Committee of Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations Human Settlements
Programme
Forty-seventh regular meeting
Nairobi, 19 December 2012

Draft minutes of the forty-sixth meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, held on 24 October 2012

Opening of the meeting

1. The meeting was opened at 9.50 a.m. on Wednesday, 21 October 2012, by Mr. Chan-woo Kim, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

2. The meeting was attended by 78 participants from 52 countries and 1 observer mission.

3. The Chair said that, in the absence of a nomination from the Western European and other States, the Bureau had requested that Mr. Sergey Trepelkov (Russian Federation) would serve as rapporteur for the meeting.

4. He welcomed the following new permanent representatives: Mr. Solomon Akintola Oyateru (Nigeria), Mr. Rafiuzzaman Siddiqui (Pakistan), Ms. Iulia Pataki (Romania), Mr. Huseyin Avni Aksoy (Turkey), Ms. Lynette Poulton Kamakura (United States of America) and Ms. Mary Mildred Zambezi (Zambia), and he bade farewell to the following permanent representatives who had departed the Nairobi duty station, thanking them for their contribution to the work of the Committee: Mr. Emmerence Ntahonkuriye (Burundi) and Mr. D. B. Collins (Canada).

Item 1
Adoption of the agenda

5. The agenda was adopted on the basis of the provisional agenda set out in document HSP/CPR/46/1.

Item 2
Adoption of the draft minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives held on 22 August 2012

6. The minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Committee of Representatives held on 22 August 2012 were adopted on the basis of the draft minutes set out in document HSP/CPR/46/2.

Item 3
Informational briefing by the Executive Director

7. Introducing the item, the Executive Director, Mr. Joan Clos, drew attention to events held during the period since the previous meeting of the Committee, including the sixth session of the World Urban Forum and the opening of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, at which a
draft resolution would be considered on the modalities for the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development (Habitat III). Discussions by member States on the preparatory process for Habitat III were under way in the Second Committee of the General Assembly. Four meetings of the preparatory committee for the Conference were envisaged, the first, to be held in 2013, to decide on organizational aspects and specific modalities of the committee, and the three following meetings, to be held in each of the three years preceding the Conference in 2016, to develop the draft outcome document of the Conference. He urged member States to pay careful attention to that preparatory process in order to provide adequate input thereto. He said that he had been appointed Secretary-General of the Conference by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and would collaborate with the President of the General Assembly to establish administrative procedures and a methodology to efficiently prepare for Habitat III.

8. Turning to other matters, he said that the organizational reform was continuing within UN-Habitat. He expressed his thanks to members of the Committee and the secretariat who had participated in the governance review process under the leadership of Mr. Konrad Paulsen (Chile). He drew attention to a visit to Mozambique the previous week, organized by the secretariat for members of the Committee, which had been extremely informative and productive.

9. The representative of the secretariat, Mr. Matthias Spaliviero, Human Settlements Officer, Regional Office for Africa, provided an overview of the visit to Mozambique from 14 to 20 October 2012, during which participants had met with the Prime Minister, ministers, mayors, governors and members of the donor community. He said that the country was of particular interest as it was extremely vulnerable to natural disasters, had been the subject of rapid urbanization and remained one of the least developed countries of the world. The country programme, which had been initiated a decade earlier, touched on all of the focus areas of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan, with particular emphasis on disaster risk reduction, adaptation to climate change, slum upgrading and urban planning through the “Delivering as one” initiative.

10. The Executive Director said that the trip had provided participants with the opportunity to witness the extreme state of need of the urban populations of Mozambique, where gross domestic product had yet to reach $600 per capita. He appealed to members of the international community to raise awareness of the need for support to be provided to the country so that it could tackle the many significant challenges that it faced. Some 72 per cent of the total population lived in slums in extremely unfavourable conditions.

11. One representative expressed her appreciation to the Executive Director and the secretariat for having organized the trip to Mozambique. She said that the visit had been illuminating and extremely interesting. She urged members to take advantage of any future opportunities to witness UN-Habitat country activities at first hand.

**Item 4**

**Report on the outcome of the sixth session of the World Urban Forum**

12. The Executive Director presented a preliminary report on the outcome of the sixth session of the World Urban Forum, held in Naples, Italy, from 1 to 7 September 2012. He thanked the people and Government of Italy for hosting the session, which had proved to be an outstanding success, with some 8,209 participants. Of particular note was the fact that out of the 48 least developed countries, 39 had attended the session, as well as that the majority of participants – 60 per cent – had not come from Italy. He recalled that the Committee had been actively involved in the organization of and had participated in the meetings held at the session. He thanked the Chair and members of the Committee for their contributions to the session and drew attention to the efforts made by staff members of UN-Habitat to organize the session against the backdrop of financial constraints. The budget of 1.2 million euros for the session represented just half of the total budget of the fifth session. He thanked the Director General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Mr. Achim Steiner, and the many United Nations entities that had been involved. He expressed his gratitude to France, Norway and the United States of America for their contributions, which had helped to ensure the participation of representatives of the least developed countries and vulnerable groups.

13. The representative of the secretariat, Ms. Ana Moreno, provided an overview of the sixth session, emphasizing that its substantive outcomes were still being evaluated. Of the 8,209 participants, 1,693 had been part of the workforce, meaning that some 6,516 people had attended the session, a level of participation that was similar to that in the previous sessions. Of those, some 4,000 had been international participants; around 55 per cent had been male and 45 per cent female. Some 151 countries had been represented, including 80 per cent of the least developed countries. There had been 440 official events and 350 invited speakers, with approximately 1,000 local authorities and
municipalities represented. In terms of the number of countries, Africa had been the most represented region, followed by Asia, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean. Media representation had totalled around 5 per cent of participants, which was a significant increase compared with previous sessions. Most representatives had been from national Governments, academia, non-governmental organizations and local government. Reporting on the event had been comprehensive, with a focal point appointed for each meeting responsible for providing a summary of the meeting after one hour and comprehensive reporting within two weeks of the meeting. All networking events, side events and other parallel events had been assigned to a specific branch for reporting, according to priority areas.

14. Among the many outputs from the session were short meeting reports, the summarized daily reports, a draft outcomes report, a compiled session report and a final report of the session. An independent evaluation of the session would be carried out by the Evaluation Unit. The Advisory Group for the session had played an extremely important role in ensuring the success of the session, which had been recorded on various social media, including World Urban Forum television, Facebook and Twitter.

15. In the ensuing discussion, a number of representatives thanked the Executive Director for his informative report. Several representatives congratulated the Executive Director, the secretariat, the Government of Italy and the city of Naples for hosting the sixth session and ensuring a successful outcome.

16. One representative asked how UN-Habitat could ensure the participation of Habitat Agenda partners, especially women and young people, in future sessions of the Forum. She requested that adequate time be afforded to round-table discussions to enhance participation and that, at future sessions of the Forum, meetings be targeted to specific Habitat Agenda partners rather than the whole group.

17. A number of representatives asked how the outcomes of the session would be evaluated and presented in order to clarify the value added by the Forum and to make use of the outcomes in future strategies for UN-Habitat.

18. The representative of Colombia congratulated UN-Habitat, the Government of Italy and local authorities for having successfully convened the sixth session. He said that the seventh session of the Forum would be held in Medellin, Colombia, in 2014. Noting that the majority of the world’s population lived in urban areas, he said that the Forum would provide a platform for the sharing of best practices, information and knowledge, South-South cooperation and public-private cooperation, among other things.

19. One representative said that coming so soon after the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the session had afforded an opportunity for open debate and the consideration of innovative solutions and constituted an important initial building block for Habitat III.

20. Another representative asked how UN-Habitat prioritized populations and infrastructure to support those populations.

21. One representative sought clarification regarding the presentation in reports from various meetings and conferences of the impact of UN-Habitat activities on the ground.

22. Another representative commended the Executive Director and the secretariat for having successfully implemented Governing Council resolution 23/1, on gender equality and empowerment of women in sustainable urban development, including the establishment of an advisory group on gender that would ensure the appropriate handling of gender at Habitat III, among other things.

23. The representative stressed that the work of the Advisory Group on Gender Issues (AGGI) was extremely pertinent to UN-Habitat and would facilitate the production of deliverables to strengthen the organization. Expressing satisfaction that the data on the participation in the session had been disaggregated on the basis of gender, she noted that the percentage of women speakers at the session had been slightly lower than the percentage of women participants; AGGI and the gender assembly could focus on enhancing that participation. The representative stressed the importance of considering gender in the body of meetings of UN-Habitat.

24. One representative, thanking the secretariat for its efforts, noted that some 440 official events had been held during the session; the task of reporting on those events represented a significant challenge.

25. Responding to comments, the Executive Director said that the reports of the session would be distributed and the outcomes fully analysed and considered in the following weeks.
26. He acknowledged the comments on AGGI and drew attention to the partners consultative group of the Global Network on Safer Cities and the signing of some 10 to 15 memorandums of understanding with various organizations.

27. He explained that on the advice of the Committee, the secretariat had called for public expressions of interest in hosting the seventh session of the Forum. As a result of the transparent process, Medellin had been chosen. He expressed his satisfaction that the Forum afforded host cities the opportunity to accelerate the urban agenda for development and transformation. He suggested that that factor might be highlighted in a future decision as a specific value point of the Forum. Medellin had overcome many challenges to become a safe city and was entering a new phase of land readjustment. He noted that the Forum had brought about transformation in Naples in the form of the opening of a bicycle corridor in the streets, which represented nothing less than a transport revolution in that city.

28. He concurred with comments describing the future of humanity as urban.

29. He said that the substantive outcomes of the session and their linkages with the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, among others, would be considered at a future meeting in preparing for Habitat III.

30. A paradigm shift had taken place with regard to the approach taken to urbanization, as observed at the meetings in Naples and Rio de Janeiro. Cities were a source of development when appropriate urbanization occurred; it was vital that the potential of cities, rather than their problems, be the focus of attention. Urbanization was becoming politically relevant, given that it had significant potential to generate employment and wealth. He informed the Committee that consensus was emerging that the topic of the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council should focus on the urban economy and its relationship with gender and youth.

31. He drew attention to the important difference between sessions of the Governing Council and sessions of the Forum; the former enabled UN-Habitat to renew contact with its member States, while the latter enabled it to stay connected to its stakeholders.

32. He noted that the percentage of women’s participation in the session had been extremely positive, but that it should be encouraged further.

33. Ms. Moreno said that the proceedings of most of the meetings held during the session would be transcribed, including those relating to emerging issues and recommendations. Certain concepts would be tracked, as would the impact of the Forum on the city of Naples and its legacy. In the context of tangible outcomes and capacity-building, Naples would also become a World Urban Campaign city.

34. Significant analysis was being undertaken of the session, including on substantive matters, the structure of the session and attendance, which would allow for improvements at future sessions.

**Item 5**

**Quarterly report on the financial status of UN-Habitat**

35. Introducing the item, the Executive Director drew attention to the quarterly report on the financial status of UN-Habitat (HSP/CPR/46/5). The income statistics were divided into core income and earmarked income, comparing actual income for 2010 and 2011 for both with median forecast income for 2012. He drew attention to the decrease in core income of some 20 per cent and in earmarked income of some 15 per cent in 2012. The decrease in both had been expected, given the evolution of the financial crisis. The decrease in funding was being experienced by most United Nations agencies. The secretariat was endeavouring to react appropriately. Posts had been frozen, which had reduced post costs from $33 million to $22 million, despite a 7 per cent increase in salaries across the United Nations system. Non-post costs had been reduced from $14 million in 2010 to $9.5 million in 2011 and further to $5.9 million in 2012. Total core expenditure had decreased from $47 million in 2010 to $43 million in 2011 and was expected to total $37.9 million in 2012.

36. He acknowledged the efforts of UN-Habitat staff to reduce costs. In terms of earmarked expenditure, $163 million had been allocated for projects in 2012, which represented a significant increase in the level of productivity, given the reduced number of staff members in comparison with 2010. The deficit for 2012 was forecast to reach $4.1 million in 2012, as compared with $5.8 million in 2010 and $645,000 in 2011. He recognized the efforts of the staff members in the Office of Management, and its Acting Director, Mr. David Hastie, who had employed new tools to elaborate the transparent and up-to-date information presented in the financial report. In conclusion, he said that notwithstanding the improved financial performance, the deficit must be eliminated completely.
Efforts were under way to develop a new biennial programme to increase income and reduce expenditure further, especially with regard to post costs. Nevertheless, the situation was under control.

37. One representative expressed concern about the implications for staff posts of a new biennial programme to increase income and reduce expenditure.

38. One representative asked whether there had been any developments since August in terms of confirmed pledges to UN-Habitat.

39. Another representative requested further information on the technical cooperation programme, noting that the report indicated that approximately 70 per cent of the allocation of $9.4 million for the programme had been used.

40. A number of representatives drew attention to pledges made by their Governments that were not reflected in the quarterly report, among them the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Sweden and Finland, the latter noting that although the payment process had not been finalized, her country had pledged 470,000 euros in May 2012, which represented a level of contribution similar to that in previous years.

41. The Executive Director acknowledged with gratitude pledges made and received from Barbados, Israel, Kenya, Norway, Pakistan, Tunisia and the United States of America. He expressed his appreciation to all the Governments and organizations, including private sector organizations, that continued to partner with UN-Habitat.

42. The representative of the secretariat, Mr. David Hastie, said that further clarification would be provided after the meeting on technical cooperation programme expenditure. He said that approximately 70 per cent of the special purpose contributions received in 2012 were for specific country activities. Expenditure on the focus areas of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan was being monitored closely. Special purpose contributions had been received from Norway, Spain and Sweden, which were being updated on developments in that regard.

43. One representative expressed concern regarding the balance between technical cooperation, core and foundation income in the light of important changes within UN-Habitat in terms of its reorganization, the strengthening of results-based management, a new accounting system and increased transparency, among other things. Resources were crucial for the implementation of the reform agenda. The present income structure made UN-Habitat very vulnerable. She drew attention to the considerable challenge of justifying support for the core budget in view of the continuing financial crisis, asked how the secretariat intended to address gaps and imbalances in funding and sought clarification regarding a resource-mobilization strategy.

44. The Executive Director said that UN-Habitat was undergoing serious and significant reform, restructured its activities against the backdrop of the financial crisis. Productivity was increasing alongside increased transparency, accountability and efficiency, despite a more than 15 per cent reduction in the workforce. Such efficiency should please the donor community and other stakeholders. Technical cooperation income stood at about $163 million, overhead costs had been reduced and the flagship agenda was very healthy. He appealed to more donors to contribute to the organization’s core income.

45. It was to be hoped that the new resource mobilization strategy would be submitted to the Committee for consideration at its forty-eighth meeting.

46. Mr. Hastie thanked Finland and Sweden for their special purpose earmarked contributions. He noted that annex B to the report would be corrected to reflect any non-earmarked contributions that had been overlooked.

47. One representative commended the secretariat for its continuing activities and the continuing reform process. Noting that his country was considering pledges to both earmarked and non-earmarked resources, he expressed the hope that the secretariat would clarify the resource mobilization strategy, including ways and means of contributing aimed at middle-income and developing countries.

48. The Executive Director said that the resource mobilization strategy was in place and efforts were under way to discuss with countries, including middle-income and developing countries, ways of becoming involved in the activities of UN-Habitat. He had taken a number of trips to raise the awareness of ministers in that regard. He drew attention to a number of memorandums of understanding with countries and provided details about established means of cooperation with a number of countries. In the face of the financial crisis, UN-Habitat must work to convince donor countries to return to their previous levels of contribution.
Item 6
Six-monthly progress report on the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan

49. Introducing the item, the Executive Director drew attention to the six-monthly progress report on the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan (HSP/CPR/46/6). He said that progress was being made as expected and that activities were continuing apace.

50. A number of representatives thanked the Executive Director for his report and UN-Habitat staff members for their work in the field. One representative thanked development partners for their contribution to the activities of UN-Habitat.

51. One representative asked the secretariat to consider ways of strengthening the country presence in her country.

52. Another representative suggested that a more holistic view of the overall impact of activities would be useful, including distinguishing between levels at which activities were taking place. She suggested that a disproportionate number of activities were focused on disaster recovery and humanitarian assistance.

53. One representative, noting the reference in the report to regional reports on the state of cities in the Arab States and in Latin America and the Caribbean, asked whether a report on the state of cities in Asia and the Pacific was likely to be forthcoming in the near future.

54. Another representative welcomed efforts by UN-Habitat to assist cities in developing countries in developing strategies to lower emissions and sought more information in that regard.

55. One representative made a suggestion for an editorial amendment.

56. Another representative commended the frank assessment of performance set out in the report and its focus on results-based management, which ensured that lessons were learned and changes were made to the management structure to improve results.

57. She expressed the hope that the use of the partnership approach in project implementation would be enhanced, not only as a response to financial difficulties but also with a view to ensuring greater understanding and ownership of projects by stakeholders.

58. She sought clarification on the outcomes of the fourth session of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD) and ways in which they could be translated into action, and on the remedial actions for different focus areas as set out in the report.

59. The representative of the secretariat, Mr. Naison Mutizwa-Mangiza, said that the secretariat would endeavour to find ways to strengthen the country presence as requested by one representative. He noted that the status of UN-Habitat programme managers was constantly under review. The allocation of activities to disaster and humanitarian assistance projects would be addressed as efforts to increase core income continued. The resource mobilization strategy was intended to broaden the UN-Habitat donor base by encouraging contributions from middle-income countries and non-traditional donors, including foundations and regional development banks. He took note of the recommendation to provide to representatives, on a bilateral basis, more detailed information on climate change projects. He stressed that informal meetings of the Committee on topics of interest to its members could be held as required. Relevant information could also be included in regular meetings of the Committee. He said that a regional report on the state of cities in the Asia-Pacific region would be developed in the future. The secretariat had received a number of requests from countries in Asia for national state of cities reports.

60. The Executive Director stressed the paradigm shift that had been evident at the fourth session of AMCHUD in terms of urbanization and various concepts relating to national policy, the structure of cities and extended planned city enlargement. He drew attention to the fourth session of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, to be held in Amman in December 2012.

Item 7
Six-monthly country activities report

61. Introducing the item, the Executive Director drew attention to the six-monthly country activities report (HSP/CPR/46/7), which contained information about the activities under way in various countries. The project portfolio was valued at some $219 million in 2012, and field activities were progressing well.
62. He drew attention to the changing distribution of activities in accordance with the realignment of focus areas. Activities were already under way on urban legislation and urban planning against the backdrop of management reform, governance review, the elaboration of a new portfolio and the continuing financial crisis.

63. One representative drew attention to discrepancies related to activities in his country, while another sought clarification on a specific project in Asia and the Pacific.

**Item 8**

**Progress report on the governance review process**

64. The chair of the open-ended consultative group on the governance review process provided an overview of progress in the process. He briefly recalled the terms of reference for the third phase of the process, referring to the progress achieved so far, including the work done by the four task force teams linked to the examination of identified governance challenges and the drafting of a comparative analysis of different governance models. Steps ahead included the drafting, in October and November 2012, of a report on the different governance reform options and their implications, following which, on the basis of the findings of the report, work would proceed towards trying to find consensus on a preferred governance option. Finally, following resolution 23/13, the process should be finalized with the development of an action plan for submission to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, if possible.

65. Following the completion of the work by the task force teams in March 2012, a consultant had been recruited to assist in the drafting of the report and to work under the guidance of the consultative group. In October, a mission to New York had been undertaken jointly by the chair, the secretariat and the consultant with the twofold objective of gathering additional information on the functioning of other funds and programmes of the United Nations and engaging the Secretariat and Member States in the governance review process from a different perspective and in the context of broader reform trends in the United Nations.

66. The chair drew attention to a number of preliminary findings of the comparative analysis, and concluded that work done to date pointed to the fact that, although there was scope for managerial and incremental reforms, further structural change would be required in order to achieve improved efficiency, transparency and accountability. In closing, he expressed his gratitude to members of the Committee and the secretariat for their efforts.

67. A number of representatives thanked the chair of the open-ended consultative group for his report and for chairing the governance review so ably.

68. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that an improved governance structure would be a major step towards enhancing efficiency, accountability and transparency and therefore positive for raising funds for the organization. It was important to maintain the momentum of the governance review as it entered a new phase.

69. Another representative said that the process was entering a key stage. Discussions in the group had resulted in options that could contribute to a more efficient, effective, transparent, participatory and productive governance process. Each of the options was important and had its own advantages.

70. The chair of the open-ended consultative group said that he had gained the impression during his mission to New York that UN-Habitat had a sound reputation and prestige. The core friends of UN-Habitat and those who were committed to urban sustainable development were reaching a critical mass of countries, which, through the Second Committee, would be afforded an opportunity to state their views in support of UN-Habitat as an important and responsible programme. He commended members of the Committee for their engagement in the governance review process and urged them to maintain contact with missions in New York in moving the process forward.

71. One representative drew attention to outstanding work with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and emphasized the need for careful consideration of work in line with the work of the governance review process and adequate consideration of the evolution of UNEP in terms of universal membership and the strengthening of the Programme.

72. A number of representatives looked forward to continuing work on the governance review and to the implementation of incremental changes. One sought clarification on the evolution of the process in the future.

73. One representative suggested that there was a lack of consensus on the options presented in the consultant’s report and recommended the addition of further options. She welcomed attempts to
improve governance, including strengthening the functionality of UN-Habitat. She highlighted the importance of distinguishing between governance and management and, in so doing, of understanding concerns regarding the relationship between UN-Habitat and the United Nations Office at Nairobi and any failures in that regard. She welcomed the enhancement of relationships with other groups and entities, including donors, as options for governance reform were being developed, provided that UN-Habitat was not distorted by other groups. She welcomed the opportunity to include a review of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and to consider as an option a move to universal membership of the Governing Council to enhance the voice of member States and strengthen accountability.

74. One representative expressed support for the reform of the governance of UN-Habitat in a manner that would enhance the participation of countries. He asked for further updates on the governance review process in the context of the General Assembly, including timelines and information about how the issue would be taken up by the Assembly.

75. The chair of the consultative group said that the consultant was currently drafting the report on the examination of different governance reform options, including the findings of the mission to New York as an input. The representatives of permanent missions in New York were working on a draft resolution on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the UN-Habitat in the Second Committee on the basis of various inputs. The draft resolution would likely be finalized by the end of November. A paragraph on the work of the governance review process could be expected.

76. The open-ended consultative group had been afforded the opportunity to provide input on the way forward. A meeting of the consultative group would be convened to analyse the report on the examination of governance options currently under development and to discuss the options proposed. He noted that the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and next steps in order to implement “The future we want” would be considered and included in the governance review process.

Item 9
Any other matters

77. One representative sought clarification regarding the outcome of a gender review of the strategic plan 2014–2019 and asked whether the recommendations of the review would be incorporated into the plan.

78. The representative of the secretariat, Mr. Mutizwa-Mangiza, said that the report by the gender unit had been circulated during the previous week. Given that the strategic plan was a negotiated document that had taken a year to finalize, it would not be changed to include the recommendations of the review but, rather, indicators on gender issues might be added in the action plan for the implementation of the plan.

79. The Chair drew attention to concerns raised immediately after the twenty-third session of the Governing Council regarding the proliferation of draft resolutions for sessions of the Council and the financial implications thereof.

80. The Bureau had proposed that, without prejudice to the rights of member States, first, as far as possible, no more than 10 draft resolutions should be considered at any session of the Governing Council; secondly, as far as possible, draft resolutions to be considered at a session of the Council should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the first meeting of the Bureau of the Governing Council; and thirdly, the proponents of draft resolutions should attach a financial plan, developed in consultation with the secretariat, to each draft resolution. Such measures would facilitate, expedite and streamline the process of considering draft resolutions.

81. A number of representatives expressed their support for the recommendation.

82. One representative requested that wording be included to ensure that member States could submit draft resolutions in case of emergency.

83. One representative said that spirit of the proposal was positive and should be considered further. He noted, however, that the wording should be changed to reflect the fact that presenting the financial implications of draft resolutions was the responsibility not of the proponents of draft resolutions but of the secretariat.

84. Another representative, noting that the proposal represented a positive step towards tackling a significant problem, suggested that as many as 10 different issues could be tackled in one omnibus draft resolution, thereby reducing the time required for the negotiation of wording.
85. One representative said that the matter under consideration had far-reaching implications and should therefore be accorded due consideration by a working group of the Committee in preparation for the Governing Council session.

86. The representative of the secretariat, Mr. Chris Mensah, stressed that what was being proposed was without prejudice to the right of member States to submit draft resolutions for consideration up until the second day of the session of the Governing Council and, furthermore, that the Committee could submit a recommendation to the Council for its consideration of the matter. The Council could then adopt a decision in that regard with the objective of streamlining the number and ensuring the quality of the draft resolutions.

87. The recommendation would not prejudice the right of any member State to exercise its rights and would not preclude the submission of draft resolutions but would set out suggestions related to their submission. The issue had been raised at the present meeting with a view to ensuring that the matter was considered in advance of the session, given that concerns had been raised by Committee members following the twenty-third session of the Council.

88. He concurred that the financial implications of any draft resolution would have to be worked out by the secretariat rather than by the State proponent. The Committee had no objection to the proposal as amended for submission as a recommendation to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session.

**Closure of the meeting**

89. The meeting was declared closed at 1.20 p.m.