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**Executive Board of the United Nations  
Human Settlements Programme  
First session of 2023**  
Nairobi, 28 and 29 March 2023

## **Draft report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on the work of its first session of 2023**

**Rapporteur: Mr. Arnaud Suquet (France)**

### **I. Introduction**

1. The Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) was established in accordance with General Assembly resolution 73/239 of 20 December 2018, on the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of UN-Habitat.
2. The Executive Board held its second session of 2022 in a hybrid format from 21 to 23 November 2022. At that session, in decision 2022/7, on the methods of work of the Executive Board in 2022 and the workplan of the Executive Board for 2023, the Executive Board agreed that its first session of 2023 would be held on 28 and 29 March 2023. At its meeting held on 8 February 2023, the Bureau of the Executive Board recommended that the first session of 2023 of the Executive Board be held in a hybrid format, enabling both online and in-person participation.

### **II. Opening of the session**

3. The first session of 2023 of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat was opened at 9.15 a.m. on Tuesday, 28 March 2023, by the Chair, Silvio Albuquerque (Brazil). The Chair outlined the arrangements for the session on the basis of recommendations made by the Bureau of the Executive Board. He explained that simultaneous interpretation into the six official languages of the United Nations would be available for six hours daily during the session.
4. Opening statements were delivered by Zainab Hawa Bangura, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi; Zachariah Njeru, Cabinet Secretary for Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Kenya; Martha Delgado Peralta, President of the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat Assembly); and Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN-Habitat.

### **III. Organizational matters**

#### **A. Adoption of the agenda and the workplan for the first session of 2023**

5. The Executive Board adopted the following agenda for its first session of 2023 on the basis of the provisional agenda (HSP/EB.2023/1) and the annotated provisional agenda (HSP/EB.2023/1/Add.1):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organizational matters:
  - (a) Adoption of the agenda and the workplan for the first session of 2023;
  - (b) Adoption of the report of the Executive Board on the work of its second session of 2022.
3. Reports by the chairs of the ad hoc working groups established by the Executive Board.
4. Financial status of UN-Habitat, including an update on the financial reserve and the updated scalability model for the non-earmarked budget of the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation.
5. Briefing on the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
6. Preparations for the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum.
7. Findings of the analysis of the reputational risks related to the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation and overview of earmarked private sector contribution agreements.
8. Normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, including reporting on the programmatic activities of UN-Habitat in 2022 and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities.
9. Annual report on action by UN-Habitat to strengthen protection against sexual and any other type of exploitation and abuse and against sexual harassment in the workplace.
10. Consideration and adoption of the outcomes of the session, including the provisional agenda for the second session of 2023.
11. Other matters.
12. Closure of the session.

6. The Executive Board agreed to follow the proposed organization of work and timetable for the first session of 2023 of the Executive Board, as set out in annex I to the annotated provisional agenda (HSP/EB.2023/1/Add.1). Draft decisions for consideration by the Executive Board, as forwarded to the Chair of the Board by the chair of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters, which had been tasked by the Bureau with leading the open-ended consultations on the draft decisions for consideration at the present session, were circulated in a conference room paper and presented by the Chair of the Board. The Executive Board agreed that informal consultations on the draft decisions would be held at agreed times in preparation for their possible adoption by the Executive Board during the last plenary meeting of the first session, on 29 March 2023. The Executive Board agreed that the representative of Pakistan, Vice-Chair of the Bureau, would chair the informal consultations.

## **B. Adoption of the report of the Executive Board on the work of its second session of 2022**

7. The Executive Board adopted the report on the work of its second session of 2022 (HSP/EB.2022/21), held from 21 to 23 November 2022, by paragraph 1 of part (a), on reports of the Executive Board and its working groups, of decision 2023/3, on methods of work of the Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the workplan of the Executive Board for 2023.

8. The decisions adopted by the Executive Board at the second session of 2022 are set out in document HSP/EB.2022/22.

9. A statement was made by the representative of the following Member State of the Executive Board: United States of America.

## **C. Attendance**

10. The session was attended by representatives of the following Member States of the Executive Board: Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Germany, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan,

Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Serbia, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye, United States of America, Uruguay.

11. The session was also attended by the following observers that are States Members of the United Nations: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Cuba, Czechia, Ecuador, Eritrea, Finland, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Norway, Oman, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

12. The session was also attended by the following observers that are members of specialized agencies of the United Nations: European Union, State of Palestine.

13. The session was also attended by the following observers: Holy See, League of Arab States.

#### **IV. Reports by the chairs of the ad hoc working groups established by the Executive Board**

14. The Chair introduced the item.

15. The chair of the ad hoc working group on the development of a stakeholder engagement policy, Patrick Egloff (Switzerland), provided a briefing on the work of that group. He announced that he would be standing down as the chair of the group.

16. Following the briefing by Mr. Egloff, statements were made by the representatives of the following Member States of the Executive Board: Argentina, Cameroon, China, France, India, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Portugal, Russian Federation, United States.

17. The chair of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters, Saqlain Syedah (Pakistan), provided a briefing on the work of that group.

18. Following the briefing by Ms. Syedah, statements were made by the representatives of the following Member States of the Executive Board: Angola, Cameroon, France.

19. The Executive Board adopted the relevant element for agenda item 3 of part (c), on preparation of the draft work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and draft budget of the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2024, of decision 2023/1, on the financial status of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, update on the financial reserve, updated scalability model for the non-earmarked budget of the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, analysis of the risks related to the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation and overview of earmarked private sector contribution agreements; and paragraphs 2–6 of part (a), on reports of the Executive Board and its working groups, of decision 2023/3. The decision is set out in document HSP/EB.2023/7.

#### **V. Financial status of UN-Habitat, including an update on the financial reserve and the updated scalability model for the non-earmarked budget of the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation**

20. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the reports of the Executive Director on the interim financial status of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme as at 31 December 2022 (HSP/EB.2023/2) and on the scalability model for the non-earmarked Foundation budget (HSP/EB.2023/2/Add.1).

21. The Executive Director delivered a statement on the financial situation of UN-Habitat and future aspirations. A representative of the secretariat gave a presentation providing further detail on the financial status of UN-Habitat as at 31 December 2022, with an update as at 25 March 2023; on the financial reserve and partial loan repayment; on the process of developing, and options for, the supplementary budget for 2023; and on the principles and priorities of the scalability model for managing growth.

22. Following the presentation, statements were made by the representatives of the following Member States of the Executive Board: Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica (speaking on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States), Egypt, France, Germany, Japan, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan (speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Portugal, Switzerland, United States (speaking also on behalf of Canada, the European Union, Japan, Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland). Statements were also delivered by the representatives of Eritrea (speaking on behalf of the African States) and Malaysia. The Executive Director and representatives of the secretariat responded to the issues raised under the agenda item.

23. The Executive Board took note of the documents presented under agenda item 4 and the briefings thereon, including related updates.

24. The Executive Board adopted paragraphs 1–4 of part (a), on the financial status of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, of decision 2023/1; the element of part (c) of the same decision relevant to agenda item 4; and part (d), on the supplementary budget of the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2023, also of decision 2023/1. The decision is set out in document HSP/EB.2023/7.

25. At the time of adoption of part (d) of decision 2023/1, statements were made by the representatives of the following Member States of the Executive Board: Germany, United States.

## **VI. Briefing on the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly**

26. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the report of the first session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, held in Nairobi from 27 to 31 May 2019 (A/74/8).

27. The Executive Director provided a briefing on the preparations for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, to be held from 5 to 9 June 2023. A representative of the secretariat gave a presentation on preparations for the session.

28. Following the briefing and presentation, statements were made by the representatives of the following Member States of the Executive Board: Argentina, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Kenya, United States, Uruguay. Statements were also delivered by the representatives of Finland, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania. The Executive Director and representatives of the secretariat responded to the issues raised under the agenda item.

29. The Executive Board adopted part (b), on preparations for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, of decision 2023/2, on normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including reporting on the programmatic activities of the Programme in 2022 and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities. The decision is set out in document HSP/EB.2023/7.

## **VII. Preparations for the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum**

30. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Executive Director on the status of preparations for the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum (HSP/EB.2023/3).

31. The Executive Director delivered a statement on the preparations for the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum. A representative of the secretariat gave a presentation providing further information, including on the arrangements for and dates, venue and theme of the twelfth session; on promotion of the twelfth session and mobilization towards the session during the intersessional period; on the design of the programme for the twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth sessions of the World Urban Forum; and on Forum legacy initiatives. The representative of Egypt, as host country of the twelfth session, provided additional information.

32. Following the presentations, statements were made by the representatives of the following Member States of the Executive Board: Egypt, France, Kenya, United States. The Executive Director and representatives of the secretariat responded to the issues raised under the agenda item.

33. The Executive Board took note of the documents presented under agenda item 6 and the briefings thereon, including related updates.

34. The Executive Board adopted part (c), on preparations for the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum, of decision 2023/2. The decision is set out in document HSP/EB.2023/7.

## **VIII. Findings of the analysis of the reputational risks related to the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation and overview of earmarked private sector contribution agreements**

35. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to a risk analysis on the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation (HSP/EB.2023/INF/3) and an update on the private sector engagement strategy (HSP/EB.2023/INF/4).

36. The Executive Director delivered a statement on the risk analysis of the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation and the private sector engagement strategy. A representative of the secretariat gave a presentation in two parts: findings of the analysis of the reputational risks related to the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation and an overview of earmarked private sector contribution agreements.

37. Following the statement and presentation, statements were made by the representatives of the following Member States of the Executive Board: Costa Rica (speaking on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States), France, Kenya, Malawi (delivering a general statement on the impact of Cyclone Freddy on the country and subregion), Nigeria, United States. The Executive Director, representatives of the secretariat, and Grant Rogan, co-founder of the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation, responded to the issues raised under the agenda item.

38. The Executive Board adopted part (b), on analysis of the risks related to the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation and overview of earmarked private sector contribution agreements, of decision 2023/1. The decision is set out in document HSP/EB.2023/7.

## **IX. Normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, including reporting on the programmatic activities of UN-Habitat in 2022 and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities**

39. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Executive Director on the need for and possible benefits of the development of the Sustainable Development Goals Cities certification (HSP/EB.2023/4).

40. The acting Deputy Executive Director delivered a statement on the need for and possible benefits of the development of the Sustainable Development Goals Cities certification. A representative of the secretariat gave a presentation on the matter. He provided information on the background to the Sustainable Development Goals Cities initiative and related challenges and benefits, outlined the purpose, stages and costs of the certification process and addressed some of the questions frequently asked about the initiative and certification.

41. The presentation was followed by testimonials from partners on the development of the Sustainable Development Goals Cities certification. Statements were delivered by Adrian Schrunner, Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Australia; Allegra Maria del Pilar Baiocchi, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Costa Rica; Laura Fernández, Minister of National Planning and Economic Policy, Costa Rica; Jorge Ocampo, Executive President, Institute of Development and Municipal Advice, Costa Rica; Helder Sousa, Mayor of Mafra, Portugal, and co-chair of the National Association of Municipalities; and Martin Adjei-Mensah Korsah, Deputy Minister for Local Government, Decentralization and Rural Development, Ghana, and co-chair of the Sustainable Development Goals Cities Advisory Committee in Ghana.

42. Following the presentations and testimonials, statements were made by the representatives of the following Member States of the Executive Board: Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica (speaking on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States), Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Germany, India, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Senegal, Spain, United States. Statements were also delivered by the representatives of Botswana, the European Union (also on behalf of Australia, Canada, Japan, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States), Finland, the League of Arab States, Switzerland and Ukraine. The representatives of Ukraine and the Russian Federation twice exercised their right of reply. Representatives of the secretariat responded to the issues raised under the agenda item.

43. The Executive Board took note of the documents presented under agenda item 8 and the briefings thereon, including related updates.

44. The Executive Board adopted part (a), on the normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, of decision 2023/2. The decision is set out in document HSP/EB.2023/7.

## **X. Annual report on action by UN-Habitat to strengthen protection against sexual and any other type of exploitation and abuse and against sexual harassment in the workplace**

45. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to a report by the Executive Director on action by UN-Habitat to strengthen protection against sexual and any other type of exploitation and abuse and against sexual harassment in the workplace (HSP/EB.2023/5).

46. The acting Deputy Executive Director, delivered a statement on the annual report on action by UN-Habitat to strengthen protection against sexual and any other type of exploitation and abuse and against sexual harassment in the workplace. A representative of the secretariat gave a presentation on the matter.

47. Following the statement and presentation, statements were made by the representatives of the following Member States of the Executive Board: Argentina, Canada (speaking also on behalf of Brazil, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye and the United States, with the support of Belgium, Colombia, Czechia, the European Union, Finland, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Norway, Slovakia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom), Costa Rica (speaking on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States), Kenya, Russian Federation, United States. A representative of the secretariat responded to the issues raised under the agenda item.

48. The Executive Board adopted paragraph 5 of part (a), on the financial status of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, of decision 2023/1. The decision is set out in document HSP/EB.2023/7.

## **XI. Consideration and adoption of the outcomes of the session, including the provisional agenda for the second session of 2023**

49. At its first session of 2023, the Executive Board adopted the following decisions, which are set out in document HSP/EB.2023/7:

(a) Decision 2023/1: Financial status of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, update on the financial reserve, updated scalability model for the non-earmarked budget of the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, analysis of the risks related to the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation and overview of earmarked private sector contribution agreements, comprising:

- (i) Part (a): Financial status of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;
- (ii) Part (b): Analysis of the risks related to the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation and overview of earmarked private sector contribution agreements;
- (iii) Part (c): Preparation of the draft work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and draft budget of the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2024;
- (iv) Part (d): Supplementary budget of the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2023;

(b) Decision 2023/2: Normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including reporting on the programmatic activities of the Programme in 2022 and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities, comprising:

- (i) Part (a): Normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;
- (ii) Part (b): Preparations for the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;
- (iii) Part (c): Preparations for the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum;

(c) Paragraphs 1 to 6 of decision 2023/3: Methods of work of the Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the workplan of the Executive Board for 2023.

50. Draft paragraphs 6 to 9 of decision 2023/3 on the methods of work of the Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the workplan of the Executive Board for 2023 could not be adopted as formal outcomes of the session during the last plenary meeting of the session due to the lack of interpretation, notwithstanding the fact that it had verbally been agreed upon and there had been no objection when it had been discussed. In line with rule 4.3 of the rules of procedure of the Executive Board, which provides that Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish are the official and working languages of the Executive Board and that speeches made in an official language are to be interpreted into the other official languages, the Chair had to conclude the session given that the three-hour interpretation block allocated to the plenary meeting had been exhausted.

51. Accordingly, draft paragraphs 6 to 9 of decision 2023/3 will be circulated under a no-objection silence procedure by the Chair of the Board for adoption as formal outcomes of the session.

## **XII. Other matters**

52. Under agenda item 11, on other matters, the following representatives of non-governmental organizations delivered statements: Yunis Arikan, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, and Inés Sánchez de Madariaga, Advisory Group on Gender Issues.

## **XIII. Closure of the session**

53. The Executive Director of UN-Habitat delivered a closing statement.

54. The Chair declared the session closed at 7.25 p.m. on Wednesday, 29 March 2023.

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