

UN HABITAT

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

**63rd REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVES TO UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
PROGRAMME**

1 DECEMBER 2016

Agenda Item 9:

Report on the Work of the Subcommittees of the CPR (HSP/CPR/63/9)

63rd 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 six meetings between 19 September and 16 November 2016. The following meetings of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work took place:

1. Fourteenth Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Discussions on UN-Habitat's work on Public Spaces
2. Fifteenth Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Discussions on the draft Partnership Strategy and the Inter Agency Framework and Resolution 25/4: Implementation of the strategic plan for 2014-2019 (Omnibus) as related to partnerships
3. Sixteenth Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Preparations of the GC26: Discussions on the implementation of Resolutions passed during the 25th Session of the Governing Council (GC25):
 - i) Resolution 25/1: Contribution of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to the post-2015 development agenda in order to promote sustainable urban development and human settlements
 - ii) Resolution 25/6: International guidelines on urban and territorial planning
 - iii) Resolution 25/4: Implementation of the strategic plan for 2014-2019 (Omnibus) - related to planning and urban rural linkages
4. Seventeenth Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work on :
 - i) Update on UN-Habitat's work on Urban Basic Services Governing Council and
 - ii) GC Resolution 25/4: Implementation of the strategic plan for 2014-2019 (Omnibus) as relates to urban basic services
5. Eighteenth Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work on: Briefing on Revision of Strategic Plan 2014-2019 and Strategic Framework 2018-2019 as well as Preparation of Workprogramme and Budget 2018-2019"
6. Nineteenth Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work on: Preparations of the GC26: Discussions on the implementation of Resolutions passed during the 25th Session of the Governing Council (GC25):
 - i. Resolution 25/2: Strengthening national ownership and operational capacity
 - ii. Resolution 25/4: Implementation of the strategic plan for 2014-2019 (Omnibus)

OVERVIEW OF THE MEETINGS

1. Fourteenth Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Discussions on UN-Habitat's work on Public Spaces - 19 September 2016

The 2016 fourteenth meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), was held on 19 September 2016 to discuss Public Spaces. The Secretariat in its briefing to the Subcommittee gave the definition of Public Spaces which entailed 'all places publicly owned or of public use, accessible and enjoyable by all for free and without profit motive which includes streets, open spaces and public facilities'. UN-Habitat launched the Programme on Public Space in 2012, supporting the sustainable human settlements and urban development approach which requires a good city plan with a sound legal framework and sustainable financial plan as a key strategy for addressing urban growth, especially for cities where population growth is rapid. The objectives of the Programme on Public Space were stated as:

- to promote public space as an important element for creating sustainable cities, for improving the quality of life of urban citizens, and as a key message in the global dialogue leading up to Habitat III;
- to consolidate knowledge, good approaches, tools and methodologies on public space and make these accessible, particularly to local governments and partners;
- to engage the broader network of partners and public space practitioners in the global promotion of good policies and practice on public space; and
- to demonstrate, through pilot projects and in partnership with cities, the importance of public spaces in achieving social, economic, environmental and other benefits to cities.

The Secretariat indicated that public space plays a central role in city development. The quality of a city is correlated to the quality of life within a city, civic cohesion, social and cultural interaction, safety, as well as mobility. The issue of public space had been incorporated in various programs such as Agenda 21, Urban Planning and Design specifically under Focus Area 2 of the 2014-2019 strategic plan and Resolution 23/4 of UN-Habitat. Moreover in the long-term, public space would be addressed under the Sustainable Cities initiative, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the New Urban Agenda.

The secretariat noted trends that challenged the use of public space which included rapid urbanization, congestion, weak planning frameworks, insecurity and increased privatization of public spaces. As a result, UN-Habitat had set out methods to tackle these challenges. Foremost, by moving away from the traditional city centered

approach to a people first approach. Secondly, prompting a participatory approach where all stakeholders are involved in the development and sustainability of public spaces. Lastly, the 3 prolonged model that identifies the (a) rules and regulations governing public space law and policies, (b) urban planning and design for plotting and landscape, and (c) the financial plan for land readjustment. In order to achieve its objectives, the Public Space Programme was stated to be organized around three main areas:

1. Partnership and networking – includes global partners, government as well as internal partners.
2. Knowledge Management and tools – involves raising awareness through research and using tools such as Minecraft as means of attracting the attention of the youth and community.
3. Technical cooperation, pilot projects and capacity development – the effort to formulate policies, development tool indicators and implementation capacity.

By doing so, UN-Habitat with the cooperation of donors such as SIDA, Microsoft, Mahjong and Ax:son Johnson Foundation to name a few had managed to impact the lives of local residents, increase economic activities, reduce insecurity while building on infrastructure.

In the discussions that ensued, members sought clarification on the financial structure of the Public Space Programme which makes up a small portion of the overall budget of UN-Habitat. Secondly, members suggested the intensification of effort to achieve large scale results.

The Secretariat then responded that the issue of limited funds was a result of insufficient significance directed to public space initiatives. Therefore, the programme has been working to mobilize more partners both locally and globally and promote awareness for the importance of public space especially to private investors. Similarly, once the program can fully establish city-centered strategies, regional strategies will then follow and lead to greater reach and impact of programme through regional cooperation.

2. Fifteenth Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Discussions on the draft Partnership Strategy and the Inter Agency Framework and Resolution 25/4: Implementation of the strategic plan for 2014-2019 (Omnibus) as related to partnerships - 4 November 2016

The 2016 fifteenth meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), was held on 4 November 2016 and discussed UN-Habitat's Partnership Strategy.

The Secretariat in its briefing to the Subcommittee emphasized the importance of promoting strategic and effective partnerships for sustainable urban development. The objective of the Partnership Strategy was stated as being the strengthening of partners engagement in the implementation of the medium term plan 2014-2019 and the operationalization of the New Urban Agenda with emphasis on up scaling high impact programs, impact advocacy and attracting resources.

In order to achieve the objective, the Secretariat acknowledged key approaches that were to include the holistic approach to sustain urban growth, multi-stakeholder and multi-level partnership, giving voice and access to information to partners and capitalizing on UN-Habitat's lead role in the field of urbanization. It was also stated that the Strategy recognized that partnerships had to be addressed at the different levels. From the political level, where the support of member states is key in policy development, approval of programs and facilitation of engagement at the local and regional levels. At the strategic level, partnerships were necessary to enable long term planning and establishment of measures for scaling up the Organization's work across the regions. At another level, partnerships are recognized as necessary for the inclusion of members' voice. These members were described as including the partners themselves, the citizens, communities and other organizations who contribute in the process of urbanization.

It was stated that as part of strengthening engagement between partners, the Governing Council and the General Assembly gave the mandate for UN-Habitat to initiate the World Urban Forum in 2002 as well as the World Urban Campaign in 2010 as political forums that bring partners together. Hence, the Strategy recognizes partners as advocates, executing agencies, resource mobilizers, donors, policy makers among others.

The Secretariat shared with members the prevailing partnership examples that cut across over 80 countries and which could be identified at the global, regional, local and national levels. They included the Global Land Tool Network, Participatory Slum Upgrading, The City Prosperity Index and Safer Cities among others. From these examples, the Secretariat shared with members some lessons learnt and which it intended to carry forward in implementing its Partnership Strategy; One, partnerships are complex given the varied issues; two, there's need to move from general to impact advocacy and essentially prioritizing the needs of the youth, women, urban poor, disable people and other vulnerable groups. Furthermore, as the focal point for the NUA, UN-Habitat needed a systematic and coherent approach to partnerships both internally and externally. Partnerships have a significant role to play in ensuring the achievement of SGDs and UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan without disregarding the role of member states.

In the follow up discussions, members sort clarification on the short and medium-term priorities for impact advocacy with multi-stakeholders and partners for the NUA; the lessons learned from the past on partnerships; linkages of the partnership Strategy to the programme of work and its objectives; the next procedural steps for the Partnership Strategic document, all of which were clarified . Members also expressed concern with any reference to partnerships with 'political parties' as used in the Strategy document and advised on amending the reference to perhaps 'parliaments'.

Within the context of the discussions, questions also arose on the scope of UN-Habitat's work on Safer Cities, the practical impact of the City Prosperity Initiative on decision-making as well as the dates of the next session of the World Urban Forum. The Secretariat responded to these questions.

3.Sixteenth Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Preparations of the GC26: Discussions on the implementation of Resolutions passed during the 25th Session of the Governing Council (GC25):

i)Resolution 25/1: Contribution of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to the post-2015 development agenda in order to promote sustainable urban development and human settlements

ii)Resolution 25/6: International guidelines on urban and territorial planning

iii) Resolution 25/4: Implementation of the strategic plan for 2014-2019 (Omnibus) - related to planning and urban rural linkages

The Sixteenth meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), was held on 7 November 2016 and discussed the progress in implementing Governing Council Resolutions 25/1 and 25/6 their entirety. The committee was also briefed on progress in implementing the relevant paragraphs 25/4 as related to urban planning and urban rural linkages.

In responding to these resolutions, the presentations focused on three core areas of work for UN-Habitat namely:

a)National Urban Policies (NUP):

The presentation described NUP as both a political processes and a technical tool that provides a coordination framework for addressing urban challenges and maximizing the benefits of urbanization, while coordinating the work of different sectors and tiers of government and urban actors and mitigating potential adverse externalities. The transforming role of National urban policies were expounded to including empowerment of local authorities and communities as well improvements in investments and the quality of life for citizens.

The specific work of UN-Habitat in National urban policies development was enumerated with examples of tools to support global normative work as well as support to 26 countries with the development of their National Urban Policy. The Subcommittee was also informed of UN Habitat's role as co-leader alongside OECD in the Habitat III Policy Unit on National Urban Policies. In responding to questions on resolutions 25/1 and 25/4, some of the actions UN-Habitat had undertaken were stated as follows;

- Internally created the UN Habitat National Urban Policy Task Team to support country level and normative work on NUP.
- Externally UN-Habitat had also strengthened partnerships globally on the national urban policies through the Launch of the Global National Urban Policy Programme in October 2016 and engagement in the National Urban Policy Platform which fosters partnership for learning at the global, regional and country levels
- Supporting the adoption and action towards monitoring of SDG goal 11 and target 11.a.
- Ensuring peer learning through a series of International Conferences on NUP
- -developing the communities of practice for exchange between countries particularly through the launch of a National Urban Policy Regional Programme for the Arab States .
- Strengthening Capacities through development of tools and implementing a number of training programmes on the National Urban Policies.

b)Urban and territorial Planning:

Resolution 25/6 of the Governing Council is specifically on the Guidelines for Urban and territorial planning. Members were informed of the Guidelines being a global reference framework on planning to achieve urban forms that are compact, socially inclusive, institutionally integrated, better connected and more resilient. The Secretariat emphasized on the role of the Guidelines in providing a universal approach to urban planning, and in achieving the SDGs and New Urban Agenda.

The Subcommittee was informed on the specific actions undertaken in relation to resolution 25/6 as being

- Catalyst and convener for partners
- Technical assistance to member States
- Tool and capacity development
- Coordination function, tracking partner activities
- Monitoring & Reporting to the Governing Council

These were supported with examples of activities launching the guidelines in some 12 countries, translation of the guidelines into 11 languages and tools developed to support implementation of the guidelines and examples of technical assistance to countries and initial actions to help monitor implementation.

c) Urban Rural Linkages:

In response to resolution 25/1 and 25/4 on actions related Urban rural linkages , it was reported that UN-Habitat had taken lead in the discussion on Issue Paper #10 and Special Session on Urban-Rural Linkages for Habitat III – and ensuring that Urban-Rural are now an integral part of the New Urban Agenda. UN-Habitat had also worked closely with other intergovernmental organizations and stakeholders through expert group meetings, technical and consultative meetings to strengthen urban-rural linkages.” The Organization was further working to mobilize resources to foster the work on Rural -urban linkages, specifically, capacity building, enhancement of partnerships, development of guidelines and good practices.

In the discussions , Members sought clarity on the coverage regional programme on national urban policies for Arab States which was clarified as benefiting initially five countries with a sixth country in the region acting as a resource country based on its experiences and further that there were plans for expansion. They cautioned on the need to be sensitive to the timelines for certain activities under resolution 25-1 on national urban policies such as regional assessments and country case study and global report that would need to be ready by the twenty sixth session of the Governing Council.

The financing arrangement for the national urban policies were also discussed as mainly coming from the Governments of Sweden, Germany and Japan, as well as the OECD and the UN Development account. Regarding the international guidelines, while appreciating the large awareness that had been created, Member states encouraged future reporting that demonstrate examples of the added value of the guidelines.

Good progress in implementing the resolutions 25-1 and 25-6 were noted, however lack of resources was especially cited as impeding progress related to implementing the component on rural urban-linkages.

4. Seventeenth Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work on i) Update on UN-Habitat's work on Urban Basic Services Governing Council and ii) GC Resolution 25/4: Implementation of the strategic plan for 2014-2019 (Omnibus) as relates to urban basic services - 9 November 2016

The Subcommittee was briefed on UN-Habitat's work based on the Strategic Plan 2014-2019 and in particular in response to resolution 25/4 of the Governing Council as related to basic urban services, and also anchored on the New Urban Agenda. Update was provided on the Partnership for Monitoring Water and Sanitation in Agenda 2030 (GEMI) for the period 2015-2018 which included pilot projects in 7 countries in the period 2015-2016, global roll-out 2016-17 and baseline reports for all SDG 6 indicators in 2017-18.

An update on the Global Water Operators Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA) indicated that the Alliance had supported over 200 water utilities serving over 1.5 million customers and finalized the implementation of a project in nine countries of sub-Saharan Africa and was in the phase of resources mobilization for a follow up technical assistance and capacity building interventions. The briefing provided updates on basic services projects in Rwanda, Malawi, Tanzania, Ghana, Lao PDR, Nepal. The briefing included updates on the Urban Electric Mobility Initiative (UEMI) and related steps to reduce air pollution which included collaboration with UNEP on low cost air quality monitoring.

The subcommittee was also updated on the measures being taken to promote energy efficiency in Buildings through a programme in East Africa which had developed a Charter on green building design and developed a training manual on Sustainable building design for tropical countries which was reported to have been adopted by 8(eight) Universities in the region. Support by the programme in Rwanda was also elaborated.

Highlights were made of the Solid waste management project in Kiambu County, Kenya, a first of its kind in Africa, with the technological support by Japan. Considerations were being made to upscale the project in Ethiopia and Rwanda. An emerging area of work on ICT and Basic urban services was shared with Members. Also shared was the 2016 status of the Urban Basic Services Trust Fund which was receiving more funding from Banks and Foundations. UN-Habitat's contribution to the Habitat III process through its work on Basic Urban services was outlined and included co-leading in three issues papers and three special sessions at Habitat III. An analysis of the urban basic services and relevant SDGs and paragraphs of the new Urban Agenda was also presented.

In the discussions members recommended that i) details of the presentation including the analysis of the links to SDGs and the New Urban Agenda, be included in the progress report of the Executive Director towards GC26 including. Further recommendation were to connecting key results of projects and programmes with the Expected Accomplishments in the Strategic Plan, to provide details of the status of the

Urban Basic Services Trust Fund with comprehensive explanations on its sources of finance, including core and no-core funds in future presentations. It was also advised that emphasis be made on air quality, especially the cross-cutting interventions in mobility and energy aimed at improving air quality in future presentations.

5. Eighteenth Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work on: Briefing on Revision of Strategic Plan 2014-2019 and Strategic Framework 2018-2019 as well as Preparation of Workprogramme and Budget 2018-2019" - 9 November 2016

The Subcommittee meeting provided the background on the preparation and content of the Strategic Plan 2014-2019 including the focus areas aligned to the seven subprogrammes of UN-Habitat. The presentation highlighted the basis on which the strategic plan may be considered for revision as follows;

- Through a provision made in the Plan itself which states that "...The strategic plan will be adjusted on the basis of this midterm evaluation, the outcome of Habitat III (i.e., the new urban agenda), and any changes in the governance structure of UN-Habitat..." (para. 95, Strategic Plan 2014-2019)
- To respond to new international agreements:
 - (a) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals
 - (b) Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development
 - (c) Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
 - (d) Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

The potential scope of the amendments to the Strategic plan was also shared with Members and included light amendments to paragraphs on the narratives, strategic results, challenges, focus areas, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement, among others.

The internal process and timelines that are sensitive to the revision process were also shared including the ten-week rule of submission of document prior to the twenty sixth session of the Governing Council (GC26) in early April 2017.

Related to the revision of the Strategic plan 2014-2019 is the revision of the Strategic Framework 2018-2019 and Preparation of the Work Programme and Budget 2018-2019. In this regard the rationale for revising the strategic framework was said to be contained in the document itself and states that;

"The six-year strategic plan for the period 2014-2019 is being implemented through three successive biennial strategic frameworks, for 2014-2015, 2016-2017

and 2018-2019. The direction of the present strategic framework is likely to be further guided and strengthened by the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), to be entitled "The New Urban Agenda".(para 12.2 of the Strategic Framework 2018-2019)

The possible areas of revision within the Strategic Framework 2018-2019 were suggested to include Overall orientation, Objectives, Expected Accomplishments, Indicators of achievement and Strategies. A six-step process for the review of the Strategic framework internally and in consultation with the CPR was also shared.

Similarly, the process for preparing the Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019 was given and would follow the revision of the Strategic Plan and the Strategic Framework. This process includes discussion at GC 26 in April 2017 and review by the CPC in June 2017.

In the discussions, members recommended that the revision of the Strategic Plan should be based only on the outcome of Habitat III and not on other basis whose timelines were not clear such as the midterm evaluation and the expected assessment of UN-Habitat that may result in changes in the governance structure of UN-Habitat. It was also further emphasized that any revised documents should be considered as the final versions for discussions and decisions during the GC26 and not as interim documents still to be amended based on future unclear occurrences such as the possible changes to the governance structure. It was agreed that discussions on the actual revision of the documents should start as soon as possible given the stringent timelines towards GC26 with the secretariat providing a brief background document on possible revisions based on the outcome of Habitat III to kick start the discussions.

Members advised that a briefing on the Outcome of Habitat III should take place as soon as possible and that for future major events briefings should happen immediately following such events.

6. Nineteenth Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work on: Preparations of the GC26: Discussions on the implementation of Resolutions passed during the 25th Session of the Governing Council (GC25):

- i. Resolution 25/2:** Strengthening national ownership and operational capacity
- ii. Resolution 25/4:** Implementation of the strategic plan for 2014-2019 (Omnibus)

The nineteenth meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), was held on 16 November 2016 and discussed the implementation of Resolution 25/2 and 25/4.

i. Resolution 25/2: Strengthening national ownership and operational capacity:

Briefing was made on progress in implementing the entire resolution 24 /2 of the Governing Council on “Strengthening national ownership and operational capacity”. Members were briefing on the deployment and implementation of UMOJA in Nairobi in which UN-Habitat played a major role. In this regard staff training had been conducted to the extent of available resources and would continue for another three years. Challenges related to UMOJA implementation were also outlined and included financial reporting constraints and degraded operational capacity of UN-Habitat with a reduced delivery rate owing to system complexity.

Updates were also provided on how UN-Habitat was strengthening the inter-linkages between its operational and normative work such as continued programme development based on the three pronged approach to deliver a better integration of the different areas of capacity and knowledge development of the organization and capturing results more efficiently through an expanded evaluation function. Updated were also provided on status of habitat country programme documents (HCPDs) and their alignment with regionals strategies

Members were also briefed on efforts for capacity development using three core projects i) Capacity Development in the New Urban Agenda, ii) Accountability and Localizing the SDGs in Latin American Cities and iii. the Habitat Partners University Initiative- Habitat UNI.

The discussion with member states mostly focused on UMOJA implementation with questions raised to further understand the challenges and complexity of UMOJA and the potential solutions that could be considered. With the understanding that UMOJA will be in operation as the enterprise system of the UN, the secretariat suggested that perhaps a fresh look could be taken on the UMOJA complexity, and for services to be provided in a simplified way at the closest point of delivery. The Secretariat also emphasized the need for access to better reporting that is not dependent on higher hierarchy and for UN-HABITAT to be able at least able to match its competitors. The secretariat stated that UN-Habitat was however very supportive of the UMOJA system and looked forward to the introduction of its new phase expected in 2019.

ii. Resolution 25/4: Implementation of the strategic plan for 2014-2019 (Omnibus):

A second part of the Subcommittee meeting covered Resolution 25/4 of the Governing Council on ‘Implementation of the strategic plan for 2014-2019’, particularly as relates to

Urban land, Legislation and Governance. These were represented in operative paragraphs 4, 5, 6 and 14 of the resolution. The elaborate work to bring on board the perspectives of local authorities towards implementation of Agenda 2030 & Habitat III process in collaboration with UNACLA and the Global Task force of local and regional governments was shared. It was stated that efforts had been made in the field of preparing local governments to localize the SDGs, and technical expertise provided in implementation of SMART technologies to municipal management as well as to increase transparency and accountability in the management of cities. Update was also given on UN-Habitat's work on Legislation towards functionally effective legal and institutional frameworks to facilitate sustainable urbanization . This included development of legal tools and methodologies, technical assistance work with an example of the Support to Egypt as well as Capacity Development and Advocacy work in this regard.

It was stated that UN-Habitat had progressed its activities on Land and the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) with notable achievements which included

- The UN Guidance Note on Land and Conflict being finalized
- A draft Framework Analysis of Land as a Root Cause of Conflict
- Land and Conflict Coalition Forum held in March 2016;
- Capacity development initiatives carried out for Peace Development Advisors and training for East and Horn of Africa.

Examples of specific work interventions on Land in Congo DRC and Lebanon were also given

In the discussions that followed presentation on resolution 25/4 , Members sought clarification on how pilot countries were identified and how lessons learnt and best practices were captured from projects, which was provided. A clarification was also sought on the source of funding for Local authorities participation at the Habitat III Conference. UN-Habitat responded that the funds came from agreements with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) in particular supported by fund from SIDA. Members advised that presentations on progress made should include more examples of countries supported and the outcomes of the projects. Members appreciated the linkages made with the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda and advised for inclusion of the same in the Executive Director's Activities Report to the Governing Council. Members requested to receive in advance any draft reports towards the twenty sixth session of the Governing Council (GC26) in order to contribute to their enrichment and also support Member states discussions on potential draft resolutions for GC26.