



**Twenty first meeting of the Ad-Hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary
and Administrative matters of the Executive Board**

Wednesday 10 November 2021

09:30 hrs -12:30 hrs (East Africa Time)

**Chair: H.E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
to UN-Habitat**

Statement based on the Provisional Agenda shared with Member States on 8 November 2021

I. Introductory remarks and adoption of the provisional Agenda

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Members of the Secretariat,

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to the twenty first meeting of the Ad-Hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters of the Executive Board.

The meeting is now called to order.

Distinguished Delegates,

The notification and the provisional Agenda for this meeting was circulated by the Secretariat on 8 November 2021. The background document supporting provisional Agenda item 2, namely the draft outcomes to be considered by the Executive Board at its second session for the year 2021 as after the second reading held on 8 November 2021, was shared with Member States on that same day.

I now wish to call for the adoption of the provisional Agenda for this meeting as follows:

- 1) Adoption of the Agenda.
- 2) Continuation of discussions on draft outcomes to be considered by the Executive Board at its second session for the year 2021.
- 3) Any other matters.

**May I take it that we adopt the provisional Agenda for this meeting as circulated?
(Madam Chair, pause to see if anyone wishes to take the floor)**

I don't see anyone asking for the floor so shall I take it that the proposed Agenda is acceptable to everyone. **The Agenda is so adopted.**

I now suggest that we proceed to Agenda item 2 which is, Continuation of discussions on draft outcomes to be considered by the Executive Board at its second session for the year 2021.

2- Continuation of discussions on draft outcomes to be considered by the Executive Board at its second session for the year 2021.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

I wish to briefly recall that on 27 October 2021 the Secretariat circulated to Member States proposed draft technical inputs containing three draft decisions as follows :

- Draft Decision 2021/6 on the work programme and draft budget, implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023, and alignment of the planning cycles of the Programme with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process
- Draft Decision 2021/7 on the implementation of normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, reporting on the programmatic activities of the Programme in 2021, implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities and the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda
- Draft Decision 2021/8 on the methods of work of the Executive Board and the workplan of the Executive Board for 2022

On 8 November 2021, this working group considered Draft Decisions 2021/7 and 201/8. We also considered the first paragraph of draft Decision 2021/6.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

Before we move to the consideration of paragraph 2 of draft Decision 2021/6, if you allow me, I would like to make two proposals under Draft Decision 2021/8. You would recall that on Monday we agree that paragraph 3 would read as follows:

[The Executive Board] Recalls paragraph 5 of its Decisions 2020/6 and elects Switzerland and [XXX] as Chair and Co-Chair of the ad hoc working group on stakeholder engagement policy

Based on the suggestion from USA on Monday and for the purpose of ensuring the continuity of the work of any of the ad-hoc working groups of the Executive Board, I would like to propose that we include under paragraph 2 of Draft Decision 2021/8 two new paragraphs that would read as follows:

2. [The Executive Board]Decides the Chair and Co- Chair of any of the ad hoc working groups of the Executive Board should be elected at its regular sessions;

3. [The Executive Board] decides that in the interim period, the Chair and the Co-Chair may be endorsed by the ad hoc working group for the purpose of continuity of the work of the ad hoc working group and subsequently elected by the Executive Board at its next regular session

In addition, I would like to propose that we clarify the language under paragraph 5 which currently reads as follows:

5. Requests the Executive Director to provide concise draft decisions and technical inputs for future Executive Boards' consideration and to attach reference within the annotated Agenda

I would propose for the purpose of clarity that the paragraph reads :

Alt 5. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide concise draft decisions and technical inputs for future Executive Boards' consideration and to attach them as an Annex to the annotated provisional Agenda

In light of the above and for the efficient conduct of our meeting today, I would therefore like to suggest that we envisage my proposal under draft Decision 2021/8 , and then we should envisage draft Decision 2021/6 and start with its paragraph 2.

May I take it that this arrangement is agreeable to everyone?

(Madam Co- Chair, please pause to see if anyone wishes to take the floor)

It is so decided.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

We shall now take paragraph 3 of Draft Decision 2021/8: Methods of work of the Executive Board and the workplan of the Executive Board for 2022

May I ask the Secretariat to screen the text so we can start our review.

[AFTER REVIEW OF CHAIR'S PROPOSAL UNDER DRAFT DECISION 2021/8]

I thank you all for your contribution, we should now move to draft Decision 2021/6.

[AFTER REVIEW OF DRAFT DECISION 2021/6]

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

I want to register my sincere appreciation to all Member States for their time, cooperation and invaluable input to the work of the Ad-Hoc working group that has ensured the great progress registered by the working group. I would like to request the Secretariat to share after this meeting the latest version of the draft.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

May I suggest the following way forward with respect to the draft decisions prior to the first session of the Board :

Considering that we just ended our discussions today and given that we are only 2 working days to the second session of the Executive Board, it is not practicable to send the draft decisions for translation to Conference Services. Noting also that pursuant to rule 6.9 of the rules of procedure of the Executive Board “ Conference room papers shall be made available to all States Members of the United Nations and members of the United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes in English”, May I suggest that for now I forward the draft decisions as after our meeting today to the Chair of the Executive Board so that the draft decisions reflecting our inputs, be circulated on time prior to the session of the Board as Conference Room Paper?

Also noting that the Secretariat will make sure that the usual high standards for conformity are applied to the draft decisions before submitting and that Conference Services will still proceed to formal editing and translation after the adoption of the decisions after the second session of the Board, as a post-session document.

DECISION

May I take it that the Ad-Hoc working group wishes to forward to the Chair of the Executive Board the draft decisions in English without editing or translation, noting that the formal editing and the translation will be effected on the post-session document?

(Pause if to see if there are any requests for the floor).

I do not see any objection. It is so decided.

I now move to any other matters.

3. Any other matters

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Are there any matters that delegations wish to consider which are not on the Agenda?

(After discussions on any other matters, if any)



Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you all for your great contributions. If there are no other matters that delegations wish to bring up at this stage, **The meeting of the Ad-Hoc working group is now adjourned.**
