Introductory Statement by Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director

Report on the Preparations for the 66th Session of the General Assembly

Agenda Item 5

HSP/CPR/42/5
Nairobi, 7 September 2011
Madam Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Representatives,

Discussion of the UN-Habitat agenda item by the Second Committee of the General Assembly is scheduled to take place on 24 October 2011. Three documents will be in front of the Committee:

(i) First, the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);
(ii) Second, the report of the Secretary-General on the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development; and
(iii) Third, the report of the twenty-third session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat.

A draft of the first report was prepared by the Secretariat and has been cleared by the Secretary-General’s Office. As you will recall, a draft of the second report was prepared by the Secretariat and considered by the Governing Council at its twenty-third session last April. This report has also been cleared by the Secretary-General’s Office. A draft of the third report, prepared by UNON Conference Services, has already been distributed to you for comments prior to its submission to ECOSOC. Copies of these reports will be distributed to all CPR members once they are officially released.

Madam Chair,

Please allow me to briefly highlight the contents of the first report, since you are already familiar with the other two reports.

The Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of Habitat II and strengthening of UN-Habitat was prepared in response to paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 65/165 of December 2010. The report provides an overview of the policy-relevant outcomes of the twenty-third session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat. It also contains a review of progress made in the implementation of a number of programmatic components of the Habitat Agenda and other issues highlighted in General Assembly resolution 65/165.

The report makes three recommendations: firstly, that the General Assembly makes a decision supporting the convening of a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) in 2016; secondly, that Governments include sustainable urban development and the role of cities and local authorities in the outcome of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development; and, thirdly, that the General Assembly strongly supports UN-Habitat Governing Council resolution 23/9 of April 2011 titled “Global and national strategies and frameworks for improving the lives of slum dwellers beyond the Millennium Development Goals target”.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Representatives,
I would like to make just two remarks concerning the report of the Secretary-General on Habitat III. As you may recall, this report, which provides a justification for the conference, was submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 64/207 of December 2009 and Governing Council resolution 23/8 of April 2011. The report recommends that the twenty-fourth session of the UN-Habitat Governing Council, to be held in 2013 in Nairobi, turn itself into an organizational session of the Habitat III preparatory committee.

To conclude, Madam Chair, I would like to point out that this year we expect two resolutions on UN-Habitat issues. The first will be on the implementation of the outcome of Habitat II and strengthening of UN-Habitat, as in previous years. The second will be on Habitat III. Drafts of these resolutions will be distributed to you once they become available. Your support to the negotiation process, through your New York-based colleagues, will be very much appreciated.

Thank you for your attention.