Background on the Preparations for the twenty-fifth session of
the Governing Council of UN-Habitat

1. Preparations for the up-coming twenty-fifth session of the UN-Habitat Governing Council (GC25), which is scheduled from 20-24 April 2015 has commenced. It is significant to note that there may be a slight modification in the dates as a result of the date for the second PrepCom for Habitat III which is scheduled to be held in Nairobi the week before the Governing Council. Any change in date will be communicated as soon as a decision is made and in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council.

2. The following paragraphs detail the documents required for the preparations towards GC25:

   a) **Provisional Agenda for the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council (GC25)**

   As required by the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council, the Provisional Agenda for the next session is always decided upon by the previous session. Accordingly, the Agenda for the twenty–fifth session of the Governing Council, albeit provisionally, was decided by the twenty-fourth session in April 2013. (see copy of the Agenda for GC25 attached as Annex I).

   b) **Proposed Organization of work and time table for GC 25**

   The attached draft organizational time table shows how the schedule of work will look like during the week of the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council and it is based upon the dates of 20-24 April 2014 and may be subject to change. The time table covers inter-alia, the Bureau meetings, the Plenary including the High Level Segment and Dialogue on the Special Themes. (see copy attached as Annex II).

   c) **List of Reports and other related documents before GC25**

   The Governing Council will have before it, reports and other forms of documentation prepared by UN-Habitat on actions and activities under taken by the Organization in response to requests by previous Governing Council sessions to the Executive Director. The bulk of the debates and discussions during GC 25 will center around these reports which may culminate into further request to the Executive Director in the form of resolutions.
d) **Important time lines in the preparation for GC25**

This document contains the time lines established by the United Nations General Assembly for submission of documentation. (see copy attached to e-mail as Annex III).

3. There is a time sequence within which the Bureau of the Governing Council is expected to select the Special theme for GC25 pursuant to Resolution 20/21 of April 2005. Specifically, the resolutions states that: the theme shall “be selected by the Bureau of the Governing Council at least six months before the start of each session of the Governing Council, on the basis of advice from the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of the Permanent Representatives, taking into account the outcome of the sessions of the World Urban Forum and the requirements for a continuing focus on the implementation and monitoring of the goal of the Millennium Declaration on improving the lives of slums dwellers” (see copy of Past Themes attached as Annex IV.)

4. It is noted that CPR has cautioned against too many resolutions and late submissions of resolutions. In addition, Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council requires the Executive Director to prepare statement of financial implications of implementing any proposal involving the expenditure of United Nations Funds, including that of the Foundation before the Governing Council could approve such a proposal.

5. Finally, the date for the second PrepCom for the up-coming Habitat III conference which will be held in Nairobi is the week before the Governing Council. The exact date will be communicated in due course.