



# Economic and Social Council

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## Committee for Programme and Coordination

Sixty-fourth session

New York, 13 May–14 June 2024

### Draft report

*Rapporteur:* Mr. Noel M. Novicio (Philippines)

#### Addendum

### Programme questions: proposed programme budget for 2025

(Item 3 (a))

#### Programme 12 Human settlements

1. At its 7th meeting, on 16 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 12, Human settlements, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance information for 2023 ([A/79/6 \(Sect.15\)](#)). 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.52/2024/6](#)).

#### Discussion

2. Delegations expressed support for the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in promoting sustainable urban development. Delegations also expressed their appreciation for the role of UN-Habitat in supporting sustainable cities and human settlements and for the presentation of the programme plan for 2025.

3. A delegation commended UN-Habitat for its role in fostering sustainable urbanization and human settlements, as well as its contribution towards realizing the Sustainable Development Goals. Another delegation stressed a critical role of UN-Habitat in promoting the importance of urbanization as means to reduce inequality and poverty, and to expand access to affordable housing and basic services. The delegation welcomed the initiative to prioritize the living standards of migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees, to integrate disability inclusion, to prioritize the rights of persons with disabilities and to include gender-based approach in pursuing environmental sustainability.



4. A delegation stressed the essential role of the work of UN-Habitat in advancing the three pillars of sustainable development in areas such as housing, digital transformation, urban climate change action and the fight against all forms of inequalities, as cities and human settlements were the focus of crises and multidimensional challenges, and at the same time a fundamental component for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Another delegation described UN-Habitat as its Government's key strategic partner when it came to strengthening socially just, ecologically sustainable and climate friendly urban development. Another delegation highlighted that its country had benefited from the work of UN-Habitat.

5. A delegation listed examples of interventions of UN-Habitat that brought about positive changes at the community, local and national government levels. The delegation referred to subprogramme 1, where UN-Habitat indicated that it had made notable contributions in water sanitation and hygiene to the Global Water Operator's Partnerships Alliance, hosted by the delegation's Government. The delegation further referred to subprogramme 3, where UN-Habitat indicated that it had contributed to the global discourse and awareness-building on climate change in cities, for example through the ministerial meetings and the annual conferences of the parties. The delegation further expressed the view, that the work of UN-Habitat under subprogramme 4, where it had assisted with urban recovery interventions in numerous conflict and disaster emergencies, was particularly relevant in the context of the current crises and conflicts across different regions that affect millions of people leaving them vulnerable and without shelter.

6. A delegation expressed the view that UN-Habitat had a unique mandate and the trustful relationship with Member States, both in the global South and the global North, and that UN-Habitat successfully used its convening power to bring together global, national and local stakeholders from Governments, civil society, academia and the private sector to mobilize broad-based support for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, and to jointly find solutions to the challenges of urbanization.

7. A delegation expressed the view that UN-Habitat had leveraged collaboration with other United Nations agencies and partners with external organizations in support of the urban development agenda, and that through its knowledge products, advocacy, and communication and outreach activities, especially with the organization of the World Urban Forum, UN-Habitat set global norms and agenda, mobilized public and political support and contributed to important global initiatives on sustainable urban development. Another delegation referred to cooperation with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on environment-related issues that could yield positive results given the expertise of UNEP in this area.

8. A delegation commended UN-Habitat for its continuous work to integrate valuable perspectives in the development of its programmes and for its efforts to collaborate directly at the local and national levels to identify the best interventions and causes leading to urban migration. Another delegation recognized the ambitious nature of the programme proposal covering activities under the mandate of UN-Habitat. Another delegation highlighted the importance of the normative work of UN-Habitat, i.e. in establishing guidelines, standards and best practices that help shape policies, initiatives and actions at the local, national and international levels, as well as contribute to the advancement of global agendas.

9. A delegation encouraged UN-Habitat to explore fully the potential for private sector investment, strengthen links with other United Nations operators, and with bilateral and country level economic development or growth strategies that impact urban cities and human settlement. The delegation gave an example of a bilateral intervention in one African country in which it was engaged and praised that kind of

intervention for enabling sustainable infrastructure for prosperous cities, to facilitate finance and investment for the provision of climate-resilient low-carbon infrastructure, and to support local government efforts in capturing climate hazards. The delegation expressed its country's willingness to engage more with UN-Habitat at the country level.

10. A question was asked about efforts that could strengthen coordination at the country level to ensure mutual benefits and synergy of ongoing programmatic activity. A question was also asked about how UN-Habitat could ensure that interventions were better linked to the national growth strategies and sustainability programmes.

11. With regard to subprogramme 1, result 2 (para. 15.30), a delegation inquired about examples of the cities that had benefited from the work. With regard to result 3 (para. 15.34, figure 15.IV), a delegation inquired why the result planned for 2024 and 2025 included the cities. The delegation further inquired about examples of the cities that had benefited from the work of subprogramme 1.

12. With regard to lessons learned from subprogramme 3 (para. 15.61), a delegation inquired if the update of the guidelines to support the inclusion of urban content in nationally determined contributions would take place in 2025.

13. With regard, to a recommendation contained in the Committee's most recent report (A/78/16), referring to inserting a second sentence: "UN-Habitat will also explore and deepen partnerships with relevant institutions from the global South" to paragraph 15.10, a delegation noted that this change had not been reflected in the current programme plan and requested clarification. The delegation further inquired about actual cooperation of UN-Habitat with institutions from the global South.

14. With regard to a recommendation contained in the Committee's most recent report, referring to inserting "social and economic" after "integration of environmental" in the first sentence of paragraph 15.12 and merging the first and second sentences, by replacing, in the second sentence, "It will collaborate" with "as well as", a delegation noted that these changes had not been reflected in the current programme plan and requested clarification. The delegation expressed the view that any city's agenda had an economic and social dimension of equal importance to environmental one.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

**15. The Committee took note with appreciation of the ongoing implementation of the governance reform of UN-Habitat.**

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

**17. The Committee took note with appreciation the continued monitoring and reporting of UN-Habitat on global trends in order to provide evidence for policymaking in sustainable urbanization and human settlements, including through enhanced use of technologies for data collection and analysis, visualization and management of information.**

**18. The Committee noted with appreciation that the programme plan for 2025 would support and drive the delivery of sustainable urbanization, thus contributing to poverty and inequality reduction across the urban-rural continuum, streamlining social inclusion and to promoting change toward positive transformation of lives in cities and communities around the world.**

**19. The Committee noted with regret that some of the modifications recommended in its sixty-third session and approved by the General Assembly**

during the main part of its seventy-eighth session were not taken into consideration in the drafting of the proposed programme narrative of programme 12 for 2025, namely in its paragraphs 15.10 and 15.12.

20. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage UN-Habitat to continue to make judicious use of resources.

21. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 12, Human settlements, of the proposed programme budget for 2025, subject to the following modifications:

**Overall orientation**

*Paragraph 15.10*

**Insert a new second sentence, reading:**

**UN-Habitat will also explore and deepen partnerships with relevant institutions from the global South.**

*Paragraph 15.12*

**In the first sentence, after “integration of environmental”, insert “, social and economic”.**

**Merge the first and second sentences, by replacing, in the second sentence, “It will collaborate”, with “as well as”.**

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