



Ad hoc working group on the development of a stakeholder engagement policy

Report of the Chair of the Small Working Group on Stakeholder Engagement Policy to the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat dated 14 May 2019

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Subject: UN-Habitat Stakeholder Engagement Policy documents.

Excellency,

I have the honour, on behalf of the Chair of the Small Working Group on Stakeholder Engagement Policy to forward the attached documents and the explanatory note below for your consideration.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Chris Mensah

Secretary to the Governing Council

Dear Friends of the Chair

Report of the Chair.

We, as a working group have met many times in the last two years and have resolved most issues, but have been unable to reach consensus on one critical issue: that of the final arbiter of accreditation when one or more member states object to the accreditation of a particular non-government organization.

Thus, as chair and based on numerous discussions and inputs, I am turning over three documents for consideration. These documents relate one to the other and should be considered as a package, and in the following order:

- 1) A *Stakeholder policy* which encompasses the overall importance of stakeholder involvements, recognizing that various Stakeholders can and do, greatly contribute to the achievements of UN-Habitat and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
- 2) Suggested amendments to the Rules of Procedure for the UN-Habitat Assembly. The changes seek to clarify that all non-members of UN-Habitat Assembly, wishing to participate in UN-Habitat Assembly, must be accredited pursuant to the Rules, the Stakeholder policy and its Annex. Furthermore, it attempts to simplify the definition of the various non-member potential participants of the United Nations Habitat Assembly. These fall into the following categories:

- Non-Member States of the UN
- Other UN Bodies, UN Specialized Agencies and Other Intergovernmental Organizations
- Local authorities
- Other Habitat Agenda partners
- Non-governmental organizations

There are two copies of the suggested amendments to the Rules of Procedure. One copy is clean and the other shows track changes from the most current working draft. [You might have to click on the track changes icon

3) Finally, an Accreditation Procedure. It is essential to realize that the Accreditation Procedure is intended as an Annex to the Stakeholder policy and is not the Stakeholder policy. Rather, it recognizes the current status of accreditation and seeks to codify Member States concerns and refine the process where there is lack of clarity. This, specifically, has been the hardest task of the working group.

The accreditation procedure contributes to the accreditation process in the following ways:

- It defines accreditation as the right to attend and consult as observers
- It confirms that the rights of an observer, do not contravene the intergovernmental nature of UN-Habitat Assembly and that the Member States retain the decision-making authority.
- It grants automatic accreditation to all but NGO's upon request, as long as the meet the definition in the Rules of Procedure.
- It defines criteria which an NGO must meet for accreditation and the process for obtaining accreditation, which is not automatic for NGOs.
- It sets up a process for Member States to be notified of what NGO's have applied for accreditation and a process to raise an objection to a accreditation of a specific organization.
- Finally, it provides a timetable and a process to establish a committee for Member States to take a decision on a member state's objection, if properly raised.

The one remaining division is whether the decision to exclude an NGO belongs to the committee or one objecting state. We, as a working group, have been unable to reach consensus on that point.

With highest regards,

Lori Dando
Permanent Representative of the United States and
Chair of the Working Group on Stakeholder policy.