Twenty-second session
Nairobi, 30 March – 3 April 2009
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

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


At its 32nd regular meeting of 5 March 2009, the Committee of the Permanent Representatives (CPR) adopted its Inter-sessional report for the period 2007-2009 and hereby submits this report to the 22nd 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 twenty-first (16-20 April 2007) and twenty-second (30 March to 3 April 2009) sessions of the Governing Council:

(a) Meetings during 2007:
25th regular meeting – 13 June 2007;
26th regular meeting – 27 September 2007;
27th regular meeting 6 December 2007;

(b) Meetings during 2008:
28th regular meeting – 3 April 2008;
29th regular meeting – 11 June 2008;
30th regular meeting – 24 September 2008;
31st regular meeting – 3 December 2008**

(c) Meetings during 2009:
32nd regular meeting – 5 March 2009
Extra-ordinary Meeting - 24 March 2009

* HSP/GC/22/1.
** Due to technical reasons, the meeting was concluded on 19 January 2009.
II. Members of the bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

2. 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 Chuhuru (Argentina) – Vice-Chair
Mr. Iftikhar A. Arain (Pakistan) - Rapporteur

3. The members of the Bureau during the period 2008 to 2009 are:

Ms. Jacqueline Mendoza (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) - Chair
Mr. Kelebet Nkomani (Zimbabwe) – Vice-Chair
Mr. Iftikhar A. Arain (Pakistan) – Vice-Chair
Mr. Igor Liška (Slovakia) – Vice-Chair
Mr. James Stewart (U.S.A.) – Rapporteur

III. Summary of the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for 2007

A. 25th regular meeting of 13 June 2007

4. At this meeting, the Committee of the Permanent Representatives reviewed the report of the twenty-first session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and reactivated four working groups to review follow-up actions on the resolutions and decisions that had been adopted at that session. The Executive Director briefed the Committee on the financial status of UN-Habitat.

B. 26th regular meeting of 27 September 2007

5. The main issues discussed at this meeting were the update on the ongoing strategic UN-HABITAT activities within the context of United Nations reform, including preparations for the sixty-second session of the General Assembly. The Executive Director informed the Committee that the Secretary-General’s report document (A/62/219) on Implementation of the Outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and Strengthening of the United Nations Human settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) had just been released. She also believed that it would be opportune to have the Habitat Agenda and sustainable urbanization included on the agenda of the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council. The meeting also discussed progress in the 2008-2013 Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan (MTSIP), including Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operations (ERSO); the quarterly report on the financial status of UN-HABITAT and the preparations for the fourth session of the World Urban Forum.

C. 27th regular meeting of 6 December 2007

6. At this meeting, elections for the C.P.R. Bureau for 2008 – 2009 biennium were held. The Committee endorsed three documents before it: The report of the Working Group on the draft action plan for the Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Action Plan (MTSIP); the Strategic Policy on Human Settlements and Crisis; and the Strategic Framework of the UN-HABITAT Work Programme for 2010-2011. The Secretariat briefed the CPR on developments at the 62nd regular session of the General Assembly and reported that three reports relevant to the work of UN-HABITAT had been presented to the Second Committee of the General Assembly, namely, the Report of the Governing Council at its twenty-first session; the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda; and the report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme. The Secretariat also presented the report on the Financial status of UN-HABITAT and reported on the preparations for the fourth session of the World Urban Forum.
IV. Summary of the meetings for 2008

A. 28th regular meeting of 3 April 2008

7. At this meeting, the Committee approved its work schedule for 2008 and endorsed the report of the working group on implementation of the Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan (MTSIP) within the programme of work of UN-HABITAT for 2008; as well as the report of the working group on the draft operational procedures and guidelines for the activities of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation's Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operations and other Innovative Financial Mechanisms. A progress report of the working group on preparations for the fourth session of the World Urban Forum was also endorsed. The secretariat presented a quarterly report on UN-HABITAT's financial status.

B. 29th regular meeting of 11 June 2008

8. At this meeting the Committee observed one minute's silence to remember the victims of the natural disasters in Myanmar and China, and the aviation accident in Kenya in which two government ministers had died. Items discussed by the Committee members were: progress in the implementation of the Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan, including the Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operations; progress in the preparations for the fourth session of the World Urban Forum; and the quarterly report on the financial status of UN-HABITAT.

C. 30th regular meeting of 24 September 2008

9. The substantive issues discussed at this meeting included progress in the implementation of the Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan (MTSIP) including the Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operations (ERSO); and a progress report on preparations for the fourth session of the World Urban Forum. The Secretariat also reported on preparations for the sixty-third session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, noting that there had been an attempt to render the report of UN-HABITAT to the GA to be a more results-oriented. Also discussed at the meeting were the preparations for the twenty-second session of the Governing Council, and the secretariat presented a progress report on the financial status of UN-HABITAT. The Secretariat announced that the World Habitat Day would be celebrated on 6 October 2008.

D. 31st regular meeting of 3 December 2008

10. At this meeting, the substantive issues discussed included: the outcome of the fourth session of the World Urban Forum (3-6 November 2008, Nanjing, China); and progress in the implementation of the Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan (MTSIP) including the Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operations (ERSO). The meeting was adjourned due to technical problems and was resumed on 19 January 2009. At the resumed meeting, the Committee observed one minute's silence in memory of the victims of the conflict in the Middle East. The main items discussed at the resumed meeting included: progress in the implementation of the Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan (MTSIP) including the Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operations (ERSO); Efficiency and effectiveness of the Governance Structure of UN-HABITAT; Status of preparations for the twenty-second session of the Governing Council and Work Programme and Budget of UN-HABITAT for the biennium 2010-2011; the Quarterly Report on the financial status of UN-HABITAT and the Outcome of the 63rd session of the General Assembly.

V. Summary of the Meetings for 2009

A. 32nd regular meeting of 5 March 2009

11. At its 32nd regular meeting of 5 March 2009, the Committee adopted its report entitled: "Report of the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the inter-sessional period including draft resolutions prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives for transmission to the
twenty-second session of the Governing Council for its further consideration. The regular quarterly report on UN-HABITAT's financial status was also reviewed by the Committee.

B. Extra-ordinary Meeting of 24 March 2009

12. At its Extra-ordinary Meeting of 24 March 2009, the secretariat presented a final briefing to the Committee on the arrangements for the twenty-second session of the Governing Council.

VI. The working groups of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, 2007–2009

13. The following working groups were activated during the period 2007:

(a) Working group on policy and programme matters, chaired by H.E. Mr. Daniel Chuburu (Argentina);
(b) Working group on budget and finance, chaired by H.E. Mr. Solomon Karanja (Kenya);
(c) Working group on preparations for the twenty-first session of the Governing Council, chaired by H.E. Ms. Elizabeth Jacobsen (Norway).

14. The following working groups were activated during the period 2008–2009 by the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-HABITAT on 29 January 2008, and the work of the working groups divided among the Chairs as follows:

(a) Working group on preparations for WUF IV to be chaired by H.E. Mr. James Stewart (USA);
(b) Working group on Implementation of ERSO to be chaired by H.E. Mr. Igor Liška (Slovakia);
(c) Working group on MTSIP and Work Programme and Budget of UN-HABITAT to be chaired by Mr. Kelebert Nkomani (Zimbabwe);
(d) Working group on preparations for the twenty-second session of the Governing Council to be chaired by H.E. Ms. Jacqueline Mendoza (Venezuela).

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