

**Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
Online second session of the year 2020; 27 - 29 October 2020
Agenda item 2 - Reports of the Ad-Hoc working groups of the Executive Board**

Statement of the Co-Chair of the Ad-Hoc working group on working methods

**Ms. Nancy Sifa Pendo,
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to UN-Habitat**

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

I have the pleasure to present before the Executive Board the work conducted by the Ad-Hoc working group on working methods of the Executive Board.

The Ad-Hoc working group on Working Methods was established by paragraph 11 of Decision 2019/2 of the Executive Board with the purpose to assist and provide advice to the Executive Board on the Board's working methods. In the same decision, the Executive Board requested the Ad-Hoc working group to complete its work no later than the second session of the year 2020.

To complete that particular assignment, the working group met four times between December 2019 and March 2020 and a draft outcome based on consensus in the form of the Co-chairs' discussion paper was shared with the Executive Board on 29 June 2020 during the 2020 first session. The Co-chairs' discussion paper, is a set of recommendations on the proposed methods of work of the Executive Board for possible consideration by the Board

Accordingly, on 29 June 2020 during the 2020 first session of the Executive Board, Argentina then as the Chair of the Ad-Hoc working group on Working Methods bt has since completed his tour of duty and has left Kenya, updated the Executive Board on the progress made by the working group as at that point, since its establishment in November 2019.

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies

I am pleased to present to this second session of the Executive Board the Co-Chairs' discussion paper as a formal document before the Executive Board, that is,

document HSP/EB.2020/20, with the title “Report of the ad hoc working group on working methods on the proposed working methods of the Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme”.

Mr. Chairman,

Document HSP/EB.2020/20 contains recommendations on the working methods of the Executive Board covering the proposed working methods related following three key areas;

1. the Executive Board and Member States
2. Documents and Presentations, and
3. the role of the Secretariat

This document is available in six UN official languages and as may be directed by the Chairman, Members of the Executive Board may review the document and consider its adoption, taking into account that it was arrived at by way of consensus on 4 March 2020 by the working group on Working Methods. Since then, the working group has had no need to further review the recommendations and this is the final output of the working group.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

Allow me now to move to different area of work for the Ad-Hhoc working group on Working Methods.

Following the practice set by the former Bureau prior to the 2020 first session of the Executive Board, the current Bureau of the Executive Board at its meeting held on 10 September 2020 also requested the Ad -Hoc working group on Working Methods to lead the informal consultations on draft outcomes to be adopted by the Executive Board during its second session in 2020 prior to the session. The Ad-Hoc working group agreed to this recommendation.

In this regard, on 12 October 2020, the Secretariat submitted draft technical inputs towards Member States’ preparation of the draft outcomes under the auspices of the working group for consideration by the Executive Board.

The Ad-hoc working group on working methods reviewed the draft outcomes on Monday, 19 October 2020 and again on Thursday, 22 October 2020. During these two meetings, the ad-hoc working group reviewed the draft documents and made the necessary adjustments to the draft outcomes in readiness for further consideration by the Executive Board at this particular session and without objections.

Mr. Chairman

Excellencies.

I now have the distinct honour to present to this second session of the Executive Board the draft decisions for further consideration as contained in the document HSP/EB.2020/CRP.1. "Draft Decisions of the Executive Board at its 2020 second session".

In that document, there are four draft decisions to be considered by the Executive Board as follows:

1. Decision 2020/3: Implementation of the Strategic Plan for the period 2014-2019, the Strategic Plan for the period 2020-2023, approval of the draft annual work programme and draft budget for the year 2021, 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.
2. Decision 2020/4: Financial, budgetary and administrative matters of UN-Habitat
3. Decision 2020/5: Implementation of normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat including resolutions and decisions of the UN-Habitat Assembly and reporting on the programmatic activities of UN-Habitat in 2020 and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities, *and*
4. Decision 2020/6: Methods of work of the Executive Board and Workplan of the Executive Board for the year 2021

Mr. Chairman

Allow me this opportunity to first and foremost thank Mr. Martin Gronda, the immediate former Deputy Permanent Representative of Argentina to UN-Habitat and former Chair of the Ad-Hoc working group on Working Methods who as indicated earlier has since left the Nairobi duty station after completion of his tour of duty, for his excellent stewardship of the working group. I also want to register my sincere appreciation to all Member States for their time, cooperation and invaluable input to the work of the working group that has ensured the great progress registered by the working group on working methods. Thank you very much.

Excellencies,

Finally, as you are aware, paragraph 11 of Decision 2019/2 of the Executive Board requested the Ad-Hoc working group on Working Methods to complete its work no later than the second session of the year 2020. In this regard, the Executive Board may wish to note the work of this working group is now complete and it has been a great privilege for the Republic of Kenya to serve as the Co-Chair of the working group.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.