

Dedining core resources constrained agency's ability to run administrative, support and substantive functions. Declining staff pool at HQ (e.g. austerity, retirement, frozen posts, termination of HPM system)

Expanding expectations not consistent with available resources. Lack of specialist capacity and financial resources to ensure timely and appropriate responses to urban crises leading to sub-optimal support

Corporate activities that are not directly related to (and not financed by) projects put big pressure on teams (e.g. pre-investment, UN system wide related activities, reporting demands)



Wednesday, 20 November 2019, marked the second and last day of the resumed meeting of the Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

## AGENDA ITEM **5**

### Report on the implementation of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan

The Chair of the Executive Board **Mr. Daniel Carl** of the United States of America recalled that the current Strategic Plan 2014-2019 will end on 31 December 2019 and that the UN-Habitat Assembly decided, exceptionally, that the Executive Board of UN-Habitat should receive the 2019 report on the strategic plan of UN-Habitat and also for the report for the entire 2014–2019 full cycle. He also noted that during the Executive Board’s first meeting held on 30 May 2019, it was further decided that the annual report on the implementation of the strategic plan would be included on the agenda of its meetings on an annual basis.

Mr. Daniel Carl's remarks were followed by a statement from UN-Habitat Executive Director **Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif** who reiterated that the implementation of the Strategic Plan will continue to reflect the Organisation's new vision and renewed focus of moving beyond processes and outputs and being more outcome and impact-oriented.

The morning session focused on two key issues: Implementation of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2014-2019 (HSP/EB.1/1/Rev.1/Add.1) and the Briefing on the Preparation for the Implementation of the 2020-2023 UN-Habitat Strategic Plan (HSP/EB.1/7). The notes below are categorized under these two agenda items.

## **A. Implementation of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2014-2019 (HSP/EB.1/1/Rev.1/Add.1)**

The Secretariat presented the status of implementation of the 2014-2019 UN-Habitat Strategic Plan. This focused on the outcomes, successes and challenges emanating from the mid-term evaluation of February 2017. The presentation included: an outline of UN-Habitat's global presence, acquisition trends, contribution of the top 20 donors (2018-2019), lessons learned and challenges. Finally, the Secretariat promised that the full cycle evaluation report will be available before

the September 2020 session of the Executive Board.

**The Board discussed and raised the following comments:**

1. The need for an interactive platform where Member States can showcase their impact stories;
2. Clarity in UN-Habitat's engagement with the private sector and business associations at all levels;
3. More elaboration on UN-Habitat's strategy and funding to deal with emergency and disasters;
4. The alignment of UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review;
5. Breakdown of the types of funding sources especially investment funds from the private sector;
6. The need for donor diversification;
7. Better coordination of Units and Branches to avoid duplication of work;
8. Further information on the agreements that UN-Habitat has with NGOs and the impact of these engagements;

**B. Briefing on the Preparations for the Implementation of the 2020-**

# 2023 UN-Habitat Strategic Plan

The Chair gave a statement recalling that the UN-Habitat Assembly requested the Executive Director to submit for approval by the Executive Board at its resumed meeting (i) a results framework with concise performance indicators and a method for the corresponding collection of data for evaluation against the indicators; (ii) an impact communication strategy; (iii) a partnerships strategy; (iv) a typology of human settlement demands; (v) an accountability framework and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for assessing the implementation of the framework; (vi) a resource mobilization strategy; and (vii) a financial plan. The Secretariat has developed (a) a draft results framework; (b) an impact communication strategy; (c) a typology of human settlement demands; and (d) a partnerships strategy which are to be annexed to the Strategic Plan 2020-2023 and were presented to the Executive Board for approval.

## **The Board discussed and raised the following comments:**

1. The results framework could include means of verification which allows a comprehensive outlook on impacts and outputs;
2. The need for more information on the flagship programmes and additional consultation with Member States;

3. The linkage between the Strategic Plan's Domains of Change and the Flagship Programmes and if the Flagship programmes reflect the needs of Member States;
4. The understanding that the results framework should not only be used to measure the progress of the Strategic Plan but also to monitor the implementation of SDG 11 of the 2030 Agenda;
5. Prioritisation of the adoption of the Stakeholder Engagement Policy;
6. Clarification on how UN-Habitat manages the diverse needs of cities globally;
7. Supporting DRC in implementing the Urban Planning Code and the National Habitat Fund;
8. Clarification on the timeframe for the development of the performance management plan;
9. Developing indicators on human rights, social and environmental variables (for instance, indicators on the rate of urbanization, climate change, poverty, basic services);
10. The need for more information on impact assessments of any of the programmes that UN-Habitat has supported and delivered;
11. Clarification whether UN-Habitat has a partnership policy for the purposes of due diligence to avoid the risks of partnerships with organizations whose mandates are not aligned with UN principles.

**The following high-level decisions were made:**

1. The Executive Board wished to receive the annual report on the 2014-2019 UN-Habitat Strategic Plan in advance of the late March/April 2020 session.
2. The Executive Board wished to receive the final report on the full cycle of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2014-2019 in advance of the September 2020 session.
3. The Executive Board wished to receive the evaluation report on the full cycle of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2014-2019 in advance of the September 2020 session.
4. The Executive Board took note of the results framework, impact communication strategy and partnership strategy.
5. The Executive Board approved the typology of the human settlements demand.





## AGENDA ITEM **6**

### Briefing on the status of implementation of resolutions and decisions adopted during the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly

The afternoon session resumed with a call to order by the Chair of the Executive Board Mr. Daniel Carl of the United States of America, who suggested that the Executive Board take up Agenda item 6 on briefing on the status of implementation of resolutions and decisions adopted during the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, namely:

1. Resolution 1/2 on United Nations system-wide guidelines on safer cities and human settlements;
2. Resolution 1/3 on enhancing capacity-building for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

3. Resolution 1/4 on achieving gender equality through the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements;
4. Resolution 1/5 on enhancing urban-rural linkages for sustainable urbanization and human settlements; and
5. Decision 1/3 on arrangements for the transition towards the new governance structure of the UN-Habitat.

The notes below provide a summary of the progress made to date on implementing the resolutions and decisions adopted during the first Habitat Assembly.

## **A. Resolution 1/2 on United Nations system-wide guidelines on safer cities and human settlements;**

The secretariat presented the status of the implementation of the UN System-wide guidelines on safer cities and human settlements. The presentation focused on three key areas; A concept note on the implementation of a review process for the Guidelines;

Development of an inter-agency framework; and the allocation of voluntary financial resources, for the effective implementation of the Safer Cities Programme and partnerships. Followed by a list of activities scheduled for 2020, including; Online survey on the Guidelines to be administered to Member States ahead of WUF; Discussion of the Draft Concept Note for the Review Process among stakeholders at the WUF 10 ; Proposed Presentation of the Concept Note at the next sitting of the Executive Board, after WUF 10; Interagency framework to be aligned to UN systemwide strategy on sustainable urbanization.

**The Board discussed and raised the following comments:**

- A concept note on the implementation of the review process for the guidelines be shared at the next Executive Board meeting
- A need for financial costing on the implementation of a review process for the UN system -wide Guidelines on safer cities in a manner that enables Member States to share their experiences and best practices

**B. Resolution 1/3 on enhancing capacity-building for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension**

# of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

The Secretariat presented a plan which aspires to deliver capacity building as ONE in all stages of the project cycle to generate long-term impacts on recipients of UN-Habitat capacity building services. The approach includes 3a-3i, acquire, absorb, analyze and implement, investigate and innovate.

## **The Board discussed and raised the following comments:**

1. The need to complete a stakeholder engagement policy
2. Continue the ad-hoc working groups efforts on the development of a stakeholder engagement policy
3. To finalize the strategy in 2020 in accordance with Resolution 1/3 adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly and report on its progress at the first session of 2020

**C. Resolution 1/4 on achieving  
gender equality through the work  
of the United Nations Human  
Settlements Programme to support  
inclusive, safe, resilient and**

# sustainable cities and human settlements;

The Secretariat presented the implementation plan on achieving gender equality through the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements. The plan included a two-fold gender strategy: Mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment into UN-Habitat's normative and operational work; and setting policies and programmes towards achieving gender equality and women's empowerment. The plan also includes partnership, engagement with Advisory Group on Gender Issues (AGGI); and Revised Gender Policy and Plan (2020 – 2023).

## **The Board discussed and raised the following comments:**

1. Member states took note of the presentation on Resolution 1/4 on achieving gender equality through the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements.
2. All accepted without comments

## D. Resolution 1/5 on enhancing urban-rural linkages for sustainable urbanization and human settlements;

The final presentation of from the Secretariat in this section was on enhancing urban-rural linkages for sustainable urbanization and human settlements. The presentation provided a way forward to, develop mechanisms for enhancing urban-rural linkages, development planning policies and processes, urban-rural linkages on sustainable urbanization, sharing of good practices and policies, and developing policies and programmes to address migration from rural to urban areas.

### **The Board discussed and raised the following comments:**

1. Member states commended UN-Habitat for its work on urban-rural linkages
2. Requested the Executive Director to provide to the Executive Board at its next meeting with a comprehensive and up to date report on the status of development of tools, thematic guides and a compendium on enhancing awareness, best practices, and mainstreaming of rural – urban linkages

E. Decision 1/3 on arrangements for the transition towards the new governance structure of the UN-Habitat.

**The Board discussed and raised the following comments:**

1. Decision 1/3 further requests the Executive Board to submit the draft policy for consideration and possible approval by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its second session
2. No objections from member states

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## AGENDA ITEM **7**

### Briefing on normative & operational work of UN-Habitat

The Chair began this session with a reminder of the Executive Board functions which include the overseeing the implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat.

#### **The Board discussed and raised the following comments:**

1. Member states took note of the results achieved in the implementation of programmes in UN-Habitat's fields of competence, in particular through activities advancing sustainable urbanization and improving the living conditions for all,
2. Member states stressed the importance of supporting different levels of Government in implementing the New Urban Agenda and supporting the most vulnerable communities

3. To consult with the ad-hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters to elaborate upon innovative programmes within the Strategic Plan to be discussed with the Executive Board taking into account thematic and regional balance
4. To propose a prioritization process within normative and within operational activities in line with the Strategic Plan

**UN-Habitat reiterated:**

1. The agency is conducting impact assessments on two levels
2. The agency has two country impact assessments on ongoing programs in Egypt and Sri Lanka
3. The agency is looking at a thematic based impact assessment on housing over the past 10 years



## AGENDA ITEM 8

### Work plan of the Executive Board includes the Bureau of meetings for 2020

The Bureau recommended that the Executive Board hold three sessions in 2020 with a maximum length of three days each. It was decided that 2020 sessions of the Executive Board will be held as follows:

- 1st Session - 31 March - 2 April 2020
- 2nd Session - September 2020
- 3rd Session - December 2020

The Bureau Further recommends that, to avoid any overtime costs for registration over the weekend prior to its meetings, the meetings of the Executive Board should not begin on a Monday.

**The Board discussed and raised the following  
comments:**

1. There were no comments by member states  
and all delegates agreed with meetings dates



## AGENDA ITEM

### Dates and provisional agenda for the second meeting of the Executive Board

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
  - a. Adoption of the provisional agenda and the workplan for the first session of 2020;
  - b. Adoption of the report on the resumed first session.
3. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters.
4. Approval of the annual work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and of the budget for 2021.
5. Report on the implementation of the UN-Habitat strategic plan:
  - i. Receipt of the 2019 annual report on the 2014–2019 strategic plan;
  - ii. Update on the final report on the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the entire
6. 2014-2019 cycle and on the evaluation inception report;
7. Report on the implementation of the 2020–2023 strategic plan:
  - i. Accountability framework;
  - ii. Financial plan;
  - iii. Results-based management policy.
8. Briefing on the status of implementation of resolutions and decisions adopted during the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.
9. Briefing on the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat.
10. Report on UN-Habitat's actions on strengthening protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and against workplace sexual harassment as requested by the UN General Assembly.
11. Report on UN-Habitat's action to address geographical and gender imbalances in its composition of staff.
12. Report on the implementation of the UN development system and management reform in UN-Habitat.
13. Provisional agenda for the first regular session of the Executive Board of 2020, scheduled for 16 September 2020.
14. Other matters.
15. Closure of the meeting.

**The Board adopted by consensus the following decisions:**

1. Not to make any changes to the draft decision made in the working sessions;
2. That the meetings of the Executive Board will not begin on a Monday to avoid any overtime costs for registration over the weekend;
3. To recognize the possibility of joint Bureau meetings of the UN-Habitat Assembly, the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and the Executive Board to coordinate their activities, if needed.
4. To consult with the ad-hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters to elaborate upon innovative programmes within the Strategic Plan to be discussed with the Executive Board taking into account thematic and regional balance
5. To provide to the Executive Board at its next meeting with a comprehensive and up to date report on the status of development of tools, thematic guides and a compendium on enhancing awareness, best practices, and mainstreaming of rural – urban linkages
6. To finalize the strategy in 2020 in accordance with Resolution 1/3 adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly and report on its progress at the first session of 2020

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