Introductory Statement by Mr. Joseph Murphy, Chair of the Open-ended Contact Group on the Preparation of the Strategic Plan for 2014-2019

Item 6
Preparation of the Draft Strategic Plan for 2014 – 2019

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Nairobi, 28 June 2012
Introductory Statement by Mr. Joseph Murphy, Chair of the Open-ended Contact Group on the Preparation of the Strategic Plan for 2014-2019

Mr. Executive Director,
Distinguished Representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Open-ended Contact Group on the Preparation of the Strategic Plan, I am pleased to introduce to you the Draft Strategic Plan for 2014-2019. As you may recall, during the last CPR meeting held on 3 April 2012, I provided an update to the Distinguished Members on the progress that the Open-ended Contact Group had made on the preparation of Parts I and II of the six-year Strategic Plan for 2014-2019, and on the Strategic Framework for the 2014-2015 biennium.

Since April 2012, the Contact Group has met three times and has worked diligently to complete its consideration of Part III of the Draft Strategic Plan, which focuses on Strategy Implementation. The first two meetings, held on 18 and 30 May, considered the draft of Part III of the Strategic Plan, while the last meeting held on 13 June considered the consolidated draft of the entire Strategic Plan.

From the beginning of its work in August 2011 to its last meeting on 13 June 2012, the Open-ended Contact Group on the Preparation of the Strategic Plan held a total of 14 meetings and participated in the first half day of a three-day workshop organized to develop the results framework of the draft Strategic Plan, during which the Executive Director presented his vision of UN-Habitat’s future work.

Mr. Chairman, the document before you consists of three parts. Part I, titled ‘Strategic Analysis’, presents the rationale of the Strategic Plan, highlighting the external and internal factors that have shaped its content. In general, it answers the question “Why?” More specifically, it covers the following issues: mandate of UN-Habitat; urban trends, challenges and opportunities; lessons from the MTSIP 2008-2013; strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats; and guiding principles of the Strategic Plan for 2014-2019.

Part II, titled “Strategic Choice”, presents the core elements of the Strategic Plan, including its vision, mission, goal, strategic result, focus areas, and the Plan’s results framework. It addresses the question “What?”

You may recall that it was on the basis of Parts I and II of the Draft Strategic Plan that the two-year Strategic Framework for 2014-2015 was developed, and was considered and endorsed by the Open-ended Contact Group on behalf of the CPR on February 15.

Part III of the Draft Strategic Plan, titled “Strategy Implementation”, describes how the plan will be implemented, focusing on: overall strategy and phases for the implementation of the Strategic Plan; the new organizational structure and management approach through which the Plan will be implemented; how the Plan’s implementation will be monitored and evaluated, within the context
of results-based management and using the results framework presented in Part II; and, finally, the financial and human resources required for the successful implementation of the Plan.

Excellencies, Mr. Executive Director, Distinguished Representatives,

I am happy to say that there has been overall agreement among Contact Group participants on the content of the document before you, with the sole exception of the text on “Human rights” as a cross-cutting issue. The draft text on this issue is shown on pages 18 and 20 of the clean version of the Draft Strategic Plan. Consultations on this issue are still on-going in order to find text and placement agreeable to all.

The document before you is the result of many hours of joint work by CPR Members and the Secretariat. It is also the result of many consultations with capitals by CPR Members. I believe I am correct in saying that this is a document that is owned by both the Secretariat and the CPR.

Mr. Chairman, I would like, therefore, to request the CPR’s endorsement of the Draft Strategic Plan for 2014-2019, subject to resolution of the issue on the treatment of human rights in the text. (The secretariat has distributed a version of the Draft Strategic Plan with bracketed text for the sake of clarity.) Accordingly, I would also like to request extension of the tenure of the Open-ended Contact Group on the Preparation of the Strategic Plan until the end of July 2012 in order to enable it to resolve this outstanding matter. To do this, we envisage one additional meeting.

Looking ahead, once endorsed by the Contact Group, a revised final version of the Draft Strategic Plan will be distributed before the extra-ordinary meeting of the CPR in August 2012 for its final concurrence. Thereafter, the document will be ready for formatting and translation in preparation for its presentation to and consideration by the 24th session of the Governing Council in April 2013.

Finally, Excellencies, Mr. Executive Director, Distinguished Representatives,

I would like to thank all Members of the CPR for their guidance during the long journey we have travelled together, for their many inputs to the draft document that we have today, and for their active participation in the Open-ended Contact Group. I would also like to thank the Secretariat, especially the Strategic Plan Preparation Team, as well as my Co-Chair, Naison Mutizwa-Mangiza, for a job well done. This Draft Strategic Plan demonstrates what is possible when there is genuine cooperation between the CPR and the Secretariat. The dividends of such cooperation include mutual trust and understanding, which will be an essential asset for the future task of translating this Plan into reality through development and implementation of successive Programmes of Work that position UN-Habitat to make strategic interventions to catalyze a sustainable urban future.

Thank you for your attention.