



First meeting of the informal contact group on resource mobilization matters

Wednesday 2 November 2022
10:00 – 11:30 East Africa Time

Statement for the Chair
H.E Mr. Silvio Albuquerque
Permanent Representative of
the Federative Republic of Brazil to UN-Habitat
Chair of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat for 2022-2023

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

The meeting is now called to order.

Before we move into the business of the day, allow me to welcome all of you to this first meeting of the informal contact group on resource mobilization matter, members of the Bureau, Madam Executive Director, UN-Habitat Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif and members of the Secretariat.

Distinguished Delegates, you would recall in response to the views and recommendations from Member States during the 2022 first session of the Executive Board regarding the urgent need to mobilize increased funding to support the core mandate and activities of UN-Habitat that, I decided to establish an informal contact group on resource mobilization matters, the role of which would be to discuss and explore with the Executive Director possible actions and activities towards consistent and predictable funding.

In this respect, the Secretariat circulated on my behalf on 29 April 2022 a call for expression of interest in joining the informal contact group.

I have been informed by the Secretariat that so far six Member States have sent a communication to express interest in joining this group. These are Belgium, Argentina, Cameroon, Pakistan, Mexico and Kenya.

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Allow me to address a few housekeeping matters before we start our substantive discussions.

First, I wish to make it clear that I am chairing this group in my capacity as Chair of the Executive Board and not necessarily as Permanent Representative of Brazil to UN-Habitat.

I wish to also make it clear that it is not my intention as Chair to impose any recommendations or suggestions emanating from this group on Member States.

I do, however, wish for the group to have a very universal membership, with views from all geographical representation.

This is why although it is an informal contact group, I wish to propose a co-chairing of the group, so as to have all views adequately reflected.

ACTION REQUIRED

Does any delegation wish to express any interest in co-chairing this informal contact group?

[Mr. Chairman, pause to see if anyone wishes to take the floor]

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

[Mr. Chairman, the statement below applies if there is a proposal for co-chairing. If there is none, please see ALT statement below]

RECOMMENDATION

Does the informal contact group wish to acknowledge [COUNTRY] as co-chair or does the group wish to give one more week for other delegations to share any expression of interest in co-chairing the informal contact group ?

[Mr. Chairman, the statement below applies if there is no proposal for co-chairing]

RECOMMENDATION

May I take it that the informal contact group wishes to give more time to delegations to share any expressions of interest in co-chairing the informal contact group and that it is expected that updated in this respect will be shared at our next meeting?

I thank you all for your contributions.

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

To start our discussions, I now wish to give the floor to the Executive Director to provide brief introductory remarks on the resource mobilization strategy of UN-Habitat. Madam, I see you have some of your officers with you here today. Please feel free to call on them at any time to contribute or also join in our brain storming.

Madam, thank you for being present to this inaugural meeting. You have the floor please.

[After that]

Thank you, Madam, for these remarks.

I now wish to open the floor for discussions. Let me emphasize here that I expect our discussions to be interactive, informal and very open.

I also propose that any recommendations emanating from the meeting of this group be forwarded to the Executive Director, to purely guide her in her responsibilities on resources mobilization.

The group could also serve as important communication tool, such as in providing relevant and concise information to Member States to enable them to understand all aspects of the funding – which was also one of the more straightforward recommendations of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the findings of its review of the management and administration of UN-Habitat.

Most of all, it is an informal group just like the one on UN-Habitat's communications strategy, which I understand has been very helpful in guiding the Executive Director.

ACTION REQUIRED:

I now open the floor for discussions and recommendations by the members of the group.

[After discussions]

I thank you all for your contribution.

Our recommendations will be reflected in the summary of discussions emanating from this meeting and will be forward to the Executive Director. I will communicate through the Secretariat the date of our second meeting.

The meeting is now adjourned.
