

# TERMS OF REFERENCE AND NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

#### **FOR**

# THE UN-HABITAT ADVISORY GROUP ON GENDER ISSUES (AGGI)

# INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme ("UN-Habitat"), Advisory Group on Gender Issues, ("AGGI"), is an independent advisory body composed of representatives of women organizations around the globe. Pursuant to Governing Council Resolution 23/1, its role is to advise and support the Executive Director on all issues related to gender equality and women's empowerment, including gender mainstreaming, in UN-Habitat's work.

AGGI's mandate is to advise on strengthening the link and coherence between UN-Habitat's policies and normative framework, its operational activities on women's empowerment and gender equality, with respect to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda ("NUA"), the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Women around the world, including the urban poor, those living in informal settlements or working in informal economies, the grassroots, those displaced and at risk of multiple threats, are working against all odds to protect their families and communities. Women are disproportionately affected by poverty, discrimination, climate change and pandemics. Despite these challenges, they remain the key partners and resilient leaders in the creation of green, just, sustainable and prosperous cities. The issues of women's empowerment and gender equality have, for a long time, been central to UN-Habitat's work and have been key determinants in the implementation of its mandate and activities globally.

In 1985, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements ("UNCHS"), a precursor to UN-Habitat, held a Conference in Nairobi with the objective, inter *alia*, of enhancing the participation of women and their priorities in the implementation of the human settlements' agenda. As a result, UNCHS established the "Women and Human Settlements Office", which was later transformed into the "Gender Mainstreaming Unit" to ensure gender mainstreaming within UN-Habitat.

In 1995, during the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, the then Executive Director of UNCHS, Wally N'Dow, announced the formation of the Huairou Commission<sup>1</sup> to monitor the outcome of the Habitat II Conference of 1996 from a women's perspective, and as a vehicle to strengthen the involvement of women in the human settlements arena, a role which it has continued to play.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Huairou Commission, a registered non-governmental organization with a global secretariat in Brooklyn, New York (NY), was established to ensure that grassroots women would have a voice at UN conferences and in other development processes. It develops strategic partnerships and linkages among grassroots women's organizations, advancing their capacity to collectively influence political spaces on behalf of their communities and enhance their sustainable, resilient community development practices.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> By General Assembly of the United Nations 56/206 of 21 December 2001, UNCHS was transformed into a subsidiary organ of the United Nations known as the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). Since then, significant work has been done by UN-Habitat and its partners, particularly the Huairou Commission, on women's empowerment and gender equality, but more remains to be done.



An evaluation of the gender work of UN-Habitat conducted in 2011 revealed a need for a more focused and strategic look at gender mainstreaming and gender equality across UN-Habitat.

At the Twenty-third Session of the UN- Habitat Governing Council in April 2011, the Huairou Commission, through the Women's Caucuses, together with the Governments of Tanzania, Ghana, Norway and Zambia, along with the UN-Habitat, initiated a resolution to create an Advisory Group on Gender Issues (AGGI), to advise the Executive Director on strengthening the principles of gender equality and women's empowerment.

At the said Twenty-third session, the Governing Council adopted the Resolution 23/1, which calls for the formation of an Advisory Group on Gender Issues (AGGI). The resolution requested "...the Executive Director to set up an advisory group on gender issues consisting of representatives of women's organizations (both grass-roots and professional organizations), academic institutions, the private sector, local authorities, and policymakers and decision makers in Governments, taking into account equal regional representation, to advise the Executive Director on all issues related to gender mainstreaming in the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and to provide oversight regarding the implementation of the gender equality action plan within the existing programme of work and budget. "

It is anticipated that the strengthening of the principles of gender equality and women's empowerment would position women as vital agents of change in human settlements work.

The AGGI was officially launched during the Sixth Session of the World Urban Forum ("WUF6"), in Naples, Italy, with the inaugural meeting being held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 at the LUPT Research Centre of the University of Naples Federico II.

In 2013, the AGGI mandate was further strengthened at the Twenty-fourth Session of the Governing Council with the adoption of resolution 24/4³ which requested the Executive Director "to make optimal use of AGGI", and to strengthen gender equality and women empowerment

programmes of UN-Habitat. In 2017, Governing Council Resolution 26/10<sup>4</sup> further highlighted the importance of AGGI in enhancing gender mainstreaming in the work of UN-Habitat and called on the Executive Director "to do so in line with the New Urban Agenda, the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

In 2019, the first UN-Habitat Assembly, which replaced the Governing Council pursuant to General Assembly resolution A/RES/73/239, adopted the Resolution 1/4.5 which urged the Executive Director "to support and make optimal use of the AGGI as well as other relevant networks to facilitate the mainstreaming of gender within UN-Habitat and the effective integration of the gender equality perspective into its policies and programmes aimed at implementing its Strategic Plan and programme of work, and in targeting improved gender parity in the Programme" (attached as Annex 1 are the three UN-Habitat Governing Bodies Resolutions, for ease of reference).

It is against this background that these Terms of Reference of AGGI and its agreed nominations selection process have been formulated and herein attached:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Resolution on gender equality and women's empowerment to contribute to sustainable urban development (*GC Resolution 24/1*), April 2013.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Resolution on promoting effective implementation, follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda (*GC Resolution 26/10*), April 2017.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Resolution on achieving gender equality through the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements (*Resolution 1/4* adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly), May 2019.



# MISSION OF AGGI AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

#### (A) MISSION

1.1 Advancing women's empowerment and gender equality in sustainable urban development through the provision of strategic guidance and advice to the Executive Director, across policies, programmes of work and budgeting at global, regional, national, and local levels, taking note of gender evaluations, resolutions and the wider UN context for coherent work on women's empowerment and gender equality.

#### (B) GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 1.2 AGGI is established as an independent advisory body to advise and support the Executive Director on all issues related to gender equality and women's empowerment, including gender mainstreaming in UN-Habitat's work. AGGI will be guided by the following principles:
  - (a) Integrity, transparency, trust, accountability and due regard to the UN principles;
  - (b) Human rights and development-based approach with a focus on the experiences and priorities of diverse women;
  - (c) Recognize and support women as agents of change and active contributors to inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements;
  - (d) Common understanding of women's empowerment, gender equality, gender equity and gender mainstreaming, as outlined in **Annex 2**;
  - (e) Good practices and learning from UN-Habitat's normative and operational work as well as the wider field of its mandate, including from the global, regional, national and local levels, as well as grassroots initiatives; and
  - (f) Zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse ("SEA").
- 1.3 The AGGI members shall make recommendations relevant to the needs of UN- Habitat, informed by the realities of the global constituency that they represent.
- 1.4 The work of AGGI will seek to address thematic areas of UN-Habitat's work, specifically focusing on women empowerment issues such as:
  - (a) Land tenure security without threat of forced eviction;
  - (b) Ownership of land and property;
  - (c) Strengthened voice and agency of grassroots women in advancement of human settlements;
  - (d) Safe and secure sanitation, transportation and other urban basic services;
  - (e) Active participation of women in place- making and urban design;
  - (f) Elevation of the role of women in urban planning and governance;
  - (g) Gender violence and safety;
  - (h) Slum upgrading and housing affordability;



It will also address the topics addressed in its Strategic Plan 2022-23, vis-à-vis:

- (i) Reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum;
- (j) Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions;
- (k) Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment; and
- (1) Effective urban crisis prevention and response.

# II. FUNCTIONS

# (A) ROLE OF AGGI

- 2.1 Advise the Executive Director of UN-Habitat on issues related to gender equality and women's empowerment, including gender mainstreaming in all efforts in UN-Habitat's work.
- 2.2 Provide strategic guidance and policy advice to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat on the development, implementation, and assessment of UN-Habitat's strategic plans on matters relating to gender equality and women's empowerment in urban development and human settlements.
- 2.3 Advise on strengthening links and coherence between UN-Habitat's policies and normative framework, its operational activities on women's empowerment and gender equality, and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Additionally, enhancing UN-Habitat's support to Member States in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda as a road map for the achievement of SDG11 and the urban dimensions of associated SDG targets.
- 2.4 Advise on the implementation and follow-up on resolutions of the UN-Habitat Assembly and the work of the Executive Board related to gender. In addition, the Executive Director of UN- Habitat may call upon the AGGI to advise on the content of future resolutions, to strengthen their gender perspective.
- 2.5 Advise on implementation of findings and recommendations on institutional policies, evaluations, structure, and capacities related to the Agency's work on women's empowerment and gender equality.
- 2.6 Provide guidance and create responsive frameworks for strengthening, structuring, engaging in new partnerships with diverse groups and constituencies, UN agencies, local government organizations and their networks, the private sector, grassroots and women's organizations and others. This this is with a view to guiding the Organization to strengthen its work in the area of women's empowerment and gender equality.
- 2.7 Advise the UN-Habitat Executive Director on progress, gaps and challenges in the UN-Habitat's internal and external efforts towards women's empowerment and gender equality in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, UN-Habitat Strategic Plan, focusing on gender, and SDGs related work. The AGGI may provide additional advice as may be deemed necessary and/or as called upon by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat in other areas, such as in the development of institutional policies and documents, training, management responses to evaluations or other matters, including support to public outreach and advocacy.



- 2.8 AGGI will develop its own mode of operation and biennial work plan to be approved by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat.
- 2.9 AGGI may form thematic sub-groups to facilitate and enhance the delivery of its advisory role to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat.

# (B) OUTPUTS

# 2.10 The AGGI will provide:

- (a) Recommendations and advice to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat with respect to policies addressing women's empowerment and gender equality within the organization, and in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- (b) Its workplan to the Executive Director, which will be reviewed and revised biennially in consultation with UN-Habitat, in particular, the Human Rights and Social Inclusion Unit and the Office of the Executive Director. Any revision to the workplan must be approved by the Executive Director. The workplan will include the activities, deliverables, methodology of deliverables, partners and timelines, reflecting the priorities as agreed by the AGGI;
- (c) Its mode of operations may be reviewed regularly and revised accordingly;
- (d) A comprehensive and summarized biennial report, including technical, financial, inkind, and a revision of the funding spent by UN-Habitat in programs addressing women, based on information provided by UN-Habitat. This must be submitted to the UN-Habitat Executive Director, describing its activities, progress on its workplan and recommendations;
- (e) Ad-hoc reports and recommendations as may be required and if deemed necessary by UN-Habitat; and
- (f) This AGGI Terms of Reference may be reviewed regularly and, where necessary, agreed and approved by AGGI and the Executive Director of UN-Habitat.

# (C) ROLE OF UN-HABITAT

- 2.11 In its engagement and interaction with the AGGI, UN-Habitat will demonstrate transparency, integrity, accountability and comply with other United Nations core values. UN- Habitat will maintain an appropriate mechanism for continuous consultation with AGGI on all its gender-related policies, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of gender mainstreaming and gender equality within its organization and programs related to the New Urban Agenda, the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- 2.12 UN-Habitat will ensure highest-level sustained political will, and improved institutionalization with adequate staffing and resourcing of a dedicated administrative structure located at the highest possible level within the organizational architecture of UN-Habitat, including senior-level commitment for gender equality and women's empowerment, in consultation with AGGI.
- 2.13 UN-Habitat will encourage its Governing Bodies of UN-Habitat to place gender equality



and women's empowerment as an item at their sessions if there are substantive issues to be considered.

- 2.14 UN-Habitat will cover the administrative cost of the operations of AGGI where possible and subject to the availability of resources. This will comprise of the agreed meeting expenses and the cost of running the AGGI Secretariat in line with a preapproved budget.
- 2.15 UN-Habitat will make available information and relevant documents, as may be required, to the AGGI members to facilitate their work, as well as provide other support as may be required or necessary.
- 2.16 UN-Habitat will provide an enabling environment for AGGI to liaise and collaborate with its officials; and where possible, facilitate their availability to serve as gender focal points (HQ and regional) as may be required by the AGGI for deliberations on gender related issues/topics.
- 2.17 UN-Habitat will facilitate contacts and collaboration between the AGGI, fellow UN Agencies, and other relevant organizations/institutions where possible, on gender issues related to human settlements as necessary.
- 2.18 The Executive Director of UN-Habitat will provide feedback/response to the AGGI on its submitted proposals, suggestions, and recommendations.
- 2.19 Where possible, UN-Habitat and AGGI will jointly endeavour to seek budgetary support through fundraising efforts for the implementation of recommendations from the AGGI accepted by the Executive Director.
- 2.20 As requested by UN-Habitat Assembly Resolution 1/4 2019, the UN-Habitat Executive Director "will submit a report to the UN-Habitat Assembly through the Executive Board, at its second session on the implementation of the 2019 Resolution 1/4AGGI members may assist in this reporting, upon the request of the Executive Director.

# (D) ROLE OF THE AGGI SECRETARIAT

- 2.21 The AGGI will be provided with a secretariat, hosted by UN-Habitat and will perform its role under the supervision of the Deputy Executive Director, as detailed below and in accordance with relevant United Nations Regulations and Rules.
- 2.22 The secretariat will facilitate communication between the AGGI, UN-Habitat gender focal points, and the other staff members as may be required and necessary.
- 2.23 The secretariat will provide support to the work of AGGI as may be required and necessary, subject to the availability of funds and resources.
- 2.24 The secretariat will maintain and facilitate flow of information, share relevant documents (including as generated by UN-Habitat), synthesize information/reports and make information flow manageable, subject to the Rules, Regulations and principles of the United Nations.
- 2.25 The secretariat, where possible, will provide logistical and administrative support services to meetings and other activities of the AGGI.
- 2.26 The secretariat may provide other support and services to the AGGI as required and, subject to availability of resources.



# III. MODE OF OPERATION

#### (A) MEETINGS

- 3.1 AGGI will meet twice a year, for such duration as may be determined by AGGI.
- 3.2 Subject to the availability of funds and in the absence of *force majeure* such as a global pandemic or other events beyond the control of UN-Habitat and AGGI members, AGGI may hold in-person meetings at least once a year to prepare the biennial work plan, review its progress, set priorities, as well as conduct other relevant business.
- 3.3 Where necessary, meetings will be held virtually or in a hybrid format.
- 3.4 The AGGI secretariat will support the AGGI in the organization of meetings.
- 3.5 The AGGI secretariat will support, as required, the AGGI in drawing up and circulating a provisional agenda to all the AGGI members in advance of the proposed meetings; the AGGI shall, at the beginning of each meeting, adopt the provisional agenda and the minutes of the previous meeting.
- 3.6 AGGI will hold at least once a year a meeting with the Executive Director of UN-Habitat and at least twice a year with the Deputy Executive Director. The meetings will be facilitated by the ED and/or DED appropriate Staff member(s), with the Head of the Human Rights and Social Inclusion Unit (or its equivalent) as the Focal Point. The dates of the official meetings of the AGGI should coincide with the sessions of the UN-Habitat Assembly and the Executive Board, the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the Women Assembly at the World Urban Forum (WUF), and/or the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).
- 3.7 Meetings can be convened by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members of AGGI.
- 3.8 Recommendations and advice to the UN-Habitat Executive Director will be issued by consensus. Where consensus cannot be reached, the minority opinions different from that of the majority of the participating members shall be included in the report to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, noting the number of members supporting each recommendation.
- 3.9 Subject to availability of funds, and in line with the United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules, UN-Habitat may incur costs and expenses to cover mutually agreed elements relating to AGGI's work.
- 3.10 Ad hoc meetings of the AGGI may be convened if the need arises and held virtually where possible. To facilitate its deliberations, AGGI members can, during any of their meetings, devise their own procedures, in the event that they are not covered in this section, mode of operations, outlined above, meetings may be held virtually when practicable.
- 3.11 The AGGI should take advantage of the Women's Assembly, Women's Caucuses, Roundtables, and other spaces at the World Urban Forum (both physical and online), facilitated by UN-Habitat and the broader United Nations/civil society that are focused on women's issues, to allow for consultation and engagement with a broad number of women and women's groups working on issues of inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable urban development and human settlements, working on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the UN- Habitat Strategic Plan, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



#### IV. MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1 Membership of the AGGI is voluntary and members will not be remunerated and shall be guided by UN principles. Members are expected to comply with the UN Standards of Conduct.
- 4.2 The list of AGGI's members and their biographies and affiliations shall be published on the UN-Habitat website, to appear under a section of the website dedicated to advisory groups, for purposes of transparency and accountability. The activities and recommendations of AGGI shall be provided in a link on the website.

#### (A) APPOINTMENT CRITERIA

- 4.3 The AGGI shall be composed of a maximum of thirteen members appointed by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat upon nomination, and who, pursuant to UN-Habitat Governing Council Resolution 23/1 of 2011, shall be drawn from:
  - (a) Women's organizations, (both grassroots and professional organizations);
  - (b) Academic and research institutions;
  - (c) Private sector;
  - (d) Local authorities;
  - (e) Policymakers and decision makers in Governments.
- 4.4 Members of the AGGI shall be nominated and appointed by the Executive Director, taking into account equal geographical representation, on the basis of their experience and expertise on gender equality and the empowerment of women in sustainable urban development, the New Urban Agenda, and the UN system. In addition, they should have knowledge and consolidated experience in at least one of the UN-Habitat thematic priority areas, urban development issues, the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- 4.5 The number of persons per category will be agreed between AGGI and UN-Habitat when the request for nominations is issued. Among these members, two will be members of the CPR, and one representative of UN-Women. The remaining ten members shall be nominated in response to the call for nominations in the public domain including UN-Habitat's website, <a href="www.un-habitat.org">www.un-habitat.org</a>
- 4.6 AGGI members will serve a term of two years which can be renewed for a maximum of another two years. No AGGI member shall serve for more than four years. Every two years fifty percent of the members appointed through the call for nominations can be renewed for continuity purposes.
- 4.7 AGGI will communicate to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat the names of the persons who will be renewing their mandates as well as those who will step down. In order to ensure continuity in the activities, the current three members, who came in after the current six founding members, will continue to be AGGI members according to the following: the Chair and one member will continue for a 4-year period, starting from the next installation of the new AGGI members, up to the following installation in 2028, and one member for 2 years. The names will be communicated to UNH by AGGI.
- 4.8 Emeritus status is granted to the original founding members currently in AGGI because they have rendered distinguished and longstanding personal and professional service to AGGI and to the promotion of its objectives regarding women's empowerment and gender equality in human settlements. From the honorific point of view, the condition of emeritus is life-long. The emeritus members, to ensure smooth transition and continuity of institutional knowledge of AGGI, participate in AGGI activities and Working Groups, with no voting rights for a 4-year period,



starting from the next installation of new AGGI members, up to the following installation in 2028. The recognition of emeritus status shall be made by AGGI and presented to the Executive Director for nomination.

- 4.9 If an AGGI member is unable to perform or continue to carry out his/her functions during the term of their appointment, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, in consultation with the AGGI Chairperson, may appoint a person to complete the remaining term of that member, maintaining regional and gender balance wherever possible. The members representing the UN-Habitat Governing Bodies, and UN Women are not required to go through the selection process outlined in paragraph 4.5 above.
- 4.10 The terms of office of the two nominated members of the CPR shall be limited to the duration of their terms as members of the CPR. If a nominated member of the CPR is unable to perform his/her functions or ceases to be a member of the CPR, the UN-Habitat Executive Director will request the CPR to elect a replacement for the remainder of the term. None of the nominated members of the CPR to AGGI may continue with a term after the expiration of their duration of office as a member of the CPR.
- 4.11 The members of the AGGI shall serve in their own capacity and not on behalf of the organisations, institutions, governments, or countries that they represent.
- 4.12 Members of AGGI shall, in the performance of their roles as AGGI members, during AGGI meetings, events and other activities authorized by UN-Habitat, enjoy the functional privileges and immunities of the United Nations, such as those that are normally availed to experts on mission in the service of the United Nations.

#### (B) SELECTION PROCESS

- 4.13 A step-by-step selection process is established, (see **Annex 3**). This process will be guided by a workplan and validated and reviewed through its implementation. A proposal for future selection processes will then be submitted accordingly.
- 4.14 The AGGI members selection process will be open and transparent and once made will have a wide representation, where possible.

# (C) THE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON OF AGGI

- 4.15 The Chairperson of AGGI shall be nominated by the AGGI members from among its Membership, and shall serve for a term of two years and will automatically be renewed for another two-year term. In the transitional phase the current Chair will keep her mandate for the period of her nomination. AGGI members can be nominated for the role of Vicechair as well as leaders of internal working groups for an effective implementation of the adopted Work Plan.
- 4.16 Nomination of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and leaders of Working Groups shall not be valid unless supported by two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members of the AGGI.
- 4.17 The Chairperson shall be the focal point for communication between the members of AGGI, the Executive Director and other UN-Habitat officials, and will be responsible for coordinating the work of the AGGI, including leading reporting on AGGI's activities to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, its governing bodies and other stakeholders.

#### V. FUNDING

5.1 Subject to availability of funds, UN-Habitat may provide funding and facilitate travel for AGGI members 's participation at AGGI meetings and official UN-Habitat meetings and events.



However, members and members' organizations may be requested to contribute towards the cost of their travel and other activities.

5.2 UN-Habitat will endeavour to engage in fund-raising initiatives for mainstreaming of gender equality and women's empowerment, and seek support from donors, national and local governments and other organizations. The use of funds allocated for the AGGI activities are subject to United Nations Financial Rules and Regulations and will be disbursed through the AGGI Secretariat. Funds will be allocated by UN-Habitat in accordance with its approved AGGI Work Plan.

# VI. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

- 6.1 AGGI members are expected to comply with the principles and core values of integrity, respect for diversity, tolerance and civility, including those of the UN Charter, the Standards of Conduct of the International Civil Service and the UN Code of Conduct and shall be expected to conduct themselves with the highest standards of ethical conduct.
- 6.2 They shall not communicate, disclose or make available all or any part of information deemed "confidential information" to any third party without the prior written consent of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat.
- 6.3 Members of the AGGI are not allowed to speak on behalf of UN-Habitat or the United Nations system, or make use of its logos, in communication, without obtaining prior written approval of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat.
- 6.4 The members of AGGI shall not act as representatives of UN-Habitat, or publicly communicate UN-Habitat confidential information, without obtaining prior written approval from the Executive Director of UN-Habitat.
- 6.5 Except for the privileges under **paragraph 4.12**, above, nothing in relation to the membership of the AGGI shall entitle its members to the privileges and immunities of UN-Habitat and the AGGI members shall not be regarded as staff members of UN-Habitat.
- 6.6 Should AGGI have any complaint or a form of grievance against any aspect of AGGI's relations with UN-Habitat, it shall refer the said matter, in writing, to the Executive Director who will review the complaint and advise on the next course of action the Executive Director may deem appropriate. Any dispute or controversy that remains unsettled shall be referred to any of the UN-Habitat Governing Bodies for resolution.
- 6.7 In the case of the occurrence of a violation of the standards of conduct that each AGGI member has agreed to uphold in the course of his/her membership of AGGI, the Executive Director can refer the matter to the UN Ethics Office for an independent opinion. The Executive Director shall also receive an assessment by the Chair of AGGI before making her final decision on such matters.
- 6.8 In the unlikely event that a stalemate (equal votes), the Chair will cast the deciding vote and the majority opinion will be adopted as the official AGGI recommendation with the minority opinion minuted.
- 6.9 Nothing in or relating to this shall be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, including UN-Habitat.