U.S. Talking Points

Agenda Item 3: Report of the Executive Director

- Sincere thanks to the ED and UN-Habitat staff for this report. Of particular note we appreciate not only the ED’s report on where and when he travelled but also the substantive information on the purpose and outcome from the events attended and we look forward to more in this regard. We also join the ED in appreciation to the Secretariat and UN-Habitat staff for the recent successful governing council. We were encouraged by the constructive engagement among Member States and we see this as a good foundation as we move into further deliberations aimed at making UN-Habitat fit-for-purpose.

- Since the governing council the U.S. has avidly engaged and will continue to engage with the High Level Panel. We await the panel’s suggestions and look forward to the subsequent discussions among Member States on the future of UN-Habitat. From the U.S. perspective UN-Habitat reform is a crucial part of, and exemplary of, the broader UN reform. The High Level Panel Report will only be the first step toward this reform. We understand that the HLP may be in Nairobi next week on July 6&7 and look forward to meeting with them and further request the Secretariat to advise us how to follow up to make sure those meeting take place.

- The new programmatic work underway in Afghanistan, Mexico, Egypt, Sao Tome and Principe and China is noted with interest and we continue to be encouraged by many of UN-Habitat’s engagements worldwide.
Agenda Item 4: Financial Status

- Thank you to Andrew Cox for the thorough financial report and for providing it ahead of this meeting. Not being a financial analyst or accountant, we asked our budget staff in Washington to take a look at it and I take this opportunity to pass along some of their thoughts.

- The U.S. notes that, particularly through the current budget approval process, the bifurcated oversight mechanism, between New York and Nairobi, continues to weaken our oversight capability. As Member States discuss the future of UN-Habitat we call for a new level of transparency that provides a full picture of UN-Habitat activities here in Nairobi. We need to fully understand the baseline of how things work now if we are to find a better way, a consensual way forward. In Nairobi we have been told we are only overseeing 12% of the UN-H budget. We are failing if we cannot track 100% of UN-Habitat’s budget. Transparency here in Nairobi is the key to our Mission.