



UN-HABITAT

Brief on progress in development of a stakeholder engagement policy

Executive Board of UN-Habitat

23rd Meeting of the Ad hoc working group on stakeholder engagement policy

25 March 2024 – 2:30 pm to 4.30pm EAT



Overview of progress to date

- Historical background, Mandate, Rationale, Progress to-date, challenges, and way forward.



UN-Habitat established record on stakeholders' engagement:

- Habitat II
- Rio +20
- Development of 2030 Agenda for sustainable development
- Habitat III

- 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 (OP 3).



Mandate – Decision 1/3 and 2/4 of the UN-Habitat Assembly

- Decided, on an exceptional basis, to entrust the Executive Board with continuing discussions on, and completing as soon as possible, the development of a UN-Habitat stakeholder engagement policy, as requested by the Governing Council in its resolution 26/7, with a view to its provisional implementation, on the basis of consensus, and to submit the draft policy for consideration and possible approval by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its second session (Decision 1/3, 2019, OP 5);
- Requested the Executive Board, on an exceptional basis, to continue its work to develop a stakeholder engagement policy and to submit the draft policy for consideration and possible approval by the Assembly at its resumed regular second session (Decision 2/4)

- 2019/3: Decided to establish an ad hoc working group on stakeholder engagement policy.
- 2020/6: Recommended the ad hoc working group on the development of a stakeholder engagement policy to resume its work once in-person meetings were possible.
- 2021/8: Appointed Switzerland as the Chair of the Ad hoc working Group on stakeholder engagement policy.
- 2023/D: *Elected* Portugal to chair the ad hoc working group on the development of a stakeholder engagement policy.

- A stakeholder engagement policy would streamline stakeholder engagement in intergovernmental processes and meetings – UN-Habitat Assembly, Committee of Permanent Representatives, Executive Board and related ad hoc working groups.
- To check relevance to UN-Habitat mandate and agendas of governing bodies meetings and allow for continuous accreditation instead of every four years.
- To provide accreditation procedure.

Specific resolution on accreditation: 19/8 (OP4)
United Nations ECOSOC
Resolution 1996/31.

- The Secretariat carried out an analysis of stakeholder engagement policies, strategies, handbooks and other mechanisms of more than 15 UN agencies, funds and programmes, and other multilateral institutions in 2017 and 2022, respectively. The analyses were used as background information to this exercise.
- A consultative process was initiated, and draft stakeholder engagement policies and accreditation procedure were drafted in 2018 and 2022, respectively.
- There was no consensus before the First and second sessions of the UN-Habitat Assembly in 2019 and 2023.
- The work continues up to-date after extension.

- Switzerland as Chair decided to start the process afresh in 2022.
- The Secretariat shared two background documents on the practices of UN-Habitat and the UN system, respectively.
- Member states and stakeholders reviewed a draft outline of the stakeholder engagement policy, which formed the basis for preparation of the Zero draft.
- The current draft is dated Second reading version of 18 May 2023.



The Challenges to the process

- Overall, there has been good progress, but there remains some hurdles to overcome.
- Chapter five on accreditation remains a challenge, and key to this, is the issue of objection to participation of CSOs in the meetings of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
- The current rules provided for in resolution 19/8 do not provide a step-by-step guide as to the process to be followed, when an objection is received.



UN-Habitat Assembly Experience and the way forward

- With an on-going objection case, it is imperative that member states can reach consensus and guide the Secretariat possibly through adoption of the stakeholder engagement policy.



Thank you