

Third Bureau meeting for the year 2023

Monday 27 March 2023 14.30-16.00 EAT

Agenda item 2- Status of draft decisions to be possibly adopted during the first session of the Executive Board in 2023

Statement by the Chair of the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters

H.E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah

Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to UN-Habitat

Based on the provisional Agenda circulated to Member States 21 March 2023

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for this opportunity to brief the Bureau on the work done by the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters during the discussions on the draft decisions to be possibly adopted by the Executive Board during its first session for the year 2023.

Following the recommendation by the Bureau that the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters of the Executive Board should hold prior consideration of the draft decisions before the Executive Board at its first session, I wish to confirm that the ad hoc working group held consultations on 8 March 2023, Wednesday 15 March 2023 and today Monday 27 March 2023.

The working group has been considering three draft decisions based on the technical input by the Secretariat as follows :

1. **Draft decision 2023/[A]:** Financial status of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, update on the financial reserve, updated scalability model for the non-earmarked budget of the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, analysis of the risks related to the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation and overview of earmarked private sector contribution agreements
2. **Draft decision 2023/[B]:** Normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including reporting on the

programmatic activities of the Programme and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities

3. **Draft decision 2023/[C]:** Methods of work of the Executive Board and the workplan of the Executive Board for 2023

To give you a brief background, **on 8 March 2023** the ad hoc working group considered draft Decisions 2023/[A], 2023/[B] and 2023/[C].

The ad hoc working group could not reach a consensus on section (d) of draft Decision 2023/[A] regarding the approval of a supplementary budget of the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2023 for the implementation of paragraph 17 of decision 2022/6, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the programme budget implications of this decision.

The ad hoc working group also felt that more discussions are needed on paragraph 10 of draft Decision 2023/[B] regarding the engagement of the Local2030 Coalition in the process of further developing the Sustainable Development Goals Cities certification concept and consider the possibility of integrating the certification into the work of the Coalition as well as paragraph 11 requesting the Executive Director to develop the Sustainable Development Goals Cities certification business model and funding strategy and identify funding sources.

Considering the status of the discussions at the end of that meeting, the working group agreed to continue the discussions on 15 March 2023 with a view to making progress and possibly reaching consensus on the draft decisions.

On 15 March 2023 we made good progress on draft Decisions 2022/[A], 2022/[B] and 2022/[C]. Under draft Decision 2023/[A] and with respect to paragraphs 5 and 6, the working group requested the Secretariat to circulate the analysis of the risks related to the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation and overview of earmarked private sector contribution agreements. This has been circulated by the Secretariat on 23 March 2023. Under draft Decision 2023/[A], the working group also requested the Secretariat to prepare a revised version of the technical note to facilitate discussion on paragraphs **7 bis and 7 ter** on the financial implications of decision 2022/6, para. 17, as adopted at its second session of 2022 and as input to consultations on the proposed supplementary budget for 2023. This has been circulated on 24 March 2023.

The ad hoc working group reiterated that more discussions are needed on paragraph 10 of draft Decision 2023/[B] regarding the engagement of the Local2030 Coalition in the process of further developing the Sustainable Development Goals Cities certification concept and consider the possibility of integrating the certification into the work of the Coalition as well as paragraph 11 requesting the Executive Director to develop the Sustainable Development Goals Cities certification business model and funding strategy and identify funding sources.

The ad hoc working group met again on **27 March 2023** for the Secretariat to brief us again on the Sustainable Development Goals Cities certification. We encouraged the focal points from the respective Capitals to connect to our meeting allow productive discussions.

We also discussed any pending issues contained in the draft decisions.

Today 27 March 2023 our discussions were productive.

[MADAM CHAIR PLEASE UPDATE IN LIGHT OF THE DISCUSSIONS HELD IN THE MORNING OF THE SAME DAY]

Mr. Chairman,

Considering that we just ended our discussions today, it was 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”, the ad hoc working group suggested that I forward the draft decisions after the meeting held today to you as 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 and in English only.

The working group requested that the Secretariat make sure that the usual high standards for documents of this nature are applied to the final version of the decisions before submitting them to Conference Services as a post-session document for formal editing and translation after the adoption of the decisions by the Board at its second session this week.

I want to register my sincere appreciation to all Member States for their time, cooperation and invaluable input to informal consultations.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.
