



UN HABITAT Executive Board
of the United Nations
Human Settlements
Programme

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**Executive Board of the United Nations
Human Settlements Programme**

First session of 2022

Nairobi, 29–31 March 2022

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

**Financial, budgetary and administrative matters,
including the implementation of the resource mobilization
strategy in accordance with the strategic plan for the
period 2020–2023 and action by UN-Habitat to address
geographical and gender imbalances in the composition of
its staff**

Ongoing restructuring of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Report of the Executive Director

I. Introduction

1. In 2018, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) launched a reform process to transform the governance and strategic and substantive focus of the Programme, underpinned by the following four pillars:

- (a) A new governance architecture;
- (b) The development of a new strategic plan;
- (c) An internal change process;
- (d) An organizational restructuring.

2. The first session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat Assembly) was held in Nairobi from 27 to 31 May 2019. At its first session, the UN-Habitat Assembly adopted a new strategic plan for the period 2020–2023 and the Programme initiated its internal change process.

3. UN-Habitat remains engaged in the implementation of the fourth pillar of reform, an organizational restructuring designed to maximize fulfilment of its mandate to support Member States and partners to implement and monitor the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda at the local, subnational and national levels, to leave no one and no place behind.

II. Regional organizational structure

4. Full implementation of the new organizational structure involves the alignment of the Programme's presence at locations away from headquarters to ensure optimal deployment of an array of regional policy and operational assets to help countries to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

* HSP/EB.2022/1.

5. Alignment of the UN-Habitat programmatic presence will be further informed by the imperative from Member States for the overall reform of the United Nations development system to encourage integrative, effective and agile ways of working to ensure impact and to enable the organization to best leverage its assets and deliver on its integrated mandate as part of “one coordinated United Nations”. In that respect, UN-Habitat will be guided, inter alia, by reports of the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council on repositioning the United Nations development system.
 6. The Executive Director wishes to bring to the attention of the Executive Board the following developments:
 - (a) An internal policy establishing guiding principles to realign and enhance the regional architecture of UN-Habitat was developed in 2021 and endorsed by the Executive Director. The policy provides guidance on all UN-Habitat field presence, whether at the project level or in country, subregional or regional offices. It also includes guidelines for the sustainable operation of liaison offices, information bureaux and global programme offices;
 - (b) Drawing on those guiding principles, a strategy for UN-Habitat’s presence in the Europe region has been developed, including a recommendation for the establishment of a new UN-Habitat presence with dedicated responsibility for activities and operations in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia subregions. It is anticipated that calls for expressions of interest from Member States to host this new presence will be solicited by UN-Habitat in 2022;
 - (c) Drawing on the same guiding principles, a strategy for the Latin America and the Caribbean region has also been developed. Among other things, the strategy focuses UN-Habitat’s presence and activities in subregional spheres of engagement in Mexico and Central America, the Caribbean, and South America. The strategy highlights the need for more robust programmatic engagement in the Caribbean, and calls for a strengthened presence in Panama City to support such activities and provide better integration with the reform of the United Nations development system;
 - (d) UN-Habitat is currently refining its regional strategies for its presence in the Arab States, the Asia-Pacific region and sub-Saharan Africa. In all scenarios, the Programme will continue to be guided by the Secretary-General’s reform agenda and the “One United Nations” initiative;
 - (e) While demand for UN-Habitat’s technical services remains high, both for the execution of country projects and the management of earmarked global programmes, low levels of core funds (those that are either non-earmarked or project specific) continue to impinge upon the implementation of many of the principles and recommendations for the Programme’s presence at both the country level and the regional level, in particular in relation to representational and coordination functions.
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