FIFTIETH REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO UN-HABITAT

Report on Preparations for the 68th Session of the General Assembly

Statement

By

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Agenda Item 4

18 September 2013
Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Representatives,

As has been done every year in the past, **UN-Habitat has prepared a draft of the Secretary-General’s report** 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)”. The **draft report was submitted to the Secretary-General’s Office in mid-August and was approved** before the end of that month. The report is **now being edited** in New York and will shortly be available for distribution. The **report will be distributed to all members of the CPR** as soon as it becomes available, most likely before the end of this month.

**I will present this report to the Second Committee of the General Assembly**, on behalf of the Secretary-General, in either October or November 2013. The report will be the **basis of the General Assembly’s discussion of the human settlements agenda item and of its annual resolution on the same topic**, normally adopted by the end of December.

The **report contains a summary of the outcomes of the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat that relate to policy**. In particular, it highlights the content of eight Governing Council resolutions, including those on “World Cities Day”, “Inputs for and support to the preparatory process of the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)” and “Strategic plan for 2014-2019 and the work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2014-2015”.

The **report also describes progress made in the implementation of three major issues highlighted in General Assembly resolution 67/216**: firstly, preparations for the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III); secondly, review of the governance of UN-Habitat; and thirdly, UN-Habitat’s input to the post-2015 United Nations development agenda.

Further, the **report describes significant programme activities undertaken during the reporting period**, i.e.: the sixth session of the World Urban Forum and preparations for the seventh session of the Forum; publication of the State of World’s Cities 2013/2013 report; World Habitat Day 2012; and regional ministerial meetings on housing and urban development. The report concludes with a number of recommendations relating to both human settlements policy matters and Habitat III.
Mr. Chairman, I would also like to **highlight a number of events that will be held during the 68th session of the General Assembly**, for which we are making preparations.

On 23rd September, a **‘Special Event on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements at the Core of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda’** will be held in New York. This event is organized by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), in the context of the opening of the High Level Political Forum, which will be replacing the Commission on Sustainable Development. I am scheduled to speak at this event, alongside the President of the General Assembly, Ambassador John William Ashe, and Mayor Kadir Topbas of Istanbul.

As you may know already, the President of the 68th session of the UN General Assembly, Ambassador John Ashe, will host a **Special Event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals** on 25 September 2013. I have been invited to speak in Roundtable 1 of this event, which will be chaired by South Africa and Turkey.

As you may also know already, this year **World Habitat Day in New York will be celebrated on 4 October**. The New York observance of World Habitat Day is promising to be an exciting event. A number of eminent persons have already confirmed their participation. These include the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon; the USA Secretary for Housing and Urban Development, Honourable Shaun Donovan; Mayor Dawn Zimmer of Hoboken, New Jersey; **Ambassador Nestor Osorio**, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations, who is also President of ECOSOC; and the New York City Director of Resiliency, Mr. Daniel Zarilli. I would like to invite members of the CPR who will be in New York to participate in World Habitat Day celebrations there.

Perhaps the most important event for UN-Habitat is the **Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) session from 6 to 10 January 2014, which will focus on Sustainable Cities** during the first 2 days. As I have already indicated under agenda item 3, this session will also focus on Sustainable Transport, Sustainable Consumption and Production, as well as Climate Change and Resilience.

Mr. Chairman, this brings me to the end of my statement on this agenda item.

Thank you for your attention.