Egypt’s Interventions

61st Meeting of the UN-Habitat

Committee of Permanent Representatives

Nairobi, June 15th 2016

Agenda Item 5: Briefing to the CPR on the Status of Preparation for Habitat III and PrepComm III

- At the outset, my delegation would like to align itself with the statement delivered by Argentina on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

- Egypt welcomes the submission of the Habitat III zero draft outcome document.

- We have been in close contact with our mission in New York with regards to the current negotiating process of the document. Nevertheless we have some concerns with the current pace of the process, as well as some aspects of the substantive content of the zero draft.

- We reiterate the necessity of an outcome document that focuses on a new human settlements agenda, taking into account the different levels of development amongst Member States, as well as the varying degrees of urbanization and rural-urban linkages.

- The current zero draft focuses primarily on urban development, and lacks the much-needed attention to rural development. The very title of the document “New Urban Agenda”, as well as the Quito Declaration “Cities for All” reflects this approach, which we believe should be rectified in a manner that addresses the concerns of all Member States with different levels of urban development.

- We remain alarmed and concerned by the non-inclusive nature by which the process is being held. The ongoing trend of not including the views of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in Nairobi persists. The briefings made by the secretariat have been sparse, lacking in substance, and do not address the concerns we have expressed time and time again.
We believe that the entire preparatory process of Habitat III should have been here in Nairobi, and through this Committee of Permanent Representatives, the very same Committee that oversees the daily work of UN-Habitat, and that will continue to oversee the implementation of the new agenda to be adopted at Habitat III. We also believe that the Habitat III Conference Secretariat should have been based in Nairobi.

Egypt reiterates that the failure of attaining an inclusive participation of representatives of developing and least developed Member States of this Committee in the upcoming PrepComm III in Surabaya could have implications that could be avoided. Anything agreed at Surabaya without an inclusive participation of this Committee will be reopened in Quito.

To that effect, Egypt formally requests the Habitat III Secretariat to provide, at the earliest, a detailed account of the Habitat III Trust Fund, showing donor contributions and Secretariat expenses.

**Agenda Item 6: Briefing to the CPR on the Implementation Plan for Agenda 2030**

We welcome the Executive Director's / Secretariat briefing on the implementation plan for Agenda 2030, in particular the future UN-Habitat activities in supporting of the SDGs. We are especially interested in the SDG Financing project concept currently being designed by UN-Habitat, and would like to have a detailed update about it in the future when it is more formulated.

Egypt believes that partnership between Governments and various international institutions are crucial for the achievement of sustainable urban development and implementation of the Agenda 2030, including goal 11, as well as national urban development and planning strategies.

To this effect, Egypt has recently launched a new Sustainable Development Strategy titled “Egypt Vision 2030”. The new strategy aims at creating a new Egypt that will possess a competitive, balanced and diversified economy, dependent on innovation and knowledge, based on justice, social integrity and participation, characterized by a balanced and diversified ecological collaboration system, investing the ingenuity of place and humans to achieve sustainable development and to improve Egyptians' life quality.
- The strategy works through adapting and integrating the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into the national development laws, regulations and policies; in a manner that complements the three dimensions of Sustainable development.

- One of the 12 pillars of the new strategy, under its environmental dimension, is the sustainable urban development pillar. This pillar aims at achieving three main goals, under which a number of targets and follow up indicators are outlined. The main goals are increasing the urbanized space in accordance to resources and population distribution, raising the level of the urban environment, and making full use of the strategic location of Egypt on the regional and international level.

Agenda Item 7: Thematic Country Presentation

- Egypt welcomes the biannual program activity report for the work programme 2014-2015. We believe it serves as a functional assessment of the important work UN-Habitat is conducting in the various regions, through country offices as well as regional offices.

- Egypt has fully supported the regional and sub-regional work of UN-Habitat, this is showcased by Egypt hosting the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States since 2011. Egypt further contributed around 2 million USD in earmarked contributions directed to the activities of the regional office since 2011.

- In addition, the first Arab Ministerial Forum for Housing and Urban Sustainable Development took place in Cairo in December 2015, bringing together 15 high level ministerial delegations and other relevant participants.

- The meeting adopted the Cairo Declaration on Housing and Sustainable Urban development, which called upon Arab states to formulate national plans in order to contribute to achieving the goals of sustainable development, as well as recognizing the role of UN-Habitat Regional Office for the Arab states as a regional leading body entrusted to technically support the formulation and implementation of policies and programmers at the Arab regional level.