

**2022 Second session of the Executive Board
of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
21-23 November 2022**

**Agenda Item 3: Reports of the Chairs of the ad hoc working groups
established by the Executive Board**

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

Thank you, Mr. Chair, for this opportunity to brief the Executive Board at this second session of 2022.

Excellencies:

At the First Session of this Executive Board of 2022, I briefed you on progress made and shared the roadmap for development of a stakeholder engagement policy, which was an outcome of the second meeting of the ad hoc working group on the stakeholder engagement policy held on 23 March 2022. We agreed to adopt a two-stage process as follows: (a) development of a stakeholder engagement policy on modalities for stakeholder engagement in intergovernmental processes by the second session of the Executive Board of 2022; and (b) preparation of accreditation procedure by the first session of the Executive Board in 2023.

Since then, the working group has held five meetings, and by invitation of the Chair, stakeholders including UN-Habitat advisory groups and thematic networks, attended the meetings of the ad hoc working group. Participating stakeholders had opportunities to contribute to the discussions.

Today I will provide an update on (i) progress made so far and (ii) next steps as agreed by members of the working group.

(i) Progress with development of stakeholder engagement policy

At the third meeting of the ad hoc working group held in a hybrid format on June 15, 2022, members adopted the following proposed structure of the policy and further tasked the Secretariat with the responsibility of developing content for each of the nine chapters.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Purpose of the Policy

Chapter 3: Guiding Principles

Chapter 4: Definition of Stakeholders

Chapter 5: Accreditation Criteria and Process

Chapter 6: Benefits for Accredited Stakeholders

Chapter 7: Responsibilities and obligations of accredited stakeholders

Chapter 8: The Role of UN-Habitat

Chapter 9: Funding

The fourth and fifth meetings of the ad hoc working group held in a hybrid format on September 21, 2022, and October 5, 2022, respectively, reviewed chapters 1- 4 and 6-9 of the Zero Draft of the stakeholder engagement policy. As previously agreed, chapter 5 on accreditation was set apart for discussion in a second phase after this meeting of the Executive Board. The Zero Draft prepared by the Secretariat benefitted from good practices on stakeholder engagement in the UN system and other inputs from internal and external consultations.

The Secretariat took into consideration the inputs from member states and stakeholders when developing a revised draft of the stakeholder engagement policy. The discussions of this draft 1.0 at the sixth and seventh meetings of the ad hoc working group held on 7 and 16 November 2022 respectively allowed to get a better collective understanding of the issues at stake and to start to build consensus on principles of this policy, benefits, and responsibilities of accredited stakeholders as well as the role of the Secretariat. We have not yet touched on two important thematic issues, namely the form of a stakeholder engagement mechanism and the accreditation procedures.

(ii) Next Steps

Excellencies:

After this session of the Executive Board, the ad hoc working group will first focus on these two pending issues. A thematic discussion on stakeholder engagement mechanism with concrete proposals from different stakeholder groups will take place on 7 December, and another thematic discussion on accreditation procedure will take place on 18 January 2023.

In parallel, the Secretariat will revise the current draft based on the rich discussions in recent weeks until mid-January 2023. The fully revised draft policy including the conclusions of the two pending thematic discussions will be available by early February 2023.

This shall allow the ad hoc working group on stakeholder engagement policy and interested stakeholders to embark on the discussions of the revised draft on solid ground by mid-February 2023, followed with an intense phase up to the next Executive Board Meeting. My target, and indeed the mandate of the ad hoc working group, is to present the final draft of the stakeholder engagement policy for consideration by the Executive Board at its first session in 2023.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Member States for their active participation in the ad hoc working group meetings. I would also like to thank all the stakeholders who have provided inputs into this process.

Thank you, Excellencies.

Thank you very much, Chair.