

**2022 First session of the Executive Board
of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
29-31 March 2022**

Agenda item 3: Reports of the Chairs of the ad hoc working groups of the Executive Board

**Statement for the Chair of the ad hoc working group on stakeholder engagement policy
Mr. Patrick Egloff
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Switzerland to UN-Habitat**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for this opportunity to brief the Executive Board at this session.

Excellencies,

As may be recalled, in 2017, Governing Council Resolution 26/7 requested the Executive Director, in consultation with Member States, to develop a draft stakeholder engagement policy. The same resolution also recognized the need to reform the accreditation system. Subsequently, an ad hoc working group on stakeholder engagement policy chaired by USA was created and held its first meeting in March 2018. Despite progress made in many areas, the ad hoc working group on stakeholder engagement policy could not reach consensus on accreditation.

The full report of the Chair of the ad hoc working group on the stakeholder engagement policy submitted to the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and disseminated to Member States in May 2019 has been redistributed to all Member States. The UN-Habitat Assembly at its first session held in May 2019, in its Decision 1/3 decided 'on an exceptional basis, to entrust the Executive Board with continuing the discussions on, and completing as soon as possible, the development of UN-Habitat stakeholder engagement policy, as requested by the Governing Council Resolution 26/7, with a view to its provisional implementation based on consensus, and to submit the draft policy for consideration and possible approval by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its second session'.

Subsequently, the ad hoc working group on stakeholder engagement policy was created by the Executive Board through its decision 2019/3 and held its first organizational

meeting on 11 March 2020. The working group was unable to meet again, due to the ongoing global Coronavirus pandemic which has made physical meetings not possible and in line with paragraph 5 of Executive Board Decision 2020/6 in which the Executive Board recommended that the working group should resume its work once in-person meetings are possible.

At its second session of the year 2021, the Executive Board elected Switzerland as chair of the ad hoc working group. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all Member States for their trust and for their commitment to the work of the ad hoc working group.

As in-person meetings became again feasible at the United Nations Complex, the working group met last week on 23 March 2022 for another organizational meeting.

At that meeting, the Secretariat briefed participants on the current practice of stakeholder engagement under UN-Habitat's current governance structure, and provided an overview of the partnership strategy of UN-Habitat as that was adopted by the Executive Board at its second session in 2020.

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,

I wish to highlight the procedural recommendations of the working group from its meeting on 23 March 2022:

- i. The scope of work and focus shall be on stakeholder engagement in intergovernmental processes and UN-Habitat governance structure given the fact that stakeholder engagement in normative and operational programmes are defined in partnership strategies and standard operating procedures for partners and covered by various policies, strategies, guidelines, and procedures including the implementing partners policy, and partnership strategy.

- ii. The ad hoc working group focuses first on the modalities of the stakeholder engagement, and then focuses on the accreditation procedure, noting that should the need for change arises in the course of its discussions, the ad hoc working group will adjust accordingly.
- iii. Stakeholders shall be invited to participate in the meetings of the ad hoc working group in an observer capacity, with the understanding that they will contribute to the discussions on matters within their expertise or scope of activities and on which they have special competence, but will not participate in the decision-making process.
- iv. The ad hoc working group starts the substantive discussions on stakeholder engagement in May 2022 with the aim to conclude the discussions on modalities of stakeholder engagement before the second session of the Executive Board later this year 2022.
- v. Subsequently, discussions on accreditation procedures should start after the second session of the Executive Board for the year 2022 and recommended that the stakeholder engagement and the accreditation procedure be concluded prior to the first session of the Executive Board in 2023.

Before I conclude, allow me to take this distinct opportunity to sincerely thank Member States for their active participation in the ad hoc working group.

Thank you, Excellencies.

Thank you very much Chair.