United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Notes of the Meeting of CPR Working Group for Planning

Ref: UNH-SGC-M-CPR-WG-Planning-1102

Date: 14 February 2011
Time: 9:50 to 13:01
Venue: Conference Room 4
Attendance: 42 Representatives from 34 countries, and 22 staff members
Chair: H.E. Mr. Konrad Paulsen, Permanent Representative of Chile to UN-Habitat

A. Introduction

1. The Chair, H.E. Mr. Konrad Paulsen, welcomed members to the meeting and called for the adoption of the agenda, which was adopted as presented below:

   a) Adoption of the Provisional Agenda.
   b) Presentation and Discussion of the Draft Resolutions as follows:

      i) Draft Resolution on the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat3).
      ii) Draft Resolution on Global and National Strategies and Framework for improving the lives of Slum Dwellers beyond the Millennium Development Goals target.
      iii) Draft Resolution on Sustainable Urban Development through Expanding Equitable Access to Land, Housing, Basic Services and Infrastructure.
   c) Any Other Matters.

2. The Chair then invited the Secretariat to give members some background information.

B. Background Information by the Secretariat

3. The Secretary to the Governing Council recalled that at the last meeting of the Working Group, the members decided that seven resolutions would be discussed at the current meeting. He stated that only three resolutions would be presented at the meeting and that others would follow later. He explained that the Consultant was still working on the Governance Review, while the resolution on ERSO was still being examined in-house. The Resolution on Work Programme and Budget was being finalized because the Executive Director had just returned from ACABQ meeting on that resolution.

4. He stated that on 2 March 2011, as required by Governing Council Resolution 18/1 of 16 February 2001, the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) would recommend to the Governing Council the resolutions it wants considered, and pointed out that further resolutions could still be considered even after the CPR meeting. He explained that the reason why the resolutions could still be discussed just before the GC and after recommendation by the CPR was to attempt to resolve existing difficulties arising from those resolutions prior to the meeting. He noted that, ultimately, it is the GC that would make the final decision on the outcome of the resolutions.

5. The Director, Global Division, Ms. Axumite Gebre-Egziabher, gave the highlight of the Draft Resolution on the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban
Development (Habitat III). She also gave the background to the convening of Habitat III Conference, noting that it took into account the developments in the area of climate change.

C. Comments by Members

6. Members made the following comments:

   a) Requested for the Secretary-General’s report to which the resolution referred.
   b) Also requested for the Executive Director’s Report.
   c) Requested to know if lessons learned from Habitat 1 and 2 Conferences were considered for the improvement of Habitat 3.
   d) Requested to know if Habitat 3 would have a different format from that of the World Urban Forum (WUF).
   e) Also requested for the rules of procedure for Habitat 2 and ECOSOC.
   f) Requested to know if the venue and the financial implications for Habitat 3 had been decided.
   g) Also wanted to know if there would be a specific theme for Habitat 3 Conference.

D. Response by the Secretariat

7. The Secretariat responded that:

   a) The Executive Director had prepared the Secretary-General’s report and that as soon as the GC decides, the report would be sent to the Secretary-General.
   b) The Executive Director’s report was sent to members by e-mail on 2 February 2011 and that a copy would be given to the Representative of Pakistan (who raised the issue).
   c) Lessons learned from Habitat 1 and 2 Conferences would be considered.
   d) Member States would decide the format of Habitat 3, taking into account the fact that whereas WUF is a non-legislative organ, Habitat 3 has a legislative mandate.
   e) The venue and the financial implications for Habitat 3 Conference would be decided after the General Assembly has approved that the Conference be held.
   f) The Governing Council would decide on the theme and other issues relating to Habitat 3 Conference.

Agenda Item (b)(i): Draft Resolution on the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

8. Ms. Gebre-Egziabher took members through this resolution for their consideration. She explained that after the 2 March 2011 meeting of the CPR, where members would approve the transmittal of the resolutions to the members of the GC, members could still continue discussion on the resolutions with a view to resolving contentious issues prior to the session of the Governing Council. It was also explained that the draft report by the Executive Director would be the basis of the Secretary-General’s report. This draft report was currently being edited by Conference Services.

9. Members went through the Resolution paragraph by paragraph and made suggestions and amendments, which were incorporated in the soft copy and which would be sent to members later.

Agenda Item (b)(ii): Draft Resolution on Global and National Strategies and Framework for improving the lives of Slum Dwellers beyond the Millennium Development Goals target
10. Members were taken through this resolution by the Special Adviser to the Executive Director, Mr. Naison Mutizwa-Mangiza. He explained that a new framework for dealing with slums needed to be designed since the former target had been attained. It was explained that different countries perceived slums differently and that knowing how many people there were in slums would help to prevent the development of new slums.

11. Members then went through the Resolution paragraph by paragraph and made suggestions and amendments, which were incorporated in the soft copy and which would be sent to members later.

**Agenda Item (b)(iii): Draft Resolution on Sustainable Urban Development through Expanding Equitable Access to Land, Housing, Basic Services and Infrastructure**

12. Ms. Gebre-Egziabher took members through this draft resolution. After the presentation and comments by members on the draft resolution, she assured members that the Secretariat had taken note of their suggestions and that there would be a meeting to explain all the issues that had been raised. She stated that UN-Habitat must be part and parcel of Sustainable Urban Development agenda.

13. Members then went through the Resolution paragraph by paragraph and made suggestions and amendments, which were incorporated in the soft copy and which would be sent to members later.

**E. Any other Business**

14. Under this agenda item, the following issues were raised:

a) The Representative of Austria stated that on 25 January 2011, there was a meeting in Brussels which came up with declarations and that his country did not agree with the declaration but that it had been publicized on the website.

b) The Secretary to the Governing Council sought permission to convene meetings of the Working Group on Planning to discuss incoming resolutions and to give a second reading if possible to the one already reviewed. He suggested that these meetings should take place on 2 and 16 March 2011, and members consented.

**F. Adjournment**

15. At 1:01 P.M., there being no other business, the Chair thanked members for their contributions and then adjourned the meeting.