

EXECUTIVE BOARD

2020 Session 2

AGENDA ITEM 13:
**Annual Report of the UN Ethics Office, A/75/82, 2019, and Ethics
Related Activities Undertaken by UN-Habitat, 2019-2020**

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| INTRODUCTION

- As part of the United Nations (UN) Secretariat, UN-Habitat implements its ethics related activities with the support of the UN Ethics Office. Currently, the Legal Unit serves as the focal point for all ethics related activities. It carries out these functions with the support of the Office of the Executive Director (OED), Human Resources Liaison Office and the Conduct and Discipline Focal Point.
- The 2019 Annual Report, **A/75/82**, was submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly pursuant to General Assembly resolution **60/254**, “*Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations*,” which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report annually on the activities of the UN Ethics Office and implementation of ethics policies.
- This presentation summarizes the Annual Report and highlights the activities and milestones undertaken by UN-Habitat as a UN Secretariat agency in implementing the activities and policies of the UN Ethics Office within UN-Habitat.

| OBJECTIVE OF THE UN ETHICS OFFICE

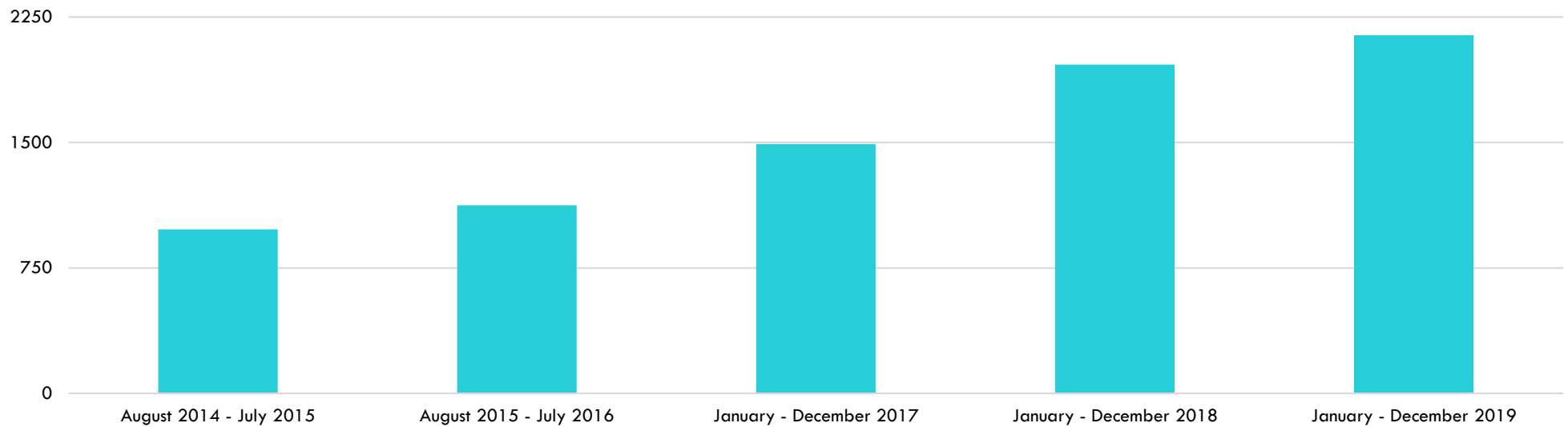
- ➔ The objective of the UN Ethics Office is to assist the Secretary-General in ensuring that staff members observe and perform their functions consistent with the highest standards of integrity required by the Charter of the United Nations through fostering a culture of ethics, transparency and accountability. The UN Ethics Office was established by the Secretary-General as an independent unit of the Secretariat, pursuant to paragraph 161 (d) of General Assembly resolution [60/1](#) and works closely with ethics focal points in each entity to handle ethics issues.
- ➔ Pursuant to Secretary-General's bulletins **ST/SGB/2005/22**, **ST/SGB/2007/11** and **ST/SGB/2007/11/Amend.1**, the functions of the UN Ethics Office, as implemented locally within UN-Habitat, include:

| OBJECTIVE OF THE UN ETHICS OFFICE (cont.)

- (a) Providing confidential advice and guidance to staff on ethical issues, including administering an ethics helpline;
- (b) Administering the organisation's financial disclosure programme;
- (c) Administering the organisation's policy on protection against retaliation for the responsibilities assigned to the Ethics Office;
- (d) Developing standards, training and education on ethics issues, in coordination with the Office of Human Resources and other offices, and conducting ethics-related outreach; and
- (e) Supporting ethics standard-setting and promoting policy coherence within the Secretariat and among the Organization's separately administered organs and programmes.

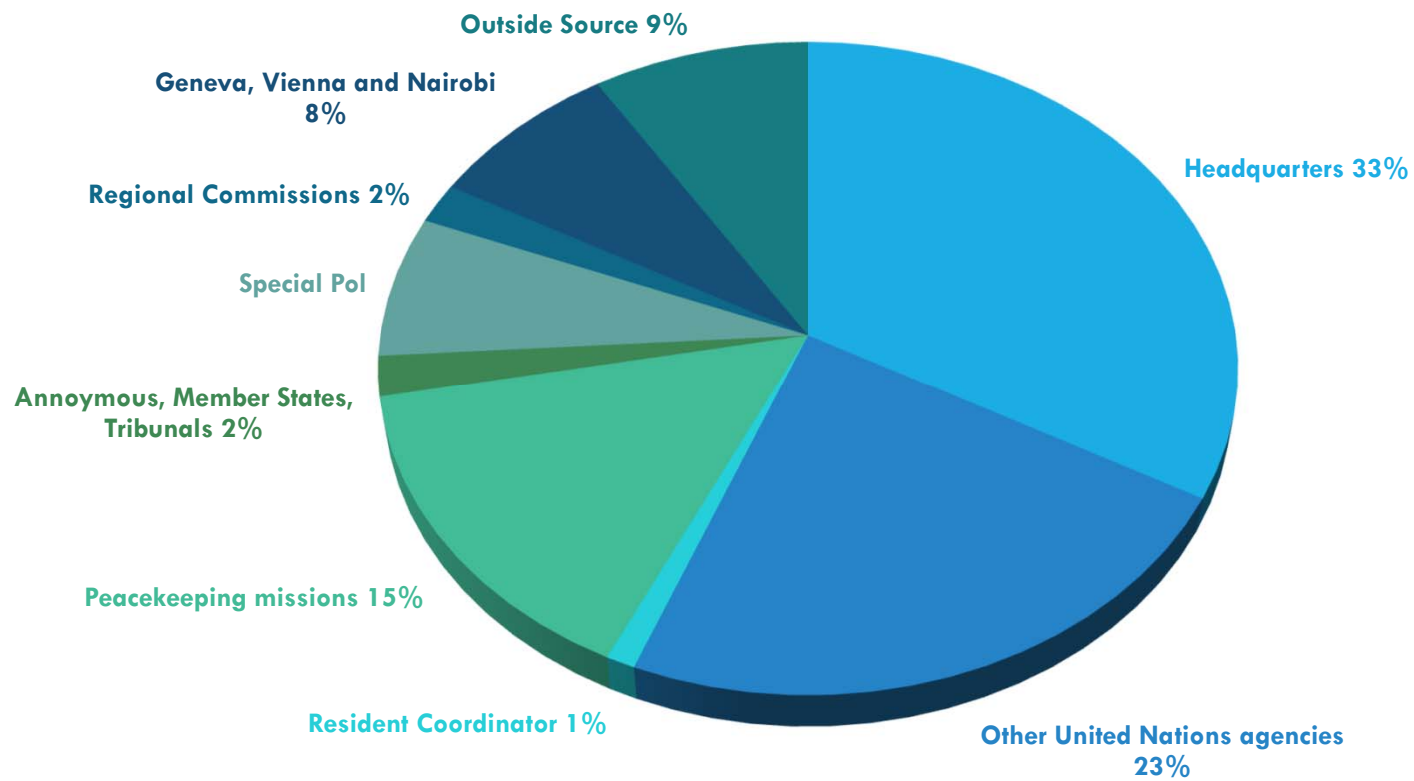
REPORTS RECEIVED BY UN ETHICS OFFICE

From 1 January to 31 December 2018, the UN Ethics Office received 1,966 requests for services. **Figures 1, 2 and 3 below** of the UN Ethics Annual report provides: (i) the overall requests for services it received of which, has doubled over the past five rep



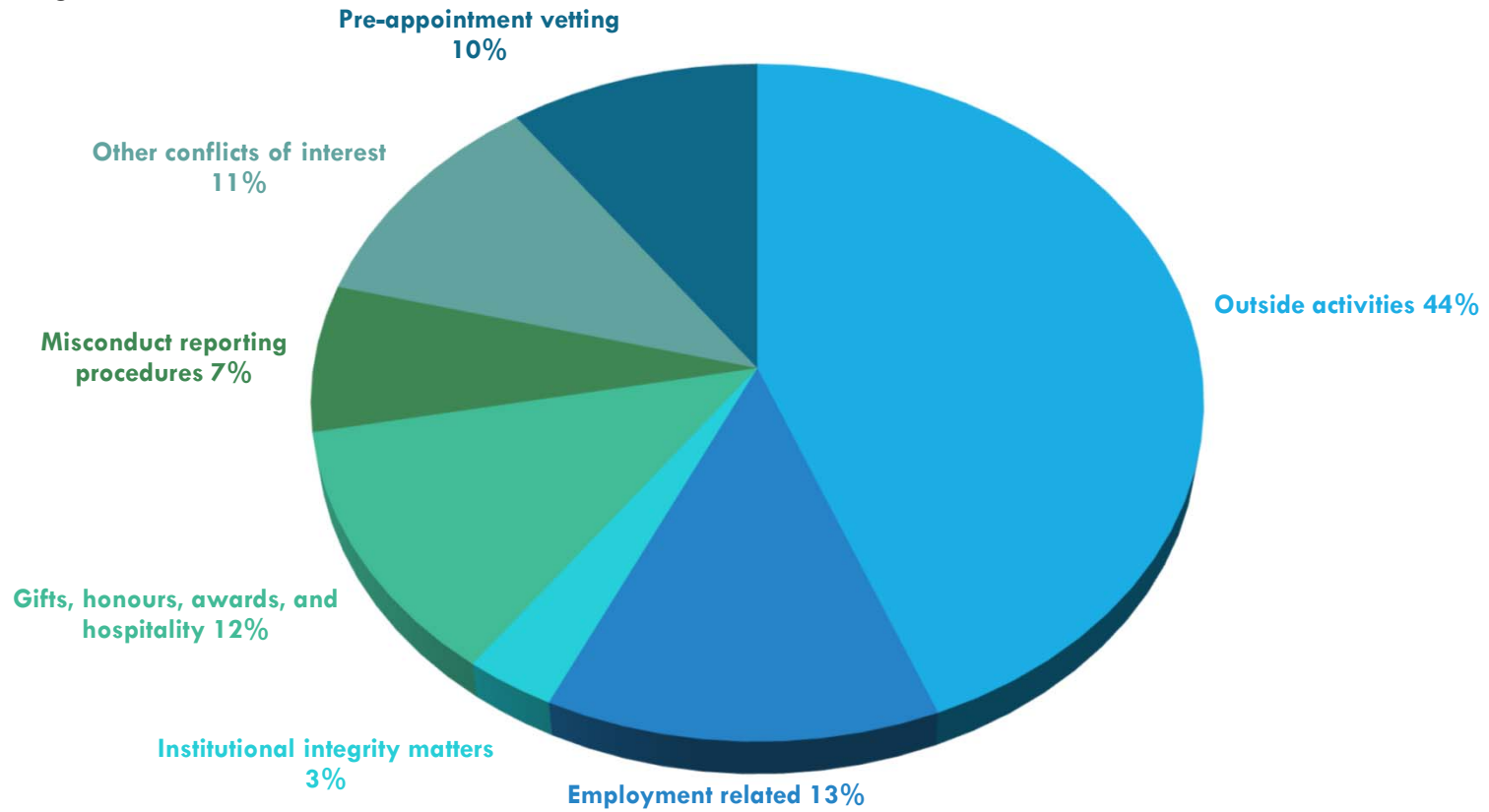
REPORTS RECEIVED BY UN ETHICS OFFICE

This Figure 2



ACTIVITIES OF THE ETHICS OFFICE

Figure 3



| ACTIVITIES OF UN-HABITAT IN 2019/2020

(i) **Ethics Related Requests received by UN-Habitat:** For all the requests received, the necessary advice was given and appropriate action taken in accordance with the relevant United Nations rules and regulations, administrative instructions applicable to the request.

Types of Requests	Approximate Number of Requests
Gift Policy and their administration	7
Employment related	27
Due Diligence when dealing with Partners	36
Financial Disclosure	9
Conflict of Interest	11
Misconduct and abuse of authority	8
Protection against retaliation	3
Outside Activities	7

| ACTIVITIES OF UN-HABITAT IN 2019/2020

(ii) Work of the Ethics Function within UN-Habitat

- Providing **timely** and **efficient advice** to management and staff on ethics issues;
- Designating **focal points** for Conduct and discipline, sexual harassment and sexual exploitation cases;
- Providing support to the newly established **Conduct and Discipline function** to ensure the proper handling of cases;
- Promoting an **internal change process** through the **UN-Habitat Change process** aimed at transforming the organisation into an ethic compliant organization ensuring the promotion of good conduct, dignity and civility;
- Establishing an enhanced **ethics framework** capable of dealing expeditiously all ethics matters; and
- Complying with all **mandatory ethics training** and **ethics leadership dialogues** and training sessions.



| ACTIVITIES OF UN-HABITAT IN 2019/2020

(iii) Milestones of the Activities of Ethics Related Activities in UN-Habitat

- Reports of **unsatisfactory conduct** particularly those of retaliation are now being streamlined and handled more efficiently and expeditiously;
- Complainants are now fully protected and accorded due process fit-for-purpose in line with United Nations System-wide reforms on handling of **retaliation complaints**;
- Worked with the Ombudsman Office in Nairobi and undertook **civility trainings** in UN-Habitat regional and outposted office; (Colombia, Bolivia, Brazil, Somalia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Cairo)
- Assisted in the compilation, review and finalization of the **UN Secretariat Annual Report** on matters pertaining to ethics in UN-Habitat;
- Enhancement of the **Executive Director's delegation of authority** to deal with unsatisfactory conduct; and
- Enhancement of **UN-Habitat's investigations** and **fact-finding capacity** to deal with complaints on unethical and unsatisfactory conduct.



| ACTIVITIES OF UN-HABITAT IN 2019/2020

(iv) Outreach, training and education

- With financial contribution received from SIDA, UN-Habitat's Legal Unit with the support of the HR Liaison Office conducted trainings and workshops at Headquarters, the Regional and outposted offices.
- So far, UN-Habitat has undertaken several training with the Office of the Regional Ombudsman to offices in Nairobi, Somalia, Hargeisa, Addis Abba, Fukuoka, Democratic Republic of Congo, Colombia, Brazil.
- Missions were planned for Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq, India, Myanmar, several African countries, Belgium, New York and Panama to undertake these trainings and outreach activities. However, these missions were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

| ACTIVITIES OF UN-HABITAT IN 2019/2020

(v) Leadership Dialogues:

- ➔ With the support of the UN Ethics Office, UN-Habitat conducted leadership dialogue sessions on ethics related issues with a participation rate of 97% for the year 2019 and an expected participation rate of 100% for 2020. The topics covered since the first dialogue session include:
- ***“What Does It Mean to be an International Civil Servant?”***
 - ***“Fulfilling our Mission: Taking Individual Responsibility”***
 - ***“Fraud awareness and prevention: How do I fit in?”***
 - ***“Standards of Conduct: What’s Expected of Me?”, “Speaking up: when does it become whistleblowing?”***
 - ***“Conflicts of interest: why do they matter?”***
 - ***“Acknowledging Dignity through Civility: How can I communicate for a more harmonious workplace?”***

| RECOMMENDATION

- ➔ As earlier indicated, the Legal Unit with the support of the Executive Office, is handling all ethics related requests and queries. This is putting a strain on the Legal Unit in delivering its normal functions. Therefore, it is recommended, subject to availability of funds, for UN-Habitat to establish an ethics function that will serve as a liaison with the UN Secretariat Ethics Office and the focal point for handling all ethics related requests within UN-Habitat.

THANK YOU!

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