MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Carlos G. Ruiz Massieu
Chairman
ACABQ

From: Dr. Joan Clos
Executive Director
UN-Habitat

Reference: UNH-OED-M-20150115-1
Date: 15 January 2015

Subject: UN-Habitat Draft Work Programme and Budget for the Biennium 2016-2017

I wish to refer to the ongoing review of the UN-Habitat draft work programme and budget for the biennium 2016-2017 and to inform you that the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on 3 December 2014 recommended that UN-Habitat submits the work programme and budget for 2016-2017 to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for its review and recommendations on the Foundation resources. The report of the ACABQ will be submitted to the next Governing Council of UN-Habitat to be held in April 2015.

I would like to bring to your attention that subsequent to the above-mentioned recommendation, part of the outputs and resources financed by Regular Budget for the Habitat III conference have been included in the UN-Habitat draft work programme and budget for 2016-2017 in accordance with the oral statement of programme implications arising from the draft resolution A/C.2/69/L.62, entitled “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)”. These resources have been assigned as a single line under Executive Direction and Management and will be managed by me in my capacity as the Secretary-General of the Habitat III Conference, through the Habitat III Secretariat which is already established.
I further wish the Committee to note that the CPR raised concerns over the way in which amendments to the strategic framework 2016-2017 were made after the document had been consulted with the CPR in December 2013, to conform to the instructions of the UN Controller to reduce the length of the document by twenty percent, and without recourse to the CPR. Some delegations were particularly concerned about the deletion of relevant policy elements and the addition of a paragraph describing the role of UN-Habitat as the Secretariat of Habitat III conference.

I should also note that since the consideration and adoption of the Strategic Framework by the Committee of Programme and Coordination in June 2014, the Secretariat of the Habitat III Conference has been established and is fully operational. The first meeting of the Preparatory Committee was held in September 2014, and elected the Bureau of the PrepCom. The second PrepCom will be held in Nairobi in April 2015. The General Assembly decided in its resolution on “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)” of 2014 that the Conference itself will be held in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016 and that the third PrepCom will be held in Indonesia in July 2016. UN-Habitat is working closely with the Habitat III Secretariat in mobilizing substantive support to the Conference. The Habitat III Secretariat has taken the responsibilities for the preparation of the Conference including the preparation of regional reports and the global report, drawing on the expertise of the entire UN System, including the Regional Commissions, in line with OP9 of General Assembly resolution 68/239.

The CPR and the UN-Habitat Secretariat will continue and finalize consultations on the specific areas of concern to be revised in the work programme and budget and in the strategic framework.

CC:
Mr. Johannes Huisman, Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division
H.E. Mr. Michal Mlynar, Permanent Representative of Slovakia to UN-Habitat and Chair of UN-Habitat Committee of Permanent Representatives
Ms. Shari Klugman, Executive Secretary, ACABQ Secretariat