UN-HABITAT

STATEMENT OF THE CHAIR OF THE CONTACT GROUP
ON THE TOR FOR
GOVERNANCE REVIEW

CPR Meeting: 24 September 2009

HSP/CPR/34/4
I wish to give an update on the progress of the Governance review and present the draft Terms of Reference which have been written jointly by a Drafting Group comprised of members of the CPR and Secretariat. The Terms of Reference are presented for review and endorsement.

As we are all aware, at the last CPR it was decided that a joint CPR and Secretariat Contact Group would be established to conduct this review. The Secretariat produced a Non-Paper or Concept Note to kick-start the process of discussion on how to conduct the Review. Since June, the Contact Group has met three times: once to discuss the Concept Paper, the next to review a revised version of the same and to form a joint CPR / Secretariat Drafting Group to produce the Terms of Reference, and finally to review the Terms of Reference which had been produced by the Drafting Group.

The Terms of Reference which you have before you are a product of five meetings of 3-4 hours each by the Drafting Group. The Drafting Group comprised CPR members from UK, Nigeria, Indonesia and Egypt and the Secretariat, with a broader cross-section of CPR members attending its last meeting. The Group used the Concept Paper as the basis for its work and brainstormed ideas of what should or should not be included in order to render it into a Terms of Reference. The Group hopes that the product, once the Review work is commenced, will offer enough guidance to ensure time is not wasted on discussion of first principles, yet is not overly prescriptive. Most importantly, the Group has tried to ensure that the proposed steps in the Terms of Reference are achievable by the Governance Review within the time framework available before GC23.

I will now briefly highlight some of the main elements of the Terms of Reference.

The document begins by offering a Background as to how the Governance Review came about and then states the objective and purpose of the review. It is worth noting here that the Review is intended to take place in the context of the One UN Reforms and the current review of UN-HABITAT’s strategic direction and management structure in the MTSP.

The next section, Scope, specifies the entities that will be the subject of the Review and the phasing of activities. As you can see, Phase 1 will be completed following endorsement of these TOR, and it is intended that Phase 2 will commence immediately thereafter. Phase 2 forms the bulk of the review and will concentrate on bodies based in Nairobi. Special efforts will be made to identify quick wins that can be implemented over the short term. Phase 3, will primarily review the New York based entities governing UN-HABITAT. Phase 4, the concluding stage of the process, will offer options for consideration at GC23 as mandated by the Resolution. I have been informed by the Secretariat that there is a typing error in Phase 4 and it should actually read: “This phase will offer options for consideration by the GC23 with an indication of the level of consensus.” This amendment will be incorporated along with any other revisions agreed by the CPR.

How the Governance Review will be conducted is specified in greater detail in Section 5: Approach and Methodology. I will not go into all elements of the methodology here except to state that a key
component is the development of a Vision and an assessment of the measures needed to attain it both in Nairobi and non-Nairobi based entities.

Section 6 of the TOR proposes an Organisational Set-up to complete Phase 2. An Implementation Team will be formed comprising 5 members of CPR, preferably reflecting regional balance and 5 members of the Secretariat. This Implementation team will also have a Chair and Rapporteur selected from amongst the members.

The TOR contains a brief description of the role and responsibilities of the Implementation Team and, as you will see from the organisational chart, each member of the Implementation Team heads an Assessment Team, which is comprised of a combination of 3 members of both the Secretariat and CPR. Eight Assessment Teams will be mandated to undertake an analysis of each of the entities defined in the Scope and report their findings to the Implementation Team. This in turn will operate under the guidance of the Contact Group.

The Terms of Reference are silent on the organisational set-up for Phase 3 as it is believed that this will be best determined nearer the time.

Section 7 of the TOR offers a Proposed Timeline. As you will see, there is a great deal of work to be completed before GC 23 in 2011. The timeline takes into consideration periods of high concentration on other activities by the Secretariat, such as WUF and preparations for the next Governing Council, and adjusts the timing of deliverables accordingly.

The last two sections 8 and 9 highlight the envisaged costs associated with conducting this review and the potential risks and assumptions which have been taken into account in preparing the Terms of Reference.

I would also like to reiterate that subject to this TOR being endorsed today, members of the CPR are requested to become the members of the Implementation and Assessment teams. I would therefore ask any CPR member who is willing to serve to send an email to this effect to Portia Machancoses of the Secretariat. The Implementation Team will have its first meeting on 2 October 2009.

Thank you. Now let me invite any questions and comments regarding these Terms of Reference.