**Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme**

**Draft technical inputs from the Secretariat for the proposed draft decisions for consideration by the Executive Board during its first session for the year 2021**

**7-8 April 2021**

*This version represents the conclusions of the discussions held on Wednesday 17 March 2021 on draft Decisions 2021/3 and 2021/4 and includes languages proposals from the Secretariat as requested by Member States during the discussions under Decisions 2021/3 and 2021/4.*

**Draft Decision 2021/1 : Status of the draft work programme and budget of UN-Habitat for the year 2022; implementation by UN-Habitat of the reform of the development system and management of the United Nations and alignment of the planning cycles of UN-Habitat with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process.**

*The Executive Board*

**(a) The status of the draft work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and**

**the draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the year 2022**

1. *[Takes note]* of the report of the Executive Director on the draft work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2022[[1]](#footnote-1) ;

2. *[Recalls]* its decision 2020/6, in particular paragraph 8[[2]](#footnote-2), which requests the Ad-Hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters of the Executive Board to discuss the draft work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for 2022 for submission to the United Nations Controller followed by a review by the Committee for Programme and Coordination and subsequent approval by the Executive Board; and the draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in line with the recommended budget range for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation non-earmarked budget of UN-Habitat for 2022 of between $10 million and $12 million and other extrabudgetary resources, for submission to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, followed by subsequent approval by the Executive Board;

3. *[Takes note*] of the recommendation by the Ad-hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters for an amount of $10 million for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation non-earmarked budget for 2022;

4. [*Decides*] to accept the recommendation by the Ad-hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters that the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation non-earmarked budget of UN-Habitat for 2022 be within the threshold of $10 million and further [*requests]* the  Executive Director to finalize a draft annual work programme and budget of UN-Habitat for 2022 based on feedback from the Committee of Programme and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and to present it for further consideration by the Executive Board at its second session in 2021.

**{*Only if reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions relevant to the work of UN-Habitat have been issued since the last session of the Executive Board and are available at the time of the session :*}**

**(b) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions relevant to the work and activities of UN-Habitat issued since the most recent session of the Executive Board.**

5. *[Takes note]* of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on {title of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions relevant to the work of UN-Habitat which may have been issued since the last session of the Executive Board to be inserted when available} for 2021, and *[Requests]* the Executive Director to follow up on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and to update the Executive Board at its next session on the progress made;

**(c) Alignment of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review Process (QCPR) with UN-Habitat planning cycles**

6. *[Takes note]* of the update and the report of the Executive Director on the alignment of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) with UN-Habitat planning cycles[[3]](#footnote-3) ;

7. *[Recalls]* its Decision 2020/3, Paragraph 16, which recommends that the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters of the Executive Board further consider and discuss the prioritization of scenarios 2 and 3, as set out in the report of the Executive Director on the alignment of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review with the planning cycles of UN-Habitat, with a view to taking a final decision at the next session of the Executive Board and takes note of the recommendation by the Ad-hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters to prioritise Scenario [X] on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review Process (QCPR) with UN-Habitat planning cycles as reflected in document [HSP/EB.2020/16/Add.1](https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/09/english_11.pdf);

8. [*Recommends]* to the UN-Habitat Assembly to adopt Scenario [2] as reflected in document [HSP/EB.2020/16/Add.1](https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/09/english_11.pdf) in its consideration for a meaningful and cost effective alignment for the UN-Habitat planning cycles with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review which proposes that the UN-Habitat Assembly approve the alignment of future UN-Habitat strategic plans to the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, in line with other Funds and Programmes of the United Nations, by adopting a UN-Habitat interim strategic plan for the period 2024-2025 at the Assembly’s second session in 2023, and a UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2026-2029 at the Assembly’s third session in 2025;

8 alt [*Recommends]* to the UN-Habitat Assembly to adopt Scenario [3] as reflected in document [HSP/EB.2020/16/Add.1](https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/09/english_11.pdf) in its consideration for a meaningful and cost effective alignment for the UN-Habitat planning cycles with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review which proposes that the UN-Habitat Assembly approve the alignment of future UN-Habitat strategic plans to the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, in line with other Funds and Programmes of the United Nations, by extending the current 2020-2023 Strategic Plan by another two years to cover the period 2020-2025, and subsequently developing the next UN-Habitat Strategic Plan for the period 2026-2029 in alignment with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review process;

9. [*Requests*] the Chair of the Executive Board to communicate this recommendation to the President of the UN-Habitat Assembly as appropriate.

**(d) Implementation by UN-Habitat of the reform of the development system and management of the United Nations**

10. [ *Takes note*] of the report of the Executive Director on implementation by UN-Habitat of the reform of the development system and management of the United Nations[[4]](#footnote-4) and further [*recommends*] the following actions: {*possible follow-up actions*}.

Draft Decision 2021/2: Financial, budgetary and administrative matters of UN Habitat including the improvement of the internal management, policies and procedures of UN-Habitat and actions by UN-Habitat to strengthen protection against sexual and any other type of exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment in the workplace

*The Executive Board*

*1.[ Takes note ]* of the reports entitled Report of the Executive Director on Financial, budgetary and administrative matters: interim financial status of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme as at 31 December 2020[[5]](#footnote-5); Staffing of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme as at 31 December 2020 [[6]](#footnote-6); Financial budgetary and administrative matters: implementation of the resource mobilization strategy in accordance with the strategic plan[[7]](#footnote-7) and, Report of the Executive Director on Staff update, equitable geographical distribution and gender parity[[8]](#footnote-8) and [*recommends*] the following actions: { *possible follow-up actions XX*}

2. [ *Takes note*] of the update provided by the Executive Director on the implementation of the resource mobilization strategy in accordance with the strategic plan[[9]](#footnote-9) and [*recommends*] the following actions: {*possible follow-up actions*}

3. [ *Takes note*] of the update by the Executive Director on the restructuring of UN-Habitat as reflected in the report of the Executive Director[[10]](#footnote-10) and [*recommends*] the following actions: {*possible follow-up actions XX*}

4. [*Takes note*] of the update by the Executive Director on the improvement of the internal management, policies and procedures of UN-Habitat as reflected in the report of the Executive Director [[11]](#footnote-11) and [*recommends*] the following actions: {*possible follow-up actions XX*}

5. [*Takes note*] of the update by the Executive Director on UN-Habitat action to strengthen protection against sexual exploitation and any other type of exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment in the workplace as reflected in the annual report[[12]](#footnote-12) and [*recommends*] the following actions: {*possible follow-up actions XX*}

**Draft Decision 2021/3: Implementation of normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat including resolutions and decisions of the UN-Habitat Assembly and including reporting on the programmatic activities of UN-Habitat in 2020 and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities, and update on the UN-Habitat response to the coronavirus pandemic**

*The Executive Board*

**(a) Implementation of resolutions and decisions adopted during the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly**

*1. [Takes note of]* the update and the report by the Executive Director on the progress in the implementation of resolutions and decisions adopted during the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly[[13]](#footnote-13) and [*recommends*] the following actions: {*possible follow-up actions XX*};

*2.[Recalls*] Resolution 1/1 adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly on the United Nations System-Wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements (Guidelines) and paragraph 2 of Decision 2020/5  adopted by the Executive Board at its second session, which takes note of the concept note on the implementation of a review process for the Guidelines[[14]](#footnote-14) ;

3.[*Takes note*] that in accordance with paragraph 32 of the Concept Note on the implementation of a review process for the Guidelines[[15]](#footnote-15), the implementation of the guidelines will require a review mechanism to assess progress and propose amendments to the guidelines where necessary to ensure their effective implementation;

{NLD suggests to merge para 2&3}

MERGER 1: PARAS 2, 3 (REQUESTED BY NETHERLANDS)

**PROPOSAL FOR MERGING 2 & 3:**

Alt 2/3. *Recalling* Resolution 1/2 of the United Nations Habitat Assembly of 31 May 2019 and Executive Board decision 2020/5 of 9 November 2020 in which it took note of a concept note for a review mechanism to assess progress and propose amendments to the United Nations System-Wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements;

4.*[Requests]* the Executive Director, taking into account the Guidelines, to provide the Executive Board at its second session of the year 2021 with the terms of reference of a peer review mechanism to assess progress and propose amendments to the guidelines where necessary to ensure their effective implementation;

[5. *[Recalls]* paragraph 3 of its Decision 2020/5, which adopted the Capacity Building Strategyfor the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda and *further recalls* paragraph 38 of the Capacity Building Strategy emphasizing *on* the need for capacity building efforts“to draw on the latest innovations (ex. e-learning) to help scale capacity building efforts, making maximum use of the available resources”;]{NLD suggests to delete, EGY-}

6. *[Takes note of]* the efforts by UN-Habitat to strengthen its capacities to use digital technologies in the design and delivery of capacity building programmes and activities, including the development of an internal strategy on digital innovation for capacity building, as reflected in the Report of the Executive Director on Status of implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its first session[[16]](#footnote-16) ,

{FRA suggests to merge paras 5 and 6, NLD+ , USA+, Secretariat to propose language as Alt paras with shorter reference to previous Decision}

MERGER 2 - paras 5, 6 (requested by France)

**PROPOSAL FOR MERGING 5 &6:**

Alt 5/6. *Recalling* Decision 2020/5 of the Executive Board and *taking note of* the report of the Executive Director on the Status of implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly regarding UN-Habitat’s efforts to strengthen its capacities to use digital technologies in the design and delivery of capacity building programmes and activities;

**RECOMMENDED OPTION FOLLOWING UN PRACTICE:**

Alt 5. *Recalling* its decision 2020/5 of 9 November 2020 in which it adopted the the draft capacity-building strategy for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda;

Alt 6. *Taking note of* the report of the Executive Director on the Status of implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly including its description of UN-Habitat’s efforts to strengthen its capacities to use digital technologies in the design and delivery of capacity building programmes and activities;

7. [*Recommend*s] the acceleration UN-Habitat’s digital transformation [] {USA+, FRA+, NLD+} to support the development of innovative capacity building and learning tools accessible to all, *and stresses* the importance of strategic partnerships with UN entities and partners to leverage existing initiatives and technologies.

MERGER 3 PARA 5, 6, 7 – REQUESTED BY US

**PROPOSAL FOR MERGING 5, 6 & 7:**

Alt 5/6. *Recalling* its Decision 2020/5 of 9 November 2020 and *taking note of* the report of the Executive Director on the Status of implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly including its description of UN-Habitat’s efforts to strengthen its capacities to use digital technologies in the design and delivery of capacity building programmes and activities;

**(b) Implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN- Habitat**

*8. [Takes note]* of the update provided by the Executive Director on the implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat at the country level as reflected in the Report of the Executive Director [[17]](#footnote-17) and [*recommends*] the following actions: {*possible follow-up actions XXX*} [para 8 should come after current 10, FRA+]

9. [*[Recalls]* that in paragraph 8 of its Resolution 72/226 dated 20 December 2017 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, the General Assembly of the United Nations decided to continue to promote the normative work of UN-Habitat, and urged UN-Habitat to ensure that its normative and operational activities are balanced, that its normative work guides and is integrated into its operational work and that the experiences gathered in the operational field feed into its normative work, in line with the principles and commitments of the New Urban Agenda and in support of the implementation of the urban dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals;] {FRA suggests to shorten}

10. *[Encourages]* the Executive Director to continue ensuring that the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat are balanced and that its normative work guides and is integrated into its operational work;

[Insertion of current para 8, FRA+]

Merger 4: paras 8, 9, 10 (requested by France)

**PROPOSAL FOR MERGING 8, 9 & 10:**

Alt 8 . *Recalling* General Assembly Resolution 72/226 of 20 December 2017, entitled “Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)” and *taking note of* the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, *encourages* the Executive Director to continue ensuring that the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat are balanced and that its normative work guides and is integrated into its operational work;

FOLLOWING UN PRACTICE, THE PARAGRAPHS WOULD BE MAINTAINED AS DISTINCT AND MIGHT BE STREAMLINED AS FOLLOWS:

Alt 8. *Recalling* General Assembly Resolution 72/226 of 20 December 2017, entitled “Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)” in which the General Assembly decided to continue to promote the normative work of UN-Habitat;

Alt 9. *Taking note of* the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat;

Alt 10. *Encourages* the Executive Director to continue ensuring that the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat are balanced and that its normative work guides and is integrated into its operational work; {*the Executive Board may wish to consider further follow-up actions*}

*11. [Takes note]* of the report of the Executive Director on the UN-Habitat response to COVID-19[[18]](#footnote-18) and [*recommends*] the following actions: {*possible follow-up actions XXX*}

**Draft Decision 2021/4: Methods of work of the Executive Board and workplan of the Executive Board for the year 2021**

*The Executive Board*

**a) Reports of the Executive Board and its Ad-hoc working groups**

1. [*Adopts]* the report of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat on the work of its second session of 2020[[19]](#footnote-19);

2. [*Takes note*] of the briefing by the Chair of the Ad-Hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matter and [*recommends*] the following actions: {*possible follow-up actions XX*}

3. [] {USA+}

**b) Streamlining the annual draft work programme and budget of UN-Habitat to each session of the Executive Board**

4. [*Takes note*] of the fact that pursuant to paragraph 5 of its Resolution 73/239 of 20 December 2018 on the strengthening of UN-Habitat, the General Assembly of the United Nations decided that the additional requirements, including those to service the new intergovernmental governance processes of UN-Habitat, should be met by existing structures and by streamlining operations, and encouraged Member States to make voluntary contributions for the sustainability and predictability of financial resources;

*5. [Appreciates]* the need to streamline the documents for each session of the Executive Board for cost efficiency, particularly the annual draft work programme and budget document which attracts significant cost implications due to its large size and its production twice per year in the six official languages of the United Nations;

6. *[Recommends*][*decides]* [as a provisional measure]{ARG+} that for [] {ARG+} future sessions of the Executive Board, the draft annual work programme and budget be made available by the Secretariat in English only during the first session of the Executive Board each year for discussion purposes only and further [*recommends*][*decides]* that the draft annual work programme and budget document be submitted in the six official languages of the United Nations at the second or third session of the Executive Board each year during which it will be discussed and considered for approval based on any recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

**(c) Date and Agenda for the next session of the Executive Board**

7. *[Decides]* that the second session of the Executive Board in 2021 will be held from [*19 to 21 October 2021*]; {SWE suggests to reschedule the week before, Secretariat to check with Conference Services}

8*. Decides* that the provisional Agenda for the second session of the year 2021 shall be as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting;

2. Organizational matters:

i. Adoption of the agenda and the workplan for the second session of 2021;

ii. Adoption of the report on the first session of 2021.

3. Reports of the ad hoc working groups established by the Executive Board;

4. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters including the implementation of the resource mobilization strategy in accordance with the strategic plan;

5. Discussion and possible approval of the draft work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2022;

6. Implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023:

1. Annual report for 2020 on the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023;
2. Explanation note on the actual annual income and expenditures in support of the draft financial plan.

7. Normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, including reporting on the programmatic activities of UN-Habitat in 2021 and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities, and update on the UN-Habitat response to the coronavirus pandemic;

8. Briefing by the Executive Director on the high-level meeting to assess progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (Quito +5) [adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)]. ARG+}

9. Annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services to the Executive Board;

10. Annual report of the Ethics Office to the Executive Board;

11. Provisional agenda for the next session of the Executive Board;

12. Other matters;

13. Closure of the meeting.

**Draft Decision 2021/5: Election of officers of the Bureau of the Executive Board for the term 2021-2022**

1. *[Decides to elect]* from among its members holding office starting at the end of the first session of the year 2021, and taking into consideration the need to ensure equitable geographical representation, the new Bureau of the Executive Board as follows:

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for Eastern European States;

Vice-Chairs: \_\_\_\_\_\_ for African States; \_\_\_\_\_\_ for Asia-Pacific States; \_\_\_\_\_\_ for Western European and other States;

Rapporteur: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for Latin American and Caribbean States.

1. HSP/EB.2021/4 and HSP/EB.2021/INF 2. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. HSP/EB/.2020/29 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [HSP/EB.2020/16/Add.1](https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/09/english_11.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. HSP/EB.2021/7 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. HSP/EB.2021/2 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. HSP/EB.2021/2/Add.1 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. HSP/EB.2021/2/Add.2 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. HSP/EB.2021/2/Add.3 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. HSP/EB.2021/2/Add.2 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. HSP/EB.2021/3. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. HSP/EB.2021/9. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. HSP/EB.2021/8 [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. HSP/EB.2021/6 [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. HSP/EB.2020/13/Add.2 [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. HSP/EB.2020/13/Add.2 [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. HSP/EB.2021/6 [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. HSP/EB.2021/5 [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. HSP/EB.2021/INF/3 [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. HSP/EB.2020/28 [↑](#footnote-ref-19)