

**AFRICAN GROUP STATEMENTS DELIVERED**

**BY**

**H.E. BEYENE RUSSOM**

**AMBASSADOR OF THE STATE OF ERITREA**

**AT THE 2021 VIRTUAL**

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**OF UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS**

**PROGRAMME (UNHABITAT)**

**ON**

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**Agenda item 3: Reports by the chairs of the Ad hoc Working Groups**

It is my honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group.

The African Group extends its appreciation to you Chair and your Bureau for the important work conducted during your tenure and commend you consultative and participatory approach in moving the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme forward.

Chairperson,

The Group wishes to take note of the report by the Ambassador of Pakistan and Chair of the Ad-Hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters of the Executive Board. The African Group takes note of the report and recognises the important discussions contained in the agenda of the Adhoc Working Group in preparing for the meetings of the UNHABITAT Executive Board, which feeds into the CPR mid-term review and later the Assembly as the main, high-level and universal body. In this regard, we wish to request the secretariat to prepare a note for member States to express interest to co-chairing the Adhoc Working Group.

I wish to express the commitment of the African Group in supporting the deliberations of the Adhoc Working Group on Programmatic, budget and administrative matters and ensuring successful discussions in its meetings.

I thank you.

**Agenda item 4: Financial, budgetary and administrative matters, including the implementation of the resource mobilization strategy in accordance with the strategic plan and a proposal on geographical and gender balance**

It is my honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group.

Chairperson,

The African Group takes note of the continued financial challenges facing UNHABITAT in the non-earmarked budget, which is of importance for the programme to develop its normative and operational work. It is worth mentioning that a number of member States of the African Group have successfully made their voluntary non-earmarked contributions, while other are still in the process of making their contributions.

The Group would like to take this opportunity to call upon UNHABITAT member States, donor countries, and different partners to make voluntary non-earmarked contributions. This is a key element to support UNHABITAT to deliver its mandate and services, at a time our

cities, urban communities and rural areas are facing tremendous traditional difficulties and newly emerged ones as a result of the outbreak of the COVID 19 challenges.

Chairperson,

The Group believes that the resource mobilization strategy is a critical instrument in addressing the financial gap that UNHABITAT experiences between the annual approved budget and the actual funds collected for the non-earmarked contributions. The Secretariat should give the necessary focus and dedicate the required staff to ensure the successful outreach of the programme to international donors and partners and to show case the success stories, added value and difference the UNHABITAT can make to the lives of hundreds of thousands and millions of people around the globe.

The African Group continues to encourage the programme to observe geographical and gender balances with regard to Staffing. The African Group calls upon the Executive Director to ensure a positive change in this matter at the soonest possible.

I thank you.

**Agenda item 6: Status of and discussion on the draft annual work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2022**

It is my honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group.

Chairperson

The African Group thanks the Executive Director for her presentation and takes note of the draft annual work programme and draft budget for 2022. We believe it is a useful basis document. It is important that UNHABITAT demonstrates the ability to respond to the evolving conditions related to the economic and social crises. The Group also welcomes the refocusing of some priorities and the scaling down on others to ensure higher efficiency and greater impact on the Programme's mandate in line with the recommendations of the Executive Board.

Chairperson,

With regards to the foundation non-earmarked budget, we support the proposal for the Ad-Hoc working group on Programmatic, Budgetary and Administrative matters of the Executive Board to continue discussions on the budget estimates for the Foundation non-earmarked budget of UNHABITAT for 2022 and for this discussion to be centred between the budget

range of 10 million to 12 million dollars. Furthermore, this should take into consideration the adopted Strategic Plan and the resource mobilization strategy.

As pertains to the proposed programme plan for 2022, we welcome the idea of expansion of the number of Governments and cities to be supported as part of this process and the efforts to mobilize additional resources from a larger pool of stakeholders to develop concrete urban regeneration projects based on the normative knowledge and lessons developed from UN-Habitat's expertise. This we believe will not only help increase UNHABITAT's footprint in the region but also go a long way in affirming its mandate.

Lastly Chairperson,

We are optimistic that the organisation with support from all Members is able to overcome the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic as demonstrated by the innovative approaches it is deploying in delivery across all the sub programmes.

I thank you.

**Item 9: Progress made by UN-Habitat in the implementation of the United Nations development system reform**

Chairperson,

I have an honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group.

We wish to thank the secretariat for an update provided on the implementation of the development system and management reform of the United Nations.

The African Group welcomes the process of alignment of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review as called for by the UN development system reform and underscores that it should be done in accordance with the Rules of Procedure governing the UNHABITAT Assembly. The general position of the Group is that the Strategic Plan of UNHABITAT has to be endorsed by the Assembly as the main, high-level and universal body and in honour of that intergovernmental process.

Chairperson,

We remain committed to the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020 – 2023 as adopted at the first session of the UNHABITAT Assembly in 2019 while cognizant of challenges necessitated by the COVID 19 pandemic, which undermine our common efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Lastly chairperson,

The Group wishes to emphasize the need for a more coordinated and coherent process of alignment of the Strategic Plan of UNHABITAT with the QCPR in line with other funds and programmes of the United Nations. This should be done with the view of improving the effectiveness of UNHABITAT's support to countries for their attainment of Sustainable Development Goals. This will also ensure that our discussions remain focused on achieving sustainable development and eradicating poverty.

I wish to once again, express our unequivocal support towards cooperating with Member States, regional groups and your team in ensuring a successful process.

I thank you.