Agenda Item 9:

Report on the Work of the Subcommittees of the CPR (HSP/CPR/56/9)
56th Regular Meeting of the CPR

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (CPR).

A) Subcommittees of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

The Subcommittees of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) held eleven (11) meetings between 5th December 2014 and 11 March 2015. The following meetings of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of work and the Subcommittee on Finance and Administration took place:

1. **Thirtieth** meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR): Discussions on UN-Habitat’s work in the area of Climate Change; 5 December 2014

2. **Thirty first** meeting of the Subcommittee of the Permanent Representatives (CPR) on Policy and Programme of Work: Discussions on the preparations for the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat (GC25), specifically the theme of the GC 25 . 10 December 2014


5. **Thirty-fourth** Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Discussions on the Preparations of the GC25 - Theme paper for the GC25

6. **Thirty-fifth** Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Briefing on the CPR Field visit to Rwanda


8. **Thirty-seventh** Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Briefing on Habitat III and Prepcom II

10. **Thirty-ninth** Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Discussions on the Preparations of the GC25 – Potential GC25 Resolutions

11. **Fourtieth** Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Briefing and Discussions on the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Sendai, Japan 14-18 March 2015

Details of these meetings have been highlighted in this document.

**B) Other meetings of the CPR Members**

Other meetings of the CPR Members that took place within the reporting period as follows;

1. Executive Director’s briefing to the UNEP CPR with extended Invitation to UN-Habitat CPR Members (Joint CPR): briefing of the Members of the UNEP Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) on UNEP and UN-Habitat cooperation with a focus on “Greener Cities Partnership”

2. Five Meetings of the Regional Groups and the Co-Facilitators on the Governance Review Process

3. Familiarization Seminar For CPR Members ; To provide new and relatively new members of the CPR an opportunity for familiarization with the Organisation, Mandate, Structure, Work programme and Governance of UN-Habitat

4. Consultative Meeting with the CPR by the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director to: i)debrief on the CPR field Visit to the Republic of Rwanda; ii)To brief members on the Budget Structure of UN-Habitat and UMOJA implementation, and iii)To hold a special dialogue on the work of UN-Habitat focusing on the Global Land Tool Network

5. Meetings of the Executive Director with the Regional Groups: Discussions on the Preparations for the GC25 (on going as at the time of this Report).

**C) Field Visit To The Republic of Rwanda By CPR Members**

Members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives undertook a two-day field Visit to the Republic of Rwanda that gave a firsthand impression of UN-Habitat’s operational activities and technical support work in that Country. The visit also included High level meetings with officials of the Government of the Republic of Rwanda, the highlight of which was a meeting with the President of the Republic of Rwanda.
OVERVIEW OF THE CPR SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

1. Thirtieth meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR): Discussions on UN-Habitat’s work in the area of Climate Change: 5 December 2014

The Meeting was a briefing on UN-Habitat’s work on Climate change and also focused on the outcomes of the Secretary General’s Climate Change summit held in September 2014. It was stated that the organization initiated climate change activities in 2008 with work in four cities. This work had since expanded to more than forty (40) cities globally. An urbanLEDs – ‘Promoting low emission urban development strategies’ - project with ICLEI in four countries as well as the Myanmar climate change alliance in partnership with UNEP were ongoing. Climate Change was one of the cross cutting thematic issues for UN-Habitat and had seen the development of the 2011 Global Report on Human Settlements focused on Climate Change, contribution at the Global level to the Intergovernmental panel on climate change 5th assessment report, and to several national climate change policies and city level strategies.

It was stated that the programme had been engaged in 2014 Climate Summit with the Executive Director leading the cities work stream. The objective of the summit was to mobilize political will for a meaningful, universal climate agreement at COP-21 in 2015, and catalyze ambitious action on the ground new multi- partner initiatives. The launch of the City Initiative under the summit led to the Compact of Mayors and the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance, Urban Electric Mobility Initiative and Resilient Cities Acceleration Initiative. The programme had also actively participated in the UNFCCC processes which saw first ‘Cities’ Day, led by the Deputy Executive Director at CoP 19.

UN-Habitat had also applied to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to be accredited as an Implementing Agency and this was pending approval since 2009. It had also applied to the Adaptation Fund.

Member stated they wanted clarity on why most projects were concentrated in Asia particularly on ecosystem based adaptation. Support for and replication of the EC financed Myanmar Climate change alliance project was echoed. They recommended projects on Green buildings certification. They sought additional understanding on the roles of executing and accreditation Agencies to GEF and emphasized. They saw CoP 21 as opportunity to further integrate cities into the UNFCCC process and the outcomes agreement of the COP. Recommendations were made for a focus on mitigation alongside adaptation measures for local activities and work with developed countries on energy.
2. Thirty first meeting of the Subcommittee of the Permanent Representatives (CPR) on Policy and Programme of Work: Discussions on the preparations for the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat (GC25), specifically the theme of the GC 25. 10 December 2014

Following several informal meetings of ‘Friends of the Chair’ on the theme of the GC 25 between 4 and 10 December 2014, the committee was presented with a negotiated text agreed upon in those informal meeting for the theme of the GC 25. The following text was approved by this CPR subcommittee meeting as the theme of the GC25.

**Theme of the GC25: “UN-Habitat’s Contribution to the Post-2015 Development Agenda in Order to Promote Sustainable Urban Development and Human Settlements”**

**Sub-theme One: “Enhancing Urban-Rural Linkages Across the Continuum of Human Settlements to Harness the Transformative Power of Urbanization for Sustainable Development”**

**Sub-theme Two: “UN-Habitat’s Role in the Post-2015 Development Agenda”**

The Secretariat was tasked with the preparation of the draft theme paper based on the agreed theme to be presented to the Subcommittee within the month of January 2015.


Following the decision of the during 55th regular meeting of the CPR delegating the CPR subcommittee to further discuss the work programme and budget, the subcommittee meeting on the work programme took place on Monday 15 December 2014. Extensive discussions focused on the procedures for amending the Strategic plan as well as the specific reviews of areas of concern in the strategic framework and the work programme and budget. Below is a summary of key points from that meeting:

- members reiterated the need to allow the secretariat to move forward with its work by allowing the work program and budget to be forwarded to the ACABQ, in sensitivity to the timelines
- members requested the Executive Director to write a letter to the ACABQ noting concerns raised by some members on the work programme and the strategic framework
- members requested the Executive Director to share that letter with them
- members to an extent shared their specific areas of concern, one of these being para 26 of the plan regarding Habitat III, other areas had to do with the text of the strategic framework
- Members agreed to forward the areas of concern to the secretariat in a written form
Members agreed that the Subcommittee bring the issues of concern through the CPR for further discussions including the possibility of onward discussions at the GC25 with a view to resolution on the matter to enable consideration by the CPC.
- The Chair guided that the discussions needed to continue through the CPR subcommittee in the new year (2015).

Follow-up actions were:
- members to provide their concerns in writing to the secretariat
- secretariat to submit the document to the ACABQ given the sensitive timelines
- the secretariat to share the letter from the ED to the ACABQ


This briefing gave an overview of both the mandate and process in the development of the draft International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning. The mandate was received primarily from the twenty fourth session of the Governing council through resolution 24/3 and which is aligned UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2014-2019.

The meeting was informed that the process of developing the draft guidelines had been a consultative one and based on case studies and experiences across the globe. Several expert group meetings had been organized in this regard and a consultative process with CPR members was being undertaken. The key pillars of the guidelines were said to be based in the three pillars of sustainability - environment, equity and economy. In the run up to the GC25, the draft guidelines were to be finalized and translated into six languages for distribution as part of GC25 documents. It was also expected that a resolution by members states on the guidelines may be drafted for consideration of GC.

Members wanted to know of any controversial issues that arose during the consultative process of developing the guidelines. The response was that these in were for example the right to the city which must respect national laws, the need to account for differences in countries in terms of authority for urban planning, the role of national governments in participatory planning.

Members said it was important to recognize in the guidelines that the responsibilities for planning is different for different countries and advised that language used in the guidelines should be less prescriptive even though the guidelines were not intended to be legally binding. They appreciated the comprehensive nature of the guidelines capturing both city and rural aspects and the three dimensions of sustainability, while transcending physical planning into implementation and policy integration. Members also offered to provide written suggestions and comments on the guidelines to the Secretariat.
Thirty-fourth Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Discussions on the Preparations of the GC25 - Theme paper for the GC25: 26 January 2015

Following several consultations on the theme of the GC 25, an agreement on the following theme was reached:

“The contribution of UN-Habitat to the Post-2015 Development Agenda: promoting sustainable urban development and human settlements” supported by two subthemes which are, Sub-theme One: “Enhancing urban-rural linkages across the continuum of human settlements to harness the transformative power of urbanization for sustainable development” and Sub-theme Two: “The role of UN-Habitat in the post-2015 development agenda”

The secretariat prepared the theme paper and shared its contents with members during the thirty-fourth subcommittee meeting. The paper, guided by the main theme and the two sub-themes of the GC 25 highlighted the prominent role of UN-Habitat in the process of the Post 2015 Development Agenda which resulted in the proposed goal on “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable” as well as the work on the targets for this goal and their linkages with UN-Habitat’s Strategic Framework.

Members noted the important clarifications made in the draft theme paper and the need for UN-Habitat to be prepared for its role whether as a standalone or cross cutting goal on cities and human settlements would be an outcome of the post 2015 Development Agenda discussions. They advised that more emphasis be placed on the rural urban linkages in paper as well as attention on governance linkages with local and national governments, among others. Members also gave specific comments on individual paragraphs and offered to provide written suggestion to the secretariat to strengthen the theme paper.

Thirty-fifth Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Briefing on the CPR Field visit to Rwanda: 2 February 2015

CPR members were briefed on the proposed field visit by CPR member to the Republic of Rwanda that was planned for 22-24 February 2015. This marked the third such visit following previously two visit to Kisumu, Kenya and Mozambique.. This particular visit was seen as important because it was an opportune moment for members to witness the activities of UN-Habitat in that country , especially, since UN-Habitat was one of the agencies that supported the reconstruction of Rwanda following the genocide and the fact that Rwanda had embraced the ‘ONE UN’ as delivery program. Furthermore, it was one of only five countries where UN-Habitat was testing the implementation of new urban agenda under the Achieving Sustainable Urban Development (ASUD) programme. The briefing provided details of UN-habitat’s activities in Rwanda spanning over 20 years.. These included physical interventions such as activities to reduce vulnerability from risks, Resettlement and housing construction, One-Stop Youth Centre, Gender-related projects as well as Water and sanitation
interventions. On technical assistance projects, UN-Habitat was supporting the National Urbanisation Policy, Strategic Development Framework, Master plan development, planning for intermediate cities as well as capacity building.


This meeting was briefed on the first Annual report under the UN-Habitat six year Strategic Plan 2014-2019, which had been previously shared with members. The report covered progress on activities for the year 2014 most of which were planned over the biennium 2014-2015. It was stated that the report analysed the progress made in 7 focus areas of UN-Habitat’s work the Programme Division, Office of Management & Cross-cutting Issues in 2014. It reflected the status of delivery of approved work programme outputs as in IMDIS and provided detailed information on progress towards expected accomplishments (EAs) at global, regional and country levels. The report highlighted the implementation rates of these activities as well as their budgetary expenditures. Percentages of implementation were placed at 81% by indicator and well on course with just 12% viewed as behind schedule.

Detailed explanation was given on expenditure from the regular budget, foundation general purpose budget, foundation special purpose and technical cooperation budgets, focusing on implementation rates and the utilization rates of these budgets for the year 2014.

Members advised that key findings of the report be included in the executive summary and highlights of areas where the organization is excelled and had challenges put affront. Additional information on individual activities as they relate with EAs was requested as part of the report in its annex. The Secretariat was asked to issue an updated Annual report for another discussion at the CPR subcommittee level.

Thirty-seventh Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Briefing on Habitat III and Prepcom II: 16 February 2015

The Subcommittee meeting on Habitat III updated members on the progress towards preparations for the Prepcom II and generally on Habitat III. It was stated that clear timelines, dates and venues had been set for Prepcom III and for the conference itself. The Prepcom III would be held in July 2016 in Indonesia while the Conference itself would be held in October 2016 in Ecuador.

The meeting informed that the agenda for Prepcom II to be held in Nairobi from 14-16 April 2015 had been made available and included, Organizational matters and the Progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of Habitat II and the New Urban Agenda. Briefing was also made on expected side and parallel events during the Prepcom II.
Participation at the Prepcom II was said to be open to all Members States. The deadline for receiving note verbales from participating members was stated as 13 April 2015. In addition, UN system organization, Intergovernmental organizations and Accredited stakeholders; among them parliamentarians, civil society organizations, regional and local government and municipality representatives, professionals and researchers, academia, foundations, women and youth groups, trade unions, the private sector and Media accredited by the United Nations, would participate in the Prepcom.

It was stated that financial support for LDCs had been made available by the Governments of Spain and Germany. The bureau of the Prepcom had also approved the development of 22 issue papers and documents to be prepared by the UN system to be available at Prepcom II. In addition, some twenty 20 policy meetings will take place after Prepcom II with 30 experts each and requests for such experts would be sent to members. It was indicated that the deadline for members states to apply to hold regional and thematic meetings had elapsed but some flexibility was being considered for late submissions.

Members wanted to know the status of national reports and regional reports. They also sought for clarity invitations letters to Prepcom II, side and parallel events during Prepcom II, the Prepcom II Agenda including the usage of the term “new urban agenda” in that context, the timing of the planned regional conference, expenditure on the 2014-2015 budget and expectations of the 2016-2017 budgets. They welcomed the opportunities for the conference to discuss all forms of human settlements and emphasized the need to settle the Rules of procedure Prepcom II.


At this meeting the secretariat provided an update on the status of the work programme and budget 2016-2017 document following several subcommittee consultative meetings held on the same during the months of November and December 2014. It was stated that the Document had been submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (AQABC) as previously agreed. It was also further stated that as requested by members of the CPR the Executive Director had written to the Chair of the ACABQ noting the concern raised by some CPR members on changes made to the language of the Strategic framework. That letter was shared with members prior to the meeting.

Members were also briefed that a request had been received from New York to further cut travel budget by 93,500 USD. That request also applied to all UN agencies. Additional requests for clarification on the document touching on substantive issues had also been received and to which the Executive Director had responded.
Following this update, members held discussion on the best way forward to address issues of concern with changes made in the document. The following two approaches were summarized as the options for members to follow in addressing the concerns.

1: A recommendation, through resolution of the Governing Council during GC25 to recommend reinserting or correcting the language.
2: Members could approach the CPC directly as members of those bodies.

**Thirty-ninth Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Discussions on the Preparations of the GC25 – Potential GC25 Resolutions: 18 February 2015**

At this meeting the Secretariat and the members sought to explore the potential resolutions that might be before the twenty-fifth session of the governing Council. The Secretariat outlined its expected resolutions to include work program and budget, theme of the governing council, potential changes in the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, particularly on the replacement of bureau members of the governing council, and perhaps a number of resolutions on thematic areas in relation to the strategic plan. Some of the thematic topics suggest were Guidelines on territorial planning, Local governance and risk reduction, among others. The secretariat suggested an ‘omnibus’ document that combined the various thematic issues in one resolution. Noting that the GC25 is special given its last one before Habitat III, the secretariat would hope to see a resolution on the strengthening of national ownership of UN-Habitat programs, institutional strengthening and improvement of business processes of the organization such fit for purpose alongside a resolution on Habitat III that could include the role of UN-Habitat in the outcomes of Habitat III. The secretariat however said the presentation of resolutions was the preserve of member states.

Members, speaking based on individual country interests, and appreciating the proposals of the Secretariat on resolutions, supported and added suggestions including Institutional and management matters, human resources, Work program and budget as related to changes in the language, local governance, Guidelines on territorial planning and Habitat III. Other members made it clear they were still consulting on potential resolutions and were willing to work jointly with other members on some of the resolutions being proposed.

**Fortieth Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Briefing and Discussions on the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Sendai, Japan 14-18 March 2015: 4 March 2015**

UN- Habitat briefed members on the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction that was to be held in Sendai, Japan from 14-18 March 2015, and in particular its role in that conference. The conference would produce the successor Framework to the Hyogo Framework for Action on Disaster Risk Reduction (HFA). The proposed successor Framework on Disaster Risk
Reduction ("HFA-2") aims for "The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses, in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural, environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries." achieve the following outcome over the next 15 years (2015-2030). UN-Habitat shared its work in the subprogramme on disaster risk reduction including the response to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, its work in Pakistan Myanmar and Ebola response as examples.

Noting that the Agency’s mandate in disaster risk reduction, response and recovery is derived from several General Assembly and General Council resolutions, it was stated that the HFA-2 would make clearer linkages between other factors that influence people’s vulnerabilities to major shocks, as well as contribute to the creation of new risks. These include lack of access to basic services, such as clean water and sanitation; social unrest and conflict; and a combination of human failures stemming in part from weak governance and institutional capacities. The Agency’s membership of the IASC and partnership with the ISDR was also noted.

Focusing on the Conference in Sendai, UN-Habitat was to be involved in the organization and preparation of several high-level and side events at WCDRR, including Ministerial roundtable on Reducing Disaster Risk in Urban Settings, Habitat III Side Event, High-level Event, Standards for DRR, including Building Codes, Ministerial roundtable on Reconstructing after Disasters: Building Back Better, Multi-stakeholder Working Session on Reducing Disaster Risk to Alleviate Poverty, Multi-stakeholder Working Session on Measuring and Reporting Progress, and several Public Forum and an exhibition on Habitat III.

UN-Habitat had two primary expected outcomes from Sendai agreement on disaster risk reduction – HFA-2 i.e i) Strengthened recognition of, and support for, the role of urbanization as a force for positive transformative change that can close equity gaps, drive sustainable development, and address emerging threats, such as climate change and ii) Recognition of UN-Habitat’s mandate and role in leading the urban related-elements of the new DRR framework towards Habitat III and beyond.

Members requested a follow up session to review the outcomes of the Sendai conference. They sought clarification on why the successor HFA-2 will be 15-year commitment and not 10 years like HFA’s and this was tied to the realization that development takes a while as a lesson from the initial HFA. They cautioned on the need for coherence between the goals of all post-2015 Development Agenda and the HFA-2 and other global commitments including COP21 and Habitat III. They also requested a matrix that links the disaster risk work with the subprogrammes of UN-Habitat, alongside a formal definition of sustainable urbanization from the organization. Emphasis was laid on the need to focus also on disaster prevention.