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Adoption of the report of the Executive Board

Report of the Executive Board to the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its second session

I. Background

1. On 20 December 2018, the General Assembly of the United Nations in resolution 73/239 decided to dissolve the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and to replace it with a United Nations Habitat Assembly (UN-Habitat Assembly), composed of universal membership.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly decided that, in 2019, the Executive Board, after the election of its members by the UN-Habitat Assembly, would meet for its first session in Nairobi for a duration of three days.

3. Subsequently, the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly was held in Nairobi from 27 to 31 May 2019. At that session, the Assembly adopted its rules of procedure (HSP/HA.1/HLS.2, annex), elected 36 members to serve on the Executive Board of UN-Habitat and, in decision 1/2, endorsed the rules of procedure of the Executive Board.

4. Following the election of its 36 members, the Executive Board held its first meeting on the margins of the first session of the Assembly and elected its Bureau.

5. Since then, the Executive Board has met at least twice every year. The following sections provide an overview of the work of the Executive Board at each of its sessions.

II. Progress made by the Executive Board

A. First session of 2019 of the Executive Board

6. The Executive Board of UN-Habitat held its inaugural session in Nairobi on 30 May 2019 on the margins of the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. At the first session, the Board adopted its rules of procedure and elected its first bureau composed of the United States of America as Chair; Argentina, China and Russian Federation as Vice-Chairs; and Malawi as Rapporteur.

7. The Executive Board resumed the first session in Nairobi on 19 and 20 November 2019, during which it adopted the UN-Habitat work programme and budget for 2020 and established three ad hoc working groups on (a) working methods; (b) programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters; and (c) the stakeholder engagement policy. The Executive Board adopted five decisions to

^{*} HSP/HA.2/1.

ensure the follow up of the mandates forwarded to the Board by the UN-Habitat Assembly as well as its own mandates, as follows:

(a) Decision 2019/1: Implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019 and the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023, and approval of the work programme and budget for 2020, comprising:

- (i) Part (a): Implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019 of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;
- Part (b): Implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023 of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;
- (iii) Part (c): Approval of the work programme of UN-Habitat and the budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2020;
- (iv) Part (d): Alignment with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process;

(b) Decision 2019/2: Financial, budgetary and administrative matters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

(c) Decision 2019/3: Implementation of normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including the resolutions and decisions of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, comprising: part (a): Implementation of resolutions and decisions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its first session; part (b): Implementation of the normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

- (d) Decision 2019/4: Workplan of the Executive Board for 2020;
- (e) Decision 2019/5: Methods of work of the Executive Board.

8. The above-mentioned decisions are set out in document HSP/EB.1/11, while the reports of the 2019 sessions of the Executive Board are set out in documents HSP/EB.1/4 and HSP/EB.1/12.

B. First session of 2020 of the Executive Board

9. The first session of 2020 of the Executive Board was held on 29 June 2020. The timing and duration of the session was adjusted due to the prevailing global coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

10. The Executive Board adopted the following two procedural decisions at the session:

(a) Decision 2020/1: Adoption of decisions by the Executive Board during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic via a silence procedure when the Board is not in session;

(b) Decision 2020/2: Dates and provisional agenda of the second session of 2020 of the Executive Board.

11. The Board suspended the session and resumed it on 29 July 2020, at which time it elected members of the new Bureau for the period 2020–2021, comprising the Islamic Republic of Iran as Chair; Chile, Egypt and France as Vice-Chairs; and Serbia as Rapporteur.

12. The report of the first session of 2020 of the Executive Board is set out in document HSP/EB.2020/18.

C. Second session of 2020 of the Executive Board

13. The second session of 2020 of the Executive Board was held from 27 to 29 October 2020.

14. The Executive Board adopted the following decisions at the session:

(a) Decision 2020/3 on the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019, the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023, approval of the draft work programme and draft budget for 2021, implementation by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme of the reform of the development system and management of the United Nations, and alignment of the planning cycles of the Programme with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process, comprising:

- (i) Part (a): Implementation of the strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2014–2019;
- (ii) Part (b): Implementation of the strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2020–2023;

- (iii) Part (c): Draft work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2021;
- Part (d): Alignment of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process with the planning cycles of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;
- Part (e): Implementation by the United Nations Human Settlements
 Programme of the reform of the development system and management of the United Nations;

(b) Decision 2020/4 on financial, budgetary and administrative matters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

(c) Decision 2020/5 on the implementation of normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including resolutions and decisions of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, and reporting on the programmatic activities of the Programme in 2020 and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities, comprising:

- (i) Part (a): Implementation of resolutions and decisions adopted at the first session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly;
- Part (b): Implementation of the draft capacity-building strategy for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda;
- (iii) Part (c): Implementation of the normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

(d) Decision 2020/6 on the methods of work of the Executive Board and the workplan of the Executive Board for 2021, comprising:

- (i) Part (a): Reports of the Executive Board and its working groups;
- Part (b): Alignment of the 2021 sessions of the Executive Board with the approval process of the draft work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for 2022;
- (iii) Part (c): Dates and agenda of the next session of the Executive Board and its workplan for 2021.

15. The above-mentioned decisions are set out in document HSP/EB.2020/29. The report of the session is set out in document HSP/EB.2020/28.

D. First session of 2021 of the Executive Board

- 16. The first session of 2021 of the Executive Board was held on 7 and 8 April 2021.
- 17. The Board adopted the following five decisions at the session:

(a) Decision 2021/1 on the status of the draft work programme and the draft budget for 2022; implementation by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme of the reform of the development system and management of the United Nations and alignment of the UN-Habitat planning cycles with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process, comprising:

- Part (a): Work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2022;
- Part (b): Alignment of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process with the planning cycles of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;
- Part (c): Implementation by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme of the reform of the development system and management of the United Nations;

(b) Decision 2021/2 on financial, budgetary and administrative matters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including improvement of its internal management, policies and procedures and its actions to strengthen protection against sexual and any other type of exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment in the workplace;

(c) Decision 2021/3 on implementation of the normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including the resolutions and decisions of the United Nations Habitat Assembly and reporting on the programmatic activities of UN-Habitat in 2020, as well as the subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities, and update on the UN-Habitat response to the coronavirus pandemic, comprising:

- Part (a): Implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its first session;
- Part (b): Implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat;

(d) Decision 2021/4 on the methods of work of the Executive Board and workplan of the Executive Board for the year 2021, comprising:

- (i) Part (a): Reports of the Executive Board and its ad hoc working groups;
- (ii) Part (b): Dates and agenda of the next session of the Executive Board;

(e) Decision 2021/5 on the election of officers of the Bureau of the Executive Board for the term 2021–2022.

18. In decision 2021/5, the Executive Board elected a new Bureau composed of Poland as Chair; Egypt, France and Pakistan as Vice-Chairs; and Chile as Rapporteur, to serve for the period 2021–2022.

19. The above-mentioned decisions are set out in document HSP/EB.2021/11, while the report of the session is set out in document HSP/EB.2021/10.

E. Second session of 2021 of the Executive Board

20. The second session of 2021 of the Executive Board was held on 15 and 16 November 2021.

21. The Board adopted three decisions as follows:

(a) Decision 2021/6 on the work programme and 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, comprising:

- (i) Part (a): Implementation of the strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2020–2023;
- Part (b): Work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2022;
- (iii) Part (c): Draft work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2023;
- (iv) Part (d): Alignment of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process with the planning cycles of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

(b) Decision 2021/7 on the implementation of the normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, reporting on its programmatic activities in 2021, implementation of its subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities, and the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to assess progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, comprising:

(i) Part (a): Implementation of the normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

- Part (b): Implementation of the draft capacity-building strategy for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda;
- (iii) Part (c): Terms of reference for the mechanism for the review of the implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements;
- (iv) Part (d): High-level meeting of the General Assembly to assess progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda;

(c) Decision 2021/8 on the methods of work of the Executive Board and the workplan of the Executive Board for 2022, comprising:

- (i) Part (a): Reports of the Executive Board and its working groups;
- (ii) Part (b): Dates and agenda of the next session of the Executive Board and its workplan for 2022.

22. The above-mentioned decisions are set out in document HSP/EB.2021/22, while the report of the session is set out in document HSP/EB.2021/21.

F. First session of 2022 of the Executive Board

23. The first session of 2022 of the Executive Board was held from 29 to 31 March 2022.

24. The Board adopted four decisions at the session, as follows:

(a) Decision 2022/1: Status of 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 2023, and financial, budgetary and administrative matters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, comprising:

- Part (a): Status of 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 2023;
- Part (b): Financial, budgetary and administrative matters of UN-Habitat, including the implementation of the resource mobilization strategy and geographical and gender balance;

(b) Decision 2022/2: Implementation of the normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, comprising:

- Part (a): Implementation of the normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including resolutions and decisions of the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;
- (ii) Part (b): Preparations for and follow-up to the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum;
- (iii) Part (c): High-level meeting of the General Assembly on the review of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda;
- (iv) Part (d): Implementation by UN-Habitat of the reform of the United Nations development system and of the management of the United Nations;

(c) Decision 2022/3: Methods of work of the Executive Board and workplan of the Executive Board for the year 2022, comprising:

- (i) Part (a): Reports of the Executive Board and its ad hoc working groups;
- (ii) Part (b): Working methods of the Executive Board to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of meetings of the Board;
- (iii) Part (c): Dates and provisional agenda of the second session of 2022 of the Executive Board;

(d) Decision 2022/4: Election of officers of the Bureau of the Executive Board for the term 2022–2023.

25. In decision 2022/4, the Executive Board elected a new Bureau composed of Brazil as Chair; Kenya, Pakistan and Poland as Vice-Chairs; and France as Rapporteur to serve for the period 2022–2023.

26. The above-mentioned decisions are set out in document HSP/EB.2022/13, while the report of the session is set out in document HSP/EB.2022/12.

G. Second session of 2022 of the Executive Board

27. The second session of 2022 of the Executive Board was held from 21 to 23 November 2022.

28. The Board adopted three decisions at the session, as follows:

(a) Decision 2022/5: Implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023; financial, budgetary and administrative matters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the findings of its review of the management and administration of UN-Habitat; and draft work programme and budget for 2023, comprising:

- (i) Part (a): Implementation of the strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the period 2020–2023;
- (ii) Part (b): Financial, budgetary and administrative matters of UN-Habitat;
- (iii) Part (c): Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the findings of its review of the management and administration of UN-Habitat, the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the report of the Ethics Office;
- (iv) Part(d): Work programme of UN-Habitat and the draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2023;
- Part (e): Preparation of the draft work programme of UN-Habitat and draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2024;

(b) Decision 2022/6: Implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat; reporting on the programmatic activities of the Programme in 2022; implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities, comprising:

- (i) Part (a): Implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat;
- (ii) Part (b): High-level meeting of the General Assembly on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda;
- (iii) Part (c): Eleventh session of the World Urban Forum;
- (iv) Part (d): Preparations for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly;

(c) Decision 2022/7: Methods of work of the Executive Board in 2022 and the workplan of the Executive Board for 2023, comprising:

- (i) Part (a): Reports of the Executive Board and its working groups;
- (ii) Part (b): Working methods of the Executive Board to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of sessions of the Board;
- (iii) Part (c): Dates and agenda of the next session of the Executive Board and its workplan for 2023.

29. The above-mentioned decisions are set out in document HSP/EB.2022/22, while the report of the session is set out in document HSP/EB.2022/21.

III. Highlights of the work of the Executive Board

A. Implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023 and resolutions of the UN-Habitat Assembly at its first session

30. At its second session of 2022, the Executive Board approved several documents that are aimed at supporting the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023 in line with UN-Habitat Assembly resolution 1/1 and Executive Board decision 2019/1. The documents approved in Executive Board decision 2020/3 were:

(a) 2020–2023; The results framework for the implementation of the strategic plan for the period

- (b) The results-based management policy;
- (c) The partnership strategy;
- (d) The impact communication strategy;
- (e) The resource mobilization strategy;
- (f) The framework for organizational and personnel accountability within UN-Habitat.

31. In addition, the Executive Board continued to monitor the implementation of various resolutions adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its first session, held in May 2019. Specifically, at its second session, in October 2020, the Board took note of the concept note on the implementation of a review process for the United Nations System-Wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements in line with resolution 1/2 of the UN-Habitat Assembly. The Board also adopted the draft capacity-building strategy, in line with UN-Habitat Assembly resolution 1/3 and stressed the importance of supporting partner countries with capacity-building with a view to enhancing existing human and organizational skills in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 11.

B. Work programme and budget for 2021

32. At the second session of 2020, the Executive Board approved the work programme and budget for the year 2021 with the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation non-earmarked budget for 2021 set at \$10 million.

C. Work programme and budget for 2022

33. At the second session of 2021, the Executive Board approved the work programme and budget for the year 2022 with budget estimates of \$11.2 million for programme support, \$69.1 million for Foundation earmarked, and \$149.8 million for technical cooperation budgets, and the Foundation non-earmarked budget for 2022 totalling \$12 million.

D. Work programme and budget for 2023

34. At the first session of 2022, the Executive Board recommended that the Foundation non-earmarked budget for 2023 be set at a baseline of \$3 million, to be scaled up to a level of \$12 million should adequate funds be received.

35. At the second session of 2022, the Executive Board approved the draft work programme of UN-Habitat and the non-earmarked budget of the Foundation for 2023 of \$3 million. The Executive Board also decided to set the minimum level of the reserve at \$3 million or 20 per cent of the approved budget for the following financial period, whichever was higher.

E. Alignment of the planning cycles of UN-Habitat with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process

36. Following intense negotiations by Member States and extensive efforts by the Executive Board starting in October 2020 with regard to the alignment of the UN-Habitat planning cycles with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) process, the Executive Board recommended that the UN-Habitat Assembly, at its second session of 2023, consider approving the extension of the current strategic plan for the period 2020–2023 until 2025 to cover the period 2020 to 2025 in order to align the planning cycles of UN-Habitat with the QCPR process.

37. The Executive Board also recommended that the UN-Habitat Assembly, at its second session in 2023, consider the most cost-effective method to approve the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029. In that regard, the Executive Board requested the Executive Director to prepare a new comprehensive options paper, in line with General Assembly resolution 73/239 of 20 December 2018 and the relevant rules of procedure, to consider ways of approving the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029 and the implications thereof for the subsidiary bodies of the UN-Habitat Assembly, and present that paper to the UN-Habitat Assembly for consideration at its second session of 2023.

F. Normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat

38. During its sessions, the Executive Board has engaged in active discussions on the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, based on the various thematic and regional activities presented to the Board. In that regard, the Executive Board, among other things:

(a) Recommended that the Executive Director actively advance the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in support of the Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals, through normative guidance, technical assistance, strategic partnerships, harmonized data collection based on the United Nations system-wide Global Urban Monitoring Framework, and implementing the People-Centred Smart Cities flagship programme;

(b) Requested the Executive Director to actively provide support to Member States by means of normative guidance, technical assistance and strategic partnerships to contribute to the achievement of the goals of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate, and also requested the Executive Director to strengthen collaboration with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change towards its seventh assessment cycle and the special report on climate change and cities planned for that cycle;

(c) Encouraged the Executive Director to explore with the presidency of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change the possibility of convening a housing and urban development ministerial meeting on cities and climate change, to be held on the margins of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties, to highlight the importance of climate action in urban areas in the development and achievement of nationally determined contributions. The ministerial meeting was successfully held during the twenty-seventh session on 17 November 2022;

(d) Requested the Executive Director, in line with the mandate of the Programme, to support the efforts to reconstruct the human settlements in countries affected by conflict and disaster, including those leading to the displacement of people, through a comprehensive whole-of-system response and to use all relevant tools at her disposal to engage with countries newly affected by conflict and disaster, such as Ukraine, and continue to provide assistance to countries, territories and areas affected by conflict and disaster, in particular using urban profiling to assess the needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of urban areas and the establishment of urban recovery frameworks where relevant and subject to the availability of funding;

(e) Recommended that the Executive Director report to the Executive Board on the ongoing activities of UN-Habitat in countries, territories and areas affected by conflict and disaster in a uniform manner;

(f) Encouraged the Executive Director to further explore the contribution of urban crisis prevention and response to climate action, durable solutions for displaced persons, sustaining peace and the acceleration of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and to continue the extraordinary dialogue that was held on the matter at the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum and to consider a follow-up dialogue thereto at the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, in 2023.

G. High-level meeting of the General Assembly to assess progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda

39. Prior to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to assess progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, called for in resolution 75/224 and convened by the President of the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly on 28 April 2022, the Executive Board supported the preparations for that meeting and invited all Member States to prepare and submit their national reports on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

40. At its second session of 2022, the Executive Board took note of the summary by the President of the General Assembly on the high-level meeting, including the annex of declared actions and commitments on housing, climate action, localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, and urban crisis recovery to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.¹ The Executive Board further requested the Executive Director to provide an update on programmes and initiatives on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, including with regard to the submission of national reports, at each session of the Executive Board.

¹ Available at: <u>https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2022/10/final_hlm_on_nua_pga_summary_0.pdf</u>.

H. Implementation by UN-Habitat of the reform of the United Nations development system and of the management of the United Nations

41. At its first session of 2022, the Executive Board welcomed the efforts by UN-Habitat to contribute to the implementation of the reform of the United Nations development system, using the United Nations system-wide strategy for sustainable urban development; to assist the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and other United Nations entities to achieve the urban dimensions of their respective mandates; and to elevate urban policy in inter-agency mechanisms, including the Chief Executives Board for Coordination, Senior Management Group, Executive Committee of the United Nations Secretariat, United Nations Sustainable Development Group and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee.

42. The Board recognized the importance of the 2020 organizational structure of the secretariat in facilitating the implementation of the United Nations system-wide strategy on sustainable urban development at the country level and, noting the funding challenges in supporting the implementation of the strategy at the regional level through the support of regional structures and resident coordinators in the development of joint urban programming, encouraged Member States and UN-Habitat partners to provide funding to enable UN-Habitat to further contribute to the implementation of the United Nations sustainable development cooperation framework.

I. Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the findings of its review of the management and administration of UN-Habitat

43. At its second session of 2022, the Executive Board took note of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the review of management and administration in UN-Habitat² and requested the Executive Director to report to the Executive Board at its second or third session of each year on progress in the implementation of those recommendations.

44. The Executive Board also noted that that the current governance structure of UN-Habitat was established only in 2019 and that adequate time was required for the structure to function before any effective assessment was conducted.

J. Preparations for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly

45. At its second session of 2022, the Executive Board recommended that Member States prioritize adequate housing, cities and climate change, localization of the Sustainable Development Goals and the response to urban crises when formulating draft resolutions for consideration at the second session of the Assembly. The Board further recommended that Member States provide adequate voluntary funding, according to their respective capabilities, to enable the implementation of all the resolutions.

IV. Upcoming sessions of the Executive Board

46. In 2023, the Executive Board is scheduled to meet for its first session of the year on 28 and 29 March 2023. The second session will be held on 8 June 2023, in the margins of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, specifically to elect the new Bureau for the period 2023–2024 following the expected election of the 36 members of the Board by the UN-Habitat Assembly. The Board will hold its third session in the last quarter of 2023.

47. More information about the Executive Board, sessions of the Board, and the Board's ad hoc working groups can be found at <u>https://unhabitat.org/governance/executive-board.</u>