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Executive Board of the United Nations  
Human Settlements Programme  
Second session of 2021  
Online, 15 and 16 November 2021

## **Proposed draft decisions for consideration by the Executive Board at its second session for the year 2021**

**Draft Decision 2021/6 work programme and draft budget, implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023, and alignment of the planning cycles of the Programme with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process**

*The Executive Board*

### **Implementation of the strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2020–2023**

1. *Takes note* of the update and the reports of the Executive Director as set out in documents [HSP/EB.2021/15](#)<sup>1</sup>, [HS/004/21/E](#)<sup>2</sup>, [HSP/EB.2021/19](#)<sup>3</sup>, [HSP/EB/2021/19/Add.1](#)<sup>4</sup>
2. *Welcomes* UN-Habitat's proposed adjustment to the implementation of the Strategic Plan and notes with concern the challenges, described in the document HSP/EB.2021/19, in the execution of the fiduciary responsibility to monitor, evaluate and report against the Strategic Plan; and recommends that the Executive Director implements the proposed adjustment, taking into account linkages between normative and operational activities, whilst seeking to address challenges in monitoring, evaluation and reporting needs;

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<sup>1</sup> HSP/EB.2021/15 Summary of the Annual Report 2020 on the implementation of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2020–2023

<sup>2</sup> Annual report for 2020 on the implementation of strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2020–2023

<sup>3</sup> Report of the Executive Director on the recalibration of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2020–2023

<sup>4</sup> Report of the Executive Director on the analysis of linkages between the operational and normative activities of the UN-Habitat to increase the impact of its work across the outcomes of the strategic plan in support of sustainable and inclusive recovery to the COVID-19 pandemic

3. *Approves* the methodology and format of the draft financial plan as reflected in the report of the Executive Director entitled “implementation of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2020-2023: update on the actual annual income and expenditures in support of the draft financial plan”<sup>5</sup> and requests the Executive Director to consult further with the Executive Board on the implementation of the methodology and format of the draft financial plan;

4. *Requests* UN-Habitat to prepare, in conjunction with the development of the next Strategic Plan of UN-Habitat, a financial plan in line with the methodology and format used in the draft financial plan for consideration by the Executive Board;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to report back to the next session of the Executive Board on the progress in preparing for the development of the next cycle of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat;

6. Welcomes the sub-packages scenarios presented for the foundation non-earmarked budget and requests similar information for the second session of the Executive Board in 2022;

7. Takes note of the UN-Habitat Financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 and the Report of the Board of Auditors and its recommendations;

**Work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2022**

8. *Takes note* of the notional budget allocations for 2022 provided by the Secretariat on the basis of projected revenue levels for 2022 for the Foundation non-earmarked budget, *takes note* of the recommended allocation of \$13.3 million from the regular budget Section 15 of the United Nations and further *approves* the estimates of \$11.2 million for programme support, \$69.1 million for Foundation earmarked, and \$149.8 million for technical cooperation budgets;

9. *Recalling* its [Decision 2021/1, in particular paragraph 3](#); *approves* the draft work programme of UN-Habitat and the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation non-earmarked budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for 2022 to be USD 12 million as reflected in the report of the Executive Director <sup>6</sup>;

10. Welcomes the report of the Executive Director on UN-Habitat cost-recovery policies and methodologies<sup>7</sup>;

**Preparation of the draft work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2023**

11. *Takes note* of the need to align the sessions of the Executive Board in 2022 with the preparatory and approval process for the draft 2023 work programme and budget of UN-Habitat and *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 2023 for timely submission to the United Nations Controller, and *also requests* the working group to discuss a draft budget for UN-Habitat for 2023 in line with the Executive Director’s recommended budget of \$12 million for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation non earmarked budget for 2023 and

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<sup>5</sup> HSP/EB.2021/16

<sup>6</sup> HSP/EB.2021/4

<sup>7</sup> HSP/EB/2021/13/Add.4

other extrabudgetary resources, for timely submission to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for subsequent consideration and possible approval of the work programme and budget for 2023 by the Executive Board;

12. *Requests* the Executive Director to update the Executive Board at its first session of 2022 on the status of the draft work programme and budget for 2023, taking into account the recommendations of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters;

13. *Takes note of* the efforts by the Executive Director towards prioritization of UN-Habitat by the United Nations Controller for a possible increase of the regular budget allocation to UN-Habitat for the year 2023, as part of a wider, multi-pronged strategy to strengthen the financing of UN-Habitat that includes increasing non-earmarked contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, maintaining a robust portfolio of earmarked contributions to the Foundation, and exploring non-traditional sources of financing through the establishment of a third-party endowment; and *requests* the Executive Director to update the Executive Board at its first session of the year 2022.

#### **Alignment of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process with the planning cycles of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme**

14. Recommends that the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly in 2023 consider approving the extension of the current Strategic Plan 2020-2023 until 2025 to cover the term from 2020 to 2025 to align to the QCPR cycle;

15. [Requests the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters to continue considering the best method to approve the Strategic Plan for 2026 to 2029] {ARG+, USA-} the third session be held in 2025 and then in line with the QCPR cycle, every four years thereafter] {CHN+, USA-, CHN-}

[15 alt. Further recommends that the Habitat Assembly in 2023 consider the best method to approve the Strategic Plan 2026-2029 based on the recommendation from the ad hoc working group on programmatic budgetary and administrative matters which could include, on an exceptional basis, a virtual Habitat Assembly in 2025, a two-day Habitat Assembly in 2025 using the Committee of Permanent Representatives meeting days allocated in the Work Programme and Budget, or one-time approval by the Executive Board]] {USA+, DEU+, EGY-}

[15 alt 2. Takes note of the ~~[three options]~~ {EGY+} for the implementation of Scenario 3 as discussed by the ad hoc working group on programmatic budgetary and administrative matters, namely i) the possibility of holding an on-line session of the UN-Habitat Assembly in 2025 ~~[#]~~ the empowerment of the Executive Board by the UN-Habitat Assembly to approve the next strategic plan of UN-Habitat on an exceptional basis, and iii) the amendment by the UN-Habitat Assembly of its rules of procedure to allow the Executive Board to approve the strategic plans of UN-Habitat on a permanent basis.] {AFR+} {Chair+}

**Draft Decision 2021/7: Implementation of normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, reporting on the programmatic activities of the Programme in 2021, implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities and the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda**

*The Executive Board*

**Implementation of the normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme**

1. *Takes note* of the update and report by the Executive Director as set out in document [HSP/EB.2021/18](#)<sup>8</sup>
2. *Takes note* of [paragraph 10 of Recommendation 2021/1](#)<sup>9</sup> adopted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives and *welcomes* the leadership role of the Executive Director as Chair of the UN Task Team on Future of Cities, and as permanent Co-Chair of the Local2030 Coalition, among other activities;
3. *Takes note* of the proposal to establish the Secretary-General's Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments as outlined in the Secretary-General's Report on Our Common Agenda<sup>10</sup>; and *recommends* that the Executive Director actively advances the SDG localization in support of the Decade of Action, through normative guidance, technical assistance, strategic partnerships, harmonized data collection based on the Urban Monitoring Framework, and implementing the SDG Cities Flagship Programme;
4. *Recalling* the commitment of Member States in the New Urban Agenda to progressively achieving the full realization of the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, as well as other relevant resolutions and mandates on the centrality of housing to the achievement sustainable development; and *taking note* of the emphasis placed on access to affordable housing in the Secretary-General's Report on Our Common Agenda<sup>11</sup>;
5. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen cooperation with all United Nations regional commissions to support the development of studies and the formulation and implementation of

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<sup>8</sup> Report of the Executive Director on the normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, focusing on the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) , guidance on housing rights and policy, and work on migration and displacement

<sup>9</sup> HSP/OECPR.2021/8

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report/>

regional action plans addressing housing policy, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change , loss of biodiversity and pollution;

6. *Further requests* the Executive Director to continue the efforts of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support Member States upon their request in the development of capacity to formulate and to implement housing policy, including as impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic climate change , loss of biodiversity and pollution and to test innovative solutions and provide forums for sharing knowledge and examples of policies among Member States and other stakeholders;

7. *Welcomes* the focus of the 2021 Urban October on climate change under the theme “accelerating urban action for a carbon-free world including the global observance of the 2021 World Cities Day held in Luxor, Egypt, under the theme on adapting cities for climate resilience and the convening of the Innovate4Cities Conference under the theme “ Global Research on Action Agenda on Cities and Climate Change Science” as well as the engagement of UN-Habitat at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (CoP 26) and *requests* the Executive Director to actively advance support to Member States through normative guidance, technical assistance and strategic partnerships to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement;

8. *Takes note of* the report by the Executive Director on cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme<sup>12</sup>, and encourages the Executive Director to further strengthen collaboration, including in pursuit of the implementation of the UN-Habitat 2020-2023 Strategic Plan related to climate action and improved urban environment, on the preparations for the Special Session of UNEA on the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP@50), the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the international meeting entitled “Stockholm+50: a Healthy Planet for the Prosperity of All – our Responsibility, our Opportunity”<sup>13</sup> (Stockholm+50 International Meeting) , and their joint engagement in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework processes led by United Nations resident coordinators at the country level;

### **Implementation of the draft capacity-building strategy for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda**

9. *Welcomes* the report by the Executive Director on the updated implementation plan of the UN-Habitat capacity-building strategy for the period 2021–2024 with priorities for the year 2022<sup>14</sup> and *requests* the Executive Director to further update the implementation plan for consideration at the second Session of the Executive Board for the year;

### **Terms of reference for the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations System-wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements**

10. *Takes note of* the update and report by the Executive Director on the terms of reference for the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations System-wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements<sup>15</sup> and *approves* the terms of reference for the Mechanism

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<sup>12</sup> HSP/EB.2021/INF4

<sup>13</sup> A/RES/75/326

<sup>14</sup> HSP/EB.2021/17

<sup>15</sup> HSP/EB.2021/20

for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations System-wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements on the principle of voluntary implementation and taking into account the national laws and frameworks of the member states for security and safety at local and national levels;

### **High-level meeting of the General Assembly on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda**

11. *Welcomes* the update by the Executive Director on the preparations of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to assess progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda<sup>16</sup> scheduled to be held on 28 April 2022;

12. *Welcomes* [paragraph 4 of Recommendation 2021/3](#)<sup>17</sup> adopted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives and invites all Member States to prepare and submit their national reports on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda;

### **Draft Decision 2021/8: Methods of work of the Executive Board and the workplan of the Executive Board for 2022**

*The Executive Board*

#### **Reports of the Executive Board and its working groups**

1. *Adopts* the report of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat on the work of its first session of 2021<sup>18</sup>;
2. *Takes note* of the briefing by the Chair of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters on the work of that working group;
3. *Decides* that the Chair and the Co-Chair of any of the ad hoc working groups of the Executive Board should be elected at the regular sessions of the Executive Board;
4. *Decides* that the Chair and the Co-Chair may be endorsed at the regular meetings of the ad hoc working group for the purpose of the continuity and subsequently be elected by the Executive Board at its next regular session;
3. *Recalls* paragraph 5 of its Decisions 2020/6 and elects Switzerland and [\_\_\_\_] as Chair and Co-Chair of the ad hoc working group on stakeholder engagement policy;
4. *Requests* the Executive Director and the Bureau to ensure that the pre-session documents and draft decisions and technical inputs prepared for future Executive Boards' consideration are manageable, in line with the mandate of the Executive Board, and that the information contained therein is concise, clear, transparent and focused;
5. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide concise draft decisions and technical inputs for future Executive Boards consideration and to attach them as an annex to the annotated provisional Agenda and to insert the relevant cross references in the annotated provisional Agenda.

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<sup>16</sup> A/RES/75/224

<sup>17</sup> HSP/OECPR.2021/8

<sup>18</sup> HSP/EB.2021/10

## **Date and agenda for the next session of the Executive Board and its workplan for 2022**

6. *Decides* that the 2022 sessions of the Executive Board will be held as follows: the first session of 2022 will be held on 29 March and 30 March 2022 and the second session will be held from 15 to 17 November 2022;

7. *Also decides* that the provisional agenda for the first session of 2022 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 2022;
  - (b) Adoption of the report on the second 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 and UN-Habitat actions to address geographical and gender imbalances in the composition of its staff
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 2023.
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 2021 and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities.
8. Preparations for the High-level meeting to assess progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
9. Preparations for the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum
10. Implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly.
11. Briefing by the Executive Director on progress made in the implementation of the United Nations development system reform.
12. 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.
13. Annual report on the Executive Director's actions to update and improve the internal management, policies and procedures of UN-Habitat.
14. Election of officers of the Bureau.

15. Other matters.

16. Closure of the meeting