

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 of the  
Executive Board

Statement by

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Permanent Representative of Pakistan to UN-Habitat and  
Chair of the Ad-Hoc working group on Programmatic Budgetary and  
Administrative matters and Vice Chair of the Executive Board

Excellencies  
Distinguished delegates

It is my pleasure to brief the Executive Board on the work of the Ad-Hoc working group on Programmatic, Budgetary and Administrative matters since the last session of the Executive Board which was held from 28 to 31 March 2022.

The Ad-Hoc working group on Programmatic, Budgetary and Administrative matters has met seven (7) times namely, on 12 September 2022, 21 September 2022, 5 October 2022, 12 October 2022, 19 October 2022, 1 November 2022, and 9 November 2022.

At its meetings, the working group discussed the following topics:

1. Annual report for 2021 on the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023
2. Outcomes of the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum
3. Financial status of UN-Habitat.
4. Status of the draft work programme and draft budget for 2023, including scalability model for the Foundation non-earmarked budget
5. Activities which implementations are affected due to lack of adequate Foundation non-earmarked funding.
6. Normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, specifically.
  - a. the five flagship programmes under the Strategic Plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2020-2023.
  - b. UN-Habitat engagement in countries, territories and areas affected by conflicts and disasters.

7. The status of the restructuring of UN-Habitat
8. UN-Habitat staffing report, including gender and geographical balance, and finally.
9. The draft outcomes to be considered by the Executive Board at its second session for the year 2022.

**Recommendations of the Ad hoc working group on Programmatic, Budgetary and Administrative matters:**

Mr. Chairman  
Excellencies,

I will now give a quick overview of the outcomes of the discussions of the working group in the intersessional period since March as follows:

**1.**On the **Annual report for the year 2021**, the working group took note and considered that the full Annual report for 2021 had been prepared and published by the Secretariat as expected by the Executive Board following the briefing by the Executive Director on the annual report during the first session held in March 2021. The working group also welcomed the strengthened focus by the Executive Director on three priority areas during the year 2021, and these are a) **Housing** b) **Climate action** and c) **Localizing the SDG's**. The working group requested for details on how these three priority areas were being linked to the five UN-Habitat flagships programmes. These details were provided by the Secretariat and I have no doubt that these will be shared with the Executive Board at this session under agenda items 6 and 7.

**2.**On the **outcomes of the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum**, the working group made the following recommendations:

- i. The detailed program of WUF as well as a detailed program of the Dialogues and Roundtables be circulated well in advance of the WUF to encourage in-person participation.
- ii. The format of future Ministerial Roundtables be adjusted to allow all Ministers and Vice-Ministers to speak, particularly by extending the duration of the Roundtable.

- iii. There is need for improved equitable geographical representation in WUF events.
- iv. There is need to ensure that WUF remains a thematic forum and not a political forum.
- v. The Nairobi-based Permanent Representatives should be more involved in the planning and preparations of future WUF meetings.

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,

3. On the **financial status of UN-Habitat**, the working group appreciated the clarity of the information shared by the Secretariat and encouraged UN-Habitat to continue operating in a transparent manner because it helps to promote trust between Member States, donors and the Organization.

As discussed during the first session of the Executive Board for the year 2022, the working group took note that UN-Habitat was now operating withing a budget of USD 3M for foundation non-earmarked resources for the year 2022.

The working group took note that indeed the organization had already received nearly the USD 3 Million for the year 2022 as at June 2022 and that more pledges were expected to be received by the end of year. Mr. Chairman. This was taken positively by Member States and in fact one Member State termed the recommendation by the Executive Board during its first session for the year 2022 on the Foundation non-earmarked budget to be pegged at USD 3M as a turning point for UN-Habitat. The next question from the working group, was naturally therefore, what the surplus, if any, could be used for.

This brings me to the **scalability model** that was requested by the Executive Board at its first session of 2022 in paragraph 5 of its Decision 2022/1, to be prepared by the Secretariat for the non-earmarked Foundation budget, subject to various funding levels up to \$12 million.

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The working group indicated the need to elaborate the direction of the scaling up process. Specifically, how the lack of core resources had so far adversely impacted UN-Habitat's operations. The working group recommended that the

scalability model should indicate what UN-Habitat was not able to do at present and what more the Organization could achieve with the provision of more resources. The working group enquired whether the remaining revenue would be allocated toward UN-Habitat solvency, repayment of the loan or towards establishment of the reserve funds.

In response, the working group was subsequently briefed in detail on the **activities which implementations are affected due to lack of adequate Foundation non-earmarked funding**, as well as on the Cost Reduction Plan of the Executive Director for 2022 which involved budget cuts by moving more staff members funded by the Foundation non-earmarked budget to project funds. the working group noted the small number of Member States contributing to UN-Habitat's Foundation non-earmarked budget and wishes to encourage all Member States to further contribute to the Organization.

The working group, **on the reserve**, recommended that the Executive Board at the present session should give additional guidance on the conditions for use of reserve funds following decision 2020/4 of the Executive Board in which the Board decided that “ the financial reserve percentage will be set at 20 per cent of the approved budget for the following financial period”.

Mr. Chairman,  
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4. On the **draft work programme and budget for the year 2023**, having heard that its status had not changed significantly since the draft was presented to the Executive Board at the first session for the year 2022 and further to the ACABQ, the ad hoc working group recommended that the proposed foundation non-earmarked budget for 2023 to be considered by the Executive Board at this second session is USD 3 Million. The draft work programme is before this session for further consideration by the Board under agenda item 5.

Mr. Chairman,  
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5. On the **normative and operational activities with specific reference to the five flagship programmes** under the Strategic Plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2020-2023 as well as on **UN-Habitat engagement in countries, territories and**

**areas affected by conflicts and disasters**, the working group did not have a specific recommendation on these activities. The working group, however, requested for more information on the risk of discontinuing the implementation of some of the programmes, should the lack of adequate resource persist. The secretariat noted that each flagship programme has its own fundraising strategy with a systematic budget and core secretariat team. The working group also underscored the added value of UN-Habitat in the field of urban recovery as well as UN-Habitat's interventions in support of land reform initiatives and internally displaced communities.

Mr. Chairman, I take note that agenda item 7 of our ongoing session of the Board will cover these topics in detail.

6. On the topics of **restructuring of UN-Habitat** as well as gender and geographical balance there were no specific recommendations on these topics to the Executive Board for consideration.

7. I therefore now move to the final topic discussed by the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters which was **“draft decisions to be adopted by the Executive Board at its 2022 second session”**.

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

As recommended by the Bureau, the ad hoc working group on programmatic budgetary and administrative matters considered the draft outcomes to be considered by the Executive Board at this session.

The ad hoc working group met five times and considered the draft decisions. Although we have made considerable progress there still remain areas to be ironed out.

After the final meeting on 9 November 2022, I formally communicated the draft decisions as at that date to the Chair of the Executive Board on 14 November 2022 for further consideration by the Board at this session.

The draft decisions, in English only as agreed, is contained in document

HSP/EB.2022/CRP.5, namely, “Draft Decisions of the Executive Board at its 2022 second session” as follows:

1. Draft decision 2022/[A]: Implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023, financial, budgetary and administrative matters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the findings of its review of the management and administration of UN-Habitat and draft work programme and budget for 2023;
2. Draft decision 2022/[B]: Implementation of the normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, reporting on the programmatic activities of the Programme in 2022, implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities; and
3. Draft decision 2022/[C]: Methods of work of the Executive Board and the workplan of the Executive Board for 2022.

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,

Allow me to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Member States for their active participation and constructive engagement in the work of the ad-hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters.

Thank you, Excellencies.

Thank you very much Chairman.