasized that though the deadline for submission of the draft work programme and budget to NY is 22 February 2021, it is crucial that the Ad-hoc working group holds 2 meetings before 15 February 2021, taking into account that the Secretariat must submit the document to Conference Services in line with the rules of procedure of the Board deadline for issuing documents in all six UN official languages is 4 weeks in advance of the session, which will be 9 March 2021, considering the time factor for Conference Services to work on the document.

The Ad-Hoc working group recommended the following:

- i. UN-Habitat will be expected to transmit the draft work programme and budget of UN-Habitat for the year 2022 to Member States on **Wednesday 27 January 2021**
- ii. The Ad-hoc working group will meet to review and discuss the proposed Work Programme and budget for 2022 on **Thursday 4 February 2021 and Monday 8 February 2021.**
- iii. The inputs received during these two meetings will allow the Secretariat to finalize the budget associated with the draft Work Programme prior to its submission to New York by 22 February 2021.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3.30PM East African Time (EAT)