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

## Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its second session for the year 2021

### Decision 2021/6: Work programme and 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*

(a) **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 on the summary of the annual report 2020 on the implementation of the strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2020–2023,<sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup>on the recalibration of the strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2020–2023,<sup>3</sup> and on the analysis of linkages between the operational and normative activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to increase the impact of its work across the outcomes of the strategic plan in support of sustainable and inclusive recovery,<sup>4</sup> as well as the *UN-Habitat Annual Report 2020*;

2. *Welcomes* the proposed adjustment to the implementation of the strategic plan and notes with concern the challenges described in the report of the Executive Director on the recalibration of the strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2020–2023<sup>5</sup> in the execution of the fiduciary responsibility to monitor, evaluate and report against the strategic plan; and recommends that the Executive Director implement the proposed adjustment, taking into account the linkages between normative and operational activities, while seeking to address challenges in monitoring, evaluation and reporting needs;

3. *Approves* the methodology and format of the draft financial plan as set out in the report of the Executive Director on the draft financial plan for the period 2020–2023<sup>6</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;

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<sup>1</sup> HSP/EB.2021/15.

<sup>2</sup> HS/004/21/E.

<sup>3</sup> HSP/EB.2021/19.

<sup>4</sup> HSP/EB/2021/19/Add.1

<sup>5</sup> HSP/EB.2021/19.

<sup>6</sup> HSP/EB.2021/16.

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

5. *Also requests* the Executive Director to report back to the Executive Board at its first session of 2022 on the progress achieved in preparing for the development of the next cycle of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat;

6. *Welcomes* the subpackages 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;<sup>7</sup>

**(b) Work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and 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 United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation non-earmarked budget, and of the recommended allocation of \$13.3 million under section 15 of the regular budget of the United Nations and 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. *Recalls* its decision 2021/1, in particular paragraph 3, and approves the draft work programme of UN-Habitat and the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation non-earmarked budget for 2022 of \$12 million, as set out in the report of the Executive Director on the draft work programme and budget for 2022;<sup>8</sup>

10. *Welcomes* the report of the Executive Director on the cost-recovery policies and methodologies of UN-Habitat;<sup>9</sup>

**(c) 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 work programme and budget of UN-Habitat for 2023 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 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 other extrabudgetary resources, for timely submission to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and subsequent consideration and possible approval 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 made by the Executive Director to encourage the prioritization of UN-Habitat by the United Nations Controller aimed at a possible increase of the regular budget allocation of the United Nations to UN-Habitat for 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 on progress made in that regard at its first session of 2022;

<sup>7</sup> A/76/5/Add.9.

<sup>8</sup> HSP/EB.2021/4.

<sup>9</sup> HSP/EB/2021/13/Add.4.

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

14. *Recommends* that the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its second session of 2023 consider approving the extension of the current strategic plan for the period 2020–2023 until 2025 to cover the period 2020–2025 in order to align the planning cycle of UN-Habitat with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review;

15. *Also recommends* that the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its second session in 2023 considers the most cost-effective method to approve the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029;

16. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare a new comprehensive options paper, in line with General Assembly resolution 73/239 of 20 December 2018 and the relevant rules of procedure, to consider ways of approving the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029 and the implications thereof for the subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, and present it to the United Nations Habitat Assembly for its consideration at its second session of 2023.

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

*The Executive Board*

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

1. *Takes note* of the 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, guidance on housing rights and policy, and work on migration and displacement<sup>10</sup>

2. *Also takes note* of paragraph 10 of recommendation 2021/1<sup>11</sup> adopted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its first open-ended meeting for a high-level midterm review and welcomes the leadership role of the Executive Director as chair of the United Nations task team on the future of cities, and as permanent co-chair of the Local2030 Coalition, among other activities;

3. *Further 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, “Our Common Agenda”;<sup>12</sup> and recommends that the Executive Director actively advance the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in support of the Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals through normative guidance, technical assistance, strategic partnerships, harmonized data collection based on the proposed United Nations system-wide urban monitoring framework, and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals Cities Flagship Programme;

4. *Recalls* 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 takes note of the emphasis placed on access to affordable housing in the Secretary-General’s report, “Our Common Agenda”;<sup>13</sup>

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen cooperation with all the United Nations regional commissions to support the development of studies and the formulation and implementation of regional action plans addressing housing policy, including in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and climate change, loss of biodiversity and pollution;

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

<sup>11</sup> HSP/OECPR.2021/8.

<sup>12</sup> [www.un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report/](http://www.un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report/).

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*

6. *Also 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 implement housing policy, including in response to the impact of 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 future”, including the global observance of the 2021 World Cities Day held in Luxor, Egypt, under the theme “Adapting cities for climate resilience” and the convening of the Innovate4Cities Conference under the theme “Global research and action agenda on cities and climate change science” as well as the engagement of UN-Habitat in the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and requests the Executive Director to actively provide support to Member States by means of normative guidance, technical assistance and strategic partnerships to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement;

8. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme,<sup>14</sup> and encourages the Executive Director to further strengthen collaboration, including in pursuit of the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023, in particular as it relates to climate action and an improved urban environment, on the preparations for the special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme on the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP@50), the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to assess progress in 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>15</sup>, and their joint engagement in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework processes led by United Nations resident coordinators at the country level;

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

9. *Welcomes* the report of 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>16</sup> and requests the Executive Director to further update the implementation plan for consideration by the Executive Board at its second session of 2022;

**(c) 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 of 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>17</sup> and approves 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 based on the principle of voluntary implementation and taking into account the national laws and frameworks of Member States for security and safety at the local and national levels;

**(d) High-level meeting of the General Assembly to assess progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda**

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

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<sup>14</sup> HSP/EB.2021/INF/4.

<sup>15</sup> A/RES/75/326.

<sup>16</sup> HSP/EB.2021/17.

<sup>17</sup> HSP/EB.2021/20.

12. *Also welcomes* paragraph 4 of recommendation 2021/3,<sup>18</sup> adopted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its first open-ended meeting for a high-level midterm review, and invites all Member States to prepare and submit their national reports on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

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

### *The Executive Board*

#### **(a) 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>19</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 the group;
3. *Decides* that the chair and the co-chair of each of the ad hoc working groups of the Executive Board should be elected at the regular sessions of the Executive Board;
4. *Also decides* that the nominated chair and the co-chair of any of the ad hoc working groups will be endorsed at the regular meetings of that ad hoc working group for the purpose of continuity and will subsequently be elected by the Executive Board at its next regular session;
5. *Recalls* paragraph 5 of its decisions 2020/6 and elects Switzerland as chair of the ad hoc working group on the stakeholder engagement policy;
6. *Requests* the Executive Director and the Bureau to ensure that the pre-session documentation, including draft decisions and technical inputs, prepared for consideration by the Executive Board at its future sessions are manageable, in line with the mandate of the Executive Board, and that the information set out therein is concise, clear, transparent and focused;
7. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide those draft decisions and technical inputs in an annex to the annotated provisional agenda for the session at which they are to be considered and to insert the relevant cross references in the annotated provisional agenda;

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

8. *Decides* that the 2022 sessions of the Executive Board will be held as follows: the first session of 2022 will be held for a duration of three days from 29 March to 31 March 2022 and the second session will be held for a duration of two or three days between 15 and 17 November 2022, pending further review by the Board at its first session of 2022;
9. *Also decides* that the provisional agenda for the first session of 2022 shall be as follows:
  1. Opening of the session.
  2. Organizational matters:
    - (a) Adoption of the agenda and the workplan for the first session of 2022;
    - (b) Adoption of the report of the Executive Board on the work of its second session of 2021.
  3. Reports by the chairs of the ad hoc working groups.
  4. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters, including the implementation of the resource mobilization strategy in accordance with the strategic plan and actions by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme 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 the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, issued since the last session of the Executive Board.

<sup>18</sup> HSP/OECPR.2021/8.

<sup>19</sup> HSP/EB.2021/10.

6. Draft work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2023.
  7. Implementation of the normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including reporting on its programmatic activities in 2021 and the implementation of its 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 United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.
  11. Progress made by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the implementation of the United Nations development system reform.
  12. Action by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to strengthen protection against sexual and any other type of exploitation and abuse and against sexual harassment in the workplace.
  13. Action by the Executive Director to update and improve the internal management, policies and procedures of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.
  14. Progress made in the implementation of the Executive Board working methods in accordance with its decision 2020/6 and based on the survey to be conducted by the secretariat following the second session of 2021 to evaluate the effectiveness of the session so as to further improve the process and outcome of future sessions.
  15. Election of officers.
  16. Other matters.
  17. Closure of the session.
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