

Ad hoc working group on stakeholder engagement policy of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat

Mandate and background

This document presents an overview of the mandate of the ad hoc working group on stakeholder engagement policy, as requested by the ad hoc working group during its second meeting held on 21 March 2022

1. In 2017, [Governing Council Resolution 26/7](#) requested the Executive Director, in consultation with Member States, to develop a draft stakeholder engagement policy, drawing on best practices and models from relevant multilateral institutions and exploring new mechanisms to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society, and to submit the draft policy by the end of 2017 for consideration by the Committee of Permanent Representatives with a view to submitting it for consideration and possible approval by the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session.
2. The same resolution also recognized the need to reform the accreditation system, in consultation with member states, drawing on best practices and models from relevant multilateral institutions, to ensure the active participation of all relevant stakeholders, the monitoring of accreditation, and the enhancement of transparency and accountability.
3. Subsequently, an ad hoc working group on stakeholder engagement policy chaired by USA was created and held its first meeting in March 2018.
4. In support of this exercise, the Secretariat provided background information and good practices on stakeholder engagement in the work of selected UN agencies, funds and programmes and other multilateral institutions.
5. The ad hoc working group on stakeholder engagement policy could not reach consensus. The main area of contention was the accreditation procedure and what would happen if a member state objected to accreditation of a non-governmental organization.
6. The full report of the Chair of the ad hoc working group on the stakeholder engagement policy was submitted to the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and disseminated to Member States in May 2019.
7. The UN-Habitat Assembly, at its first session held in May 2019, in its [decision 1/3](#) on the Arrangements for the transition towards a new governance structure for UN-Habitat, decided ‘on an exceptional basis, to entrust the Executive Board with continuing the discussions on, and completing as soon as possible, the development of UN-Habitat stakeholder engagement policy, as requested by the Governing Council Resolution 26/7, with a view to its provisional implementation based on consensus, and to submit the draft policy for consideration and possible approval by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its second session.
8. Subsequently, the ad hoc working group on stakeholder engagement policy was created by the Executive Board through its [decision 2019/ 3](#) under paragraph 5 ‘with a view to agreeing, as soon as possible, on a draft stakeholder engagement policy and presenting it to the Executive Board for agreement based upon consensus and provisional implementation, pending consideration and possible approval by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its second session’.

9. The ad hoc working group met for a first organizational meeting on 11 March 2020 and acknowledged the need to first prepare the stakeholder engagement policy before the accreditation procedure.
10. At its second session of the year 2021, the Executive Board elected Switzerland as chair of the ad hoc working group.
11. The working group met on 23 March 2022 to discuss and agree the scope of work and timeframe for the working group, get feedback on expectations of different actors.
12. The working group agreed that its scope of work and focus be on stakeholder engagement in intergovernmental processes and UN-Habitat governance structure.
13. The working group further agreed to focus first on the modalities of the stakeholder engagement, and then focuses on the accreditation procedure.
14. The ad hoc working group agreed to start the substantive discussions on stakeholder engagement in May 2022 with the aim to conclude the discussions on modalities of stakeholder engagement before the second session of the Executive Board later this year 2022.
15. Subsequently, discussions on accreditation procedures should start after the second session of the Executive Board for the year 2022 and recommended that the stakeholder engagement and the accreditation procedure be concluded prior to the first session of the Executive Board in 2023, for recommendation to the UN-Habitat Assembly at its second session in June 2023.
