

UN HABITAT

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

**Statement by Dr. Joan Clos
Executive Director**

**Report on the recently concluded 26th session of the Governing Council
of UN- Habitat**

Agenda Item 8

HSP/CPR/65/8

Nairobi, 29 June 2017

**65th Regular Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
29 June 2017**

Executive Director's Statement on Agenda Item 8:

**Report on the recently concluded 26th session of the Governing Council
of UN- Habitat**

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates

I would again like to reiterate my appreciation to this Committee for its exemplary leadership, commitment and support of the recently concluded session of the Governing Council. The collaborative spirit among Member States, and the willingness to negotiate and resolve any matters through consensus was well in evidence in the passing of nine resolutions and one decision (on the dates of the next Governing Council) by consensus.

Excellencies

The Twenty-Sixth session of the Governing Council was a special one, where partners engaged on issues of urbanization and human settlements for the first time in a new context, following Habitat III and the adoption of the New Urban Agenda.

I would like to thank the member States for crafting and adopting far-reaching resolutions that will serve to strengthen UN-Habitat as a focal point for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Indeed, this was also one of the key messages in the various statements made by your delegations in the High-Level segment and in the Dialogue. The resultant resolution 26/8 already supports our role by setting the stage for the successful implementation of the New Urban Agenda. It is complemented by the approved revised strategic plan 2014-2019 and the work programme and budget 2018-2019 under resolution 26/3.

I am pleased that you have extended the mandate of the Working Group on Programme and Budget under resolution 26/1 and look forward to continuing to personally engage with the Group. I am pleased to note that during this Governing Council, there was expanded space for the participation of civil society organizations, not just in side events but also actively in the plenary sessions. GC resolution 26/7 on accreditation, which encourages the participation of stakeholders, reconfirmed, upon request, the accreditation to the Governing Council of stakeholders that were accredited to Habitat III.

I was further very encouraged by the extensive presence of colleagues from our sister United Nations organizations and other specialized international agencies. This is evidence of the increasing global interest in the area of urbanization and human settlements and in this regard, we look forward to expanding our partnerships with UN-Habitat. We have begun work on the draft stakeholder engagement policy as called for in the resolution on accreditation, which will properly guide our work with partners, which we will share with this Committee in due course.

I wish to assure you that the secretariat indeed stands ready to work with member States in ensuring the full implementation of all the resolutions passed.

This Governing Council will also be remembered for the high-level guests that we welcomed, including the President of the Republic of Kenya, the President of the General Assembly and members of the High-Level panel on the Independent Assessment of UN-Habitat appointed by the Secretary-General. We look forward to the report of the Panel, to be presented at the High-Level Event in September 2017.

Mr Chairman,

Allow me at this point to thank His Excellency Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya, in particular, for his continued support

and engagement with UN-Habitat over the years. His Excellency has graciously set the tone at the opening of the last three sessions of the Governing Council. I would like to recognize the support of the Government of the Republic of Kenya in the preparations and implementation of the Governing Council.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies,

Statistically, the just concluded GC26 saw a high level of participation with;

over 800 participants including more than 500 government representatives -100 Member and Observer States out of which;

- **46** were Governing Council Member States
- **52** were Member States who are not Members of the Governing Council and
- **2** were Observer States.

In addition, there were;

- **16** United Nations organizations and Specialized agencies
- **6** Intergovernmental Organizations
- **38** Local government representatives
- **31** Media representatives, and
- **171** Stakeholder representatives from Non-governmental Organizations, the Private Sector, and Academia and research entities.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Allow me to once again thank this Committee and its subcommittees for the crucial role that it played in the preparations for GC 26 and the role the members played as part of the delegations during GC26.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.