72ND REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

10 APRIL 2019

Agenda Item 7

BRIEFING ON THE UPCOMING TENTH SESSION OF THE WORLD URBAN FORUM (HSP/CPR/72/7)
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1. Building on the lessons learned from the Ninth and previous sessions of the World Urban Forum, the WUF Coordinating Unit of the Partnerships & Advocacy Branch of the External Relations Division at UN-Habitat has begun preparations for the Tenth session of the World Urban Forum, to be held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from 8 to 13 February 2020.

2. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MOFAIC) of the United Arab Emirates and the Abu Dhabi Department of Urban Planning and Municipalities (DPM) signed a Host Country Agreement with UN-Habitat on 17 October 2018, which will guide the preparations for the Tenth session of the World Urban Forum.

3. In line with the request by the Committee of Permanent Representatives that it be actively involved and engaged in the WUF10 preparations, a first subcommittee meeting took place on 25 January 2019, to present the theme, request its approval, brief the members on progress made for the Tenth session of the Forum and solicit general feedback on the preparations.

4. UN-Habitat will hold regular briefings with the subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and, as preparations gather momentum, more frequent meetings will be held to provide updates.

5. The theme of the Tenth session of the World Urban Forum is “Cities of Opportunities – Connecting Culture and Innovation”, reflecting the outcome of the WUF9 participants survey which revealed that “culture and Innovation” were among the top themes proposed for the next WUF.

6. To ensure effective intra-agency coordination and contribution from the sub programmes and regional offices of UN-Habitat, an interdivisional task force was established and inaugurated by the Executive Director on 22 January 2019.

7. An engagement plan for the Tenth session of the World Urban Forum has been created to guide the mobilization of other United Nations system entities based on their respective mandates and areas of expertise as they relate to the theme and sub-themes. On the basis of this engagement, the Forum will play a key role in the advancement of UN system-wide collaboration on sustainable urban development in line with the Secretary-General’s reform of the United Nations Development System.

8. In December 2018, the UN-Habitat team undertook a mission to assess the exhibition space and branding needs of the conference facility and to jointly craft a communication strategy with the host. The WUF10 Logo was designed in close cooperation with the host country focal point with full visual identity guidelines and icons for the branding and promotion of the event.

9. In early February 2019, the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) undertook a security inspection of the conference venue for the purpose of providing the necessary security clearance. This included inspections to the security installations and related buildings as well as amenities bordering the venue.
10. Following the inspections, UNDSS prepared a preliminary security report to be completed by the UAE and Abu Dhabi Police, Fire Services, Armed Forces and other concerned entities in anticipation of a follow up and final inspection.

11. The UN-Habitat Research & Capacity Development Branch has started to engage with the local team for content generation to develop a concept note on the main theme as well as to formulate sub themes and related sessions’ formats, including mobilization of speakers and moderators.

12. The engagement of a Logistics & Event Management company is being finalized by the host to provide logistics support prior to, during and after WUF10.

13. Promotion of the WUF10 has started and UN-Habitat had a WUF10 stand during the UNEA, while arrangements are afoot to promote WUF10 during the UN-Habitat Assembly taking place between May 27 – 31, 2019. In addition to this the host jointly with the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States organized a Pan Arab Urban Development Symposium (PAUDS) on 29th March 2019 in Abu Dhabi to mobilize the Arab region for WUF10.