



1st Meeting, resumed, of the UN-Habitat Executive Board

Nairobi, 19-20 November 2019

Agenda item 3

Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

Statement by the Permanent Representative of Brazil to UN-Habitat

Ambassador Fernando Estellita Lins de Salvo Coimbra

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil is pleased to participate in this continuation of the first meeting of the Executive Board. As a country that spared no effort to achieve the reform of the governance structure of UN Habitat, we are convinced that we are now better equipped to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and of the Sustainable Development Goals. In face of the challenges and opportunities associated with urban sustainability, the new governance structure came in good time. Let us seize it.

One of the principal functions of this Executive Board is to provide budgetary and management oversight to UN-Habitat. It is only natural, therefore, that the first substantive agenda item before us today relates to financial, budgetary and administrative matters.

The financial crisis from which UN Habitat is recovering has been understandably focusing the attention of delegations to the budgetary competences of the Executive Board. I take this opportunity to commend the leadership of the Executive Director in dealing with this pressing issue. There have been significant improvements, but challenges persist. In order to allow UN-Habitat to achieve its full potential, donors should be encouraged to significantly increase the non-earmarked funding made available to the Programme that will allow it to better deliver on its normative track. A greater engagement of the private sector is also encouraged. Furthermore, it is important to discuss the development of a consistent methodology for cost recovery – which is one of the key findings of the Board of Auditors. Brazil also supports the creation of an Ad Hoc WG to deepen deliberations on this important issue in the intersessional period.

Mr. Chairman,

I thank the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director for the information already made available regarding the proposals for restructuring UN-Habitat. Brazil wishes to note that this Executive Board has

budgetary, financial and management oversight authority. Therefore, we look forward for consultations within the Executive Board on the guidance to be given in this important matter. A new structure of UN Habitat should be conceived to be able to deliver not only the current Strategic Plan, but also future plans to come. We are of the opinion that higher prominence should be given to capacity building, so as to properly allow UN Habitat to overcome silo culture and deliver as one – as stated time and again by the Secretary-General and as reiterated by the UN Habitat Assembly earlier this year through its Resolution 1/3. We also look forward to further discussing the role and operations of the UN Habitat regional offices

Mr. Chairman,

I also wish to draw the attention of the Executive Board to the staffing report as at 30 June 2019.

A fair representation of male and female staff and equitable geographical distribution would benefit UN Habitat by ensuring diversity of perspective which increases the creativity in the work environment and increases its legitimacy. Let me recall that achieving equitable geographic balance in the Secretariat is an objective determined in the UN Charter itself, in Article 101(3).

A careful examination of the information contained in this report indicates that UN Habitat is still far from achieving the desirable ranges of geographical representation and gender balance within the Secretariat. The fact that 81 out of the 180 professional posts – that is, 45% – come from the same regional group is an indicator of the serious imbalances we are facing. Many countries and regional groups are severely under-represented. It is also concerning that 122 Member States have no nationals working in the Secretariat. The imbalance also exists between women and men, not only in quantity but also vertically in the hierarchical structure of the Programme.

This is why Brazil proposes that the Executive Board requests the Executive Director to submit a comprehensive report on human resources at its second session. In exercising its administrative oversight authority, this Board should also urge UN-Habitat to seize the opportunities of the current and future recruitment processes to implement measures that would contribute to the efforts of meeting equitable ranges of geographical representation and gender balance.

Thank you.