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Executive Board of the United Nations  
Human Settlements Programme  
First session of 2023  
Nairobi, 28 and 29 March 2023

## Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first session of 2023

### Decision 2023/1: Financial status of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, update on the financial reserve, updated scalability model for the non-earmarked budget of the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, analysis of the risks related to the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation and overview of earmarked private sector contribution agreements

(a) **Financial status of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme**

*The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note of* the report of the Executive Director on the interim financial status of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme as at 31 December 2022;<sup>1</sup>
2. *Recalls* paragraph 5 of decisions 2022/1 and paragraph 14 of decision 2022/5 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the scalability model for the non-earmarked Foundation budget,<sup>2</sup> subject to various levels of funding up to \$12 million, and requests the Executive Director to report back on the fully costed scalability model at the third session of the Executive Board of 2023, with advice from the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;
3. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide to the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary, and administrative matters a prioritized list of the additional staff positions across the agenda of UN-Habitat indicated in the scalability model;
4. *Welcomes* the update by the Executive Director on the financial reserve for the non-earmarked budget of the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;
5. *Also welcomes* the report of the Executive Director on action by UN-Habitat to strengthen protection against sexual and any other type of exploitation and abuse and against sexual harassment in the workplace;<sup>3</sup>

(b) **Analysis of the risks related to the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation and overview of earmarked private sector contribution agreements**

6. *Recalls* paragraph 21 of decision 2022/5, in which the Executive Board requested the Executive Director to obtain an analysis by the United Nations of the reputational risk associated with

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<sup>1</sup> HSP/EB.2023/2.

<sup>2</sup> HSP/EB.2023/2/Add.1.

<sup>3</sup> HSP/EB.2023/5.

potential investment by the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation and to present to the Executive Board, at its first session of 2023, a report detailing the findings of the risk analysis and providing information, in the interim, prior to entering into them, on any non-earmarked private sector agreements entered into on behalf of UN-Habitat, including with the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation, and also requested an overview of earmarked private sector contribution agreements that were currently in force; and takes note of the briefing on the risk related to the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation,<sup>4</sup> and on the overview of earmarked private sector contribution agreements;<sup>5</sup>

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide for consideration by the Executive Board at its second session of 2023, pending a decision by the Bureau, a due diligence assessment of the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation, to be conducted by the Private Sector Partnership team of UN-Habitat with the support of the Legal Office, the Office of the Executive Director and relevant technical units;

8. *Also requests* the Executive Director to re-establish the Risk Oversight and Advisory Committee, as outlined in the Enterprise Risk Management Implementation Guidelines,<sup>6</sup> to monitor the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation;

**(c) Preparation of the draft work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and draft budget of the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2024**

9. *Recalls* paragraph 16 of decision 2022/5, requests the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters to continue its discussions on the non-earmarked budget of the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2024, and requests the Executive Director to finalize a draft annual work programme and budget for 2024 based on feedback from the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and to present that work programme and budget for further consideration by the Executive Board at its third session of 2023;

**(d) Supplementary budget of the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2023**

10. *Takes note* of the technical note by the secretariat circulated on 23 November 2022 and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,<sup>7</sup> clarifies paragraph 17 of decision 2022/6 to request the Executive Director to provide a report on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda<sup>9</sup> at the last session of the Executive Board of each year, and further requests the Executive Director to report to the Executive Board at its third session of 2023 on an analysis of the principal obstacles to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda by Member States, including consideration of any potential challenges to reporting, capacity-building, advocacy and outreach activities;

11. *Decides* to approve the supplementary budget for 2023 of \$144,400, to the same values as in option 3 of the technical note, including \$112,500 in staff costs for the establishment of one temporary post at the P-3 level and one temporary post at the G-7 level and \$31,850 in non-staff costs spread equally across subprogrammes 1–4.

<sup>4</sup> HSP/EB.2023/INF/3.

<sup>5</sup> HSP/EB.2023/INF/4.

<sup>6</sup> Available at: <https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/download-manager-files/UN-Habitat%20Enterprise%20Risk%20Management%20-%20Implementation%20Guidelines.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> Available at: [https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2023/02/acabq\\_report\\_supplementary\\_budget\\_un-habitat\\_2023.pdf](https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2023/02/acabq_report_supplementary_budget_un-habitat_2023.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> AC/2245.

<sup>9</sup> General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.

## **Decision 2023/2: Normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including reporting on the programmatic activities of the Programme in 2022 and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities**

### **(a) Normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme**

#### *The Executive Board*

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on the need for and possible benefits of the development of the Sustainable Development Goals Cities certification;<sup>10</sup>
2. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue consultations with United Nations entities, Member States, members of United Nations specialized agencies and accredited and other relevant stakeholders to further develop the report on the need for and possible benefits of the Sustainable Development Goals Cities certification and its implementation modalities, including potential sources of extrabudgetary funding for capacity development needs and assessment of potential risks;
3. *Also requests* the Executive Director to engage the Local2030 Coalition in the consultations on the Sustainable Development Goals Cities certification concept and to identify the possibilities of integrating the certification into the work of the Coalition;
4. *Encourages* the Executive Director to continue the efforts aimed at the reconstruction of human settlements in urban crisis situations in line with the UN-Habitat mandate as well as in accordance with relevant decisions of the Executive Board, including paragraph 9 of decision 2022/2 and paragraph 3 of decision 2022/6 on the implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat;

### **(b) Preparations for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme**

5. *Welcomes* the update by the Executive Director on the preparations for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat Assembly), scheduled to be held from 5 to 9 June 2023;
6. *Also welcomes* the theme for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, “A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crises”, as proposed by the Executive Director and endorsed by Member States through informal consultations led by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat, following a joint recommendation by the bureaux of the governing bodies;

### **(c) Preparations for the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum**

7. *Welcomes* the report of the Executive Director on the status of preparations for the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum<sup>11</sup> and requests the Executive Director to keep Member States updated on the preparations for the session.

## **Decision 2023/3: Methods of work of the Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the workplan of the Executive Board for 2023**

#### *The Executive Board*

### **(a) Reports of the Executive Board and its working groups**

1. *Adopts* the report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on the work of its second session of 2022;<sup>12</sup>
2. *Takes note* of the briefing by the chair of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters on the group’s work;

<sup>10</sup> HSP/EB.2023/4.

<sup>11</sup> HSP/EB.2023/3.

<sup>12</sup> HSP/EB.2022/21.

3. *Also takes note* of the briefing by the chair of the ad hoc working group on the development of a stakeholder engagement policy on the group's work and of the group's report on the draft stakeholder engagement policy;<sup>13</sup>

4. *Further takes note* of the progress made and what remains to be done by the ad hoc working group on the development of a stakeholder engagement policy, and decides to request the ad hoc working group to continue discussions with a view to submitting a draft policy for approval by the Executive Board, which would thereafter submit the draft policy for consideration and possible approval by the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat Assembly) at its second session;

5. *Requests* the Chair of the Executive Board to exercise good offices to ensure consensus on any decision on the election of the chair of the ad hoc working group. A decision on the election of the chair of the group should be subjected to a silence procedure process, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Executive Board;

6. *Recalls* paragraph 5 of decision 1/3 adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly and recommends that at its second session the UN-Habitat Assembly consider the draft stakeholder engagement policy;

**(b) Working methods of the Executive Board to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of meetings of the Board**

7. *Takes note* of the results of the survey conducted by the secretariat after the second session of the Executive Board of 2022 to evaluate the effectiveness of that session so as to further improve the process and outcome of future sessions;<sup>14</sup>

**(c) Dates and provisional agenda for the next session of the Executive Board and its workplan for 2023**

8. *Decides* that the second session of the Executive Board for the year 2023 will be held no later than Thursday, 8 June 2023 on the margins of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly in a manner which will not conflict with the plenary meetings and other relevant negotiations of the UN-Habitat Assembly session;

9. *Also decides* that the provisional agenda for the second session of the Executive Board for 2023 shall be as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers of the Bureau.
3. Consideration of the dates and provisional agenda for the third session of the Executive Board of 2023.
4. Other matters.
5. Closure of the session.

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<sup>13</sup> HSP/EB.2023/INF/2.

<sup>14</sup> HSP/EB.2023/INF/5.