

Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
Virtual first session of the year 2020 – 29 June 2020
Agenda item 2 (c)- Reports of the Ad-Hoc working groups of the Executive Board

Statement of the Chair of the Ad-Hoc working group on working methods
Argentina

It is my distinct pleasure to present before the Executive Board the work conducted by the Ad-Hoc working group on working methods.

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

As you may recall, the Ad-Hoc working group was established by paragraph 11 of Decision 2019/2 adopted by the Executive Board at its resumed meeting in November 2019, with the assigned function to assist and provide advice to the Executive Board on working methods to complete its work. In the same decision, the Executive Board requested the Ad-Hoc working group to complete its work no later than the second session of the year 2020.

A kick-off organizational meeting of the Ad-Hoc working groups was held on 16 December 2019 during which the Chair and Co-Chair of the Ad-Hoc working group on working methods were agreed upon. Allow me to take this opportunity to sincerely thank and acknowledge the Co-Chair of the Ad-Hoc working group, H.E Ms. Njambi Kinyungu, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to UN-Habitat, for her support and commitment in co-leading the work of this working group.

Subsequently, the Ad-Hoc working group met 3 times on 29 January 2020, 26 February 2020 and 4 March 2020. On Friday 6 March 2020, the Co-Chair briefed the Bureau of the Executive Board on the progress made by the Ad-hoc working as at that point..

1-Agreement on the Co-Chairs' discussion paper

- a) The Ad-Hoc working group on working methods achieved consensus on the Co-chairs' discussion paper, a set of recommendations on the methods of work of the Executive Board for its possible consideration by the Board. and the paper

was finalized during its third meeting of the working group on Wednesday 4 March 2020 and subsequently circulated to Member States.

- b) The following ideas contained in the Co-chair's discussion paper would be forwarded to the Executive Board for consideration at its second session in 2020 to help establish effective working methods for future sessions of the Board:

Executive Board and Member States

1. Invitations are to be issued in a non-personalized manner and directed to the Permanent Missions.
2. Annotated agenda should clearly identify decision items taking into account the recommendations from the Ad-Hoc working groups.
3. Sufficient time for informal consultations to conclude the draft decisions should be included in the Executive Board meeting schedule and parallel sessions should be avoided.
4. Member States are encouraged to submit draft decisions and new proposals to be addressed in draft decisions at least 3 weeks prior to the Executive Board meeting.
5. Member States should conduct an early review of decision language. With this in mind, a first reading of Draft Decisions to be considered by the Executive Board can be made during the Executive Director's briefing session after the briefing is over. Additional informal consultations on the draft decisions should be held between this first reading and the Executive Board meeting. To the extent possible, informal consultations should be concluded before the Executive Board meeting.
6. Concerns and proposals expressed from the floor during the plenary should be taken into account during the consultations on the draft decisions and reflected in the daily report of the Executive Board meeting.

Documents and Presentations

1. In accordance with the rule 6.8 of the rules of procedure, all official documents relating to items on the provisional Agenda should be submitted no less than 4 weeks prior to the Executive Board meeting. These documents should provide an overview of the issues that the Executive Board is expected to discuss and provide recommendations for the Executive Board to consider.
2. To limit the e-mail load of Member States, the documents should be made available on a website that is publicly available and notifications should only be sent once.
3. When possible, Secretariat presentations, especially where there is new information, should be shared in advance of the Executive Board meetings.

4. Presentations should be as concise as possible and address issues for discussions and possible decisions.

Secretariat Role

1. The Secretariat is expected to contribute to formal and informal discussions within its mandate and present all relevant information in a timely, concise, objective and neutral manner.
2. The Secretariat should make staff available during informal and formal consultations, so as to provide delegations with sufficient information and objective guidance, upon request.
3. The Secretariat should conduct a survey following each Executive Board meeting to evaluate the meeting's effectiveness, so as to further improve the process and outcome of future meetings.
4. Facilitate availability of meeting rooms for Regional Group consultations, upon request.

2-Discussions on the draft outcomes to be possibly adopted by the Executive Board during its first session of the year 2020.

The Bureau during its meeting held on 14 January 2020, recommended that the Ad-Hoc Working group on working methods would be responsible for draft outcomes to be adopted by the Executive Board during its first session in 2020. The Ad-Hoc working group agreed to this recommendation.

On 9 March 2020, the Secretariat submitted draft technical inputs towards Member States' preparation of the draft outcomes under the auspices of the Ad-Hoc working group for consideration by the Executive Board.

After a preliminary review of the draft outcomes by the Ad-hoc working group, it was agreed that subsequent to the briefing by the Executive Director, which was then scheduled to take place on Monday 16 March 2020, the working group on the same day would meet for a first reading of the draft decisions, including to enable Member States the opportunity to provide feedback on the language of the outcome documents as proposed by the Ad-Hoc working Group.

As you are all aware,

In light of the evolving Covid-19 situation in Kenya and globally the briefing by the Executive Director was cancelled and subsequently the first session was postponed to today 29 June 2020 and with a shorter provisional agenda. The decisions we are expecting out of this session, as recommended by the Bureau, may be limited to those

that are procedural in nature. As such, draft decision language already prepared by the working group will only be applicable to the second session of the Executive Board.

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

I finally wish to note that pursuant to Decision 2019/2 of the Executive Board, having requested the Ad-Hoc working group to complete its work by no later than the second session of the year 2020, I am pleased to confirm that the Ad-Hoc working group on working methods completed its work and fulfilled its mandate. The set of recommendations on the methods of work of the Executive Board, the Co-Chair's discussion paper, could be considered in at the second session of the Board in 2020.

I thank you for your attention.