71st REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

6 DECEMBER 2018

Agenda Item 4:

Executive Director’s Briefing to the Committee of Permanent Representatives (HSP/CPR/71/4)
Introduction

In addition to our regular programmatic work and key portfolio developments, since the last meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) on 20 September 2018, UN-Habitat continues to adapt and change, to be more responsive to Member States’ demand for the increased transparency, agility and relevance of UN-Habitat.

This briefing will cover the following:

1. Update on our vision, mission, priorities (change process)
2. Update on the financial status of UN-Habitat
3. Update on the status of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda
4. Update on the preparations for the Twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council
5. Approval of the title of the special theme of the Twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council
6. Update on the proposed draft Strategic Plan 2020-2025
7. Proposed annual work programme and budget 2020-2025
8. Key portfolio developments
9. Recent missions undertaken by the Deputy Executive Director and myself

1. Update on my vision, mission and priorities

This month will mark eleven months since I was entrusted with the position as UN-Habitat’s Executive Director. In my continuous effort to demonstrate to my staff and Member States that my first and foremost objective since taking office is to empower and enable UN-Habitat to be an organization fully capable to deliver on its most crucial mandate – sustainable urban development – I have either initiated or have seen through several concurrent processes to help us to do so: the governance reform, which at the time of writing this Briefing, should be completed at the end of November; internal reforms implemented along seven main work streams (vision, impact, funding, collaboration, team, processes and leadership); a new Strategic Plan 2020-2025; and ensuring UN-Habitat is fully aligned and well-positioned within the parameters of the Secretary-General’s reform.

In my briefing to you in September, I touched on measures I am taking on the administrative front, including the financial and management audit of the organization. I have decentralized the released budget function; prepared a policy for harmonising the hiring of consultants; and prepared a compact for hiring and supervising interns. In line with our updated resource mobilization strategy, I have recently concluded strategic funding dialogues in Asia, the Middle East and Europe, with a view to continuing these in 2019.

Although the first of a series of austerity measures launched in July have seen savings for UN-Habitat, these measures must only be temporary. If one of UN-Habitat’s core mandates is to be a Centre for Innovation and Excellence on specialised matters on sustainable urban development, we must also have the core resources in order to deliver. I look forward to starting a new year, a cleaner slate, where the inwards-looking processes and focus of my time dedicated to getting “my house in order”, will move to an outward focus, to refocusing and aligning UN-
Habitat to deliver on our next ambitious Strategic Plan, fully in line with the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is clear however, that UN-Habitat will continue to undergo significant changes and challenges in the months and years to come. I would like to thank you all for your engaging guidance, feedback and support over the past ten months. I am heartened by your expressions of continued support.

2. **Update on the financial status of UN-Habitat**

As you know, UN-Habitat is almost entirely funded from voluntary contributions, approximately 89 per cent. As I speak, the projected deficit of UN-Habitat core resources by the end of this year is expected to be approximately USD 3.9 million. In addition to other factors, historical debates on governance and the subsequent lack of agreement on an oversight mechanism for this agency have contributed to decreased donor confidence in UN-Habitat. At the time of writing of this Briefing, I hope that with the conclusion of the governance reform in November this year, UN-Habitat can turn a new leaf, with a core budget that reflects the mandate that UN-Habitat is meant to carry out.

So far this year, we have barely been able to mobilise USD 3.6 million of the USD 13 million planned. The reform of the UN-Habitat governance structure is a vital element in rebuilding the political and financial confidence of Member States. As you are aware, as soon as I took Office in January, I embarked on several initiatives to address our management and financial challenges, including introducing the first of a series of austerity measures in July, details of which I shared with you at the last meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in September. The five austerity measures (out of seven) relating to human resources point towards a savings of approximately USD 1.3 million by the end 2018 in comparison to 2017. In addition, savings of about USD 60,000 should be realised in travel expenses in comparison to 2017.

I am in the process of conducting strategic funding dialogues with Member States, to reinforce resource mobilisation efforts. In addition to my meetings with Member States at the World Urban Forum in February this year and other major events, I have visited Member States for strategic dialogues in the Gulf, Europe and Asia, with a view to continuing these, and making Africa a priority, in 2019. Some immediate results include recognition and strengthened support from Member States for the work of UN-Habitat and the ongoing concurrent processes that we are undertaking to reform the Organization. In financial terms, strategic dialogues have translated to a 28 per cent increase in non-earmarked contributions to the Foundation General Purpose for the core normative work of the Organization, from USD 2.7 million in 2017 to USD 3.5 million this year. Some Member States have also committed to increased financial support subject to successful governance and institutional reforms.
In this context, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the following contributions:

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I understand that our financial situation will not improve simply because we ask Member States for funding. I am keenly aware of the required trust, transparency, efficiency and accountability to ensure UN-Habitat is fit to deliver on its important mandate. For this reason, you have seen my commitment for visible change in the way that we work through bold and ambitious internal reform process to turn the agency in a model and modern Twenty-first century United Nations programme.

3. Update on the status of implementation of the New Urban Agenda

UN-Habitat is the focal point for reporting on the progress of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Over the past six months, we have collectively made progress on UN inter-agency coordination and collaboration mechanisms, partnerships, and advocacy, in order to collectively enhance implementation and reporting on the New Urban Agenda. Specifically, this includes the endorsement by the Secretary-General and the UN Senior Management Group on 6 June this year, for UN-Habitat to propose and lead a UN system-wide strategy on sustainable urbanisation. Consequently, UN-Habitat is coordinating with 12 UN agencies to do so. Another key milestone this year was the endorsement of a UN Collaborative Implementation Framework, a mechanism for inter-agency cooperation on sustainable urbanization, organised along functional areas of data, policy implementation, partnerships and financing. This Framework was endorsed by 15 UN agencies at the World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur in February this year.

In the area of partnerships, a Stakeholder Engagement Policy is currently being considered by Member States. This complements several partnership activities undertaken by UN-Habitat this year, during key global events, such as the Sustainable Cities Dialogue in
Strasbourg in May and the Local and Regional Government Forum during the High-level Political Forum in July, with critical enhanced outcomes of enabling multi-level dialogue between national and local governments, best practices shared on sustainable cities and human settlements and a common voice heard at global level on the needs of cities to enable political, legal, institutional and financial frameworks for achieving the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimensions of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

With regards to advocacy, a number of successful campaigns were undertaken at key global events, including for example at the UN High-level Political Forum in July in New York and more recently during Urban October, through two key platforms, World Habitat Day and World Cities Day, when some 360 events in over 50 countries and in more than 120 cities took place. During Urban October, UN-Habitat featured in 48.8 million article views with 168 editorial mentions.

4. **Update on the preparations for the Twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council**

A convocation letter for the Twenty-seventh Session of the Governing Council was sent to the CPR on 17 September notifying Member States of the scheduled dates of 8 to 12 April 2019. Since then, the CPR and its Bureau, advised on the need to change the dates to 27 to 31 May 2019. In line with the Rules and Procedures of the Governing Council, a final decision should be reached by the end of 2018. The theme of this Governing Council should be finalised and endorsed at this Regular Meeting of the CPR. In the event that the General Assembly passes the resolution in its current form, it is expected that the CPR in the transition period before May 2019, will prepare documentation for a UN-Habitat Assembly, including its draft rules of procedure. The Assembly would be expected to take over the work of the Governing Council, including its agenda.

5. **Approval of the title of the special theme for Twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council**

In September, UN-Habitat submitted a concept note to the CPR proposing “Partnering for evidence-based implementation of the New Urban Agenda” as the theme for the Twenty-seventh Session of the Governing Council. Although Member States emphasized the importance of the proposed theme, there was consensus that the topic may be too technical.

Since then, a CPR sub-committee and an expanded CPR Bureau have revisited the theme and UN-Habitat has received written proposals from the Group of African States. On 30 November, a CPR sub-committee will discuss the revised suggestions and feedback, with a view for UN-Habitat to consolidate a proposal for endorsement by the CPR at this Regular Meeting.

6. **Update on the proposed draft Strategic Plan 2020-2025**

On 5 November, a CPR sub-committee was held specifically to provide an update to Member States on the development of our next Strategic Plan. A zero draft has been shared with CPR members, as well as with other partners, to which I am very grateful for the time taken to submit constructive and useful feedback on the document. As at writing this Briefing, I understand that
another consultation via a CPR sub-committee will take place shortly, to revisit feedback. A new draft of the Strategic Plan will be ready shortly thereafter.

7. Key portfolio developments

Grants amounting USD **27.61 million** were opened between September and mid-November 2018. The acquisitions primarily include projects that integrate normative and operational work. Meanwhile, the Programme Advisory Group approved a number of projects, covering all regions, contributing to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals. A selection of these projects is listed below:

**Arab States**

A two-year joint project, by UNDP, FAO, UNHCR and UN-Habitat entitled “Strengthening stakeholder capacity to address immediate and post-agreement housing, land and property (HLP) issues in Syria” with a value of EUR 5,000,000 supported by the European Commission and with UN-Habitat allocated EUR 2,399,794 as the lead agency. The project’s objective is to improve the understanding among stakeholders of the Syrian policy, legal framework and practices related to housing, land and property issues, and to strengthen stakeholder capacities to address operational HLP issues.

**Africa**

A four-year project “Building urban climate resilience in south-eastern Africa” in four countries (Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Union of the Comoros) with a total value of USD 13,997,423 and supported by the Adaptation Fund. The project’s objective is to assist targeted developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in meeting the costs of concrete adaptation projects and programmes in order to implement climate-resilient measures.

**Asia-Pacific**

A two-year project, “Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building for Urban Development in Vietnam”, with a total value of USD 4.3 million and supported by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) with the overall objective of strengthening capacities of national and local institutions to promote, plan and implement innovative and participatory solutions for urban development in Vietnamese cities.

A one-year project “Water as Leverage for Resilient Cities: Asia” (1 September 2018 to 30 April 2019), with a total value of EUR 216,741, support by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs via Netherlands Enterprise Agency. The projects will provide the funding for an inclusive, collaborative and innovative process, with the aim to develop pilot projects that will use water as leverage for real climate resilience impact.

**Global**

A five-year project (2019-2023) “Global Land Tool Network Phase 3 Programme” with a total budget of USD 45,000,000 (multiple donors, partly confirmed) that will be implemented in 7 countries (Kenya, Laos, Nepal, Philippines, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Zambia) with the aim of improving tenure security for women, youth and vulnerable groups.
Global Land Tool Network programme has so far had two successful cycles: Phase 1 (2006–2011) and Phase 2 (2012–2018).

A three-year project “Urban Design Governance (Maestro)” with a total Consortium budget of EUR 1,000,000 and an allocation of EUR 391,850 to UN-Habitat support by European Commission, European Union – Horizon 2020 Programme DG RTD/EASME and European Free Trade Association. The project’s objective is to explore and share the innovative use of informal design governance mechanism in Europe.

8. Proposed annual work programme and budget 2020-2025

UN-Habitat is preparing its 2020 Annual Work Programme and Budget, aligned to the new six-year Strategic Plan 2020-2025. The bulk of the work will be undertaken during December 2018-January 2019 subsequent to progress made on reviewing the new Strategic Plan by the CPR. From 2020, the work programme and budget will be annual rather than biennial. The 2020 Annual Work Programme will consist of four sub-programmes that correspond to the four domains of change of the new Strategic Plan 2020-2025. In order to align the 2020 Annual Work Programme to the new Strategic Plan 2020-2025, UN-Habitat will develop a results framework for all sub-programmes.

To arrive at a realistic work programme budget for 2020, in addition to costing the deliverables and outputs, account is also taken of past revenue and expenditure trends, level of existing project portfolio to be delivered in 2020, and pipeline programmes due to start in 2020.

Based on this methodology, the budget envelope for 2020 has been set at an overall level of USD 243.5 million representing expected delivery for all five budget segments in the UN-Habitat budget framework. These budget segments and their estimated envelopes are as follows:

**Regular Budget:** Delivery of outputs financed by assessed contributions from Member States. For planning purposes, the budget will be capped at the level of actual appropriations received in 2019 which currently stands at USD 10.5 million.

**Foundation General Purpose:** A zero growth budget is set at USD 13 million, maintained at the annualized level of the 2028-2019 budget. It considers renewed confidence from donors resulting from the transformation of UN-Habitat into a stronger organization following successful governance and institutional reforms as well as positive indications from our fund-raising efforts, particularly my strategic engagement with Member States.

**Programme Support (Overhead):** This budget is set at a level of USD 10 million in 2020, based on current delivery trends.

**Foundation Special Purpose:** The overall budget is set at USD 65 million based on resource requirements for the delivery of planned outputs adjusted for past performance trends as well as the current and pipeline project portfolio for global normative programmes.
Technical Cooperation: The overall budget is set at USD 155 million based on resource requirements for the delivery of planned outputs adjusted for past performance trends as well as the current and pipeline project portfolio for regional and country activities.

A detailed breakdown of the budget can be found in the background paper on Agenda item 11.

9. Recent missions by the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director

Missions by the Executive Director:

New York: Seventy-third session of the General Assembly

From 24 to 28 September, I participated in number of side events parallel to the Seventy-third session of the General Assembly, to promote UN-Habitat in global forums and amongst high-level Member State representatives from around the world. This includes the launch of the Secretary-General’s Youth Strategy “Youth 2030” to which UN-Habitat was a key pen-holder; the World Economic Forum Sustainable Development Impact Summit in sessions on urban migration and how to mobilise trillions for the Sustainable Development Goals; meeting with the Director-General for the Swedish International Development Agency and the Prime Minister of Malaysia.

Malaysia

From 2 to 8 October, I travelled to Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur and Penang), where I engaged further with the Malaysian Government in view of securing strategic, political and financial support for UN-Habitat.

In Kuala Lumpur, I met with the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Federal Territories, the Mayor of Kuala Lumpur and the Managing Director of Khazanah Nasional, the investment arm of the Malaysian government. From these meetings, I secured USD 1.2 million in core funding for UN-Habitat as well as a role for UN-Habitat in the development of the Kuala Lumpur 2020-2040 Master Plan.

In Penang, I met with the Chief Minister of Penang State and the Mayor of Penang Island. With the Chief Minister, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate in making Penang a model state in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda. The State of Penang has committed to availing USD 250,000 as initial investment for the operationalization of the Memorandum of Understanding. With the Mayor of Penang Island, we agreed to work with his city and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to organise the Asia-Pacific Urban Forum in October 2019.

New York: Second Committee

From 10 to 12 October, I travelled to New York, to present our annual report, the “Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme” to the Second Committee.
I took this opportunity to informally brief Member States on our current efforts in strengthening UN-Habitat, including the current internal reform process and the formulation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025. Ambassadors Coimbra and Andanje joined me on that occasion and briefed their colleagues on the reform of the governance architecture.

The Gulf Region

From 15 to 21 October, I undertook a strategic funding dialogues mission to the Gulf region, where I had the opportunity to meet with key government officials, development banks and foundations. The objective of my mission was to re-establish or initiate strategic relations and funding opportunities with potential partners in this region; update interlocutors on the ongoing reform of UN-Habitat and sensitize them on the need for core contributions; and mobilise resources for an ambitious package of projects on urban recovery and reconstruction, targeting five countries (Sudan, Palestine, Iraq, Libya and Yemen). I also signed the Host Country Agreement with Abu Dhabi for the Tenth Session of the World Urban Forum in 2020. As a result of this regional mission, we have identified clear entry points and opportunities for UN-Habitat collaboration, which the Organization is now pursuing.

Norway

From 29 to 30 October, I met with members of the Government of the Kingdom of Norway, including the Minister and the State Secretary for International Development, the State Secretary for Local Governments and Modernization and the Deputy Director-General of the Department for the UN and Humanitarian Affairs. From civil society, I discussed with Habitat Norway and the Norwegian Civil Society Organisation for Environment. From Oslo Municipality. I met with the Mayor of Oslo, the Vice-Mayor for Environment and Transport and the Oslo European Environment Capital 2019 Project Director. The objective of the mission was to reconnect with a long-standing partner and donor, to provide direct updates on internal and external reform, propose areas for collaboration and highlight the difficult non-earmarked financial situation of UN-Habitat. Outcomes include specific opportunities for renewed partnership and collaboration.

United Kingdom: Liverpool & London

From 31 October to 1 November, UN-Habitat, together with the City of Liverpool, held the global observance of World Cities Day, with the theme “Building Sustainable and Resilient Cities”. Globally, World Cities Day was celebrated at over 110 events. During Urban October, almost 360 events in over 50 countries and in more than 120 cities took place. This visibly demonstrates the global interest in using Urban October as a global platform to highlight key challenges and opportunities that our cities and urban settlements face, and particularly this year, the pertinence of sustainable and resilient cities.

While in Liverpool, I had the opportunity to meet with representatives from the Governments of China, Japan, Bahrain and Algeria. With the delegation of China, UN-Habitat’s key partner and donor for World Cities Day, we agreed upon a renewed partnership, including specific clarity on the way forward in the management of World Cities Day as a global advocacy platform. With a delegation from Sendai, Japan, we discussed enhanced and future partnership in the area of best practices of resiliency and building back cities post-disaster, including transferring this knowledge to other cities in similar situations. UN-Habitat agreed with Bahrain
on a way forward to re-establish close relations, specifically by opening a country office in Manama, and potential areas of collaboration in resilience and municipal waste management. With Algeria, discussions focused on the opening of a country office in Algiers, and specific areas of collaboration in the Algerian context that UN-Habitat would like to take forward with the Government.

In London, I also had the opportunity to meet with the Honourable Michael Walton Bates, Minister for the Department for International Development. This meeting focused on sharing updates on UN-Habitat’s internal and external reform, measures taken to align to the Secretary-General’s reform and the current financial situation of UN-Habitat. UN-Habitat looks forward to guidance from the Department for International Development, in moving forward to becoming a UN organisation that is small but specialised, able to respond to the specific urban needs of human settlements around the world.

New York: United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

From 6 to 8 November, the Secretary-General chaired a one-and-a-half-day meeting convening the Principals of the United Nations system. The meeting focused on three main segments: (1) State of the World, during which the Secretary-General reviewed the current state of humanitarian situations in the world including his view on multilateralism; addressing sexual harassment in the UN system; and the recent Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; (2) the adoption of a Common UN System position on drug policy; and (3) fostering innovation in the UN system. I took advantage of this meeting to share UN-Habitat’s innovative practices, noting the importance of and deciding to make this a cornerstone function of UN-Habitat in the future. The Secretary-General places great importance on moving towards innovative practices to address developmental and humanitarian challenges in the world.

Mexico: Mayor’s Summit for the New Urban Agenda

From 8 to 10 November, I travelled to Mexico City to participate in the Mayor’s Summit for the New Urban Agenda. There, I met with officials of both the incoming and outgoing government, including His Excellency President Enrique Peña Nieto, to secure support for UN-Habitat, especially for our country office. I met with the Director General of INFONAVIT, a long-time UN-Habitat partner. Together, we signed an MOU to continue our collaboration on the implementation of the City Prosperity Index (CPI) until 2030. The CPI is already being implemented in 305 cities in Mexico.

I also met with the Director-designate of FONATUR (tourism agency) to secure our collaboration in the implementation of a territorial and socioeconomic development project in the South-East region of Mexico. I had meetings with the UN Country Team and the Resident Coordinator to push for a stronger role for UN-Habitat in the preparation of the next UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). Finally, I met with a private sector consortium to discuss collaboration on affordable housing in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Europe: Paris, Berlin, Brussels

From 11 to 14 November, I travelled to Paris to participate in the Paris Peace Forum organised by President Emmanuel Macron. As a panellist on a high-level panel on the issue of
migration, I stressed the need to involve local authorities in developing integrated and holistic solutions.

In addition, I had meetings at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to discuss political and financial support to UN-Habitat. I also had meetings at the French Development Agency and the Paris Institute of Political Studies, Urban School. On both occasions, we discussed formalising our collaboration through Memorandums of Understanding.

With representatives of the French Alliance of Cities and Territories, which gathers urban development stakeholders from academics to parliamentarians, I secured a role for UN-Habitat in the Summit France-Africa, to be organised by President Macron in 2020 on the theme of “sustainable cities”. Finally, I met with the Secretary-General’s Special Envoy on Road Safety and agreed on collaboration on road safety issues.

On 14 and 15 November I was in Berlin, Germany. I had meetings with the Director General of Economic Cooperation and Development; the Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety; and the Minister of the Interior, Building and Community. We discussed current efforts to strengthen UN-Habitat as well as the political and financial support needed from Germany. We also secured a role for UN-Habitat in the organisation of the International Conference on Climate Action 2019, in Heidelberg, Germany.

I met with the Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and agreed on collaborating to make Somalia a pilot and model of partnership on humanitarian issues between UN-Habitat and the Government of Germany.

I also had meetings with the German Association of Cities, the German Corporation for International Cooperation agency, the German Development Bank and the German Advisory Council on Global Change. We discussed urban issues, as well as our initial thoughts on the formulation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

On 16 November I was in Brussels, Belgium where I chaired the mayor’s and ministerial dialogues as part of the Third ACP-EC-UN-Habitat International Tripartite Conference of Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme. During the conference a few countries (Madagascar, Cape Verde, Democratic Republic of the Congo) pledged more than USD 800,000 to our Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme.

On the margins of the conference, I had bilateral meetings with ministers from Burkina Faso, Djibouti and Guinea who have all requested UN-Habitat’s support. Finally, I had a meeting with European Union Commissioner for Regional Policy, Ms. Corina Creţu. We have agreed to collaborate on an event to promote women in public administration and on an initiative on migration.

On 3-4 December, I attended the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Principals’ meeting in Geneva, where the ongoing humanitarian situations in Yemen, Syria, Venezuela and Afghanistan were discussed. The principles of humanitarian diplomacy and the protection of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and sexual harassment and abuse of aid workers (SHA)
were also examined. I shared specific examples of UN-Habitat’s ongoing work in Yemen, Syria and Afghanistan, noting a recent meeting with government representatives of Venezuela, to establish a Memorandum of Understanding to pursue collaboration. The Principals welcomed UN-Habitat’s engagement. There was overall strong recognition that emergencies more frequently take place in urban settings and therefore, responses need to be tailored accordingly. Several Principals expressed an interest to establish formal partnerships with UN-Habitat to this end. With regards to the agenda item on PSEA and SHA, I shared UN-Habitat’s “SpeakUP” application, specifically geared towards sexual harassment and abuse in the work-place, noting the possibility to develop a similar application for PSEA and SHA in the field. I also had the opportunity meet with UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, which concluded on an agreement for closer collaboration and a joint proposal to the European Commission on the maintenance of the Making Cities Resilient joint project and campaign. With OCHA and UNICEF, we discussed the possibility of creating joint units on urban emergencies.

**Missions by the Deputy Executive Director**

**Morocco**

From 22 to 24 November, the Deputy Executive Director led a UN-Habitat delegation to the Eighth Africities Summit in Marrakech, on “The transition to sustainable cities and territories: The role of African local governments”. He delivered a keynote speech at the opening of the political segment and co-chaired an event to promote the latest UN-Habitat State of African Cities Report 2018 on “The geography of African investment”. He also held several bilateral meetings, including with the Minister of National Planning, Urban Planning, Housing, and Urban Policy of Morocco, the Minister for Local Government of Ghana, the Mayor of Tunis, as well as delegations from United Cities and Local Governments and Cities Alliance.

**Geneva**

On 26 November, the Deputy Executive Director further met with the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations system in Geneva, to discuss the implementation of outstanding recommendations from past reports, as well as upcoming activities and engagement in the future.