

UN-Habitat Working Group on Programme of Work and Budget recommendations for the Executive Director and report to the UN-Habitat Committee of Permanent Representatives October 7, 2016

UN-Habitat Working Group on Work Programme and Budget (WG) held its third formal meeting from 5-7 October, 2016. The meeting, chaired by Mr. M. Husham Alfityan / Deputy Permanent Representative of Iraq to UN-Habitat, included participation of 13 out of 15 members, as well as observers of Member States of the United Nations and intergovernmental organizations. 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 follow up recommendations of previous formal meetings. These included the status of implementation of recommendations arising from the 2015 OIOS evaluation report of UN-Habitat, resource mobilization and communication strategies, discussion of the paper provided by ED on the challenges of abiding by both the rules and regulations of the UN secretariat. The meeting also discussed the progress on the implementation of Programme of Work and Budget and the financial status, budget and administration including a brief on financial status of the organization and the human resource situation but also extended into other relevant issues such the voluntary contributions from the members.

The Working Group decided that the status of implementation of the Work Programme is introduced as a standing agenda point in all formal meetings of the Working Group; discussions should be informed by a relevant document to be distributed by the Secretariat well in advance of each meeting.

The Working Group recommends to the Executive Director:

- 3.1- the Secretariat conducts and presents written updates on all sub programmes ahead of the next formal WG meeting.
- 3.2- that the Secretariat submits to the Working Group ahead of its next formal meeting an action plan for improving gender balance across all staff levels, including attracting more candidates and ensuring that women have opportunities to rise in the ranks of the organization. This action plan should include trainings, measures for professional development, family friendly policies, etc.
- 3.3- that the Secretariat provides written proposals for a revised business model ahead of the next formal WG meeting. This should consider 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 by whom if such an option were to be pursued. Furthermore, it should

describe how UN-Habitat would establish the required internal controls for the proposed expanded delegation of authority and hiring authorities as described under its proposal.

The Working Group requests the Executive Director:

1. To present at the next formal meeting of the Working Group the following documents, including power point presentations:
 - Update on the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget,
 - Update on the financial and human resources status,
 - A paper which lays out how the Secretariat will prioritize the implementation of the audit recommendations including those from the Board of Auditors, and
 - A paper informing the Working Group about how the UN-Habitat cost recovery policy works.
2. To make available as soon as possible the current Annual Implementation Plan.
3. That the Secretariat creates in the CPR Portal a WG link and regularly updates it.
4. That the table with the overview of the income and expenditure provided at this WG meeting is expanded to include all years from 2006 to the present.