

## Summary of the sixth meeting of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on programmatic, budgetary, and administrative matters of the Executive Board held virtually on Wednesday 17 June 2020

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

### 1. Agenda for the meeting

The meeting considered the following agenda items:

- i. Progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the period 2020–2023:
  - a) Draft Partnership Strategy, including UN-Habitat engagement with the private sector and with non-governmental partners
  - b) Draft Financial Plan

### 2. Progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the period 2020–2023:

- a) The Secretariat provided a briefing on the [Draft Partnership Strategy 2020- 2023](#), including UN-Habitat engagement with the private sector and with non-governmental partners. The full presentation from the Secretariat can be accessed [here](#).

The highlights of the briefing are as below:

- i. The Draft Partnership Strategy was shared with Member States in February 2020 and Turkey sent comments to the Secretariat in March 2020. Several stakeholders also provided some feedback.
- ii. The Draft Partnerships Strategy is articulated around three key priorities focusing on effective partnerships that deliver and upscale normative and operational programmes at the national and local level.
- iii. There are seven categories of partners: Governments, Local Governments, Private Sector, Civil Society, United Nations, Knowledge Partners and Financial Institutions.
- iv. The Draft Partnership strategy is a tool for strategic engagement with Member States and a road map to expected results.
- v. Progress in implementation of the Draft Partnership Strategy pending its formal consideration by the Executive Board include:
  - Development of an Urban Agenda Platform with 190 National Governments
  - Training manual on the implementation and monitoring of SDG- 11 and other urban indicators with 50 countries being beneficiaries.
  - Launch of the City Investment Facility at WUF-10 with 100 'Fortune 500 Companies' private sector platform.
  - Support to the City of Moscow on Voluntary Local Review with 1500 Voluntary Local Reviews.
  - Active participation of partners in WUF- 10,
  - Collaboration with UCLG in organizing Covid-19 Webinars series for cities on #Beyondtheoutbreak.
- vi. 188 partners Engaged with UN Habitat with the following distribution:
  - Foundations 3%,
  - United Nations Agencies 3%,

- Government 9%,
  - Academia and Research 14%,
  - Private Sector 17%,
  - Local Government 21% and,
  - Non-Governmental Organizations 34%.
  -
- vii. Challenges experienced as from January to June 2020 include limited resources, pending agreements with stakeholders, USD 500,000 required to support implementation of partnership strategy.

In the discussions, the following issues were raised:

- i. The draft Resource Mobilization Strategy, the draft Impact Communication Strategy and draft Partnership Strategy should complement the draft Results Framework of the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan which should serve as the overarching framework.
- ii. The work regarding the draft UN-Habitat Stakeholder Engagement Policy is still ongoing. In the absence of a stakeholder engagement policy, it will be important to clarify and confirm that UN Habitat will develop and implement its partnerships in accordance with agreed and established policies and principles.
- iii. Clarification and background information is needed from the Secretariat on the changes made in two sections in the draft Partnership Strategy that relate to stakeholders. The changes include wording on their participation which is indicated as “implementing partners”.
- iv. Some Member States suggested to link the draft Partnerships Strategy and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework so as to position it more strategically.
- v. The draft Partnerships Strategy should include aspects on the coordination with national Governments.
- vi. In the absence of a UN-Habitat stakeholder engagement policy, it should be ensured that UN-Habitat still works with different stakeholders.

The Secretariat confirmed working with Resident Coordinators to address urbanization challenges. In addition, the Secretariat is developing guidance for country and regional offices for working with Resident Coordinators and which will help with alignment with national Governments. The Secretariat clarified that it would highlight what UN-Habitat is doing on the ground in relation to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. UN-Habitat further confirmed its involvement with civil society and other stakeholders.

#### **REQUIRED ACTION:**

The Secretariat will liaise with Member States that required clarification with some sections of the Partnership Strategy 2020- 2023 document.

- b) The Secretariat provided a briefing on the [Draft Financial Plan](#). The full presentation by the Secretariat can be found [here](#).

The highlights of the briefing are as below:

- i. The Secretariat was given the mandate by the UN- Habitat Assembly to develop a financial plan entailing its revenues and expenditures.
- ii. The Secretariat presented the benefits and Challenges of a Financial Plan and presented the proposed elements of the Plan: four- years forecast and annual updating.

- iii. Scope of Funds to be covered by Foundation unearmarked, Regular Budget, Foundation earmarked, Technical Cooperation Funds, Programme Support Costs and End- of- Service- Benefits.
- iv. Frequency at which the Financial Plan will be presented to UN- Habitat Assembly should be determined.
- v. Content of the Financial Plan: preamble on the political, economic, and env conditions that could have impacts on the income and expenditures, assessment of financial sustainability, assessment of organizational sustainability and forecast of revenues and expenditures scenarios presented at 60%, 80%, 100% and 120%.
- vi. Proposed calculation methodology: revenues and expenditures will utilize World Bank's approach.

In the discussions, the following issues were raised:

- i. Some Member States highlighted that the draft financial plan should be based on the actual revenue from previous years as the base and not on the budget forecasts that the Member States have disagreed with, in line with the resource mobilization strategy.
- ii. Some Member States emphasized on the discrepancy between the finance documents and the actual involvement of donors.  
UN- Habitat should provide materials on the draft work programme and budget of UN-Habitat for the year 2021 using actual revenue figures and not projections. In addition, the Secretariat should provide updates about the impact on the financial plan on the ground.

The Secretariat confirmed that it would discuss the draft financial plan with the Controllers Office in New York on using previous years projections. UN-Habitat further confirmed that it will check any contradicting donors' contributions information among its materials.

## **REQUIRED ACTION:**

Member States were invited to look at the concept note on the draft Financial Plan and to send comments to the Secretariat, so that the Ad-Hoc Working Group can look at it before the second session of the Executive Board which is scheduled at the end of October 2020.

### **3. Any Other Matters**

- i. Some comments were raised on the communication flow from the Secretariat of the Governing Bodies with respect to notifications of the meetings of the Ad-hoc working group. It was agreed that all information and background documents should be sent in one email.
- ii. The Secretariat notified the Member States that they will be receiving a Note Verbale about the deficit of the Foundation and the lack of liquidity reserve; that that is expected to be used by the end of June 2020.