Draft minutes of the sixty-ninth meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, held on 21 June 2018

Opening of the meeting

1. The meeting was opened at 9.15 a.m. on Thursday, 21 June 2018, by Mr. Fernando Estellita Lins de Salvo Coimbra, Permanent Representative of Brazil and Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat.

2. The meeting was attended by 94 participants from 64 countries and 2 observer missions.

3. The Chair welcomed the following new permanent representatives to the Committee: Mr. Siangang Kivuila Samuel Abilio (Angola); Mr. Dmitry Kuptel (Belarus); Ms. Sun Baohong (China); Mr. Yacin Elmi Bouh (Djibouti); Mr. Mark Ramsden (New Zealand); Mr. Weerawardena Sunil Dharmasena de Silva (Sri Lanka); Mr. Khalid Khalifa Almualla (United Arab Emirates); Mr. Abdulsalam Alawi Ahmed Al-Awadhi (Yemen).

4. He then bade farewell to the following representatives who had recently departed or would soon depart the Nairobi duty station, thanking them for their contribution to the work of the Committee: Mr. Virgílio Marques Faria (Angola); Mr. Harald Günther (Austria); Mr. John Moreti (Botswana); Mr. Liu Xianfa (China); Ms. Mariam Ahmed Goumaneh (Djibouti); Mr. Mahmoud Ali Talaat (Egypt); Mr. Alexander Makarenko (Russian Federation); Mr. Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk (Ukraine); Mr. Muhammad Abdulkarim A. Asaad (Yemen); Mr. Kelebert Nkomani (Zimbabwe).

Agenda item 1

Adoption of the agenda

5. The agenda was adopted, as amended, on the basis of the revised provisional agenda (HSP/CPR/69/1/Rev.1).

Agenda item 2

Adoption of the draft minutes of the sixty-eighth regular meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

6. The Committee approved the minutes of its sixty-eighth regular meeting, held on 21 March 2018, on the basis of the draft minutes (HSP/CPR/69/L.1).
Agenda item 3

Executive Director’s briefing to the Committee of Permanent Representatives

7. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to a document entitled “Executive Director’s briefing to the Committee of Permanent Representatives” (HSP/CPR/69/3), which, he said, provided updates on key activities undertaken by the Executive Director and the secretariat since the previous regular meeting of the Committee. He encouraged members to have an interactive discussion and to address specific issues raised or proposed by the Executive Director.

8. The Executive Director, Ms. Maimunah Mohammed Sharif, said that since the previous Committee meeting she had continued to hold extensive consultations with UN-Habitat staff, United Nations colleagues, representatives of member States and other partners in Nairobi and beyond in order to build partnerships, reassert the role of UN-Habitat in dealing with urbanization and human settlements, and seek input on how the Programme could be reformed to better support member States in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals. The consultations had been guided by the principles of good governance, trust-building, transparency, accountability, efficiency and a focus on results, and it had involved an online survey that had asked UN-Habitat staff to share their views on problems related to the internal management of UN-Habitat and to suggest solutions to such problems.

9. From the feedback received from external and internal stakeholders, UN-Habitat had identified as seven reform priorities: (a) defining a clear, shared vision for UN-Habitat to promote a values-driven working culture; (b) delivering impacts at scale that improved people’s lives; (c) securing predictable financial resources by regaining the trust of member States; (d) collaborating effectively with United Nations and other partners; (e) improving systems and processes to achieve efficiency, transparency and accountability; (f) creating a safe and productive workplace where staff thrived; and (g) ensuring that leadership empowered staff to collectively drive change and achieve excellence. The priorities were summarized in a document entitled “Guiding framework on UN-Habitat’s change process: changing to increase impact”, and the secretariat had developed options for a new vision and mission for UN-Habitat and specific actions to be implemented by specific dates whose implementation by the responsible staff members was being closely monitored.

10. Stressing that the mandate and role of UN-Habitat in facing the challenges of urbanization and human settlements had been greatly expanded since the establishment of the Programme, the Executive Director said that urbanization was, and should be seen as, a tool to address challenges such as migration, disaster risk reduction, climate change, gender equality, human rights, development and humanitarian crises. Noting that she had given a presentation to the Senior Management Group, chaired by the Secretary-General, on a paper on the relevance of UN-Habitat to tackling urban and human settlements issues, which the Group had endorsed, she said that the collective challenge for the secretariat and member States was to demonstrate the relevance of the normative and operational work of UN-Habitat in addressing such challenges in the field.

11. It was also critical that member States provide financial stability to the Programme by tackling its current deficit of $5 million. Stressing that during her recent missions, finance ministers in Europe had emphasized the importance of finalizing the governance reform of UN-Habitat to ensure proper member State oversight of, and attract funding for, the Programme, she emphasized her commitment to the reform of UN-Habitat and urged the Committee to play its part in enabling the reform process to be finalized as soon as possible.

12. UN-Habitat was moving forward with the reform process by, in a consultative manner, identifying priorities, strengthening its normative work and the links between its normative and operational work, setting up a clear results-based framework, and doing less but better work by focusing on its strengths and the tasks that were needed to support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the urban dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals and other urban priorities.

13. In closing, the Executive Director invited the Committee to consider her proposals to launch of a series of urban walks in Nairobi to showcase the work of UN-Habitat at its headquarters duty station and thereby localize the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, and to launch two pilot projects in Nairobi, one on school and community solid waste management and another on cleaner and safer cities, which could subsequently be replicated. She also proposed the reintroduction of induction seminars for new Committee members to improve the engagement of the Committee with the UN-Habitat secretariat.

14. In the ensuing discussion, representatives thanked the Executive Director for her written and oral briefings and welcomed her extensive consultations with member States and other stakeholders to
ensure that the reform of UN-Habitat was in line with the wider reform of the United Nations and with the expanded mandate of UN-Habitat in the light of the adoption of the New Urban Agenda.

15. With regard to the document entitled “Guiding framework on UN-Habitat’s change process: changing to increase impact”, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, asked the secretariat to share the document with member States to enable a better understanding of the internal reform process while another, also speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed an interest in engaging with senior management on the guiding framework, which, said another, was related to the next strategic plan of UN-Habitat. One representative suggested that the improved visibility of UN-Habitat at the global, regional, national and local levels through better communication should be included as one of the expected outcomes of the internal reform of UN-Habitat.

16. With regard to the financial situation of UN-Habitat, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, asked whether the situation had improved since the previous Committee meeting, and encouraged the secretariat to intensify its efforts to mobilize the necessary resources by engaging with all member States to raise funds. Another representative said that ensuring transparency and accountability in the management of resources was critical to gaining the confidence and trust of member States and other donors in UN-Habitat and requested that the secretariat establish a mechanism to provide detailed information on how the voluntary contributions of member States were being spent.

17. Stressing the urgent need to address the financial situation of UN-Habitat and that all member States had a responsibility to support the Programme, one representative announced that his Government was considering providing regular and predictable voluntary contributions to UN-Habitat and encouraged other member States to do the same.

18. With regard to the governance reform of UN-Habitat, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/226, had agreed on a set of recommendations for the reform to be forwarded to the General Assembly for further action. Stressing that the agreed text reflected a delicate compromise achieved after years of debate, he urged all representatives to respect the text agreed upon by the group. He further urged the Committee to finalize the draft stakeholder engagement policy, which was overdue and should serve to promote the effective engagement and participation of stakeholders in the work of UN-Habitat.

19. Many representatives expressed support for showcasing successful UN-Habitat projects that supported the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals and for the proposal to showcase UN-Habitat work in Kenya and around the world. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, asked what the proposal would mean in practice and welcomed the provision of support to the host country and any other country that sought to be a frontrunner in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and sustainable urbanization. The representative of Kenya welcomed the initiative to pilot the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals in Kenya and assured the Executive Director of his Government’s support in that regard.

20. Regarding the secretariat’s update on the first quadrennial report on the progress of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (HSP/CPR/69/9), one representative expressed support for the adoption of an incremental approach to the preparation of subsequent quadrennial reports, as recommended in the report.

21. Responding to comments, the Executive Director thanked representatives for their feedback and the support expressed for her proposals. She said that the proposal to showcase the work of UN-Habitat in Kenya would entail the implementation of small pilot projects, which were easy to implement and could be replicated elsewhere, such as projects to institute a rubbish collection day, engaging schoolchildren in order to effect cultural change with the aim of keeping the environment clean.

22. With regard to steps taken to address the financial situation of UN-Habitat, the Executive Director said that the secretariat was mapping all staff to see how internal systems could be improved to ensure the best use of available resources, as well as exploring ways of mobilizing resources from the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in collaboration with other United Nations entities. Welcoming the statement made by one representative that his Government planned to make voluntary contributions to the Programme, she appealed to other member States to follow suit and said that the secretariat would discuss how transparency around spending of donor contributions could be improved.
23. As for the internal reform of UN-Habitat, the secretariat would keep member States apprised of the process and would consider whether regular briefings to the Committee and the subcommittee were sufficient in that regard.

**Agenda item 4**

**Quarterly report on the financial status of UN-Habitat**

24. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the quarterly report on the financial status of UN-Habitat (HSP/CPR/69/4), which outlined the financial situation for the quarter ending 31 March 2018.

25. The Executive Director, stressing that she was aware that many donors saw the governance reform as a precondition for providing funding to UN-Habitat and that she was committed to making the Programme more accountable as part of the reform process, urged Committee members to engage with their capitals to identify ways of either starting to contribute or increasing their unearmarked contributions to UN-Habitat. The Programme had dramatically reduced its core expenditures over the previous decade and, in order for it to be able to complete its reform and deliver on its mandate in an effective manner, it was critical that member States address its financial situation as a matter of urgency. In closing, she thanked the Governments of Kenya and the Philippines for their unearmarked contributions to UN-Habitat in the first quarter of 2018 and urged others to promptly make their 2018 contributions.

26. The representative of the secretariat provided an update on UN-Habitat revenue, expenses and fund balances for the quarter ending 31 March 2018. He said that the revenue for the period had totalled $53 million, of which $4.8 million related to core funds and $48.2 million related to earmarked funds. Total expenditures for the period had amounted to $32.9 million, comprising $6.2 million for core expenses and $26.7 million for earmarked expenses; expenditures had been about 6 per cent lower than those of the first quarter of 2017. Total core fund balances for the period, including reserves, stood at $16.6 million, of which $0.7 million related to the Foundation general purpose account and $15.9 million related to the programme support account. Details of fund balance movements for earmarked funds, which at the start of 2018 had totalled $339.4 million, were provided in section 5.2 of the quarterly report (HSP/CPR/69/4).

27. As shown in annex B to the quarterly report (HSP/CPR/69/4), out of the approved $3.3 million in unearmarked contributions expected for the period ending 31 March 2018, only $221,000 had been received, from the Governments of Kenya and the Philippines. As at 21 June 2018, that number had risen to $924,000, thanks to contributions received from the Governments of Norway, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and the United Republic of Tanzania. It was crucial that the situation be addressed as a matter of priority, since at the end of the second quarter of 2018, contributions needed to reach $6.6 million. Another serious and long-standing issue that needed to be addressed by member States was the depletion of the reserves, since UN-Habitat could not maintain its current levels of deficit until the end of 2018 and, if no action were taken, the Programme would end the year with a deficit ranging between $5 and $7 million.

28. Responding to a query raised under agenda item 3, he confirmed that, on the advice of the Controller of the United Nations, UN-Habitat had taken a $3 million loan from the overhead account of the programme support fund to cope with the deficit in its Foundation general purpose fund and stressed that similar steps might need to be taken in 2018. In addition, also on the advice of the Controller, UN-Habitat was moving posts from the Foundation general purpose fund to its overhead account to cope with the deficit. These solutions were, however, only temporary and action was required to increase the Programme’s income in order to avoid a depletion of its reserves. As for the request presented under agenda item 3 that the secretariat provide a breakdown of how the voluntary contributions from member States were spent, he said that the secretariat would examine that issue prior to the next regular Committee meeting and provide a summary of expenditures to ensure greater transparency.

29. In closing, he expressed appreciation to the European Union and to the Governments of Cabo Verde, China, Colombia, Ecuador, France, Germany, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Turkey and the United States of America for contribution agreements signed in the first quarter of 2018 for earmarked activities totalling $48.2 million.
Agenda item 5
Report on the work of the open-ended working group

30. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to a document entitled “Report on work of the Open-Ended Working Group” (HSP/CPR/69/5), containing the final findings and recommendations of the open-ended working group established pursuant to paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 72/266 to examine options for strengthening member States’ oversight of UN-Habitat and the appropriateness of financial rules and regulations and of personnel, procurement and budgetary matters.

31. The report, he said, reflected a careful and balanced compromise agreed upon by the open-ended working group at its eighth meeting, held on 18 June 2018, following an extensive process that had included eight meetings held between February and June 2018, and the establishment of a group of friends of the Chair that had met three times between 6 and 18 June 2018.

32. Summarizing the findings and recommendations set out in the report, he said that he intended to forward it to the General Assembly for consideration at its seventy-third session. He noted that the statements made by two representatives following the adoption of the report by the open-ended working group would also be transmitted to the General Assembly.

33. In the ensuing discussion, representatives expressed appreciation for the report and support for its submission to the General Assembly, with one, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, stressing the need to also convey to the General Assembly the reservations expressed by some representatives regarding parts of the report. Many representatives thanked the Chair for his leadership and active engagement with member States in the discussions of the open-ended working group, which, they said, had made it possible for the group to reach a compromise and to agree on findings and recommendations to be forwarded to the General Assembly. Several expressed the hope that the same spirit of compromise would prevail in the discussions to be held on the reform by the General Assembly, including those relating to budgetary matters.

34. On budgetary matters, one representative suggested that, as a next step, the secretariat should prepare a document analysing the budgetary implications of replacing the Governing Council with the proposed UN-Habitat Assembly. The Chair said that this issue would be considered by the appropriate bodies within the General Assembly process.

35. Many representatives expressed reservations regarding the recommendation in the report that the proposed 36-member executive board be delegated authority by the proposed UN-Habitat Assembly to report directly to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on issues related to its mandate in years when there was no session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. They stressed that the Committee of Permanent Representatives should have a bigger role in overseeing the work of UN-Habitat to ensure the Programme’s efficiency, transparency and accountability. One of the representatives suggested that the situation could be remedied by requesting the Executive Board to work closely with the Committee.

36. Another representative who voiced his full support for the recommendations (HSP/CPR/69/5) said that the members of the Executive Board would be drawn from the Committee and this would ensure some level of transparency and participation of the whole Committee in the work of the Board and UN-Habitat.

37. Two representatives expressed concerns regarding the recommendation in the report that the Committee of Permanent Representatives meet twice every four years, with one suggesting that in order to play an active role in the work of UN-Habitat the Committee should hold at least two meetings per year. Another representative said that the Committee should consider all the draft resolutions and draft decisions to be considered and possibly adopted by the proposed UN-Habitat Assembly and that least developed countries and small-island developing States should receive support to participate in the sessions of the proposed Assembly and other important meetings.

38. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, voiced concern about the number of seats allocated to the Eastern European Group on the proposed executive board.

39. Two representatives, one of them speaking on behalf of a group of countries, cautioned that reservations expressed by representatives regarding parts of the report might lead to a re-opening of all issues by representatives in New York. The representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries said that he counted on all member States to respect the outcome document in full in the discussions to be held in New York.
Another representative said that he was confident that the reservations that he and other members had voiced would be duly reported to the General Assembly, stressing that without the Committee no recommendations for the governance reform of UN-Habitat would exist and that he would seek to further strengthen the role of Committee in the work of UN-Habitat in the discussions in New York.

In closing, the Chair said that, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/226, he would forward the findings and recommendations agreed upon by the open-ended working group (HSP/CPR/69/5) for consideration by the Assembly at its seventy-third session. The views expressed by representatives under agenda item 5 would be reflected in the report of the present meeting and, in addition, he would submit, as an annex to his report to the General Assembly, written statements received by 22 June 2018 from those representatives who wanted their statements to be forwarded to the Assembly.

Agenda item 6

Report on the stakeholder engagement policy

Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the revised draft UN-Habitat stakeholder engagement policy (HSP/CPR/69/6).

The Executive Director noted that the secretariat had shared the second draft of the stakeholder engagement policy with member States at a subcommittee meeting held on 25 April 2018. In view of comments received at that meeting, the secretariat had further revised the draft policy and shared with member States the revised draft policy on 30 April 2018, inviting them to submit additional comments by 7 May 2018. Several additional comments had been received and a small working group chaired by the United States had been established to review and harmonize them.

Ms. Christine Musisi, Director, External Relations Division, said that the small working group had met on 19 June 2018 and had requested the secretariat to provide more information to enable it to complete its work.

The representative of the United States reported that the small working group had requested the secretariat to examine how other United Nations entities engaged with and encouraged the participation of stakeholders, stressing that the current draft of the stakeholder engagement policy focused on how stakeholders engaged with UN-Habitat but did not consider how UN-Habitat engaged with stakeholders. In addition, the small working group had been waiting to see how the discussions of the open-ended working group on the governance reform of UN-Habitat unfolded, given that the mandate to develop a stakeholder engagement policy emanated from Governing Council decision 26/7 and it was not clear what would become of the Governing Council once the governance reform was completed.

In the ensuing discussion, representatives thanked the secretariat for its work on the draft stakeholder engagement policy. One representative said that she had submitted to the secretariat a position paper on the draft policy and requested that all member States’ comments be attached to the draft policy to facilitate further exchanges thereon. She emphasized that her Government opposed the involvement of stakeholders in the management and decision-making processes of the Programme, which was an intergovernmental body, and was of the view that the role of stakeholders should be limited to the areas of policy advice and consultation. She further stressed the need for a study on the engagement of stakeholders in the management of other United Nations entities, which was currently lacking in the draft policy.

Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for the active engagement of stakeholders in the normative and operational work of UN-Habitat and for the roles accorded to stakeholders in the New Urban Agenda. She said that the current draft policy incorporated the best practices of other multilateral institutions and represented a good basis for discussion, but there was room for improving it by examining additional policies to ensure that it facilitated engagement between stakeholders and UN-Habitat. Lastly, she suggested that, in their discussions on the draft policy, member States should consider the governance reform of UN-Habitat spearheaded by the open-ended working group as well as the wider reform of the United Nations system led by the Secretary-General.

Ms. Musisi thanked representatives for their comments and guidance and said that the secretariat would share the comments of member States on the draft policy with all member States. Noting that the recommendations by the open-ended working group provided for the possible creation of an executive board, she said that the secretariat was examining the policies of entities governed by executive boards in order to complement the research it had already conducted on the stakeholder
engagement policies of other United Nations bodies. In closing, she requested that the secretariat be
given time to complete the additional work, under the guidance of the subcommittee, and to report
back to the Committee on the process in September 2018.

49. The Committee took note of the information presented and agreed to give the secretariat
additional time to complete its review of additional stakeholder engagement policies.

**Agenda item 7**

**Thematic/country presentation**

50. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the executive summaries of two documents,
ettled “Evaluation of UN-Habitat’s country programme in Afghanistan, 2012–2016” and
“Evaluation of UN-Habitat’s country programme in Sri Lanka”.

51. The Executive Director said that the two documents had been produced by an independent
evaluator who had focused on the impacts of the UN-Habitat country programmes in Afghanistan and
Sri Lanka, in response to member State and stakeholder requests that UN-Habitat demonstrate the
results of its interventions, and as part of the Programme’s commitment to transparency and
accountability. Recalling that delivering impacts at scale to change people’s lives for the better was
one of the seven priorities identified by UN-Habitat following consultations held as part of its ongoing
reform process, she said that over 50 per cent of the UN-Habitat project portfolio was in countries
affected by emergencies, where the Programme had produced tangible results in the areas of
emergency response, community-driven housing, infrastructure reconstruction, and delivery of basic
services such as water and sanitation. UN-Habitat had a large portfolio both in Afghanistan and in
Sri Lanka, so the evaluations of the country programmes in those two countries provided credible
evidence of the Programme’s overall performance, effectiveness and impacts, as well as lessons that
could be used to further improve and achieve better results and greater impacts.

52. The consultant and lead evaluator delivered a presentation on the two evaluations, noting that
the evaluation of the country programme in Sri Lanka, where UN-Habitat had operated since 1978,
covered the period 2013–2017, while the evaluation of the country programme in Afghanistan, where
UN-Habitat had operated since 1992, covered the period 2012–2016. Each of the country programmes
had been evaluated against the criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and
sustainability, and both had been rated as either satisfactory or highly satisfactory across those five
criteria. The evaluations had also examined cross-cutting issues such as climate change, human rights
and gender equality, and had found a strong integration of such issues in the planning, implementation,
monitoring and evaluation of each country programme.

53. The two evaluations had involved the conduct of interviews with donors, governments at all
levels, staff, United Nations partners and country programme beneficiaries. Feedback received from
donors revealed that UN-Habitat was generally seen a responsive, efficient, effective, flexible,
transparent and accountable partner that delivered projects with visible and sustainable impacts and
assigned 70–80 per cent of resources to beneficiaries. Governments, donors and beneficiaries viewed
the Programme’s people-centred approach to engaging communities as key to making a difference in
people’s lives. Governments saw UN-Habitat as a pioneer in mainstreaming key principles into their
planning and national policies, in filling data gaps and in building capacity, and in some cases they had
recruited UN-Habitat staff for senior-level Government positions. Donors and other stakeholders also
appreciated the efficient and cost-effective manner in which UN-Habitat had operated in both
countries.

54. With regard to impacts, he provided several examples of the positive impacts of UN-Habitat
work in Afghanistan and Sri Lanka at the individual, community/family and institutional and policy
levels. He identified as reasons for the success achieved in both countries the long-term presence of
UN-Habitat in ways that created transformative partnerships; the use of people-centred processes that
engaged people from the outset and ensured their participation in the implementation of programmes,
thereby contributing to the local ownership, impact and sustainability of projects; the use of very
capable international and local staff; the creation of strong links between UN-Habitat normative and
operational work; and a focus on addressing the needs of beneficiaries, skills development, and donor
satisfaction.

55. Challenges and recommendations in relation to both countries included better understanding of
and response to donor requirements, including with regard to reporting; adapting to the evolving
capacities and perceptions of governments and their wish to be seen as partners; improving
communication and processes between UN-Habitat headquarters and its regional and country offices;
improving communication around the links between UN-Habitat operational and normative work and
the success of its field activities; improving collaboration with other United Nations partners to work
as One United Nations; addressing difficulties associated with a people-centred processes, which might slow down project implementation; and developing local staff. As for country-level recommendations, it was important that UN-Habitat work with partners to respond to the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan and to integrate issues related to returnees and internally displaced persons into its development work and, in Sri Lanka, that it help the Government to identify gaps and needs and to develop project proposals for consideration by donors.

56. Following the presentation, the Executive Director thanked the European Union, the United States Agency for International Development and the Governments of Afghanistan, Australia, India, Japan and Sri Lanka for their contributions to the work of UN-Habitat in Afghanistan and Sri Lanka.

57. The Chair noted that in addition to donor requirements, it was important that UN-Habitat focus on beneficiary requirements and ensure that country programmes were implemented with the full knowledge of, and in partnership with, local and national governments. He suggested that the Committee consider this issue in its discussions on strengthening member State oversight of UN-Habitat activities.

58. One representative drew attention to the effective work of UN-Habitat in Sri Lanka since the 1970s and said that the country had been a learning ground and a source of best practices over the years. It was unfortunate, therefore, that success stories from the country had not garnered sufficient attention to date. Another representative encouraged the Executive Director to ensure that the good practices used in Afghanistan and Sri Lanka were deployed in other countries.

**Agenda item 8**

**Report of the work of the subcommittees**

59. The Committee took note of the report on the work of the subcommittees (HSP/CPR/69/8).

**Agenda item 9**

**Report on the status of implementation of the New Urban Agenda: update on the quadrennial report**

60. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to a document entitled “Report on the status of implementation of the New Urban Agenda: update on the quadrennial report” (HSP/CPR/69/9), recalling that an outline of the quadrennial report and the next steps for the report, including its presentation to the Economic and Social Council, had been shared with member States at a subcommittee meeting held on 28 March 2018. The final version of the report of the Secretary-General on progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (A/73/83-E/2018/62) had also been shared with member States on 13 June 2018.

61. The Executive Director said that the first quadrennial report on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, to be presented by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, had been the result of an inclusive and collaborative process, involving United Nations system organizations, member States and other partners, that had been coordinated by UN-Habitat in its capacity as United Nations focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements. She reported that in early April 2018 the secretariat had submitted the final draft of the quadrennial report to the office of the Secretary-General, which had approved it with minor amendments, and the Economic and Social Council would review the amended version of the report in early July 2018.

62. Mr. Rafael Tuts, Director, Programme Division, said that there had been extensive collaboration with all the relevant United Nations entities in the preparation of the quadrennial report. Their feedback had been incorporated in the report and had enabled UN-Habitat to take stock of the strategies they had adopted to implement the New Urban Agenda. With regard to content, the report provided an overview of progress made in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, while showing that many of the challenges identified in the agenda had intensified since its adoption in October 2016. It proposed an inclusive and incremental reporting system that gave a leading role to member States in reporting, but recognized the role of other actors in providing information on their efforts to implement the New Urban Agenda. Lastly, the report set out six recommendations by the Secretary-General to further strengthen the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and reporting, including recommendations for the United Nations Statistical Commission and other United Nations system entities as well as recommendations related to capacity development of member States at the national and local levels.
Agenda item 10
Any other matters

63. The Chair reported that, during a meeting held on 13 June 2018, the Bureau had proposed that the Committee and its subcommittees not hold any meetings until late August or early September 2018, in accordance with past practice.

64. The Committee agreed to the Bureau’s proposal.

Closing of the meeting

65. The meeting was declared closed at 1.45 p.m. on Thursday, 21 June 2018.