

**African Group Interventions**  
**68<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of**  
**UN-Habitat**  
**Wednesday 21 March 2018**

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(Speech delivered by H.E Beyene Russom, Permanent Representative of  
the State of Eritrea and Dean of the Diplomatic Africa Corps in Nairobi)

Agenda item (5): Briefing of the Executive Director to the CPR

- 1- The African Group would like to take this opportunity to congratulate H.E. the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil for assuming the Chairmanship of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UN-Habitat. We would also like to welcome the new Executive Director to Nairobi on her first CPR meeting, and wish to assure her of our full support moving forward.
  
- 2- The Group welcomes the briefing by the Executive Director as outlined in the document circulated prior to the meeting. We are especially encouraged by the commitment made by the Executive Director to build mutual trust and improve governance of UN-Habitat. We are looking forward for the implementation of her vision for the organization and will be aiding her in all the steps ahead.

Agenda item (6): Report on the Open Ended Working Group

- 3- The African Group wishes to thank the Chair of the CPR and the Open-Ended Working Group on Reform on his report. The African Group has actively participated, through its technical committee, in the three meetings the Working Group has convened so far.

4- The Group takes note of the “Hybrid Proposal” presented by the Chair as a way forward for UN-Habitat reform, and wishes to reiterate its position, previously expressed in various meetings and document, in support of the universality of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat. The Group is currently taking a close look at the Chair’s proposal and analyzing the different aspects and implications of what it entails, and will be engaging with the Chair and other Member States in the coming Working Group meetings.

Agenda item (8): Report on draft Stakeholders Engagement Policy

5- The African Group thanks the Secretariat for submitting a draft stakeholder’s engagement policy for consideration by Member States, in accordance with the Governing Council decision in that regard. The Group is currently examining the document and will be contributing to the discussions on it until a finalized version is agreed before the coming session of the Governing Council in 2019.

6- That being said, the Group would like to reiterate its standing position on the issue: that any stakeholder’s engagement policy should take into consideration the intergovernmental nature of UN-Habitat, that the criteria and requirements for accreditation of stakeholder’s should be in line with the different national circumstances, rules and regulations of Member States, and that a level of monitoring and oversight of the process of accreditation should be maintained by Member States.

## Agenda item (12): Presentation of the Country Activities Report

The African Group would like to thank the Regional Office for Africa for its remarkable presentation on the work done in all African Countries during the past five years. The Group recognizes the efforts made by the Regional Office to shed some light on UN-Habitat's country programs on urban development, housing programs, capacity building, among others.

The Group reiterates support for the Regional Office for Africa and remains steadfast in its vigorous attempts to build trust and partnerships with various stakeholders to address the multifaceted urban development challenges. The Group appreciates the Regional Office for its commitment and hard work to achieve tangible results at the country level.'

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