Agenda Item 10:

Report on the Work of the Subcommittees of the CPR (HSP/CPR/60/10)
60TH Regular Meeting of the CPR

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

The Subcommittees of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) held five (5) meetings between 2 December and 8 March 2015. The following meetings of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of work took place:


4. Fourth Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: UN-Habitat’s City Prosperity Initiative

5. Fifth of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Update on Preparations towards Habitat III.
OVERVIEW OF THE MEETINGS


The Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work during its first, second and third meetings of the year 2016 held discussions on the draft Strategic Framework for 2018-2019, on 11th, 13th and 19th January 2016. This followed the decision of the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its 59th Meeting held on 2nd December 2015 authorizing the Subcommittee to continue with in-depth consultations on the Strategic Framework prior to its submission to the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC).

The discussions on the Strategic Framework included its overall orientation with the subprogrammes as well as with the Sustainable Development Goals, any potential amendments following the outcomes of Habitat III conference to be held in October 2016 and clarifications relating to use of specific language or concepts which were verified and agreed upon before the document was finalized.

Following those Subcommittee meetings, the Chair of the Subcommittee discussing the Strategic Framework, Honorable Tobias Glucksman, Permanent Representative of the United States of America to UN-Habitat and Vice Chair of the CPR forwarded the revised Strategic Framework 2018-2019 to the Chair of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) through a letter dated February 6, 2016.

2. Fourth Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work on UN-Habitat’s City Prosperity Initiative – 08 February 2016

The secretariat, during the Subcommittee meeting on the City Prosperity Initiative (CPI) on 8 February 2016, provided Members with the origin of the CPI and its objective. The secretariat explained the objective as the need to measure the performance of cities and the outcome of public policies as well as the need to measure sustainability in cities. Members were briefed that UN-Habitat initially created the City Prosperity Index in 2012 as a tool to measure the prosperity and sustainability of cities which greatly complimented the work on the State of the Cities Report 2012/2013 which focused on Prosperity of Cities. The work on the tool progressed from 2013 following requests from Mayors and decision makers. The City Prosperity Index has since progressed to a global initiative now called the City Prosperity Initiative (CPI) with more than 300 cities around the world taking part.
The secretariat explained that the CPI was seeking to:
- measure prosperity by producing critical mass of data and information.
- understand the factors that generate or inhibit prosperity.
- create change by formulating policies, strategies and actions.
- influence the nationals developments of policies.

The CPI measured six dimensions of prosperity defined as i)Urban Governance, ii)Productivity, iii)Environment sustainability, iv)equality and inclusion, v)infrastructure development and vi)quality of life. Certain results of data analyzed from cities participating in the Initiative were also shared with members in detail including regional comparisons.

The CPI supported decision making and urban policies with examples shared from some of the participating cities across different regions. The secretariat further explained that the CPI was now seen as having laid a good foundation and lessons for monitoring the SDGs particularly Goal 11 on cities and human settlements and, a framework for doing so was presented. The added value of the CPI as a framework on SDG monitoring would be;
- Propose a systemic approach of the city
- Provide a single value of the city for national reporting and disaggregated by indicators for policy purpose
- Establish global benchmarks and standardization
- Create baseline data and information
- Provide a global platform for comparability
- Identify priorities for sustainable urban development
- Connect to database on best practice
- Provide evidence-based for policy-making
- Create local/national monitoring mechanisms

In the discussions, members encouraged collaboration with the Index of the Metropolitan cities of the OECD. They also sought understanding on how the CPI could inform the ongoing discussions and preparations for in the Habitat III Conference. They also requested specific explanation on how the CPI helps to propose practical solutions to the issues determined by the CPI in a city.

3. Fifth Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: Update on Preparations towards Habitat III. 29 February 2016

The meeting briefed members on the status of preparations for Habitat III which will take in October 2016 in Quito, Ecuador. A detailed timeline of events and outputs leading to the conference was shared with Members.
Specifically, the meeting provided details on the following:

- Policy Units and policy papers including the composition of these units and the status of the policy papers
- Thematic meetings both implemented and planned
- Regional meetings implemented and planned
- Stakeholder engagements including accreditation
- Regional and National reports including status and support to LDCs on national report preparations

Specific progress by regions regarding each of the above were also detailed in the presentation to Members.

The intersessional process leading to Prepcom 3 to be held in July in Surabaya, Indonesia, would involve information gathering from stakeholders as well as negotiations on the zero draft of the outcome document. The schedule for these activities were outlined as below:

- 25-29 April: 5 days of Open-ended informal consultative meetings
- 29 April-6May: Draft zero
- 16-20 May: 2 days of Informal hearings with local authorities associations and 3 days and Informal intergovernmental negotiations
- 6-10 June: 2 days of Informal hearings with Stakeholders and 3 days of Informal intergovernmental negotiations
- 29June-1July: 3 days of Informal intergovernmental negotiations
- 25-27 July: PrepCom3 in Surabaya, Indonesia

The legacy of the conference would be the ‘New Urban Agenda’.

In the discussions members raised a number of issues.

On thematic the meetings, a question was raised as to what informed the change of title of the planned meeting in Barcelona from ‘digital cities’ to ‘public spaces’. In response, it was explained that the change was made by the host country and the city, and not secretariat.

On national reports, Members raised concern about the low level of submissions of national reports and advised that it was necessary to evaluate if the countries with outstanding reports would have a minimum engagement with the Habitat III process. In this regard, members suggested that there was need to draw lessons in this process and to devise creative ways in the future for the national reporting process. The secretariat requested the support of Members States on the issue of receiving the national reports as early as possible before the conference and undertook to find ways to better engage in the national reporting process for outstanding reports.
On policy papers, noting with concern that the papers had not been adequately commented upon by many, members emphasized the need to translate and disseminate the results to the countries as soon as possible. It was agreed that the timeline would be March 2016. It was further clarified that the outcomes of the regional meetings and the policy papers will form the basis for the zero draft of the Habitat III outcome document.

Regarding clustering of regions, a Member noted that the Arab Republic of Egypt, Kingdom of Morocco and Republic of the Sudan were included the West Asia region as opposed to Africa and sought to know why. The secretariat undertook to provide a response as soon as possible in the near future.

Members expressed concern over the use of the term ‘Urban “in Habitat III documents and the diminishing use of the term ‘human settlements’. The secretariat responded that a glossary of terms was being prepared as part of the legacy of Habitat III. It was also noted that the language of the draft outcome document would be the prerogative of Member States.

Members also wanted to know how the inputs of Nairobi based delegations would be incorporated into the outcome document and urged for support to Nairobi based CPR Members to participate in New York preparatory meetings. They called for continued briefing to the CPR in Nairobi on Habitat III. The secretariat assured members of regular monthly updates to the CPR. The Secretariat also stated that support could be availed to LDCs to participate in New York meetings in addition other countries’ ability to participate with their own support. It was recommended that information be fed from Nairobi CPR Members through New York based missions and negotiators. It was also agreed that the matter of participation of Nairobi based CPR Members in the negotiations in New York be taken up further with the Executive Director and possibly with the Habitat III Bureau.

Members requested guidance on side events and registration of delegates to the Habitat III Conference which was provided with a note that such information would be availed on the website in March 2016. Additional clarification was sought on the participation by stakeholders including civil society which was clarified as being dependent on accreditation by ECOSOC.

Members requested that the outcomes of Africa Regional meeting held in Abuja in February 2016 be shared with them.