Introduction

The purpose of the note is to provide the CPR Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work an update on the status of the preparations of PrepCom I for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).

Habitat III PrepComs

In December 2012, the General Assembly, through resolution 67/216, established the Habitat III Preparatory Committee (PrepCom). The first meeting of the PrepCom will be held in New York from 17-18 September 2014. The second meeting of the PrepCom will be held in Nairobi in 2015 for three days around the 25th session of the UN-Habitat Governing Council in an effort to minimize costs. The venue of the third PrepCom has yet to be decided.

1. PREPARATORY AND PROCEDURAL UPDATE

A. Resource Mobilisation

In December 2013, the UN General Assembly allocated US$ 2,073,700 for the Habitat III preparatory process for the 2014-2015 biennium (section 15 of the Regular Budget). A further amount of US$ 1,063,000 was allocated under General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs and Conference Management (section 2 of the Regular Budget) for the organization of the first two Habitat III PrepCom meetings. The Habitat III Trust Fund is currently fully operational with a target of US$ 9 million in 2014/2015. To date there is a pipeline of approx. US$ 800,000, which includes potential contributions from Spain, France, and Nigeria.

B. Habitat III Secretariat

The Secretary-General of the Conference established the Habitat III Secretariat in February 2014. Since then, a Programme Management Officer and a consultant based in New York have been recruited. Three support staff positions, two in New York and one in Nairobi have been advertised, and recruitment is underway. While the recruitment process for the other Habitat III Secretariat positions is ongoing, the Secretary-General of the Conference appointed a Temporary Habitat III Coordination Team within UN-Habitat in May 2014. The Team will ensure that there is continued progress in the preparatory processes leading up to Habitat III until the Secretariat is fully formed up.

C. Documentation

i) Procedural Documentation:

In view of the tight two-day schedule, the Secretary-General of the Conference plans to propose a realistic Draft Provisional Agenda, as attached. In addition to the letter that was sent to Governments in February 2014 with preliminary information on PrepCom I, a Convocation Letter will soon follow which will provide further information to Governments including a request to nominate participants to PrepCom I. Furthermore, letters to Chairs of the Regional Groups requesting them to nominate representatives to the Bureau have been prepared. Draft recommendations on Accreditation and draft Rules of Procedure have been submitted to the Office of Legal Affairs for review and recommendation. Subsequently, these documents will be submitted to the PrepCom for discussions and guidance of member states.
**ii) Substantive Documentation:**

As mandated by the United Nations General Assembly in its Resolution 67/216, the Secretary-General of the Conference is required to propose to the Preparatory Committee an improved participation of local authorities and other stakeholders in the preparatory process and the conference itself, building on the positive experience enabled by the rules and procedures of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and the inclusive engagement modalities of Habitat II.” In this respect, UN-Habitat is preparing a paper that compiles inputs of UN system organizations and other partners to the Habitat III preparatory process. A UN inter-agency task force has been established in that regard and is operational.

UN-Habitat has developed guidelines for the preparations of Habitat III national reports, which have been translated into six languages. These have been developed with widely solicited inputs from Member States, UN system organisations and Habitat Agenda partners through various processes including meetings and e-consultation with Member States.

Subsequent to the preparation of national reports, regional reports will be prepared and submitted to the regional preparatory process for discussion through inter-governmental meetings.

Furthermore, UN-Habitat is preparing a progress report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on outcomes of Habitat II, with substantive inputs from a wide variety of partners, and drawing on national data and inputs from national reports as they arrive.

2. **SUBSTANTIVE UPDATE**

   **A. An option for the organisation of PrepCom I**

Given the short two-day time frame for PrepCom I, its structure and organisation must be effective and efficient so as to lay the foundation towards the outcome of the Habitat III conference itself. In this respect, the Secretary-General of the conference may propose to the Bureau for its consideration an arrangement similar to the above illustrated organisation.

1. **Plenary:** The Plenary would normally be expected to provide a platform for general debate by delegations. This debate could include, but not be limited to, progress made since Habitat II by Member States.

2. **Working Group I Participation & Procedures:** This Working Group could look into the participation of non-state actors such as local authorities, civil society organisations and other major groups. This group could also discuss rules of procedure and accreditation.

3. **Working Group II Towards a New Urban Agenda:** This Working Group could engage in innovative dialogue and lay the foundation the substantive discussion.
A. Partners and Stakeholders

As stated earlier, the General Assembly, through its Resolution 67/216, called for the Secretary-General of the Conference to make proposals to the Preparatory Committee, at its first session, on the improved participation of local authorities and other partners. The GA requires that proposals should build on the positive experience of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, and particularly, the inclusive engagement arrangements of Habitat II, held in Istanbul in 1996. To this end, a process has begun to seek input from a broad array of organizations within the 9 proposed partner groups (local authorities, NGOs & CBOs including Faith-Based Organisations and Human Solidarity Groups, Parliamentarians, Human settlements & urbanization specialist communities including professionals, researchers, & academia, Business & Industries, Foundations & Financial Institutions, Women, Youth & Children and Indigenous People), on improved participation.

Engagement with the broader UN Development Group through the Development Operations Coordination Office (DOCO) is also being undertaken.

In order that the Conference reflects the voices of the people and organisations which work in the area of housing and urban development, a survey will be administered to feed into national, regional and global processes. It is envisaged that national associations of local governments will facilitate the local level consultations.

B. New Urban Agenda

UN-Habitat along with other UN agencies and stakeholders is undertaking a rigorous analysis of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda since the Habitat II conference. From this process, progress made, gaps and emerging challenges in various key areas will be identified.

It is hoped that the new urban agenda will deliver transformative change and provide an innovative, integrated approach on sustainable urban development. The new urban agenda will be universal but adaptable to specific country circumstances.