

Organizational and Personnel Accountability within UN-Habitat

(implementing the accountability framework of the United Nations Secretariat)

AGENDA ITEM 3

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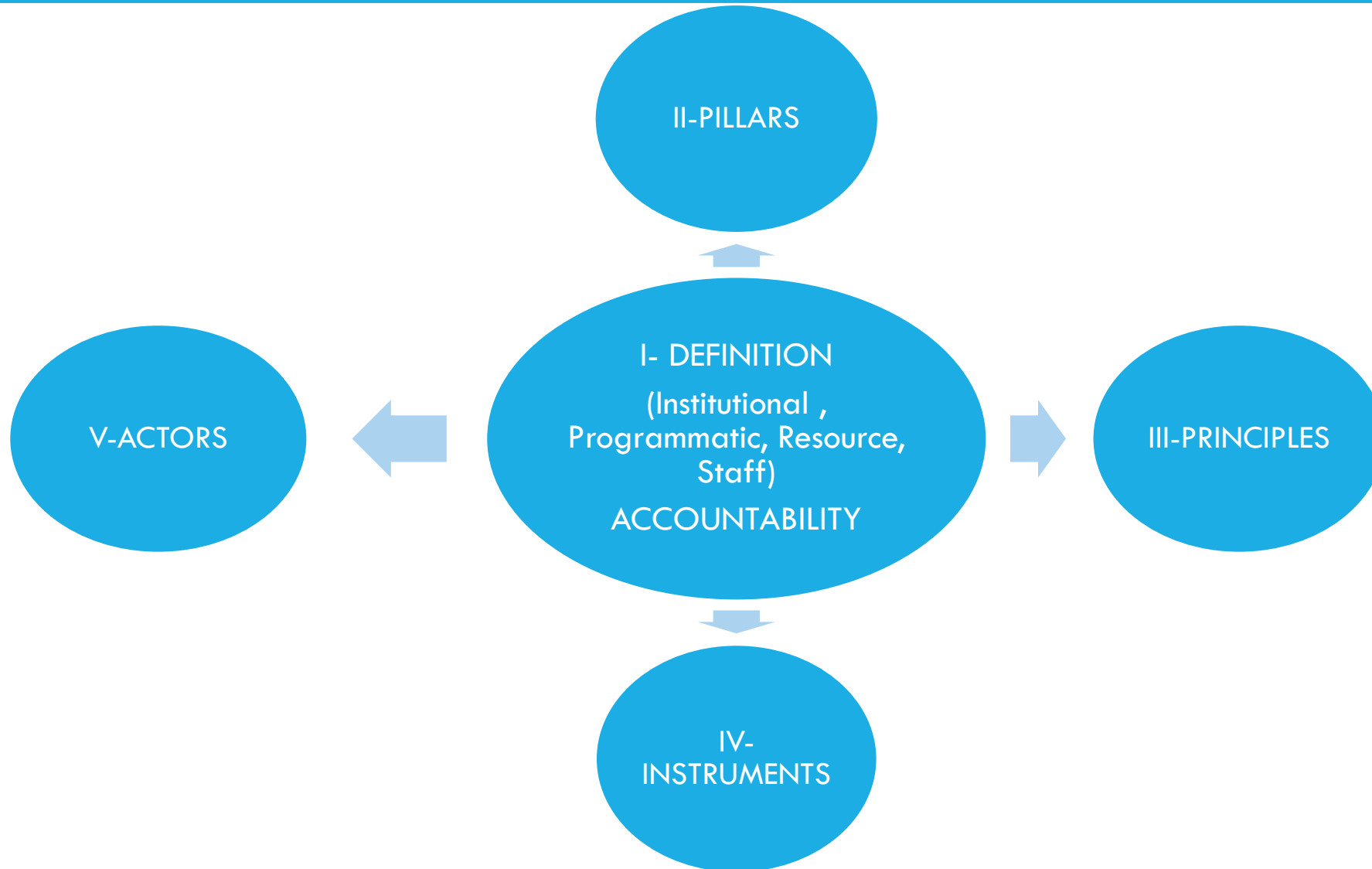
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| Agenda Item 3 – Background and Purpose

- United Nations Secretariat developed an Accountability Framework pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 63/276 ;
- UN-Habitat, as part of the United Nations Secretariat, operates under the UN Secretariat accountability framework;
- The document entitled “ **Organizational and personnel accountability within the United Nations Human Settlements Programme: implementing the accountability framework of the United Nations Secretariat**” is submitted pursuant to paragraph 7 of decision 2019/1 of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat;
- This presentation is intended to illustrate how the Secretariat accountability framework is applied to the specific environment of UN-Habitat, as a programme of the Secretariat;



| Item 3 – Accountability Framework Components



| Accountability Framework – Component I: Definition

Definition (General Assembly resolution 64/259) *“the obligation of the Secretariat and its staff members to be answerable for all decisions made and actions taken by them and to be responsible for honouring their commitments, without qualification or exception.”*

- ❖ **Institutional accountability:** UN-Habitat organizational and personnel accountability is founded upon **the mission and mandates of the Programme**, as approved by the governing bodies and in accordance with the provisions and principles of the Charter. UN-Habitat is accountable to its governing bodies through the Executive Director,
- ❖ **Programmatic accountability:** UN-Habitat programmatic accountability is defined through its **strategic plans and its approved annual programme of work**. The Executive Director is accountable and responsible for all the activities of UN-Habitat, as well as its administration.
- ❖ **Resource accountability:** UN-Habitat managers and staff members are accountable for the effective management of the **human, financial, physical, information and contractual resources** entrusted to them. Managers are accountable to the Executive Directors on the use of resources.
- ❖ **Staff accountability:** Staff are accountable for exercising **their authority and achieving agreed results** as outlined in their individual performance appraisals. Staff are accountable to the managers on their performance.



| Accountability Framework – Component II : Pillars

Pillars (5)

Results: high-quality, timely and cost-effective;

Delivery : Fully implementing and delivering on all mandates to the Secretariat;

Reporting: Truthful, objective, accurate, timely

Stewardship: Responsible use of funds and resources;

Performance: System of rewards and sanctions; key role of the oversight bodies



| Accountability Framework – Component III : Principles

Principles (5)

Integrity: Maintaining a sense of duty and purpose to uphold the values of the United Nations and to act with honesty and with the best interest of the Organization in mind;

Transparency: Making timely information relating to the activities of the organization accessible to all stakeholders;

Decentralization: Delegating authority at all levels of management, to bring decision-making closer to the point of delivery, while ensuring transparency and accountability;

Simplicity: Establishing a policy framework that is fit for purpose and easy to understand, interpret and apply;

Diversity: Accommodating a global organization with a culturally and geographically diverse, gender-balanced, international and multitalented workforce, through an effective and easily accessible policy framework.



| Accountability Framework – Component IV: Instruments



Accountability Framework – Component V : Actors

Governing bodies

- General Assembly
- United Nations Habitat Assembly
- Committee of Permanent Representatives
- Executive Board

Secretary-General and United Nations Secretariat

Executive Director and Programme secretariat

Programme personnel



Accountability Framework: Assessing and Monitoring accountability in UN-Habitat

- a) **Executive Board** : review of, among other things, the annual report on the implementation of the Programme's strategic plan, the progress report on its financial status, the report on staffing and the report on recruitment, equitable geographical distribution and gender parity;
- b) **Annual review and strengthening of Secretariat accountability by the Secretary-General and the General Assembly**
- c) **Management review by the Joint Inspection Unit:** In 2021, the Joint Inspection Unit is scheduled to conduct an independent review of the management and administration of UN-Habitat;
- d) **Annual external audit by the Board of Auditors;**
- e) **Annual internal audits, investigations, inspections and evaluations by the Office of Internal Oversight Services ;**



Accountability Framework: Assessing and Monitoring accountability in UN-Habitat

- (f) Continuous monitoring by the Business Transformation and Accountability Division of the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance.**
- (g) Independent evaluations: Independent Evaluation Unit established in January 2012**
- (h) Continuous oversight of the accountability system and risk management processes: a risk oversight and accountability committee at the senior management level,**
- (i) Certification of internal controls: Certification of the adequacy of the internal control system from 2021**
- (j) In-house focal point for conduct and discipline**



THANK YOU!

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