Proposed Working Methods of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

Statement

By

Dr. Joan Clos
Executive Director

Agenda Item 8

18 September 2013
FIFTIETH (50th) REGULAR MEETING OF THE CPR

18 September 2013

Agenda Item 8: Proposed Working Methods of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

Executive Director’s Introductory Statement

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

As you may recall, during the 49th meeting of the CPR in June this year, we had discussions on the proposal put forward by the secretariat on strengthening our engagement with the CPR. Based upon that CPR meeting and subsequent discussions in the Working Group on Planning held on 11 September 2013 and in the Bureau meeting of 11 September 2013, we have refined the proposal, taking into account recommendations emanating from all those meetings and discussions.

In the document, we are basically making four specific proposals for your consideration.

(a) The first proposal is the creation of “subcommittees of the CPR” which will continue with the work currently being done by the Working Groups. This, however, does not preclude the establishment of working groups by the CPR or the subcommittees when needed to discuss specifically assigned issues. We propose two subcommittees. One subcommittee which will deal with Finance and Administrative issues will:

(i) Discuss and advise on budgetary, financial and administrative issues of UN-Habitat;

(ii) Engage Member States in meeting the challenges of building a financially secured and operationally effective organization; and

(iii) Deal with any other matters referred to it by the CPR, including guidance and support to the Secretariat in resource mobilization.

The other subcommittee which will deal with policy and will oversee the programme of work will:

(i) Review progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2014-2019 and of the Plan itself, in addition to the Strategic Framework 2016-2017;

(ii) Review and discuss the programme of work, including on the status of implementation of resolutions emanating from the Governing Council and the seven subprogrammes of UN-Habitat;
(iii) Discuss and give inputs to preparations for the Governing Council sessions, Habitat III, the Post-2015 Agenda, Sustainable Development Goals and World Urban Forum Sessions; and

(iv) Act on any other matters referred to it by the CPR.

(b) The second proposal is that the Agenda for the CPR regular meetings be designed with a view to introducing thematic and country focused presentations. You will recall that under Agenda Item 6 on the Country Activities Report, we have done a trial presentation on our work in Somalia. We hope this has been helpful. We will try as much as possible to make such presentations regionally balanced throughout the year and also to involve the countries we discuss.

(c) The third proposal is that the Provisional Agenda for the CPR regular meetings allow for subsequent incorporation of new agenda items by both Member States and UN-Habitat. This you may agree is a practical issue which is already operating because for the 49th meeting of the CPR and for this current 50th meeting, the Bureau met one week before the CPR meetings and considered the Agenda, including making changes and has reported such changes to the CPR members.

(d) The fourth proposal is that a mechanism be established within the CPR to discuss issues of sustainable development. The idea here is to have structured discussion developed in Nairobi on the integration of UN-Habitat’s work into the broader sustainable development agenda. The issues raised during such discussions would be reflected in the sustainable development discussions in New York, including in the future sustainable development Agenda.

We believe that an organized form of discussion on relevant sustainable development issues in Nairobi will have the advantage of informing and enhancing effectively the advocacy of the Organization, targeting both UN institutions in New York and Member States. These discussions will include the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals. As agreed during the discussions on this matter by the CPR Working Group on 11 September 2013 and in the Bureau meeting on the same day, this mechanism will be established under the subcommittee on Programmes. The one area where we need your guidance is in the level of representation during such discussions. We are open to suggestions from you.

Mr. Chairman, we look forward to the CPR’s guidance on the four proposals, taking note of the fact that what is before you is based upon recommendations arising from the Working Group meeting held on 11 September 2013 and the Bureau meeting on 11 September 2013.

I thank you for your attention.