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Stakeholder Engagement Policy

External Relations Division

Stakeholder Engagement Policy (SEP)

- Support coherence in engagement of stakeholders in UN-Habitat policies, programmes, and decision-making processes
- Provide revised accreditation system and improve accessibility.
- Provide a mechanism for expert inputs, advice, and response to stakeholder needs
- Improve inclusion, transparency, accountability, build trust, and enhance delivery of results

Mandate for development of a SEP

- UN-Habitat Governing Council Resolution GC26/7 Accreditation of 12 May 2017
- General Assembly Resolution A/RES/72/8 -Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
- A/RES/68/234 – Global Partnerships
- A/RES/72/226 - Implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the strengthening of UN-Habitat
- SEP draws on the UN-Habitat Governing Council Rules of Procedures, GC Resolution 19/8, ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31, and UN-Habitat Partners Strategy 2017-2022.
- The New Urban Agenda and SDG 17

Existing policies, strategies and guidelines

- This policy complements:
 - UN-Habitat's Partnership Strategy 2017-2022
 - Implementing Partners' Policy and Operational Procedures
 - Guidelines for preparation of legal agreements with stakeholders
 - Accreditation requirements (see annex 3b)

Objectives of a SEP

- Participation in sessions and intersessions of the UN-Habitat Governing Council and its subsidiary organs.
- Contribution to the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of UN-Habitat normative and operational programmes
- Understanding of UN-Habitat policies, priority areas for action, limitations, and opportunities for engagement.
- UN-Habitat's understanding and response to stakeholders' perceptions and interests, and to manage stakeholders' expectations.

Guiding Principles

In line with the spirit of SDGs and NUA

- Equality, accessibility and inclusion so “no one is left behind”
- Shared responsibility and ownership
- Transparency and accountability
- Focus on results and impact
- Sustainability

Expected Outcomes and focus areas

- Enhanced stakeholders' voices and inputs into UN-Habitat policy and programme design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation
- Enhanced quality and scale of UN-habitat's interventions
- Improved UN-Habitat impact, credibility and leveraging of resources

Critical Focus Areas of the Policy

1. Accreditation
2. Stakeholders' Participation in Decision Making and the work of UN-Habitat
3. Enhanced Coherence in Stakeholder Engagement in UN-Habitat's work
4. Support to Implementation
5. Review of the policy

1. Accreditation

The policy provides continuous accreditation and reporting as follows:

- a) Local authorities and local government organizations to participate in sessions of the GC and its subsidiary organs according to rule 64
- b) Renew accreditation for Habitat Agenda Partners accredited to Habitat II
- c) Maintain accreditation status for NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC and Habitat III stakeholders
- d) All other stakeholders to apply for accreditation to the Secretariat.

Accreditation (2)

Reporting process:

- a. Accredited stakeholders (a, b, c, and d above) shall submit to the Secretariat brief periodic reports every two years with regards to the support given to the work of UN-Habitat.

- b. The secretariat shall suspend accreditation status of organizations that will not be able to submit periodic reports within the 3 set timelines (reminders).

Accreditation (3)

The role of the Secretariat:

- a. Facilitate accreditation based on MS criteria
- b. submit a list of all accredited stakeholders to the Committee of Permanent Representatives at each of their quarterly sessions.
- c. Publish a list of organizations accredited to the GC sessions in December every year.
- d. Submit to the CPR a list of accredited stakeholders, invited by the Executive Director to attend the GC as observers 10 weeks before the GC session.
- e. Present the CPR with a list of organizations that submit periodic reports, and upload the reports to the CPR portal

2: Stakeholders Participation in Policy and Decision Making processes

- a. Accredited stakeholders shall participate in GC sessions, CPR and its subcommittees as observers.
- b. Multi-stakeholder consultation before the GC session to support collective inputs.
- c. Structured dialogues between stakeholders and the GC leadership.
- d. Member states encouraged to include other stakeholders in their delegations.
- e. Stakeholder oral statements upon invitation by the president of the GC or chairs of CPR

2b: Stakeholders Participation in UN-Habitat's work

- a. Stakeholders to continue serving as members of existing UN-Habitat thematic and advisory boards etc
- b. Through various networks, stakeholders shall be consulted on the design of Medium Strategic Plan and related work programmes.
- c. Multi-stakeholder groups shall be consulted in the design of Habitat Country Programmes.
- d. Stakeholders engaging as implementing partners shall be selected through a transparent process as per the implementing Partners policy.

Support and approaches to Implementation of the SEP (1)

- *Access to information* through sharing with stakeholders session papers of UN-Habitat Governing Council and the CPR; publications - reports, brochures, newsletters; press releases, statements and speeches, social media campaigns
- *Response to stakeholders' voices, perspectives, etc.* through face-to-face and virtual meetings, online surveys and stakeholder interviews, email feedback forms, stakeholders help desk, media articles etc.
- *Stakeholder inclusion and participation* in UN-Habitat Platforms, Networks, Advisory Boards, Expert Group Meetings, Workshops as implementing partners, etc.

3. Enhanced Coherence

- Stakeholder Advisory Group – advice to Executive Director
- Internal UN-Habitat Stakeholder Engagement Committee

4. Support and approaches to Implementation of the SEP (2)

- *Collaboration and coordination* through joint projects and programmes, joint programming, joint advocacy, joint knowledge generation, data sharing, and innovation etc.
- *Capacity building* to enhance effectiveness of stakeholders' engagement and participation
- *Resource mobilization*, leverage, coordination and collaboration with major urban sector donors as per their respective focus areas.
- Keep open communication with stakeholders (current and potential), awareness-raising and advocacy.

5. Review of SEP

- Reviews every four years
- Stakeholder updates will be done every two years in conjunction with the GC Sessions.

If successfully implemented SEP will lead towards enduring partnerships, leveraging of resources, and expertise, upscaling and sustainability of programmes.

Supporting policies and tools

The policy will be supported by:

- stakeholders' collaborative framework
- a handbook on how to engage with UN-Habitat for stakeholders,
- a guidance Note for staff on stakeholder engagement, and
- a Partner Information Management System.
- Partnership Strategy 2017-2022
- Implementing Partners Policy and Operating Procedures
- Guidelines for legal agreements with partners

THANK YOU!