



Executive Board of the United Nations
Human Settlements Programme
First session of 2021
Online, 7 and 8 April 2021

Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first session of 2021

Decision 2021/1: Status of the draft work programme and the draft budget for 2022; 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) **Work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2022**

1. *Takes note of* the report of the Executive Director on the draft work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2022;¹

2. *Recalls* its decision 2020/6, in particular paragraph 8,² in which it requested the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters of the Executive Board to discuss a draft work programme for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for 2022 for submission to the United Nations Controller, followed by a review by the Committee for Programme and Coordination and subsequent approval by the Executive Board; and to discuss a draft budget for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in line with the recommended budget range for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation non-earmarked budget of the Programme for 2022 of between \$10 million and \$12 million and other extrabudgetary resources, for submission to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, followed by subsequent approval by the Executive Board;

3. *Requests* the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters to continue its discussions on the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation non-earmarked budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for 2022, to be within the range of \$10 million to \$12 million, and requests the Executive Director to finalize a draft annual work programme and budget of for 2022 based on feedback from the Committee of Programme and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, utilizing all projected sources for funding of the overall budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, all of which should contribute to the implementation of the work programme and the strategic plan, and to present it for further consideration by the Executive Board at its second session of 2021;

4. *Requests* the secretariat to provide notional budget allocations for 2022 at the second session of 2021 of the Executive Board, on the basis of projected revenue levels for 2021 for the Foundation non-earmarked budget;

¹ HSP/EB.2021/4 and HSP/EB.2021/INF 2.

² HSP/EB/.2020/29.

5. *Takes note of and accepts in principle* the preliminary estimates of \$11.2 million for programme support, \$69.1 million for Foundation earmarked, and \$149.8 million for technical cooperation budgets and requests the secretariat to provide final estimates for further consideration and possible approval by the Executive Board at its second session of 2021;

6. *Notes and supports* the recommended allocation of \$13.3 million from the regular budget of the United Nations, which contributes significantly to the implementation of the work programme and the strategic plan and is subject to further analysis, review and approval by the Fifth Committee;

7. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare and update the Programme's cost-recovery policies and methodologies for consideration by the Executive Board at its second session of 2021;

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

8. *Takes note of* the report of the Executive Director on the alignment of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review with the planning cycles of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;³

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

9. *Takes note of* the report of the Executive Director on the implementation by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme of the reform of the development system and management of the United Nations⁴ and recommends the continued implementation by the Programme of the Secretary-General's reform agenda to the fullest, including strengthened cooperation with other United Nations entities.

Decision 2021/2: Financial, budgetary and administrative matters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including improvement of its internal management, policies and procedures and its actions to strengthen protection against sexual and any other type of exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment in the workplace

The Executive Board,

1. *Takes note of* the reports of the Executive Director on financial, budgetary and administrative matters, including on the interim financial status of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme as at 31 December 2020,⁵ staffing of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme as at 31 December 2020,⁶ implementation of the resource mobilization strategy in accordance with the strategic plan,⁷ and staff update, equitable geographical distribution and gender parity;⁸ recommends that the secretariat seek a more structural solution to deal with the decrease that has been experienced in non-earmarked funding, while ensuring that all sources of funding contribute fully to the implementation of the strategic plan and the work programme; and requests the secretariat to present a discussion paper on the matter for consideration by the Executive Board at its second session of 2021;

2. *Welcomes* the improvement in gender parity overall and among general service staff and encourages the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to continue to recruit women at the professional and higher levels in order to attain equitable geographical distribution and gender balance throughout the Programme;

3. *Requests* the Secretariat to submit future reports on the implementation of the resource mobilization strategy, including factual and analytical information pertaining to the achievement of the objectives of the resource mobilization strategy, to the Executive Board;

³ HSP/EB.2020/16/Add.1.

⁴ HSP/EB.2021/7.

⁵ HSP/EB.2021/2.

⁶ HSP/EB.2021/2/Add.1.

⁷ HSP/EB.2021/2/Add.2.

⁸ HSP/EB.2021/2/Add.3.

4. *Takes note of* the report of the Executive Director on the ongoing restructuring of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme⁹ and recommends that the Programme regularly assess and further review, and accordingly improve, its regional and field presence, in consultation with Member States, with a view to providing the best possible support to the implementation of the Programme's mandate and its strategic plan, and in order to continue to contribute to the work of the United Nations country teams in the most efficient way;

5. *Also takes note of* the report of the Executive Director on actions to update and improve the internal management, policies and procedures of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme¹⁰ and requests the Executive Director to share the responsibility and accountability framework with Member States, together with an update regarding its implementation;

6. *Further takes note of* the report of the Executive Director on action by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to strengthen protection against sexual exploitation and any other type of exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment in the workplace.¹¹

Decision 2021/3: Implementation of the normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including the resolutions and decisions of the United Nations Habitat Assembly and reporting on the programmatic activities of the Programme in 2020, as well as the subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities, and update on the Programme's response to the coronavirus pandemic

The Executive Board,

(a) Implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its first session

Recalling United Nations Habitat Assembly resolution 1/2 of 31 May 2019 and Executive Board decision 2020/5 of 29 October 2020, in which the Board took 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,

1. *Takes note of* the report of the Executive Director on the status of implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its first session;¹²

2. *Requests* the Executive Director, taking into account the United Nations System-Wide Guidelines, to provide to the Executive Board at its second session of 2021 the terms of reference of a peer review mechanism and an assessment of the resources required to assess progress and propose amendments, where necessary, to the guidelines in order to ensure their effective implementation;

3. *Recalls* its decision 2020/5 of 29 October 2020 and takes note of the efforts of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to strengthen its capacities for the use of digital technologies in the design and delivery of capacity-building programmes and activities;

4. *Recommends* the acceleration of the Programme's digital transformation and the mobilization of financial resources, within the broader resource mobilization strategy, to support the development of innovative capacity-building and learning tools that are accessible to all and stresses the importance of strategic partnerships with United Nations entities and partners to leverage existing initiatives and technologies;

(b) Implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN- Habitat

5. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 72/226 of 20 December 2017, entitled "Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)" and takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the

⁹ HSP/EB.2021/3.

¹⁰ HSP/EB.2021/9.

¹¹ HSP/EB.2021/8.

¹² HSP/EB.2021/6.

implementation of the normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

6. *Encourages* the Executive Director to continue ensuring balance between the normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and that its normative work guides, and is integrated into, its operational work;

7. *Takes note of* the report of the Executive Director on the response of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to the coronavirus disease pandemic.¹³

Decision 2021/4: Methods of work of the Executive Board and workplan of the Executive Board for the year 2021

The Executive Board,

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

1. *Adopts* the report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on the work of its second session of 2020;¹⁴

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

(b) Date and agenda for the next session of the Executive Board

3. *Decides* that the second session of 2021 of the Executive Board will be held for a duration of two or three days between 16 and 18 November 2021;

4. *Also decides* that the provisional agenda for the second 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 second session of 2021;
 - (b) Adoption of the report on the first session of 2021.
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.
5. Work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2022.
6. Implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023:
 - (a) Annual report for 2020 on the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023;
 - (b) Actual annual income and expenditure in support of the draft financial plan.
7. Normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including reporting on the programmatic activities of the Programme in 2021 and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities, and update on the Programme's response to the coronavirus pandemic.
8. High-level meeting to assess progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
9. Annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services to the Executive Board.

¹³ HSP/EB.2021/INF/3.

¹⁴ HSP/EB.2020/28.

10. Annual report of the Ethics Office to the Executive Board.
11. Provisional agenda for the next session of the Executive Board.
12. Other matters.
13. Closure of the meeting.

Decision 2021/5: Election of officers of the Bureau of the Executive Board for the term 2021–2022

The Executive Board,

Decides to elect from among its members, with terms of office from the end of the first session of 2021 to the end of the first session of 2022, taking into consideration the need to ensure equitable geographical representation, the new Bureau of the Executive Board, as follows:

Chair: Poland (Eastern European States)
Vice-Chairs: Egypt (African States)
France (Western European and other States)
Pakistan (Asia-Pacific States)
Rapporteur: Chile (Latin American and Caribbean States)

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