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**United Nations
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Programme**

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**Executive Board of the United Nations
Human Settlements Programme
Third session of 2023**
Nairobi, 28–30 November 2023

Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its third session of 2023

Decision 2023/4: Financial, budgetary and administrative matters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit based on the findings of its review of the management and administration of UN-Habitat; and draft work programme and budget for 2024

The Executive Board

(a) Financial, budgetary and administrative matters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

1. *Takes note* of the reports and updates of the Executive Director on:
 - (a) The financial status of UN-Habitat as at 30 June 2023;¹
 - (b) The interim financial status of UN-Habitat as at 30 September 2023;
 - (c) Action by the Executive Director on recruitment, equitable geographical distribution and gender parity;²
 - (d) The UN-Habitat financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 and the report of the Board of Auditors,³ and requests the Executive Director to ensure the full implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors and to report to the Executive Board at its second session of 2024;
2. *Endorses* the fully costed scalability model for the non-earmarked budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for future guidance on related budgetary decisions, until the end of the period covered by the current strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements programme, keeping in mind the view of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions that the model needs further refinement;

¹ HSP/EB.2023/11.

² HSP/EB.2023/11/Add.2.

³ A/78/5/Add.9.

(b) Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the findings of its review of the management and administration of UN-Habitat, the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the report of the Ethics Office

3. *Recalls* decision 2/5 of the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat Assembly) adopted on 9 June 2023 and decision 2022/5 of the Executive Board, in particular paragraph 6 thereof;

4. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the 2022 report of the Joint Inspection Unit⁴ on the findings of its review of the management and administration of UN-Habitat and welcomes the update by the Executive Director;

5. *Also takes note* of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the activities of the Office for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023,⁵ welcomes the related update by the Executive Director, and requests the Executive Director to further implement the recommendations contained in the report;

6. *Further takes note* of the report of the Ethics Office for the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022,⁶ and of the related update by the Executive Director;

(c) Work programme of UN-Habitat and the draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2024

7. *Recalls* its decision 2023/1, in particular paragraph 9, and approves the draft work programme of UN-Habitat and the non-earmarked budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2024 of 4 million United States dollars, as reflected in the report of the Executive Director on the draft work programme of UN-Habitat and draft budget of the Foundation for 2024;⁷

(d) Preparation of the draft work programme of UN-Habitat and draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2025

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to update the Executive Board at its first session of 2024 on the status of the draft work programme and the draft budget for 2025, taking into account the recommendations of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters;

(e) Due diligence assessment of the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation

9. *Recalls* its decision 2023/1, in particular paragraph 7, and takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the due diligence assessment of the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation;⁸

10. *Decides* to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contribution agreement with the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation for an initial duration of 10 years, subject to an annual review by the Executive Board and with the guidance of the Risk Oversight and Advisory Committee;

11. *Requests* the Executive Director to engage with the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation with the objective of reconsidering its name for the purpose of distinction from the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;

(f) Checklist on the implementation of the reform of the United Nations development system

12. *Takes note* of the update by the Executive Director and the checklist on the implementation by UN-Habitat of the reform of the United Nations development system.⁹

⁴ HSP/EB.2023/21.

⁵ A/78/301 (Part I), and A/78/301 (Part I/Add.1).

⁶ A/78/91.

⁷ HSP/EB.2023/12.

⁸ HSP/EB.2023/13 and HSP/EB.2023/INF/7.

⁹ HSP/EB.2023/19 and HSP/EB.2023/INF/9.

Decision 2023/5: Implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat; reporting on the programmatic activities of the Programme in 2022; implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities

The Executive Board

(a) Implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat

1. *Takes note* of the update and report by the Executive Director on the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, including updates on the Sustainable Development Goals Cities flagship initiative, the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe) initiative and highlights of activities for the period from January to June 2023;¹⁰
2. *Welcomes* the ongoing work on the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in line with resolution 2/6, including the recent achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals Cities flagship initiative;
3. *Takes note* of the ongoing work on the work packages of the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe) initiative;
4. *Recalls* resolution 2/5 of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly and requests the Executive Director to further develop the options and recommendations for the operationalization of the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe) initiative and to present these options for consideration by the Executive Board at its first session of 2024;
5. *Requests* the Executive Director, in line with the mandate of the Programme, as well as in accordance with resolutions 19/18 and 23/2 of the Governing Council, and decisions of the Executive Board, including decision 2022/2, paragraph 9, decision 2022/6, paragraph 3, and decision 2023/2, paragraph 4, to support the efforts to reconstruct the human settlements affected by conflict and disaster, as reflected in the annex to the present document, through a comprehensive system-wide response, and to continue to provide assistance to urban crises, such as in the Gaza Strip, using urban profiling to assess the needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of urban areas and to establish urban recovery frameworks, and to submit regular reports on the status of the development of the efforts to reconstruct the human settlements affected by conflict and disaster to the Executive Board;
6. *Urges* the Executive Director in this context to use all the tools at the Executive Director's disposal to engage, including through collaboration with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, with recent urban crises, such as in the Gaza Strip, without prejudice to the identified urban crises and conflicts reflected in the annex to the present document, and requests the Executive Director to submit to the Executive Board, at its first session of 2024, a comprehensive and up-to-date report on the status of the development of the efforts to reconstruct the human settlements in the Gaza Strip;
7. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Executive Board on other urban crises, upon request by the affected Member State and members of United Nations specialized agencies;

(b) Analysis of the principal obstacles to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda

8. *Welcomes* the update and report of the Executive Director on the analysis of the principal obstacles to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda by Member States,¹¹ which highlights challenges related to three key elements of implementation, namely mainstreaming, achieving transformative change, and monitoring and reporting, as well as the support UN-Habitat will provide to address these obstacles;
9. *Also welcomes* the Urban Agenda Platform, acknowledging its relevance for reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, and encourages Member State-supported initiatives for the establishment of regional platforms that are linked to the Urban Agenda Platform under the guidance of the Executive Director;
10. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue supporting New Urban Agenda mainstreaming, operationalization and the monitoring of reporting through its current strategic plan,

¹⁰ HSP/EB.2023/17 and HSP/EB.2023/INF/7.

¹¹ HSP/EB.2023/14.

with particular emphasis on ensuring an effective and inclusive preparatory process for the quadrennial report of the United Nations Secretary-General due in 2026;

11. *Recalls* paragraphs 10 and 11 of decision 2023/1 and calls for its full implementation, including through the four posts envisaged in the work programme for 2024, as approved in paragraph 7 of decision 2023/4, in order to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda at all levels of governance, acknowledging its relevance to the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 11, by:

(a) Developing practical tools and guidance to strengthen New Urban Agenda reporting, including by enhancing the connection to voluntary national reviews and voluntary local reviews;

(b) Providing tailored capacity-building on New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal data and reporting, including through the use of the global urban monitoring framework;

(c) Enhancing multilevel governance and coordination for the New Urban Agenda and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; and

(d) Facilitating multi-stakeholder partnerships and the mobilization of adequate financing to accelerate New Urban Agenda implementation and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national, regional and local levels;

12. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on these activities to the Executive Board at its last session of 2024;

(c) Twelfth session of the World Urban Forum

13. *Takes note* of the update and the report by the Executive Director on the preparations for the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum¹² and requests the Executive Director to keep Member States updated on the preparations for the session;

14. *Requests* the Executive Director to advance the outcomes of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly at the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum; with particular focus on demonstrating the implementation and tangible impact of the outcomes by Member States and stakeholders.

Annex to decision 2023/5

Countries, territories and areas affected by conflict and disaster

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Afghanistan | 14. Nepal |
| 2. Burkina Faso | 15. Nigeria |
| 3. Cameroon | 16. Pakistan |
| 4. Democratic Republic of the Congo | 17. Philippines |
| 5. Haiti | 18. Somalia |
| 6. Honduras | 19. South Sudan |
| 7. Iran (Islamic Republic of) | 20. Sudan |
| 8. Iraq | 21. Syrian Arab Republic |
| 9. Lebanon | 22. Ukraine |
| 10. Libya | 23. Yemen |
| 11. Malawi | 24. State of Palestine |
| 12. Mozambique | 25. Kosovo ¹³ |
| 13. Myanmar | |

¹² HSP/EB.2023/18.

¹³ All references to Kosovo in the present document should be understood to be in compliance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Decision 2023/6: Implementation of the outcomes of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, including preparation of the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029

The Executive Board

1. *Welcomes* the updates by the Executive Director on the implementation of resolutions adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its second session and takes note of the progress on implementation of the resolutions;
2. *Recalls* decision 2/1 of the UN-Habitat Assembly adopted on 9 June 2023, in particular paragraph 2, and takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the preparations for the development of the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029;¹⁴
3. *Requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Executive Board, to continue the development of the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029;
4. *Encourages* the Executive Director to consult with relevant United Nations entities in the development of the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029 to ensure a coherent approach towards sustainable urban development across the United Nations system and to align strategic plans, as appropriate;
5. *Recalls* resolution 2/1 of the UN-Habitat Assembly, takes note of the update and report of the Executive Director on the proposed road map towards the development of international guidelines on people-centred smart cities as a non-binding framework for developing national and local smart city regulations, plans and strategies;¹⁵ and requests the Executive Director to proceed with the proposed road map for the development of the international guidelines on people-centred smart cities, ensuring an inclusive consultative process, as specified in resolution 2/1 of the UN-Habitat Assembly;
6. *Also recalls* resolution 2/10 of the UN-Habitat Assembly and endorses the proposed draft terms of reference of the urban action funding window towards achieving the implementation of UN-Habitat Assembly resolutions in a balanced manner;¹⁶
7. *Encourages* Member States, according to their respective capabilities, to voluntarily contribute regularly to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, including to enable the implementation of all the resolutions adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly;
8. *Requests* the Executive Director to regularly update the Executive Board on the progress in implementing the outcomes of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

Decision 2023/7: Methods of work of the Executive Board and the workplan of the Executive Board for 2024

The Executive Board

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

1. *Adopts* the report of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat on the work of its first session of 2023;¹⁷
2. *Also adopts* the report of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat on the work of its second session of 2023;¹⁸
3. *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;
4. *Also takes note* of the briefing by the chair of the Executive Board on the work of the ad hoc working group on the development of a stakeholder engagement policy;
5. *Recalls* decision 2/4 of the UN-Habitat Assembly, which requested the Executive Board, on an exceptional basis, to continue its work to develop a stakeholder engagement policy and

¹⁴ HSP/EB.2023/15.

¹⁵ HSP/EB.2023/16.

¹⁶ HSP/EB.2023/CRP.8.

¹⁷ HSP/EB.2023/6.

¹⁸ HSP/EB.2023/9.

to submit the draft policy for consideration and possible approval by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its resumed regular second session;

6. *Also recalls* decision 2019/3 of the Executive Board and further decides that the ad hoc working group on the development of a stakeholder engagement policy shall continue with its work with a view to agreeing on a draft stakeholder engagement policy and presenting it to the Executive Board for consensus agreement and subsequent submission of the draft policy for consideration and possible approval by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its resumed regular second session;

7. *Elects* Portugal to chair the ad hoc working group on the development of a stakeholder engagement policy;

8. *Also elects* Colombia and Nigeria to co-chair the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters.

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

9. *Takes note* of the results of the survey conducted by the secretariat following the first session of 2023 of the Executive Board to evaluate the effectiveness of that session so as to further improve the process and outcome of future sessions;

(c) Date and agenda for the next session of the Executive Board and its workplan for 2024

10. *Decides* that, subject to review by the Bureau, the 2024 sessions of the Executive Board will be held as follows: the first session of 2024 will be held for a duration of three days from 6 to 8 May 2024 and the second session will be held in November 2024;

11. *Also decides* that the provisional agenda for the first session of 2024, to be further reviewed by the Bureau, will be as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda and the workplan for the first session of 2024;
 - (b) Adoption of the report of the Executive Board on the work of its third session of 2023.
3. Reports by the chairs of the ad hoc working groups.
4. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters, including the implementation of the resource mobilization strategy in accordance with the strategic plan and actions by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to address geographical and gender imbalances in the composition of its staff.
5. Update on the draft work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2025.
6. Update on the preparation of the next strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2026–2029.
7. Implementation of the normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including reporting on its programmatic activities in 2023 and the implementation of its subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities.
8. Preparations for the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum.
9. Update on the implementation of all the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.
10. Update on the implementation of the United Nations development system reform.
11. Action by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to strengthen protection against sexual and any other type of exploitation and abuse and against sexual harassment in the workplace.

12. Report by the Executive Director on actions to update and improve the internal management, policies and procedures of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.
 13. Other matters.
 14. Closure of the session.
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