Executive Director’s Informational Briefing to the Committee of Permanent Representatives

(b) Update on UN-Habitat’s Preparations for the Rio+20 Summit

Agenda Item 4

HSP/CPR/42/4
Nairobi, 7 September 2011
Madam Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Representatives,

UN-Habitat has been an **integral participant in key aspects of the preparatory process** for the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), including its Preparatory Committee and Inter-sessional meetings.

At its 23rd session, the UN-Habitat Governing Council adopted **resolution 23/17** on sustainable urban development through expanding equitable access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure. The resolution encourages Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to include the issue of sustainable urban development in their contributions to the preparatory process for Rio+20.

The report of the one-day **Dialogue** on this theme is being sent by the President of the UN-Habitat Governing Council to the Rio+20 Bureau in a separate communication.

**Principals of the augmented Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs (ECESA Plus) and the Rio+20 Bureau** met in early July this year. At that meeting, the Secretary General of Rio+20 briefed us on the progress made in preparations for the conference. UN-Habitat’s key messages for the Summit were outlined at that meeting.

All member states, UN agencies and major groups (including Local Authorities) have been invited by the Co-Chairs of the Rio+20 Bureau to **provide focused inputs for inclusion in a compilation document** to serve as a basis for the preparation of the zero draft of the outcome document for Rio+20. The submission deadline is 1st November 2011. UN-Habitat has started drafting inputs for inclusion in the compilation document. At the end of this meeting, this introductory statement will distributed to all of you and attached to it will be a one page annex titled **“Key Messages of UN-HABITAT Inputs to Rio+20: Draft Summary”**, for your information.

Madam Chair, the UN-Habitat inputs will be shared with CPR members when they are finalized. I would like to encourage CPR members to share these inputs with their capitals in order to inform their own submissions.

The Co-Chairs of the Rio+20 Bureau will present a zero draft of the **outcome document** in mid-January 2012, after which negotiations will begin.

The five UN Regional Commissions are currently preparing for **Regional** Preparatory Committee meetings. UN-Habitat will be represented through its Regional Offices, where possible.

Finally, Madam Chair, UN-Habitat has also started discussions with global and regional local government associations with regard to a possible **high level event** on “The Role of Cities in future Sustainable Development”, to be held in Rio de Janeiro on 2 June 2012, just before the Rio+20 Summit. This would bring together Mayors and representatives of local authorities.

Thank you for your attention.
Annex

Key Messages of UN-Habitat Inputs to Rio+20: Draft Summary

Sustainable Urbanization as an emerging issue
Cities, their spatial frameworks and infrastructural and governance systems constitute a key lever for achieving further economically and socially equitable growth without further costs to the environment. The mode of urban development has a critical bearing on the processes leading to the attainment of sustainable development. Prioritizing sustainable urbanization can also help to ensure coherence between sectoral policies such as energy, water, sustainable consumption and production, biodiversity, natural disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation.

Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication
Cities are crucial to the transition to a green economy for four complementary reasons:
- density,
- shared infrastructure,
- agglomeration, and
- opportunities for strengthening resilience.

Institutional framework for sustainable development
The sustainable development implementation gap can only be closed if action is enhanced at different interrelated levels:
- the capacity of Local Authorities as a Major Group should be strengthened;
- there are particular challenges at the level of the city-region that need to be addressed;
- there is a need to integrate sustainable urban development policy as a key component of a national sustainable development policy; and
- the review of the institutional framework for sustainable development should embrace the three pillars of sustainable development, i.e. social, economic and environment.

UN-Habitat’s contribution
UN-Habitat stands prepared to support member states to develop policies, plans and strategies related to sustainable urban development.

Proposed goal and timeframe
“By 2030 urban areas should aim to reduce their per capita ecological footprints globally by half of 2012 levels.” The proposed Habitat III Conference scheduled in 2016 will mark a critical moment and provide a concrete opportunity to strengthen cooperation mechanisms, partnership arrangements and other implementation tools which will help implement the sustainable urbanization agenda.