



**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. Saqlain Syedah  
Permanent Representative of Pakistan to UN-Habitat and  
Chair of the Ad-Hoc working group on  
the development of the Stakeholder Engagement Policy**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

As you may recall, 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”.

Since the 2020 first session of the Executive Board held on 29 June and 29 July 2020 during which progress made by the working group was reported to the Board, the Working Group is yet to meet again, primarily due to the ongoing global Coronavirus pandemic which has made physical meetings not desirable. Indeed, upon informal consultations, a number of Member States have recommended that meetings of the Ad-hoc Working Group on Stakeholder Engagement Policy should resume in a physical format given the delicate nature of discussions expected in the working group.

I wish to assure the Executive Board that we will soon convene a virtual organizational meeting of the working group to agree on a tentative schedule of our work given the continued prevailing situation with the pandemic.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Bureau for appointing Pakistan and Malawi as Chair and Co-Chair, respectively, of the Ad-Hoc working group on Stakeholder Engagement Policy on 10 September 2020, following the end of tour of duty of the former Chair, H.E Ambassador Martha Juarez of Costa Rica. I thank Ambassador Juarez for her



role in the progress so far made by the working group as reported during the 2020 first session of the Executive Board.

I count on the cooperation and support of all Member States as we work towards fulfilling the mandate of the Ad-Hoc working group on Stakeholder Engagement Policy

Thank you, Excellencies.