HABITAT III RESOLUTION PROGRAMME BUDGET (PBI) FOR 2013

The objective of the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) will be to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable urban development, assessing accomplishments to date and identifying and addressing new and emerging challenges. With the first Preparatory Committee (Prepcom) meeting planned to take place in early 2014, UN-Habitat will need to begin preparation of substantive documentation in 2013.

This will require undertaking a global assessment of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda adopted by Governments at Habitat II in 1996, as well as of other internationally agreed goals and targets relevant to housing and sustainable urban development, including the MDGs.

A global assessment project will be launched, to assess progress and identify emerging trends at national, regional and global levels. The secretariat would be required to: (a) facilitate consultations of experts to formulate country and regional assessment reports as inputs to the global dialogues prepared on the basis of guidelines provided by UN-Habitat, (b) organize interactive platforms for debate and exchange at various international fora and through the use of internet platforms, (c) undertake advisory missions to ensure harmonized inputs to the assessment process, and (d) prepare national / regional and issues-based analysis that provide a basis for national Governments to identify emerging and address issues of concern.

Five regional assessment reports will be prepared on the basis of the country reports. Finally, one global assessment report will be prepared on the basis of the regional reports.

These activities had not been foreseen in the present Programme Budget for 2012-2013. There is some limited capacity within UN-Habitat to absorb these implied costs through its existing work programme. Currently the Governing Council Secretariat is comprised of one D1 post and three General Service Staff whose primary responsibilities are the servicing of the Governing Council, the Committee of Permanent Representatives and ad hoc working group session which meet on a weekly basis.

UN-Habitat’s seven sub-programmes will be able to dedicate 2 work weeks per branch to support the coordination of activities, participation of key stakeholders and oversee the design and review of all documentation, tools and methodologies used. Currently due to financial constraints, UN-Habitat is intending to maintain a staff vacancy rate of approximately 23%, and therefore does not have the required personnel to undertake in a concerted manner these complex assessments, in a coordinated manner over an extended period of time in 2013. Nevertheless these tasks must be undertaken if documentation and analysis are to be ready in time for the first Prepcom meeting in 2014.

Therefore the human resources listed below are required during 2013:

- 5 consultants, P5 level, 4 months each, to prepare 5 regional assessment reports ($220,000)
  This would require gathering data at national level, liaison with regional bodies on issues of urbanization and sustainable human settlements, preparations of analytical reports which will contribute to the preparation of substantive documentation for the preparatory conference.
1 consultant, D1 level 12 months, to prepare a global assessment report ($144,000)
This would require a senior professional to design and coordinate assessment methodologies and activities undertaken by consultants working at regional to synthesize and provide a global perspective on emerging trends, issues for action, regional divergences and lessons learnt.

1 consultant, for 8 months, to work on data and indicators required for the assessments ($80,000). This would involve the creation of an online platform to facilitate member states to report on key indicators of achievement, to undertake statistical analysis and develop and/or update relevant comparative matrices on a wide variety of human settlement related issues.

1 consultant, for 12 months, to manage the assessment project and design relevant assessment tools, methodologies and related products. ($120,000) This would involve providing backstopping support to National Habitat Committees, the development of various guides and tools to create awareness and engage partners in the assessment process, project management of assessments at national, regional levels and global levels.

In addition, financial resources are required for two global meetings, as follows:

- One expert group meeting (about 25 experts) to discuss the design and implementation of the global assessment project before it is launched [approx. US$70,000]
- One global Virtual Conference using internet platform (about 100 people) to discuss the results of the assessments, i.e., the regional and global assessment reports [approx. US$65,000]
- Missions and Regional Assessment Workshops [150,000]
- Documentation, translations and printing [50,000]

It is assumed that a paper-smart approach will be adopted. This will, however, require additional IT support, which would be covered from the traditional distribution budget. It is expected, nonetheless, that the cost of a paper-smart meeting will be slightly lower than normal paper distribution. It is also envisaged that e-discussions of the documents assessing the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and other internationally agreed goals relevant to human settlements will be organized before the First Session of the Preparatory Committee (during the first half of 2014) in order to minimise time spent on the documents during the Session itself.

Total: $899,000