

## Second Bureau Meeting of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat for the year 2023

Tuesday 14 March 2023

14:45 – 16:15 East Africa Time

### Agenda item 3- 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 on 7 March 2023

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Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for this opportunity to brief the Bureau on the work conducted by the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters during the discussions on the draft outcomes 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 and will be held again this week on Wednesday 15 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

On 8 March 2023 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, we agreed to continue the discussions tomorrow on 15 March 2023 with a view to making progress and possibly reaching consensus on the draft decisions.

I am confident that our time tomorrow will be productive and will allow us to make the necessary adjustments in readiness for further consideration by the Executive Board.

Mr. Chairman,

Considering that we will end our discussions on Wednesday, it may not be 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, I will suggest to the working group that for now I forward the draft decisions after our meeting on Wednesday 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.

Noting that the Secretariat will 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 2023 first session.

I will forward to you in your capacity as Chair the draft decisions for further consideration by the Executive Board and possible adoption.

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.

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