

UN-Habitat Working Group on Programme of Work and Budget Periodic Report to the UN-Habitat Committee of Permanent Representatives October , 2017

UN-Habitat Working Group on Work Programme and Budget (WG) held its third formal meeting from 11-12 October, 2017. The sessions, chaired by H.E. Ambassador Julia Pataki, Permanent Representative of Romania to UN-Habitat, included participation of representatives of all five regional groups. UN-Habitat's Executive Director (ED) and Deputy Executive Director (DED) and other members of its senior management represented the organization.

The agenda of the meeting and ensuing frank and informative discussions centered on the financial situation of UN-Habitat, on the status of the implementation of the Programme of Work and of the Strategic Plan 2017, on the High Level Panel assessment on UN-Habitat and on the UN-Habitat's account of Financial Year 2016. There was also a debate on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group to the Executive Director.

In the light of the discussions at the meeting, the Working Group agreed to the following recommendations:

- 5.1. We recommend the Executive Director in measuring the efficiency of the Programme to compare administrative costs to the total budget of each project.
- 5.2. We recommend the Executive Director to produce an analytical document that provides an adequate overview of the distribution of resources across programmatic areas and regions in order to help the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the Governing Council to better identify possible imbalances and taking into account the development needs of various regions including emerging issues such as risk reduction and rehabilitation.
- 5.3. We request the Executive Director to provide written proposals on specific rules, regulations and procedures which are hindering the efficiency and effectiveness of UN-Habitat, including but not limited to various options of transformation and lay out the respective changes implied, including a comprehensive analysis of their implications. Furthermore, for each option, it should outline which measures would need to be taken and by whom if such an option were to be pursued. Furthermore, it should describe how UN-Habitat would establish the required internal control mechanism for the proposed expanded delegation of authority and hiring authorities as described under its proposal.
- 5.4. We request the Executive Director to facilitate unhindered access to the UN-Habitat website in order to assure transparency and visibility of the activities of the Programme including showcasing the works the UN-Habitat does in countries.
- 5.5. We welcome the integrated approach in programming and recommend further enhance the normative function of the Programme.