Introductory Statement made
on behalf of the Implementation Team of the Governance Review Process

Progress Report on the Governance Review Process

Agenda Item 7

HSP/CPR/37/7
Nairobi, 14 June 2010
Excellencies,
Colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to give a verbal update on the progress of the Governance review since the last CPR meeting in March. Ambassador Chuburu, who ordinarily would have provided this as Chair of the Governance Review Implementation Team, is currently on mission and therefore I, as Co-Chair, in the spirit of the CPR-Secretariat cooperation, deliver this statement.

There have been several developments in the review over the past three months and I am pleased to report that good progress has been made in line with the Terms of Reference approved by the CPR last year. Although we are slightly behind the timeline indicated in the Terms of Reference, this is for good reason as deeper investigations have taken place in the seven focus areas of the governance review.

As there are several CPR members who are new to this issue, I would like to recap how the governance review came about, the progress we have made in the past year, especially the developments in the past three months.

It may be recalled that the Governance Review of UN-Habitat was mandated in a Resolution at the last Governing Council in held in April 2009. This resolution mandated a joint CPR-Secretariat review of UN-Habitat’s Governance before the next Governing Council. In June 2009 Terms of Reference (ToR) were drawn up by a joint CPR and Secretariat group. These ToRs specified a hierarchical organisational structure for the Review, comprising an Open-Ended Contact Group, a regionally balanced Implementation Team and seven Assessment Teams. Since September 2009, both the regionally balanced Implementation Team and the seven Assessment Teams have been operational. The Open Ended Contact Group held a meeting in October 2009 and nominated the Chair and four CPR members of the Implementation Team, the Chair being His Excellency the Ambassador for Argentina. The Secretariat in turn nominated an equivalent number of members of the Implementation Team, including the co-Chair, this position being taken by the Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive Director.

The Implementation Team held its first meeting on 14 October 2009. It agreed the membership of the seven Assessment Teams charged with researching the seven key areas specified in the Terms of Reference. The Assessment Teams are each led by a member of the Implementation Team. Overall, there are equal numbers of the CPR and Secretariat in the Assessment Teams.

A Visioning Workshop was held for 1½ days in November 2009 at The Lord Errol as a joint Contact Group-Secretariat activity and reached a consensus between attendees on what constituted good governance in the context of the Governance Review. The definition was used as a benchmark for assessment of current practices and an aspiration to guide the formulation of proposals.

Since December 2009, the Implementation Team members have met regularly to plan, manage and quality assure the substantive work of the Review. Phase 2, as detailed in the ToR, commenced in January 2010. Seven Assessment Teams addressed the seven focus areas using a combination of questionnaires, group and individual interviews to gather information and solicit opinions. These were discussed at a half day retreat held on 24 May 2010 and comments were made on the Assessment Team proposals. A joint CPR-Secretariat drafting committee met have reviewed the proposed “wins” from each of the seven Assessment Teams for a total of 12 hours in three meetings during the last working week. It has refined and consolidated the wins into a comprehensive and internally consistent list (including quick wins) for the Governance Review as a whole. This list will reviewed, modified as appropriate and hopefully endorsed by the Implementation Team - which is proposed to meet next on 15 July 2010. The Implementation Team will then decide on a programme of consultation with the broader constituency of stakeholders. It is possible that some clarification and refinement will also be requested from some of the Assessment Teams.
In line with the collegial spirit that has prevailed in the Governance Review, it is the intention to generate a consensus within both the CPR and the Secretariat during this programme of broader consultations with a view to the final proposals being submitted for formal approval at the September CPR meeting. It had been hoped to present findings to this meeting of the CPR but as the process of refinement and consensus building has yet to commence, it was felt to be premature to present any recommendations for your consideration at this stage in our endeavours.

Due to the commitment demonstrated by both the CPR and Secretariat members involved in the Governance Review, we have maintained a high level of momentum so far. However, given the slower vacation months ahead and the significant number of CPR members involved in the process who will be leaving Kenya, we are asking for 6 CPR members to come forward to fill the following current and prospective vacancies:

- 2 positions for Assessment Team 3 (Secretariat to the Governing Council, CPR and Assessment Teams) to replace Ambassador Gaete who left recently and Jon Geddes following his departure in August
- 1 position for Assessment Team 5 (UNON) to replace Agustaviano Sofjan following his departure in August
- 2 positions for Assessment Team 6 (Trust Funds and Programmes) to replace Jorge Laguna who is departing this month and Morten Nordskag who will depart in June
- 1 position for Team 7 (Regional and Political Groupings) to replace Ketan Shukla who departed Kenya recently

Thank you. Now let me invite any questions and comments regarding this report.