Twenty-first session
Nairobi, 16–20 April 2007
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat):
progress report of the Executive Director

Report of the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), during the period between the twentieth and twenty-first sessions of the Governing Council.

At its 24th regular meeting of 21st February 2007, the Committee of the Permanent Representatives (CPR) adopted its Inter-sessional report for the period 2005-2007 and hereby submits this report to the 21st session of the Governing Council for its deliberation.

1. Introduction

1. The Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat, the inter-sessional subsidiary body of the Governing Council, held the following meetings during the period between the twentieth (4–8 April 2005) and twenty-first (16-20 April 2007) sessions of the Governing Council:

(a) Meetings during 2005:
- 17th regular meeting - 05 May 2005;
- 18th regular meeting - 29 September 2005;
- 19th regular meeting - 01 December 2005;

(b) Meetings during 2006:
- 20th regular meeting - 16 March 2006;
- 21st regular meeting - 08 June 2006;
- 22nd regular meeting - 28 September 2006;
- 23rd regular meeting - 07 December 2006;

(c) Meetings during 2007:
- 24th regular meeting - 21 February 2007
- Extra-ordinary Meeting - 28 March 2007
II. Members of the bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

2. The members of the Bureau during the period 2004 to 2005 are:
   Mr. Wojciech Jasinski (Poland) - Chair
   Mr. Pedro Luis Pedrosa (Cuba) - Vice-Chair
   Mr. Surendra Kumar (India) - Vice-Chair
   Mr. Jonas Westerlund (Sweden)/Mr. Bernd Braun (Germany) – Vice-Chair
   Mr. Ayo Olukanni (Nigeria) – Rapporteur

3. Upon the departure of Mr. Jonas Westerlund (Sweden) at the end of his tour of duty, he was replaced, as Vice-Chair, by Mr. Bernd Braun, the Permanent Representative of Germany to UN-Habitat.

4. The members of the Bureau during the period 2006 to 2007 were:
   Ms. Elisabeth Jacobsen (Norway) - Chair
   Mr. Wojciech Jasinski (Poland) – Vice-Chair
   Mr. Solomon Karanja (Kenya) – Vice-Chair
   Mr. Daniel Chuburu (Argentina) – Vice-Chair
   Mr. Iftikhar A. Arain (Pakistan) - Rapporteur

III. Summary of the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for 2005

A. 17th regular meeting of 5 May 2005

5. At this meeting, the Committee of the Permanent Representatives reviewed the report of the twentieth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and reactivated two working groups to review follow-up actions on the resolutions and decisions that had been adopted at that session. The Secretariat briefed the CPR on the decisions of the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, 11-12 April 2005) as well as on the implementation of the goals of the United Nations Millenium Declaration on Slum Upgrading. The Executive Director reported on the implementation of the work programme of UN-Habitat for the biennium 2004–2005 and briefed the Committee on the financial status of UN-Habitat and on the work of the Human Settlements Financing Division – Subprogramme 4. The report entitled Indepth Evaluation of UN-HABITAT’s programme and activities, undertaken by OIOS for the Committee for Programme and Coordination, to be discussed by the CPC in June 2005 was presented to the CPR. A number of delegations underscored the importance of ensuring that the report’s recommendations will be included in UN-HABITAT’s Medium Term Strategic and Institutional Plan for 2008-2013. The new Secretary to the Governing Council Mr. Rolf Wichmann as well as the new Chief of Strategic Planning Mr. Nicholas You were introduced to the Committee Members.

B. 18th regular meeting of 29 September 2005

6. The main issues discussed at this meeting were the preparations for the 60th regular session of the General Assembly and the outcome of the 2005 World Summit (14-16 September 2005); the preparations for the third session of the World Urban Forum (19-23 June 2006, Vancouver, Canada); progress report on the implementation of the Programme on Water and Sanitation for Cities and the regular quarterly report on the financial status of UN-HABITAT.

7. The chair of the Working Group on Policy and Programme Matters, Mr. Pedro L. Pedrosa (Cuba), the chair of the Working Group on Budget, Finance and Administrative Matters, Mr. Surendra Kumar (India), and the Chair of the Working Group on the preparations for the World Urban Forum, Mr. Bernd Braun (Germany) presented a progress report on the activities of their respective Working Groups.

C. 19th regular meeting of 01 December 2005

8. At this meeting, elections for the Bureau for 2006 – 2007 biennium were held. The Secretariat briefed the CPR on developments at the 60th regular session of the General Assembly and reported on the Forward Looking Strategic Plan on the two Global Campaigns of UN-HABITAT and also on the status of the preparations of Disaster Management Strategic Plan as requested by GC 20. The Secretariat also presented progress reports on the implementation of the work programme of UN-HABITAT for the biennium 2004-2005; on the Financial situation of UN-HABITAT and on the preparations for the third session of the World Urban Forum (19-23 June 2006, Vancouver, Canada). The Secretariat informed the Committee that Mrs. Inga Björk-Klevby had been appointed as Deputy Executive Director.
IV. Summary of the meetings for 2006

A. 20th regular meeting of 16 March 2006

9. The substantive issues discussed at this meeting included UN-Habitat's work plan for the year 2006, which described the priority areas of focus for the secretariat during 2006-2007; a progress report on preparations for the third session of the World Urban Forum (19-23 June 2006 Vancouver, Canada); the financial status of UN-Habitat; and the work schedule for the CPR meetings for 2006. The Secretariat also briefed the Committee on the meeting of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD), to be held in Nairobi, 3 to 4 April 2006.

B. 21st regular meeting of 8 June 2006

10. At this meeting, the Secretariat presented a progress report on preparations for the third session of the World Urban Forum; on the implementation of the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS); and on the preparations for the twenty-first session of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT. The Secretariat also presented a status report on the Forward Looking Strategic Framework for the period 2008-2009, and on the status of the evaluation of the Habitat Programme Managers. The Executive Director presented a brief overview of the progress of preparation of the Medium-Term Strategic and Institutional Plan for 2008-2009.

11. The CPR took a decision at this meeting to reduce the number of resolutions as agreed at the 20th session of the Governing Council.

C. 22nd regular meeting of 28 September 2006

12. At this meeting, the Secretariat briefed the Committee on the outcome of the third session of the World Urban Forum (19–23 June 2006, Vancouver, Canada,) and presented the draft report of the session. The Executive Director thanked the people of Vancouver and the Government of Canada for hosting the Forum. The secretariat also presented a progress report on the financial situation of UN-HABITAT and on the Medium-Term Strategic and Institutional Plan (2008-2013), as well as on the Resource Mobilization Strategy. The Chair of the Working Group on preparations for the twenty-first session of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT reported on the Meeting of the Working Group that was held on 6 and 20 September 2006.

13. The Committee was informed that the Secretary-General had promulgated under the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, a special annex for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, which entered into force on 1 August 2006. It was announced that the World Habitat Day would be celebrated on 2 October 2006 and the world celebrations would be hosted by the city of Naples and the Russian Federation. The representative of Kenya informed the meeting that Kenya’s World Habitat Day celebrations would be held in Eldoret, Kenya.

D. 23rd regular meeting of 7 December 2006

14. At this meeting, the secretariat presented progress reports on the evaluation of the Habitat Programme Managers; and on the implementation of the work programme of UN-HABITAT for the biennium 2006-2007. The Chair of the Working Group for the preparations of the 21st session of the Governing Council, H.E. Ms. Elisabeth Jacobsen (Norway), presented a progress report that contained the proposed theme for the 21st session of the Governing Council (Sustainable Urbanization: local action for urban poverty reduction with an emphasis on finance and planning) and recommendations to improve the structure and organizational arrangements of the 21st session of the Governing Council as requested in resolution 20/21. The theme and the recommendations were endorsed by the CPR.

15. The chairs of the Working Group on Policy, Budgetary and Administrative Matters, H.E. Mr. Solomon Karanja (Kenya) and H.E. Mr. Daniel Chuburu (Argentina), presented a progress report, respectively, on the preparations of the work programme and budget for 2008-2009 and on the preparations of the Medium-Term Strategic and Institutional Plan (2008-2013), including the strengthening of the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and the Resource Mobilization Strategy.
V. Summary of the Meetings for 2007

A. 24th regular meeting of 21 February 2007

16. At its 24th regular meeting of 21 February 2007, the Committee adopted its report entitled Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), during the period between the twentieth and twenty-first sessions of the Governing Council (HSP/GC/21/1/Add.2). A report was also presented on draft resolutions prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for forwarding to the Governing Council for its further deliberation. The Committee was also briefed by the Executive Director on the developments at the 61st session of the General Assembly and on the strengthening of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (UNHHSF).

B. Extra-ordinary Meeting of 28 March 2007

17. At its Extra-ordinary Meeting of 28 March 2007, the secretariat presented a final briefing to the Committee on the arrangements for the twenty-first session of the Governing Council. The regular quarterly report on UN-HABITAT’s financial situation was also reviewed.

VI. The working groups of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, 2005–2007

18. The following working groups were activated during the period 2005:

(a) Working group on policy and programme matters, chaired by Mr. Pedro L. Pedroso (Cuba);
(b) Working group on budget, finance and administrative matters, chaired by Mr. Surendra Kumar (India);
(c) Working group on the preparations for the third session of the World Urban Forum, chaired by Mr. Bernd Braun (Germany);

In addition, the following ad hoc working group was created:

(c) Working group on the preparations for the third session of the World Urban Forum.

19. Reports of these working groups were presented at the eighteenth regular meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, on 29 September 2005 (HSP/CPR/18/5) and on 1 December 2005 (HSP/CPR/19/7).

20. The following working groups were activated during the period 2006–2007:

As of 9 February 2006, the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-HABITAT decided to merge the Working Group on Budget, Finance and Administrative Matters and the Working Group on Policy and Programme Matters into one working group entitled Working Group on Policy, Budgetary and Administrative Matters, which would also deal with preparations for the 21st session of the Governing Council. The work of this working group was divided among the vice-chairs of the Bureau as follows:

(a) Matters relating to budget and finance would be chaired by H.E. Mr. Solomon Karanja (Kenya).
(b) Matters relating to programme and policy matters would be chaired by H.E. Mr. Daniel Chuburu (Argentina).
(c) Matters relating to the preparations for the twenty-first session of the Governing Council to be chaired by H.E. Ms. Elisabeth Jacobsen (Norway).
(d) The Working Group on the Preparations for the third session of the World Urban Forum was retained under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Wojciech Jasinski (Poland).

21. Progress Report of the working group on the preparations for the third session of the World Urban Forum, including draft resolutions, were presented at the twentieth regular meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, on 16 March 2006 (HSP/CPR/20/7). A progress report on Policy, Budgetary and Administrative Matters were presented at the 23rd regular meeting of the CPR on 7 December 2006.

22. Draft Resolutions prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-HABITAT for the twenty-first session of the Governing Council is contained in HSP/GC/21/1/Add.3.