

2020 first session of the Executive Board
of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
29 June 2020, Online

Agenda item 2c: Reports of the Ad-hoc Working Groups of the Executive Board

**Statement by the Chair of the Executive Board on behalf of
the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to UN-Habitat and
Chair of the Ad-Hoc working group on Stakeholder Engagement Policy**

Excellencies,

As you aware 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”.

The ad-hoc working has met once on 11 March 2020 during which Member States were briefed by the Secretariat on that status of the draft of the Stakeholder Engagement Policy as at 7 May 2019 and on the draft UN-Habitat Procedure for Accreditation of Non-Governmental Organizations as at 8 May 2019.

At that meeting, the working group determined the issues around the draft Stakeholder Engagement policy and Accreditation procedure as follows:

1. The need to prioritize what comes first between the draft Stakeholder Engagement policy and the draft Accreditation procedure.
3. The contentious issue under the Accreditation procedure that has to do with what happens if a Member State objects to a non-governmental organization’s application for accreditation and, whether the decision to exclude an NGO belongs to the Committee of Member States or to the Member State that raises the objection.
4. The ambiguity on the process for approval of accreditation. Specifically, at what stage does the secretariat inform the applicant on approval or denial of accreditation? Is it after the Secretariat has reviewed the application and

established that the NGO meets the criteria for accreditation, or, is it after Member States have reviewed the list of recommended organizations for approval on a no objection basis?

Excellencies,

Given the many issues surrounding the draft Accreditation procedure and, the fact that decision 2019/3 specifically requested the Ad-hoc working group to agree on the draft Stakeholder Engagement policy, it was decided that:

1. The Ad-hoc working group would initially focus on the stakeholder engagement policy and then the draft Accreditation procedure, and
2. The Ad-hoc working group would review the draft Stakeholder Engagement policy as a full working group rather than a smaller “friends of the Chair” working group.

I wish to report that the working group having met only once, for its organizational meeting, not much progress has been made on the draft Stakeholder Engagement policy.

I am sure many of you will understand the intricate issues around this subject that require detailed negotiations.

For this reason, under the prevailing pandemic of COVID-19, and with the guidance of the Bureau of the Executive Board, it is recommended that the Ad-hoc working group continues with its work as soon it is possible to have physical meetings.

I thank you Excellencies.