

**Working Group on Programme and Budget of the United Nations Human
Settlements Programme:
Recommendations for the Executive Director and report to the UN-Habitat
Committee of Permanent Representatives 23/2/2017**

UN-Habitat Working Group on Work Programme and Budget (WGPB) held its fourth formal meeting from 22- 23 February 2017. The meeting, chaired by Mr. M. Husham Alfityan / Deputy Permanent Representative of Iraq to UN-Habitat, included participation of 12 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 other members of its senior management represented the organization.

The agenda of the meeting ensured frank and informative discussions, centered on the follow up of recommendations of previous formal meetings. The Executive Director, Dr. Joan Clos, presented an update on the implementation of the recommendations from the last formal meeting, including on the:

- Implementation of the Programme of Work;
- Financial status of the organization for 2016 including information on each sub-programmes;
- Analyses of the budget for the biennium 2016-2017 including projections of income and expenses;
- Presentation of the Draft budget for 2018-19 on income and expenses on regular budget, core-contribution and earmarked contribution;
- Update on Human Resources Status and UN-Habitat Cost Recovery Policy.

The meeting was informed on the assessment process of UN-Habitat by decision of the UN General Assembly and on the status of implementation of the reports of oversight bodies, which includes the pending recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the Board of Auditors, and the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU).

The Working Group decided that the status of implementation of the Work Programme, budget and human resources is maintained as standing agenda points in all formal meetings of the Working Group; discussions should be based on relevant documentation prepared by and distributed by the Secretariat well in advance of each meeting.

The Working Group noted with concern that the previous recommendations have not been fully responded to, which affects the fulfillment the of the Working Group” to mandate.

The Working Group on Work Programme and Budget (WGPB) reiterates its previous recommendations to the Executive Director as follows:

4.1.—The Secretariat provides written proposals for a revised business model by 8 April 2017. 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 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.

4.2.—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 be specific to UN-Habitat and include trainings, measures for professional development, family friendly policies, also including a reflection on the existing constraints etc.

In the light of the discussions at the meeting, the Working Group has the following additional recommendations:

- 4.3. Urges the Executive Director to implement all actionable recommendations made by the Working Group and provide written status reports at least one month in advance of the next Working Group meeting regarding the implementation of these recommendations.
- 4.4. The Secretariat provides a report on the implementation ~~action taken in respect~~ of the recommendations listed for action by UN-Habitat in the document: “*Joint Inspection Unit Report: Review of the Acceptance and Implementation of JIU Recommendations by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)*” (JIU/ML/2016/19). (See attached document).

The Working Group requests the Executive Director:

1. To provide updates at the next formal meeting of the Working Group on the following:
 - implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget
 - the financial status of the organization
 - the status of human resources and
 - the current Annual Implementation Plan.
2. That the Secretariat continues to update the Working Group link on the UN-Habitat CPR Portal.
3. Explores possibilities to improve the UN-Habitat website.

Furthermore, the Working Group recommends the extension of its mandate by the Governing Council at its next session. In this regard proposes that a draft resolution shall be prepared with the assistance of the Secretariat and be considered by the Group during the month of March

The Eastern European Group has mandated H.E. Ambassador Julia Pataki of Romania to take over as the chair of the group.