

Summary of discussions and recommendations emanating for the sixth Bureau meeting of the Executive Board for the Year 2020

Monday 8 June 2020 – 15:00 – 17:00 East Africa Time

Agenda item	Discussion	Recommendation from the Bureau
1.	Adoption of the Agenda	
	a) Adoption of the Agenda	Adopted
	b) Summary of discussions and recommendations emanating for the Bureau meeting held virtually on 11 and 12 May 2020	Adopted
2.	Update by the Executive Director on the preparations for the upcoming 2020 first session of the Executive Board	
	a) The Executive Director briefed the Bureau on the preparations for the upcoming 2020 first session of the Executive Board. The full presentation by the Executive Director can be accessed here .	Noted
	b) The Executive Director clarified that the documents previously prepared for the session that was to be held on 31 March 2020 will be the same ones to be used for those Agenda items to be discussed at the upcoming session.	Noted
	c) In addition, the Secretariat will be preparing an overall update on key activities that have taken place since January 2020 to date as pertains to the specific agenda items under discussion by the Executive Board. This update will be part of the Executive Director's presentations to the Board and will also be shared as a conference room paper (CRP). The Executive Board will also be briefed on the UN-Habitat Covid-19 Response plan and Campaign.	Agreed
	d) The Executive Director urged Bureau members to pass information on registration to their respective regional groups so that the Secretariat is able to appropriately capture the data in time, which will be useful in terms of delegations getting access to the online session.	Agreed
3.	Update on regional nominations to the 2020/2021 Bureau of the Executive Board	
	African group	a) The Representative of Malawi updated that the nominee for the African Group to the 2020-2021 Bureau is the Arab Republic Egypt. A formal communication was sent by the Chair of the Regional Group, Eritrea, to the Chair of the Board and to the Secretariat. The Secretariat has received the communication.
		Noted

Agenda item		Discussion	Recommendation from the Bureau
	Asia-Pacific group	b) The Representative of China updated that discussions are still on-going within the Asia-Pacific Group on the three nominations received by the Chair of the Regional Group from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Islamic Republic of Iran and China. She further updated that on Tuesday 9 June 2020, the Chair of Asia-Pacific Group, the Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman, will be organising a meeting with the objective of reaching a consensus between the three nominees. The Chair of the regional group will update the Chair of the Executive Board and the Secretariat accordingly.	Noted
	Eastern Europe	c) The Representative of the Russia Federation noted that the Country has proposed itself for nomination by the regional group but so far discussions are still on-going within the Eastern Europe group. The Permanent Representative of Serbia, as Chair of the Regional Group, will continue the process for consultations and should update the Chair of the Board and the Secretariat on the outcome of the on-going discussions officially. The Representative of Russia further expressed concerns with the need to be in compliance with the rules of procedure in case of elections.	Noted
	GRULAC	d) The nominee for GRULAC is Chile. A formal communication was sent by the Chair of the Regional Group, the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica, to the Chair of the Board and to the Secretariat.	Noted
	WEOG	e) The nominee for WEOG is France. A formal communication was sent by the Chair of the Regional Group, the Permanent Representative Switzerland, to the Chair of the Board and the Secretariat.	Noted
	Clarification on the election process to the new Bureau	f) The Legal Adviser clarified that ideally and in practice the election should take place by consensus and not by way of voting, which given the current technology cannot take place virtually.	Noted
		g) The Legal Adviser clarified that in the event that there is no agreement, due to the fact that (i) a regional group is unable to reach agreement on its candidate(s) for the Bureau or (ii) where a member of the Board opposes the candidature of a Member State that has been proposed by its regional group, the Executive Board may postpone the election of a particular candidate until agreement is reached. In the event	Noted

Agenda item	Discussion	Recommendation from the Bureau
	of a postponement, the specific seat on the Bureau for which election could not be held, will remain vacant until there is agreement on the candidate and there is an election.	
	<p>h) The process for election to the new Bureau of the Executive Board should be clearly detailed by the Chair of the Board when taking up Agenda item 6 ‘Election of officers of the Bureau of the Executive Board’ during the upcoming session of the Board. The Chair should notably recall that the election should take place by acclamation and among the members of the Executive Board only, as provided in Rule 9.1 of the rules of procedure of the Executive Board. The Chair should also make it very clear that should regional groups be unable to reach agreement on their candidates for the Bureau, that Group would be given more time to consult but the seat will remain vacant until there is agreement on the candidate and there is an election.</p>	Agreed
	<p>i) The Chair should also make it clear during the session that in the event a regional group is unable to reach agreement on its candidate(s) or a member of the Board opposes the candidature of a Member State that has been proposed by its regional group, and the Executive Board decides to conduct an election for those candidates for whom there is no agreement, this election will take place by secret ballot from among the members of the Executive Board.</p>	Agreed
Content of the general guidelines for the upcoming session of the Board including with respect to the election process	<p>j) The note on election dated 29 May 2020 and the general guidelines for the session, which were shared by the Secretariat to Bureau members should be combined in one single document.</p>	Agreed
	<p>k) The general guidelines including a section on election should not make a reference to the fact that all the regional groups should agree on the candidate for Chair, as this is a repetition of the rules of procedure of the Board. There is no relevance in highlighting this issue.</p>	Agreed
	<p>l) The Executive Director emphasized that the election process should not jeopardize the substantive discussions that are expected to take place during the upcoming session of the Board.</p>	Agreed

Agenda item	Discussion	Recommendation from the Bureau
4.	Consideration of the guidelines for conducting the virtual session	
	a) The Secretariat should share with the Bureau and after this meeting an amended version of the general guidelines for the upcoming session which includes a section on election.	Agreed
	b) If there are no specific comments from members of the Bureau on the new draft, the general guidelines will be circulated to Member States.	Agreed
5.	Consideration of the process for adopting the draft procedural outcomes of the session.	
	a) The procedural decisions that will be adopted will be those on the election of the Bureau and the adoption of the provisional Agenda for the second session of the Board in 2020. A draft decision on election of the new Bureau, that contains the names of the candidates nominated by the regional groups, will be circulated to Member States prior to the first session. A draft decision that contains the provisional Agenda for the second session of the Board will also be circulated to Member States.	Agreed
	b) These 2 decisions should be adopted by consensus and acclamation during the first session on 29 June 2020.	Agreed
	c) The general guidelines for the upcoming session should therefore not make reference to any voting process during the upcoming session of the Board.	Agreed
6.	Consideration of the draft decision enabling the Executive Board to adopt decisions under a silent procedure when not in session.	
	a) The Chair emphasized that the draft decision enabling the Board to adopt decisions by way of a silence procedure when the Board is either not physically in session or not holding its session online (the ‘draft decision’) was drafted along the lines of decision 74/544 of the General Assembly dated 27 March 2020 on ‘Procedure for taking decisions of the General Assembly during the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and of decision 74/544 of the General Assembly.	Noted
	b) As the draft decision follows decision 74/544 and 74/544 of the General Assembly, which were agreed upon by Member States in New York, it should not be discussed paragraph by paragraph during the session of the Board, but rather adopted by general consensus.	Agreed

Agenda item	Discussion	Recommendation from the Bureau
	c) Based on the feedback received from Member States, the Bureau will discuss further the way forward on the draft decision during its next meeting on 24 June 2020.	Agreed
	d) The draft decision should be circulated to members of the Executive Board. It should be made clear in the communication that it is based upon decision 74/544 and 74/544 of the General Assembly and that this draft decision will not apply to the decision making during the first session of the Board but will apply when the Board is either not physically in session or not holding its session online.	Agreed
	e) The Secretariat recalled that the silent procedure could be a useful tool for election to any seat on the Bureau which may remain vacant after the first session of the Executive Board and for the approval of draft work programme and draft budget of UN-Habitat for the year 2021.	Noted
	f) The Legal Adviser clarified that the procedure for the consideration and adoption of draft decisions and the communication of objections is fully described in the draft decision itself.	Noted
	g) Should the Board decide to adopt during its upcoming first session its own procedure to enable decision making by silence procedure when the Board is either not physically in session or not holding its session online, the Agenda for the session should be amended from the floor as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening of the session. 2. Organizational matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Adoption of the agenda and the workplan for the first session of 2020; b. Adoption of the report of the Executive Board on the work of its resumed first session; c. Reports of the ad hoc working groups of the Executive Board. 3. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters. 4. Status of and discussions on the draft annual work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and 	

Agenda item		Discussion	Recommendation from the Bureau
		<p>draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2021.</p> <p>5. Status of implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its first session.</p> <p>6. Election of officers of the Bureau of the Executive Board.</p> <p>7. Consideration of the draft decision enabling the Executive Board to adopt decisions under a silent procedure when not in physical session</p> <p>8. Provisional agenda for the second session of the Executive Board in 2020.</p> <p>9. Other matters.</p>	Agreed
		<p>h) The Secretariat should make sure that there is only one version of provisional Agenda for the session posted on-line on the following page https://unhabitat.org/2020-first-session-of-the-Executive-Board-meeting so as to avoid any confusion for Member States.</p>	Agreed
7.	Dates and Financial implication for the second and third sessions of the Executive Board.		
		<p>a) The Executive Director brought to the attention of the Bureau that the second session of the Executive Board will benefit from servicing of all its meetings with interpretation, editing and report writing be provided. There will, however, be a limit of 340,000 words in all languages, that is 56,000 original English words, in terms of documents to be processed towards the meeting. This is below the projected requirement for that session which for now stands at 628,500 words in all languages. For reference, by June 2020, the Division of Conference Services will have processed 105,940 original English words.</p> <p>She noted that for the third session, although UNON Conference Services is ready provision will be made for interpretation and report writing it could not provide for documentation due to lack of funding.</p>	Noted
		<p>b) Therefore the Executive Director proposed that in order to stay within the available budget: those documents that were already prepared by the Secretariat for the Executive Board that could be used for the second session remain unchanged and that any updates be prepared as brief</p>	

Agenda item	Discussion	Recommendation from the Bureau
	documents in the form of addenda without reopening the main documents. These documents pertain to the agenda items that were dropped from the first session and which are now likely to be considered at the second session. Reopening these original documents implies that word counts would be higher and subsequent costs will apply.	Noted
	c) A special appeal was sent to Member States to contribute voluntarily to the UN-Habitat Assembly Trust Fund that could boost the servicing of the sessions of the Executive Board both in 2020 and in 2021 during which, there will be a session of the Midterm Review by the CPR in addition to the sessions of the Executive Board.	Noted
	d) The Executive Director recommended that the Bureau should consider recommending to the Executive Board that only the second session of the Executive Board in November 2020 without the possibility of a third session. This would also allow the session to take full consideration of the outcomes of the first session of the Executive Board in the preparations for the second session and to report to the Board more meaningfully. It may also advance the chance of holding a physical session.	Noted
	e) The Secretariat indicated a second session of the Board in November 2020 would still allow a timely approval of the draft work programme and draft budget of UN-Habitat for the year 2021.	Noted
	f) Russia supported the recommendation of the Executive Director to hold a session in November 2020.	Noted
	g) Bureau members should hold consultations with their respective regional groups on the possibility for the Board to hold its second session in November 2020. The Bureau will further discuss the way forward during its next meeting to be held on 24 June 2020.	Agreed
	h) The Executive Director should brief Member States during the upcoming session of the Board on the alarming financial situation of the Organisation.	Agreed
7.	Any other matters	
	The next Bureau meeting of the Executive Board will be held on Wednesday 24 June 2020.	Agreed

