



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

Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its second session of 2020

Decision 2020/3: Implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019, the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023, approval of the draft work programme and draft budget for 2021, implementation by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme of the reform of the development system and management of the United Nations, and alignment of the planning cycles of the Programme with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process

The Executive Board

(a) Implementation of the strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2014–2019

1. *Takes note* of the update and the report of the Executive Director for 2019 on the strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) for the period 2014–2019;

2. *Also takes note* of the update and reports of the Executive Director on the final report of the full cycle of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2014–2019, including the final evaluation report,¹ and the implementation of evaluation recommendations;

3. *Further takes note* of the update by the Executive Director on the final evaluation of the implementation of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2014–2019² and of the evaluation of the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019;³

(b) Implementation of the strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2020–2023

4. *Expresses appreciation* for the consultative process undertaken by the Executive Director with the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters of the Executive Board in preparing the supporting documents towards the effective and accountable implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023 in an open manner;

¹ HSP/EB.2020/5, HSP/EB.2020/23 and HSP/EB.2020/INF/5.

² HSP/EB.2020/23/Add.1.

³ HSP/EB.2020/INF/6.

5. *Takes note of and decides to approve* the results framework for the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023 as reflected in the report of the Executive Director entitled “Progress in the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023: draft results framework”;⁴

6. *Also takes note of and decides to approve* the results-based management policy as reflected in the report of the Executive Director entitled “Progress in the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023: draft results-based management policy”;⁵

7. *Further takes note of and decides to approve* the partnership strategy as reflected in the report of the Executive Director entitled “Progress in the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023: the draft partnership strategy”;⁶

8. *Takes note of and decides to approve* the impact communication strategy as reflected in the report of the Executive Director entitled “Progress in the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023: the draft communication strategy”;⁷

9. *Also takes note of and decides to approve* the resource mobilization strategy as reflected in the report of the Executive Director entitled “Progress in the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023: draft resource mobilization strategy”;⁸ with the understanding that implementation of the global thematic programmes is tied to obtaining the necessary resources;

10. *Further takes note of and decides to approve* the implementation of the framework for organizational and personnel accountability within the United Nations Human Settlements Programme as reflected in the report of the secretariat entitled “Organizational and personnel accountability within the United Nations Human Settlements Programme: implementing the accountability framework of the United Nations Secretariat”;⁹

11. *Takes note* of the update by the Executive Director on the concept note on the draft financial plan as reflected in the report entitled “Progress in the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023: draft financial plan”;¹⁰ and recommends including an explanation of actual annual income and expenditures;

(c) Draft work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2021

12. *Recalls* its recommendation at its first session of 2020 that the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation non-earmarked budget for 2021 be in the range of \$5.58 million to \$10 million and that the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters finalize a recommended budget for consideration by the Executive Board at its second session in 2020;

13. *Notes* that the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters recommended that the Foundation non-earmarked budget for 2021 should be of the amount of \$10 million for the draft budget of UN-Habitat for 2021;

14. *Takes note of and decides to approve* the draft work programme of UN-Habitat and the draft budget of the Foundation for 2021 as reflected in the report of the Executive Director thereon;¹¹

(d) Alignment of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process with the planning cycles of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

15. *Takes note* of the update and the report of the Executive Director on the alignment of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review with the planning cycles of UN-Habitat;¹²

⁴ HSP/EB.2020/9/Rev.1.

⁵ HSP/EB.2020/8.

⁶ HSP/EB.2020/10/Rev.1.

⁷ HSP/EB.2020/11/Rev.1.

⁸ HSP/EB.2020/12/Rev.1.

⁹ HSP/EB.2020/24.

¹⁰ HSP/EB.2020/7.

¹¹ HSP/EB.2020/22.

¹² HSP/EB.2020/16/Add.1.

16. *Recommends* that the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters of the Executive Board further consider and discuss the prioritization of scenarios 2 and 3, as set out in the report of the Executive Director, with a view to taking a final decision at the next session of the Executive Board;

(e) Implementation by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme of the reform of the development system and management of the United Nations

17. *Takes note* of the update and the report of the Executive Director on the implementation by UN-Habitat of the reform of the development system and management of the United Nations;¹³

18. *Recommends* that UN-Habitat facilitate the implementation of the United Nations system-wide strategy on sustainable urban development, as reflected in document CEB/2019/4/Add.4, by deepening engagement with (a) the United Nations Sustainable Development Group and its secretariat, the Development Coordination Office and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and its secretariat (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs); (b) the respective joint action plans with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization and other United Nations entities; and (c) the regional collaboration platforms, through the issue-based coalitions and knowledge hubs and with the United Nations resident coordinators and United Nations country teams, by means of common country analyses and United Nations sustainable development cooperation frameworks.

Decision 2020/4: Financial, budgetary and administrative matters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the report on financial, budgetary and administrative matters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) as reflected in the report of the Executive Director on the interim financial status of UN-Habitat as at 30 June 2020,¹⁴ the report on staffing as at 30 June 2020¹⁵ and the report on recruitment, equitable geographical distribution and gender parity in the staffing of UN-Habitat;¹⁶

2. *Also takes note* of the update by the Executive Director on the restructuring of UN-Habitat as reflected in the report of the Executive Director thereon;¹⁷

3. *Further takes note* of the update by the Executive Director on the financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 as reflected in the financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 and the report of the Board of Auditors;¹⁸

4. *Takes note* of the report on UN-Habitat action to strengthen protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and against workplace sexual harassment,¹⁹ and recommends that UN-Habitat report on the matter to the Executive Board at its first session of each year in accordance with paragraph 4 (e) of decision 2019/4, including on the number of reports on allegations, investigations and actions taken by UN-Habitat and trends in those categories, to be reported on to the Board at the first session of each year;

5. *Decides* that the final approved budget for the following financial period is the basis upon which the Financial Reserve is applied in the current financial period year-end financial statements;

6. *Decides* that the financial reserve percentage will be set at 20 per cent of the approved budget for the following financial period.

¹³ HSP/EB.2020/16.

¹⁴ HSP/EB.2020/21.

¹⁵ HSP/EB.2020/21/Add.2.

¹⁶ HSP/EB.2020/3/Add.1.

¹⁷ HSP/EB.2020/21/Add.1.

¹⁸ A/75/5/Add.9.

¹⁹ HSP/EB.2020/15.

Decision 2020/5: Implementation of normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including resolutions and decisions of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, and reporting on the programmatic activities of the Programme in 2020 and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities

The Executive Board

(a) Implementation of resolutions and decisions adopted at the first session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly

1. *Takes note* of the update and the report by the Executive Director on progress in the implementation of resolutions and decisions adopted at the first session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat Assembly) held in May 2019;²⁰

2. *Also takes note* of the concept note on the implementation of a review process for the United Nations System-Wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements;²¹

(b) Implementation of the draft capacity-building strategy for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda

3. *Takes note of and decides to adopt* the draft capacity-building strategy as reflected in the summary of the draft capacity-building strategy for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda,²² and stresses the importance of supporting partner countries with capacity-building with a view to enhancing existing human and organizational skills in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,²³ in particular Sustainable Development Goal 11;

(c) Implementation of the normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

4. *Takes note* of the update by the Executive Director on the implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat at the country level as reflected in the report of the Executive Director on the Global Land Tool Network, the Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance and the Mozambique country programme²⁴ and the report of the Executive Director on the flagship programmes;²⁵

5. *Also takes note* of the efforts by UN-Habitat to contribute to the reforms of the development system and management of the United Nations, enhancing coherence in policy and programming at the global, regional and country levels, by leading the development of the United Nations system-wide strategy for sustainable urbanization endorsed by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to advance a whole-system approach to promoting the New Urban Agenda in order to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

6. *Recommends* that UN-Habitat support United Nations country teams and the development of United Nations sustainable development cooperation frameworks with a view to seizing the opportunities offered by the reform of the United Nations development system and the interconnected nature of the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda and the nationally identified development strategies of Member States;

7. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on the tenth session of the World Urban Forum;²⁶

²⁰ HSP/EB.2020/25.

²¹ HSP/EB.2020/13/Add.2.

²² HSP/EB.2020/13/Add.1.

²³ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

²⁴ HSP/EB.2020/14.

²⁵ HSP/EB.2020/26.

²⁶ HSP/EB.2020/27 and HSP/EB.2020/INF/7.

Decision 2020/6: Methods of work of the Executive Board and the workplan of the Executive Board for 2021

The Executive Board

(a) Reports of the Executive Board and its working groups

1. *Acknowledges* that the ad hoc working group on working methods has now completed its work in line with paragraph 11 of its decision 2019/2, and decides accordingly that the mandate of the ad hoc working group on working methods will come to an end at the end of the second session of 2020;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the ad hoc working group on working methods on the proposed working methods of the Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat),²⁷ and decides to adopt the methods of work of the Executive Board as reflected in that report;

3. *Adopts* the report of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat on the work of its first session of 2020;²⁸

4. *Takes note* of the briefing by the Chair of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters;

5. *Also takes note* of the briefing by the Chair of the ad hoc working group on the development of a stakeholder engagement policy and recommends that the working group should resume its work once in-person meetings are possible;

(b) Alignment of the 2021 sessions of the Executive Board with the approval process of the draft work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for 2022

6. *Takes note* of the need to align the sessions of the Executive Board in 2021 with the preparatory and approval process for the draft 2022 work programme and budget of UN-Habitat;

7. *Requests* the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters of the Executive Board to discuss a draft work programme of UN-Habitat for 2022 for submission to the United Nations Controller by 15 January 2021, followed by a review by the Committee for Programme and Coordination and subsequent approval by the Executive Board;

8. *Also requests* the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters to discuss a draft budget for UN-Habitat for 2022 in line with the recommended budget range for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation non-earmarked budget of UN-Habitat for 2022 of between \$10 million and \$12 million and other extrabudgetary resources, for submission to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions by 15 February 2021, followed by subsequent approval by the Executive Board;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director to update the Executive Board at its first session of 2021 on the status of the draft work programme and budget for 2022, taking into account the recommendations of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters;

(c) Date and agenda for the next session of the Executive Board and its workplan for 2021

10. *Decides* that the 2021 sessions of the Executive Board will be held as follows: the first session of 2021 will be held on 6 and 7 April 2021 and the second session will be held from 19 to 21 October 2021;

11. *Also decides* that the provisional agenda for the first session of 2021 shall be as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda and the workplan for the first session of 2021;
 - (b) Adoption of the report on the second session of 2020.

²⁷ HSP/EB.2020/20.

²⁸ HSP/EB.2020/18.

3. Reports of the ad hoc working groups established by the Executive Board.
4. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters, including the implementation of the resource mobilization strategy in accordance with the strategic plan, including a proposal on geographical and gender balance.
5. Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions relevant to the work and activities of UN-Habitat issued since the most recent session of the Executive Board.
6. Status and discussion of the annual work programme and budget of UN-Habitat for 2022.
7. Briefing by the Executive Director on the implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, including reporting on the programmatic activities of UN-Habitat in 2020 and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities.
8. Implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly.
9. Briefing by the Executive Director on progress made in the implementation of the United Nations development system reform.
10. Annual report on UN-Habitat actions to strengthen protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and against workplace sexual harassment, as well as any other type of exploitation or abuse.
11. Annual report on the Executive Director's actions to update and improve the internal management, policies and procedures of UN-Habitat.
12. Election of officers of the Bureau.
13. Other matters.
14. Closure of the meeting.
