



**2020 first session of the Executive Board
of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
29 June 2020, Online**

**Agenda item 2c: Reports of the Ad-hoc Working Groups of the Executive
Board**

Statement by

**H.E. Ms. Julia Pataki
Permanent Representative of Romania to UN-Habitat and
Chair of the Ad-Hoc working group on
Programmatic Budgetary and Administrative matters**

Excellencies,

As may be recalled, the Executive Board through its Decision 2019/2: on Financial, programmatic and administrative matters of the UN-Habitat under paragraph 7 established the Ad-hoc working group on Programmatic, Budgetary and Administrative matters to assist and advise the Executive Board.

The Ad-hoc working group has met six times on:

- i) 13 January 2020,
- ii) 26 February 2020,
- iii) 4 March 2020,
- iv) 11 March 2020,
- v) 15 June 2020, and
- vi) 17 June 2020.

In line with the mandate of the working group to assist the Executive Board, the Ad-hoc working group has discussed eleven (11) topics that are directly

relevant to the decisions of the Executive Board at its resumed meeting of November 2021⁹ which are available in document HSP/EB.1/11.

One of the topics discussed by the Ad-hoc working group is the draft Work Programme and Budget of UN-Habitat for the year 2021. This topic is an Agenda item of this first session of the Executive Board and was discussed by the working group four times.

Mr. Chair, Excellencies

In line with the mandate of the working group to advise the Executive Board and in the interest of time given that this session is only for one day, allow me to highlight the following as the recommendations coming out of the discussions of the working group in relation to the proposed work programme and budget for the year 2021:

1. While the Foundation Non-Earmarked has been pegged at USD-US\$ 33.9 Million, which comes from voluntary funding, it may be useful to consider the different scenarios already prepared by the Secretariat for the proposed budget for the year 2021 in the event funds for targeted for 2021 are not fully raised.
2. Given the trend for the year 2020 on voluntary funding the Organization had so far received as at 15 June 2020, the Executive Board may wish to consider a proposal by some member states to revise the expectations and the figures for 2021 foundation non-earmarked funding downwards by developing a new document for approval in this regard.
3. The new document should also reflect the regular budget which is currently reflected at 14 Million USD should be cut by 5% to maintain a 0% zero growth on the regular budget.

4. Should there be a consideration to revise the figures downwards for what could be considered a more realistic budget for the year 2021, the Board may also consider that activities, deliverables as well staffing levels will be impacted.
5. The earmarked budget is seen as acceptable as long as UN-Habitat can raise the budgeted amount and ensure that all earmarked activities are aligned to the work programme.
6. A number of delegations stated that they would have wanted to see the Executive Board pronounce itself on the draft work programme and budget for the year 2021 before it could be presented by the UN Secretary General to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ). This was not possible because the planning cycles did not compliment the calendar of the Executive Board and, for now we understand that the ACABQ already met on 8 June 2020 and reviewed the proposed budget for 2021 and that the Secretariat is already in the process of answering questions from ACABQ.
7. A strong recommendation for the Executive Board is that the Calendar of the Executive Board for each year be fully aligned with the processes for finalizing and approving the annual work programme and budget, both in Nairobi and New York.
8. Would recommend a letter be sent by you Chair to ACBAQ, if you consider it useful, on recommendations formulated by the Executive Board on the POW and Budget of UN-Habitat for 2021.

As I conclude, I would like to add that working group at its last meeting that discussed the work programme and budget held on 15 June also requested the Secretariat for information on the following:

- i. funds so far received, and funds pledged to the Organization for 2020.

- ii. the organogram of UN-Habitat to understand the roles of different staff.
- iii. The next steps of the process after ACABQ in terms of timing.
- iv. The cost of the Executive Board sessions and the resource gap for 2020 in this regard.
- v. The fundraising efforts to ensure more voluntary funding.

The working group will continue with its work following this session of the Executive Board as may be guided by the Board, and in order to exercise its oversight mandate in a substantive manner kindly request the Secretariat to provide information requested by the member States in a timely and concise manner.

Thank you, Excellencies.