

# UN HABITAT

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

65<sup>th</sup> REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVES TO UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS  
PROGRAMME

29 JUNE 2017

**Agenda Item 6:**

**Report on the Work of the Subcommittees of the CPR (HSP/CPR/65/6)**

## 65<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the CPR

### REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (CPR).

The subcommittees of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) held 15 meetings between 17<sup>th</sup> March and 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017. The following meetings of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work took place:

1. **Thirty-Seventh** Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Discussions on UN-Habitat's Annual Progress Report
2. **Thirty-Eighth** Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Discussion on the draft resolutions before the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council
3. **Thirty-Ninth** Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Discussion on the draft resolutions before the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council
4. **Fortieth** Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Discussion on the draft resolutions before the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council
5. **Forty-First** Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Discussion on the draft resolutions before the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council
6. **Forty-Second** Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Discussion on the draft resolutions before the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council
7. **Forty-Third** Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Discussion on the draft resolutions before the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council
8. **Forty-Fourth** Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Discussion on the draft resolutions before the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council
9. **Forty-Fifth** Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Discussion on the draft resolutions before the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council
10. **Forty-Sixth** Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Discussion on the draft resolutions before the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council
11. **Forty-Seventh** Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Discussion on the draft resolutions before the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council
12. **Forty-Eighth** Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Discussion on UN-Habitat's work on the World Urban Forum

13. **Forty-Ninth** Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Discussion on the draft resolutions before the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council
14. **Fiftieth** Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Discussion on the draft resolutions before the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council
15. **Fifty-First** Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Discussion on UN-Habitat's work on the World Urban Forum

Apart from the formal meetings mentioned above and described in detail below, the following informal and consultative meetings also took place:

- i. Informal Briefing on the Preparation for the Ninth session of the World Urban Forum – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017
- ii. Briefing on the World Urban Campaign and General Assembly of Partners – 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017
- iii. Consultative Meeting in Preparation for the Assessment – 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017

## **OVERVIEW OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **1. Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Discussions on UN-Habitat's Annual Progress Report – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

The Secretariat in its briefing to the Subcommittee indicated that it was the third Annual Progress Report since the inception of the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2014-2019. The report covers all organizational units and is based on existing results of projects but not their final outcome. The Annual Progress Report was started as an internal assessment tool for the programme which is validated by various evaluations such as the Sweden-UN-Habitat Agreement report of March 2016, the Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN), the Mid-term Review of the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) phase 2 programmes and the final evaluation of climate change. This is in addition to the data gathered from UN-Habitat websites which showcase the work with partners. The report focuses on the results as per the end of the year 2016 which offers a detailed analysis at the global, regional and country levels whilst addressing cross-cutting issues.

In the discussion that ensued, the Secretariat was urged to improve their communication strategy to enhance the visibility of UN-Habitat projects. Members felt that while the report reflected many positive achievements, this message had

failed to reach the respective partners and stakeholders and the public. Members also felt that, there was a lack of awareness of on-going projects among Permanent Missions, especially those undertaken by UN-Habitat regional offices. A proposal was made that in such cases, a representative from the respective mission be part of the project approval process to ensure better awareness and involvement of host countries. Member States urged the Secretariat to highlight the challenges and portray any missing impacts of outputs that may enable Member States to see results and assess any offer of support.

Specific suggestions to the present report were noted by the Secretariat for immediate improvement of the report. This included a revision of the Executive Summary to reflect the declining Foundation General Purpose funds.

**2. Thirty-Eighth to Forty-Seventh Meetings of the Subcommittee and the Forty-Ninth to Fiftieth Meetings of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Discussion on the draft resolutions before the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council ; 3<sup>rd</sup> April - 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 and 3<sup>rd</sup> May – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017 respectively.**

In preparations for the twenty-sixth session of the Governing council, of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), held several meetings on the draft resolutions submitted by various Member States. The discussions on specific resolutions begun on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 following the decision of the CPR at its 64<sup>th</sup> regular meeting held on 20 March 2017 to empower the Subcommittee to discuss any draft resolutions submitted before onward transmission to the Governing Council

Seven draft resolutions were under discussion by the Committee through the subcommittee for submission to the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its twenty-sixth session. These were:

- i. Draft Resolution on the revised Strategic Plan for 2014-2019 and the Work Programme and Budget of the UN-Habitat for the biennium 2018-2019
- ii. Draft Resolutions to Enhance UN-Habitat's Role in Urban Crisis Response
- iii. Draft Resolutions on Promoting Effective Implementation, Follow-up, and Review of the New Urban Agenda
- iv. Draft Resolution on the Working Group on Programme and Budget
- v. Draft Resolution on The World Urban Forum
- vi. Draft Resolution on the Accreditation to the Governing Council of the stakeholders
- vii. Draft Resolution on Safer Cities

Following the exhaustive discussions by the Subcommittee on the above seven resolutions which saw texts advanced and great consensus achieved on the same by 3 May 2017, the Chair of the CPR formally submitted these draft resolutions for consideration by the Governing Council.

### **3. Forty-Eighth Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Discussion on UN-Habitat's work on the World Urban Forum – 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017**

The Secretariat briefed the Subcommittee on the World Urban Forum (WUF) and its history. The Secretariat emphasized that the forum was non-legislative and therefore allowed for much flexibility in adapting to the needs to emerging sustainable urban development issues. The forum organized and convened by UN-Habitat, had become one of the most open gatherings on the international arena, for exchanging views and experiences on urban challenges. The inclusive nature of the Forum, combined with high-level participation, had made it a unique United Nations conference and the premier international gathering on urban issues.

The objectives of the WUF were stated as; i)to raise awareness of sustainable urbanization among stakeholders and constituencies, including the general public; ii)improve the collective knowledge of sustainable urban development through inclusive open debates, sharing of lessons learned and the exchange of best practices and good policies; and iii) to increase coordination and cooperation between different stakeholders and constituencies for the advancement and implementation of sustainable urbanization. It was further stated that the New Urban Agenda (NUA) under paragraph 167, provided a new objective for the ninth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF 9) which is 'to incorporate the inputs of multilateral organizations and stakeholders into the reporting of the implementation of the NUA'.

In the follow up discussions, Member States requested written additional information on the status of WUF 8, the composition of the WUF Secretariat and a call for the consolidation of Headquarter functions in Nairobi. They stressed the need for WUF related activities to be conducted from the Headquarters in Nairobi and for regular updates on the same. Moreover, Members wished to hear of more success stories achieved by the forum and whether adequate funding would be available for Least Developing Countries to participate in the forum. In response, the Secretariat clarified that while WUF 8 did not take place the stakeholder forum of Habitat III was a success because it adopted the best practices from previous WUFs and high level political forums. The Secretariat also assured Members that as Habitat III activities were drawing to a close, staff members working on events would resume activities under WUF Secretariat. Lastly, the Secretariat informed Members

that the Government of Malaysia had set aside funding to support LDCs as part of the host country agreement that had been signed on WUF9. The forum had made efforts in strengthening the role of LDCs during the session as speakers and moderators, and in bringing expertise and knowledge particularly from a technical perspective.

#### **4. Fifty-First Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Discussion on UN-Habitat's work on the World Urban Forum – 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

The Secretariat in its briefing to the Subcommittee gave an update on the preparations towards the ninth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF 9). The Secretariat emphasized the relevance of the WUF 9 as the first meeting of its kind after the adoption of the Agenda 2030 and the New Urban Agenda (NUA). It was stated that WUF 9 would be a platform to incorporate inputs of multilateral organizations and stakeholders and would apply the use of new technologies and innovation to support capacity building towards the forum. Furthermore, it was stated that the Secretariat and the host country Malaysia had proposed the theme for WUF 9 as *'Cities 2030, Cities for All: Implementing the New Urban Agenda'*. The proposal was intended to link the Quito Implementation Plan to the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the concept of 'leave no one behind'. The Secretariat clarified however that they would accept any suggestions and proposals on the theme of WUF 9 from Member States, while emphasizing that the proposed theme had been chosen in accordance to the unique context of WUF 9.

The result based approach of the Forum was being followed in its preparation and in this regard, a grassroots project in the design of the WUF 9 logo had been initiated to foster inclusion, participation and engagement communities.

In the discussion that ensued, Members inquired on the timelines for High Level participation in the WUF 9. They also sought clarification on whether to expect Quito+5 in the year 2022 following the Habitat III Conference held in Quito in 2016. In response, the Secretariat clarified that timelines towards the WUF 9 would be more clearly defined within July 2017 and Members would be informed accordingly. Similarly, it was clarified that the Habitat III outcome document, the New Urban Agenda, only identified Quito+10 and requested for reports on the progress of implementation to be every four years.