Statement of the Co-Chair of the Working Group on Policy, Budgetary and Administrative Matters on its review of the implementation of Governing Council resolution 21/10 with regard to the introduction of Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operations (ERSO)
Madam Chair,

The Working Group on Policy, Budgetary and Administrative Matters reviewed the progress being made by the Secretariat in its implementation of resolution 21/10 of the last session of the Governing Council, and in particular, on the introduction of Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operations (ERSO) as part of the strengthening of the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation.

The Working Group reviewed the progress in that implementation during two meetings, which I chaired on 31 October and on 23 November 2007, respectively. In addition, two informal briefing sessions by the Secretariat on ERSO were held on 21 September and on 22 November 2007, respectively.

In my report, I would like to focus on the work of the Working Group at its meetings of 31 October and 23 November and the outcome of these discussions.
At its meeting on 31 October 2007, the Working Group discussed and reviewed the activities related to ERSO proposed by the Secretariat, especially for the period through April 2008, including a draft framework for implementing resolution 21/10 of the Governing Council. The Working Group was also informed on the on-going outside Expert Consultation Process on the ERSO which had been initiated by the Secretariat.

The Working Group provided comments to the Secretariat and there was also general agreement that priority in the ERSO implementation process needed to be given to the drafting of the Operational Procedures and the Operations Manual for ERSO.

Subsequently, an initial draft of the Operations Procedures and Operations Manual, accompanied by a synopsis of the comments received so far from the Group of Outside Experts on the ERSO implementation process, was circulated by the Secretariat on 7 November 2007 and reviewed and discussed at the Working Group meeting of 23 November 2007. At the conclusion of that meeting, the Working Group observed that the work on the Operational Procedures and the Operational Manual for the ERSO was still a work in progress and that the Secretariat was to be commended on the
work done so far and on the steps forward as laid out in its Road Map for ERSO implementation, which also is attached as part of Annex IV of the MTSIP Action Plan for 2008-2013 before this Committee at today’s meeting. It was the consensus of the Working Group that the CPR would expect the work on the ERSO to progress in future in line with the steps outlined in that Road Map and in consultation with the CPR and its Working Group.

I thank you for your attention.