



**2020 Second session of the Executive Board  
of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme  
27 to 29 October 2020, Online**

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

**Statement by**

**H.E. Ms. Julia Pataki  
Permanent Representative of Romania to UN-Habitat and  
Chair of the Ad-Hoc working group on  
Programmatic Budgetary and Administrative matters**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for this opportunity to brief the Executive Board at this session.

Excellencies,

As may be recalled, the Executive Board through its Decision 2019/2 paragraph 7 established the Ad-hoc working group on Programmatic, Budgetary and Administrative matters to assist and advise the Executive Board.

During the 2020 first session of the Board on 29 June 2020, I briefed the Board on progress that had been made since November 2019 when the Ad Hoc working group was established. As at that point, the working group had held six meetings on various topics of importance to the Board.

On that occasion, the Executive Board made some recommendations related to the draft work programme and budget for the year 2021 requiring action by the working group. Specifically, the Executive Board recommended that the Foundation non-earmarked budget for 2021 be more realistic, in the range of \$5.58 million to \$10.0 million; and further requested the Ad Hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters to finalize a recommended budget for the consideration of the Executive Board at its second session in 2020.

Excellencies,

I wish to report that the Ad Hoc working group has made a follow-up to this recommendation and met on 24 July 2020 for its seventh meeting which continued 30 July

2020, to discuss Foundation Non-Earmarked Budget of the draft work programme and budget of UN-Habitat for 2021.

At the meeting held on 24 July, the Secretariat provided a briefing on two different drafts of the work programme and budget for the year 2021 with two scenarios that provided a basis for discussions by Member States. The scenarios were as follows:

1. A draft work programme and budget of UN-Habitat for the year 2021 with the Foundation Non-Earmarked Budget at USD 10.0 million; and,
2. A draft work programme and budget of UN-Habitat for the year 2021 with the Foundation Non-Earmarked Budget at USD 5.58 million.

At the meeting on 30 July 2020, Member States further deliberated with a view to reaching consensus on a recommended budget for the year 2021. Some of the expectations underscored by the working group from UN-Habitat include the following:

- i. Increased resource mobilization efforts with traditional donors, non-traditional donors, the private sector and philanthropies.
- ii. Strengthened engagement with Permanent Missions in Nairobi and their capitals on the work of UN-Habitat.
- iii. Engagement with Member States on the regional architecture under the UN-Habitat restructuring process.
- iv. Increased joint programming with other UN agencies through proactive engagement for such opportunities.
- v. Strengthened efficiency and transparency of the Organization, and
- vi. Timely preparation of documentation including the work programme and budget to enable robust discussions by the working group and subsequent timely consideration of the work programme and budget by the Executive Board.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies,

I am happy to report that the Ad Hoc working group reached an agreement by way of consensus to recommend to the Executive Board the \$10 million budget scenario for the draft work programme and budget of UN-Habitat for 2021, for its consideration at its second session of 2020.

I wish to take this opportunity to immensely thank once again all Member States for their flexibility and engagement in the efforts to reach a consensus on this delicate matter.

I believe that based on the recommendation of the working group and as further requested by the Executive Board during the first session on 29 June 2020, Executive Director has prepared a 2021 draft Work Programme and Budget which is aligned to the consensus reached by the working group.

Excellencies

In addition to what I have just presented on the Budget for 2021, the working group also met for its eighth meeting on 28 September during which it discussed the draft capacity building strategy and the draft accountability framework. Both documents are before this session for consideration along with other documents related to the implementation of the strategic plan which have been previously discussed by the working group in March and June 2020. These include the draft results framework, the draft resource mobilization strategy, the draft partnership strategy, and the impact communication strategy.

In this regard, our recommendation is that the working group having had the chance to review and make input into these documents, the Executive Board may further review the documents and consider their approval at this second session to enable the Executive Director to better implement the strategic plan 2020-2023 with these as supporting documents.

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies

Just prior to this session on 21 October 2020, the working group met for its ninth meeting and revisited the work programme and budget for the year 2021, specifically to be briefed by the Secretariat about the reports of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on the draft work programme and budget of UN-Habitat for 2021. The Secretariat also shared with the working group a proposed roadmap towards the preparation and approval process of the draft work programme and budget of UN-Habitat for the year 2022;

The Secretariat was requested to share with Member States the official report of the ACABQ on the work programme and budget for 2021 as it pertains to extra budgetary



resources as soon as possible. Am aware the Secretariat has since shared that report which is now before this session of the Executive Board as HSP/EB.2020/22/Add.1.

In line with the mandate of the working group to advise the Executive Board, I would like to encourage the Board to consider and approve the draft work programme and budget for 2021 taking due consideration of the recommendations of the ACABQ.

In conclusion, I wish to thank my co-Chair, the Permanent Representative of Pakistan, H.E Ms. Saqlain Syedah and Member States for their active participation in the Ad- Hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters.

Thank you, Excellencies.