

Summary of the ninth meeting of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on programmatic, budgetary, and administrative matters of the Executive Board held virtually on Wednesday 21 October 2020 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. East Africa Time (EAT)

Chair: H.E Ms. Julia Pataki, Permanent Representative of Romania to UN-Habitat

Co-Chair: H.E Ms. Saqlain Syedah, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to UN-Habitat

The meeting considered the following items:

1. Update by the Secretariat on report A/75/7 from the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for 2021;

- i. The Chair recalled that during the forthcoming second session of the Executive Board the Board might consider discussing and approving the draft work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the year 2021.
- ii. The Chair further noted that the Bureau of the Executive Board, during its meeting held on 7 October 2020, recommended the Ad- Hoc working group to meet on Wednesday 21 October 2020 to discuss report A/ 75/7 on Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on the proposed programme budget for 2021.
- iii. The Secretariat briefed the Ad-Hoc working group on the report A/75/7 from the ACABQ on the proposed programme budget for 2021. The full presentation by the Secretariat can be accessed [here](#).

The briefing highlighted the following:

- a) There is a continued issue on cash liquidity in the United Nations in general;
- b) The regular budget has zero growth and has a component of re-costing element;
- c) Report A/75/7 will be presented to the Secretary General through the 5th Committee on 23 October 2020 together with the ACABQ report on the Foundation Proposed work programme and budget for the year 2021 .

The discussions highlighted the following:

- a) The requirements of the Foundation proposed work programme and budget for the year 2021 will be detailed in the ACABQ supplementary report and will contain the elements that the Executive Board should expect to potentially discuss.
- b) The Secretariat noted that the report on the regular budget portion of the budget of UN-Habitat for the year 2021 will go through the ACABQ, the fifth committee and the General Assembly with the guidance of the Secretary General.
- c) In addition, the Executive Board during its second session will be expected to review extra budgetary resources and its implications in terms of downsizing the staff positions, reducing staff positions from 135 to 58.
- d) The Secretariat emphasized that the Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on United Nations Human Settlements Programme and Foundation Proposed work programme and budget for the year 2021 will be received from that Committee by 22 October 2020.

2. Update by the Secretariat on Report A/75/16 of the Committee for Programme and Coordination;

- i. The Chair noted that Ad- Hoc working group was also recommended by the Bureau to meet on Wednesday 21 October 2022 to discuss report A/75/16 of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC).
- ii. The Secretariat briefed the Ad-Hoc working group on the on the report A/75/16 of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC). The full presentation by the Secretariat can be can accessed [here](#).

The briefing highlighted the following:

- a) The Report reviews the overall Work Programme of UN Habitat which is unique as it combines all the funding sources to meet the mandates of the deliverables of General Assembly (GA) and United Nations Habitat Assembly (UNHA).
- b) UN-Habitat presented the Work Programme for the year 2021 to CPC in June 2020 and the CPC was supportive of the work programme.
- c) The 5th Committee has had meetings on areas CPC had unpronounced itself, and it appears that the 5th Committee is in much favor of the work of UN Habitat. In addition, the Committee also pronounced itself on key paragraphs on marginalized groups and populations, low carbon cities development and the New Urban Agenda. It noted with appreciation the Work Programme of UN-Habitat for the year 2021 as it continues to promote sustainable urbanization and transform lives around the world.

No issues were raised under this item.

3. Update by the Secretariat on the roadmap towards the preparation and approval process of the draft work programme and budget of UN-Habitat for the year 2022;

- i. The Chair recalled that in November 2019 during the first resumed session of the Executive Board, Decision 2019//2/7, the Board decided to establish an ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters to assist and advise the Executive Board on Financial, budgetary and administrative matters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.
- ii. The Chair further recalled that the Ad- Hoc working group supported in the preparation and approval process of the draft work programme and budget of UN Habitat for the year 2021; that would hopefully be adopted in the upcoming second session of the Executive Board for the year 2020.
- iii. The Chair noted that in this regard, the Executive Board at its second session of the year 2020 may consider empowering was the Ad- Hoc working group to begin discussions on the draft work programme and budget of UN Habitat for the year 2022.
- iv. The Secretariat briefed the Ad-Hoc working group on the on roadmap towards the preparation and approval process of the draft work programme and budget of UN-Habitat for the year 2022. The full presentation by the Secretariat can be can accessed [here](#).

The briefing highlighted the following:

- a) The draft work programme of UN- Habitat for the year 2022 is to be submitted to the United Nations Head Quarters by 15 January 2021.
- b) There are two components of the draft work programme that are related to:
 - i. The Regular budget portion, on which the Secretary General sends out guidance to Un-Habitat Secretariat with Budgetary priorities and budgetary range. The Budget is then circulated internally in line with the guidance by 15 February 2021.
 - ii. The Extra- budgetary resources of UN-Habitat. On this part, the Secretariat mentioned it is in the hands of the Executive Board of UN Habitat and of Non-Earmarked foundation's donors.

The discussions highlighted the following:

- a) A better alignment is needed between the approval process of the draft work programme and budget of UN-Habitat and cycle of sessions of the Executive Board;
- b) The Secretariat suggested that the Executive Board during its second session of the year 2020 may recommend a Foundation non-earmarked budget for the year 2021 in the range of \$10 million to \$12 million and consider empowering the Ad- hoc working group on Programmatic, Budgetary and Administrative matters to finalize a recommended budget for the consideration of the Executive Board at its second session in 2020.
- c) The Secretariat clarified that the CPC reviews the budget and ACABQ reviews the financial aspect of the work programme and budget section. In addition, the Executive Board during its second session of the year 2020.

4. Any other matters

- i. The Secretariat at the invitation of the Chair briefed the Ad-Hoc working group on the interim financial and staffing status as of 30 September 2020. The full presentation by the Secretariat can be accessed [here](#) and [here](#).

The presentation highlighted the following:

- a) Status of UN – Habitat funds as at 30 June 2020 and 30 September 2020 covering the revenue, budget and expenditures to be presented to the Executive Board. The presentation covered regular budget, foundation non- earmarked, foundation earmarked, technical cooperation and programme support.
- b) Earmarked contributions highlighting the following:
 - Top ten earmarked Contributors as from 2016 to 2020 as at 30 June 2020.
 - Top ten Earmarked contributors 2020 as at 30 September with a total contribution of USD 119.0 Million.
- c) The Secretariat also presented the Foundation non- earmarked contributions as at 15 October 2020 with a total contribution of USD 3.7 Million.
- d) The Secretariat also presented the Staffing Status of UN-Habitat as at 30 June 2020 highlighting the staff distribution by gender and grade.

No issues were raised under this Agenda item.

- ii. The Chair noted that at that moment, and in addition to that meeting, another meeting of the Ad-Hoc working group would be scheduled after the second session of the Executive Board.