Advisory Board

Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People – Technical Cooperation Trust Fund
Draft Terms of Reference

Background

The Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People (SHSPPP) was established through Governing Council Resolution 19/18 in 2003, and re-confirmed by Governing Council Resolution 20/14 in 2005 and Governing Council Resolution 22/11 in 2009. During the recent 23rd Governing Council held in April 2011, a new resolution was adopted (GC23/2), providing a clearer and more focused mandate for UN-Habitat.

Mission

Although an Advisory Board is not mandatory for Technical Cooperation Trust Funds, the new resolution GC23/2 calls for the creation of an Advisory Board "comprising representatives to the United Nations of contributing Member States, in order to provide policy guidance to the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People, taking into account the evolving context, support fundraising based on identified gaps, review progress and reporting to the Governing Council and prepare the necessary Governing Council Resolutions" (paragraph 3).

Composition and Status

- The Advisory Board will consist of Member States contributing financially to UN-Habitat's Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People and its Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the occupied Palestinian territory. Member States will initially be represented by their Permanent Representatives to the UN.
- Three yearly projections will be made and a minimum yearly average contribution of 250,000 USD is set as a target over the three years to sit on the Advisory Board. Small contributions will however also be considered.
- The Advisory Board will make an effort to ensure a balanced geographical representation. Membership of selected Member States, not in a position to financially contribute, whose human settlement policies provide opportunities for exchange of knowledge through south-south cooperation, can be considered.
- The Chair can invite, on an ad-hoc basis, additional representatives to specific meetings, from organizations with whom UN-Habitat has strategic partnerships, and in particular from sister Agencies.
- The Palestinian Observer Mission will have special observer status to the Advisory Board and requested to provide feedback on progress made and make suggestions for further prioritisation of work.

Organisation

- The Executive Director of UN-Habitat is called upon to set up the Advisory Board and to act as Chair.
- UN-Habitat is to act as Secretariat.
• The agenda of its meetings will be prepared by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat; the Members of the Advisory Board may propose agenda items.
• The minutes of the meetings will be circulated to the members of the Advisory Board. A summary note will be made for further information sharing and wider distribution.
• The frequency of the meetings will be once or twice per year, as required, in the margin of other relevant global meetings (General Assembly, UN-Habitat Governing Council, World Urban Forum, etc.).
• A preparatory meeting should always take place at the level of the Representatives in oPt at least one month prior to the next Advisory Board Meeting.

Activities

1. Provide policy guidance to the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People, taking into account the evolving context;
2. Support fundraising based on identified gaps;
3. Review progress and reporting to the Governing Council, ensuring transparency;
4. Prepare the necessary Governing Council Resolutions.