

## **THE FIRST SESSION OF THE UN-HABITAT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 2021.**

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The **1<sup>st</sup> Session** of the UN-Habitat Executive Board meeting took place from 7<sup>TH</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> April 2021. This was a virtual event owing to the situation with the COVID-19 Pandemic. The event whose aim is to increase oversight of UN-Habitat operations as well as strengthen its accountability, transparency and effectiveness recorded an online attendance of over 250 participants.

Kenya as host country was represented by a delegation comprising Mr. Charles Hinga, Principal Secretary State Department of Housing and Urban development, senior officials from the State Department of Housing and Urban Development, officials from the Permanent Mission of Kenya to UN-Habitat and officials from the Ministry of foreign Affairs. In his opening remarks, the PS addressed UN-Habitat's precarious financial situation calling upon Members to honor their pledges and fulfill their financial obligations to the organization to enable it move forward. He recalled that Kenya had honored its pledge to increase its annual contribution to the regular budget from **70,000 to 100,000 USD**.

In her remarks the Executive Director UN-Habitat Ms. Maimunah Mohd.Shariff acknowledged the efforts by frontline workers in response to the global pandemic and to donors for their financial contribution of **\$32 million** in support of UN-Habitat Covid-19 Response Plan. She noted that she will be seeking guidance from Member States on how to address the financial constraints faced by the organization.

### **SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES**

- The Board discussed the financial situation of the organization and the draft annual work programme and budget for 2022, matters whose discussions would continue in the Second session meeting.
- The Board also heard developments around how the organization was working with Member States in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Member States expressed appreciation and support for UN-Habitat's work on UN System wide reforms and urged UN-Habitat to position itself strategically to maximize the impact of its work.
- UN-Habitat informed the Executive Board about the consultative process put in place to implement reforms, and about the new organizational structure developed to strengthen the organization.
- Officials of the new Bureau of the Executive Board were elected as follows;
  - ✓ Chair: Poland
  - ✓ Vice-Chairs: Egypt, Pakistan and France
  - ✓ Rapporteur: Chile

- The Executive Director gave a status update on the implementation of resolutions and decisions adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its first session in May 2019. She noted that the lack of consistent voluntary funding had made this work challenging particularly during the current COVID-19 pandemic.
- Five decisions as presented in document **HSP/EB.2021/CRP.1/Rev.** were adopted by consensus and as an expression of the formal outcome of the Executive Board session as follows:
  - a) **Draft Decision 2021/1**; Status of the draft Work Programme and Budget of UN-Habitat for the year 2022; implementation by UN-Habitat of the UN Development System reforms and alignment of the planning cycles of UN-Habitat's Strategic Planning processes with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review process.
  - b) **Draft Decision 2021/2**: Financial, Budgetary and Administrative matters of UN Habitat including the improvement of the internal management, policies and procedures of UN-Habitat and actions by UN-Habitat to strengthen protection against sexual and any other type of exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment in the workplace.
  - c) **Draft Decision 2021/3**: Implementation of normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat including resolutions and decisions of the UN-Habitat Assembly and including reporting on the programmatic activities of UN-Habitat in 2020 and the implementation of subprograms, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities, and update on the UN-Habitat response to the coronavirus pandemic;
  - d) **Draft Decision 2021/5**: Election of officers of the Bureau of the Executive Board for the term 2021-2022.
- Members decided that the second session of the Executive Board in 2021 be held for two or three days between **16 and 18 November 2021**.

## **Kenya Permanent Mission to UN-Habitat September 2021**

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