



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited  
15 June 2022

Original: English

---

## Committee for Programme and Coordination

Sixty-second session

31 May–1 July 2022

### Draft report

*Rapporteur:* Mr. Luiz **Feldman** (Brazil)

#### Addendum

### Programme questions: proposed programme budget for 2023

(Item 3 (a))

#### Programme 12 Human settlements

1. At its 6th meeting, on 2 June 2022, the Committee considered programme 12, Human settlements, of the proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance information for 2021 ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 15\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2022/13](#)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and, together with other representatives, responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

#### Discussion

3. Delegations expressed support for the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to support Member States and for its proposed programme plan for 2023. A delegation emphasized its appreciation for the work on urban displacement and people-centred smart cities, and the work with the urban poor. Another delegation expressed appreciation for the work done by UN-Habitat to address the challenges of sustainable urbanization, including the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, to ensure the widest possible enjoyment of the social, economic and environmental benefits brought about by sustainable urban development. The role that UN-Habitat continued to play in the monitoring and reporting of global progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and Goal 11 was also emphasized.



4. Gratitude was expressed for the work of UN-Habitat, and its intention, stated in the foreword of the report, to continue to act on its bold and ambitious vision of “a better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world”, working closely with Member States and partners to build inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and communities. A delegation commented that UN-Habitat promoted urbanization as a positive transformative force for people and communities, reducing inequality, discrimination and poverty. The delegation added that sustainable urban development had a catalytic impact on development, improving living conditions for those furthest behind. It was noted that well-planned urbanization resulting in efficient cities drove the sustainable development agenda, including social and cultural change, environmental protection and economic growth, and that sustainable urban transformation presented an opportunity to work with all types of actors, in particular those traditionally excluded.

5. A delegation welcomed the scope of the programme, suggesting that there was a need to consolidate the programme portfolio of UN-Habitat. That delegation also commented that, although the agency’s proactive approach was commendable, it was important that, when it created new tools, it give full consideration to their purpose and the extent of national or city government demand for those tools. The delegation also welcomed the steps taken to consolidate the programme, noting that two programmes (inclusive, vibrant neighbourhoods and communities and people-centred smart cities) were due to be mainstreamed across four subprogrammes.

6. The view was expressed that there was scope to improve the quality of key performance indicators across the programme. It was said that the assessment of the programme’s performance had been based on many output indicators, rather than impact indicators. For instance, there was a tendency to reference the number of people who had attended a planning workshop, which, a delegation considered, was not evidence of concrete change on the ground. The delegation expressed the hope that UN-Habitat would take more steps to identify a set of impact indicators, while acknowledging how difficult that was.

7. Further clarity was sought with regard to the purpose of new platforms and programmes, such as the global online Urban Agenda Platform. In that regard, a delegation asked how the re-establishment of the Urban Indicators Programme supported cities to make better decisions or implement more effective urban interventions.

8. With regard to the programme performance in 2021, further information was sought in relation to the work under the programme during the pandemic. A delegation asked to what extent risk management and risk analysis had been reflected in the planning of the programme for 2023.

9. With regard to the strategy and external factors for 2023, and specifically cooperation with other entities at the global, regional, national and local levels, it was noted that UN-Habitat would continue its close cooperation with international and regional organizations and other regional actors, such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (on national urban policies), the World Bank and the European Union (on urban recovery frameworks), as well as regional development banks, as was mentioned in paragraph 15.14.

10. Delegations expressed their appreciation of the agency’s plan to maintain a focus on partnerships with local authorities and their associations and city networks, and especially its plan to continue to focus on partnerships with grass-roots organizations, foundations, international financial institutions, the private sector and academic institutions to support municipal efforts to localize the Sustainable Development Goals. Gratitude was also expressed in relation to the continued collaboration mentioned in paragraph 15.15, which related to inter-agency

coordination and liaison. UN-Habitat would continue to collaborate with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations regional, economic and social commissions and strengthen its strategic partnerships with other United Nations agencies, building on the United Nations system-wide strategy on sustainable urban development and agency-specific collaborative frameworks. It was noted with appreciation that UN-Habitat would also collaborate with the resident coordinator system to improve the integration of urban issues and territorial approaches into common country assessments and the formulation of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks.

11. With regard to the spirit of leaving no one behind, it was noted with appreciation that, as described in paragraph 15.18, UN-Habitat used its strategic results framework, gender policy and action plan to integrate a gender perspective into its operational activities, deliverables and results in order to ensure women's safety and their inclusion in cities. Support was also expressed for the gender-responsive land and housing policies that improved tenure security for all.

12. Delegations also welcomed the agency's intention (para. 15.19) to continue to work with its partners, including the World Blind Union and World Enabled, to integrate disability inclusion into its programmatic work, in line with the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy. They commended the plans to create a comprehensive accessibility assessment and action plan to ensure that disability inclusion was mainstreamed throughout the organization's work, highlight good practices and identify key areas that required capacity development, technical resources and assistance.

13. A delegation expressed appreciation for the efforts by UN-Habitat to champion inclusive, resilient and sustainable cities in Kenya during the programme period, and its roll-out of initiatives and programmes. In addition, information was sought on how the programme could improve its mandated operations.

14. A delegation requested additional information regarding the role of the World Urban Forum in relation to the work of UN-Habitat and asked how the eleventh session of the Forum, to be held in Katowice, Poland, could influence the agency's activities moving forward.

15. While recognizing that matters relating to parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee, a delegation requested an update on how UN-Habitat planned to resolve its financial situation, as well as information on extrabudgetary resources for 2023, including whether the agency would consider reducing its use of contractual and consultancy services. The delegation also expressed concern with regard to the sustainability of resources, in view of the significance of the proportion of funding that came from voluntary contributions, to ensure the implementation of the mandate.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

**16. The Committee commended UN-Habitat for continuing to implement governance reform and the United Nations system-wide strategy on sustainable urban development and continuing to engage with other relevant urban stakeholders, as mandated.**

**17. The Committee welcomed the continued use of flagship programmes to fast-track the integration of the normative and operational work of UN-Habitat and scale up and increase the impact of the organization.**

**18. The Committee welcomed the continued efforts of UN-Habitat to support Member States to monitor, report on and implement the transformative commitments enshrined in the New Urban Agenda, which would enable Member**

**States to build resilience, recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and attain structural transformation.**

**19. The Committee also commended UN-Habitat for continuing to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 in urban areas, including by supporting cities to decongest and digitize local markets, improve hygiene and sanitation in slums and create livelihood opportunities.**

**20. The Committee noted with appreciation that, under the programme plan for 2023, UN-Habitat would continue to support and drive the delivery of sustainable urbanization, reduce poverty and inequality across the urban-rural continuum, mainstream social inclusion and promote transformation of lives in cities and communities around the world.**

**21. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 12, Human settlements, of the proposed programme budget for 2023.**

---