Evolution of Governance
Structure of UN-Habitat
Brief historical overview

- **1972**: UN Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, establishes UNEP and the UNHHSF
- **1976**: First UN Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, Canada
- **1977**: Establishment of UNCHS (Habitat) GA resolution 32/162 designates Commission on Human Settlements as governing body.
- **1978**: First meeting of the Commission on Human Settlements (CHS) comprised of 58 member States rotating on a 3 year basis reporting to the General Assembly through ECOSOC.
- **1978-1988**: CHS meets every year for 10 working days to approve the Work Programme and Budget and to decide on the focus of theme papers to be prepared by the Secretariat.
- **1989**: CHS decides to meet on a biennial basis, both as a means to save money and as a means to provide more inter-sessional time for UN-Habitat to produce more measurable outputs.
- **1991-1999**: CHS gradually reduces duration of its sessions to 5 working days. Space for policy dialogue and debate on human settlements issues drastically reduced.
- **1996**: Habitat II Conference: new normative mandate for UNCHS to monitor implementation of Habitat Agenda. Para 222 of the Habitat Agenda clearly specifies the role of the Commission.
- **2001**: Istanbul+5, Special Session of the GA on implementing the Habitat Agenda recommends the strengthening of UNCHS (Habitat) and of the Commission. GA decides to elevate UNCHS to programme status, transform the CHS into a Governing Council, and designates CPR as the formal inter-sessional body of the GC. World Urban Forum established to foster dialogue and debate on human settlements issues.
- **2003**: New rules of procedure for GC adopted, a non-voting seat is allocated to local authorities.
- **2005-2007**: MTSIP formulation and adoption by GC
Key Steps in Programme and Budget Cycle (example 2012-2013)

- **Phase 1 (T minus 10 to 19 months):** Draft Strategic Framework (SF) for the 2012-2013 biennium prepared based on guidelines provided by the NY issued in September 2009. Draft SF discussed with CPR (avr 4 WG meetings) and submitted to CPC and other bodies in NY for review in early December 2009. Any anticipated changes to the SF need to be included at this stage.

- **Phase 2 (T minus 3 to 9 months):** 9 months prior to GC draft WP&B prepared based on instructions from Budget Division (July 2010) and in line with SF. Document submitted to the CPR in September 2010 followed by working group meetings (avr 8) throughout Oct/Nov 2010. Instructions regarding RB component received around this time from New York. WP&B goes with CPR cover letter in December 2010 to Budget Division for transmission to ACABQ for review. RB component is submitted separately for approval process starting in July 2011. At this time, consolidated SF for UN system gets approved by GA. In January 2011 ACABQ reviews non RB component of WP&B and feedback is provided end of Jan beginning Feb 2011 (1st week of Feb = 6 week rule).

- **Phase 3 (T minus 2 months to T plus 8 months):** Based on feedback received from the ACABQ, final WP&B submitted to CPR working group and GC for approval. (NB UNEP GC at this time) This version will differ from that reviewed by CPR in Dec 2010. ACABQ comments issued around thus time. Approved WP&B goes to Budget Division in March 2011 for inclusion in consolidated WP&B of UN and review by ACABQ un June/July 2011. Changes foreseen in Dec 2009 reviewed by CPC. Review may result in further changes (July/Aug 2011) before being forwarded to GA 5th committee for approval in December 2011. By this time, new SF for 2013-2014 is being discussed with CPR. 5th Committee focuses on RB component which accounts for differences in format and presentation of WP&B.

In parallel to above: UN-Habitat submits periodic progress reports on WP implementation, quarterly financial reports to the CPR and submits separate financial reports on earmarked extra-budgetary resources (about 80% of the total budget) to the Office of the Controller, the Budget Division of the United Nations, and the Board of Auditors.
Other Reporting Mechanisms

- ED & DED enter into yearly Compact with SG focusing on commitments to uphold core values and principles and to contribute to IADGs and strategic objectives resulting from Summits and other inter-governmental fora.
- Annual SG’s Report on the Coordinated Implementation of the Habitat Agenda submitted to ECOSOC which coordinates follow-up to major UN Conferences and Summits.
- Annual SG’s Report on Follow-up to the Habitat II Conference and the Strengthening of UN-Habitat submitted to the GA as a follow-up to GA Resolutions 55/205 and 55/206.
- Reports regularly to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) on human settlements and local authorities chapters of Agenda 21.
- Monitors and reports to GA on attainment of Targets 10 (water and sanitation) and 11 (slums) of the MDGs.
- On average prepares inputs for 22 reports per annum to the GA on cross-cutting issues and follow-up to GA resolutions
- Typically two routine internal audits per year, periodic external audits that are consolidated into a report to the GA every two years, regular evaluations of the work programme through IMDIS, and periodic in-depth programmatic evaluations conducted by OIOS and/or the Department of Management.