Notes on CPR Working Group for Planning

Ref: UNH-SGC-M-CPR-WG-Planning-1101

Date: 28 January 2011

Time: 9:46 to 11:32

Venue: Conference Room 4

Attendance: 31 Representatives from 24 countries, and 8 staff members

Chair: Mr. Masoud Gharanfoli, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to UN-Habitat

A. Introduction

1. The Chair, Mr. Masoud Gharanfoli, 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) Discussion on the Draft Resolution on the UN-Habitat Country Activities for the 23rd Session of the Governing Council (GC23).
   c) Any other matters.

2. The Chair then invited the Secretariat to give members general framework on the resolutions.

B. General Framework by the Secretariat

3. The Secretary to the Governing Council informed the meeting that in the preparation for GC23, the Secretariat had proposed the framework of the resolutions for consideration by the meeting. He said the resolutions were based on the instructions from the member states on the activities to be carried out by the Secretariat. In that respect, the proposed resolutions belonged to the member states and not to the Secretariat. He said that members were free to adopt or amend the resolutions as they saw fit, following which the CPR would recommend those resolutions to the GC for consideration. He also said that there were seven resolutions altogether for discussion by the members and noted that they correlate with the report of the Executive Director.

4. The Chair then invited the Director, Regional and Technical Cooperation Division (RTCD), Mr. Daniel Biau, to make some comments on the first resolution, entitled: “Discussion on the Draft Resolution on the UN-Habitat Country Activities for the 23rd Session of the Governing Council (GC23)."

5. Mr. Biau stated that the work of the Working Group and the CPR were preparatory to the work of the Governing Council. He said that whatever the Working Group decides would go to the CPR, then to the GC, which can accept or reject the decision. Mr. Biau further explained that the Working Group does not go into the final negotiations as these were done during the Governing Council sometimes up to the evening of Thursday of the GC meeting (in this case, until 14 April 2011). He also explained that as had been the practice, new resolutions from member states could still be accepted until the Tuesday of the GC meeting (in this case, until 12 April 2011).

C. Discussion on the Draft Resolution on the UN-Habitat Country Activities for the for the 23rd Session of the Governing Council (GC23)
6. Mr. Biau then gave the background to the resolution stating that it arose out of the effort to strengthen the country activities of UN-Habitat and also as a strategy to translate the Enhanced Normative Operational Framework (ENOF) into the country activity. Mr. Biau then took members through the draft resolution paragraph by paragraph.

7. After the presentation, the Chair invited members to make their comments.

D. Comments by Members

Members commented as follows:

a) How soon would all the draft resolutions and Country Activities Report be available so that they could consult their Capitals?
b) There should be clear timetable for UN-Habitat’s and UNEP’s meetings so as to avoid overlap in time.
c) South-South cooperation should be mainstreamed more in the body of the resolution.
d) The resolution should also refer to the Peer Review Process.
e) The Executive Director’s Report should be availed to members early enough to help them look at the draft resolutions.
f) The only possible date to review all the resolutions is 14 February 2011.
g) The resolution should also refer to Regional Offices in view of the vital role they play in the work of the organization and also in view of the role they play in the formulation and implementation of country activities.
h) The resolution should emphasize disaster preparedness.

E. Response by the Secretariat

8. The Secretariat thanked members for their suggestions for the improvement of the document and responded as follows:

a) The current resolution being discussed would have no report attached but because they were based on CPR quarterly activities report.
b) The reports that correlate with other resolutions and the CPR quarterly reports would be made available to members in the next few days.
c) Amendments would be made to the text along the lines proposed by members.
d) It would not be easy to go through seven resolutions during the course of one meeting; accordingly the first reading of the resolution on 14 February 2011 would not give members enough time to look at all the resolutions.
e) Noted the suggestion that there should be no overlap between the meetings of the Working Group and those of UNEP.
f) The draft resolutions had to be sent to UNON for translation and to enable the CPR to refer them to the GC on 2 March 2011.

F. Further Comments by Members

9. Members made further commented as follows:

a) Why would there be any further meeting for a second reading after the submission of the resolutions to the CPR?
b) All draft resolutions should be sent to members electronically and immediately so that they could be sent to their Capitals. This would enable the Capitals to respond by mid-February.
c) Was the CPR Bureau consulted on the dates?
d) They also wanted to know if the Secretariat was considering increasing the number of resolutions.
G. Further Response by the Secretariat

10. The Secretariat responded further as follows:

   a) A second reading may be necessary in case the resolutions needed further negotiations prior to submission to the CPR. Moreover, after submission to GC by the CPR, members normally took up discussions on difficult resolutions with a view to reaching an agreement before the meeting of the GC itself. In that case, the agreed resolutions would replace the one sent earlier by the CPR to the GC.

   b) There was a Bureau meeting at which the Secretariat presented the dated of the meetings.

   c) Noted the members’ wish to discuss all the resolutions on 14 February 2011.

   d) The Secretariat was not considering increasing the number of resolutions.

H. Summary by the Chair

11. After the discussion by members, the Chair summarized as follows:

   If all seven resolutions and the reports are ready, they should be sent to members early enough for discussion to be held on 14 February 2011.

I. Any other Business

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

   a) The Representative of France informed the meeting that his delegation intended to table a draft resolution on Access to Basic Services and requested members who had any contributions to make on the issue to contact him.

   b) The Representative of Pakistan wanted clarification on the actual duration for the GC23. The Secretary to the Governing Council explained that the Secretariat had written a letter to President of GC on the issue and that response was being awaited. He noted, however, that to shorten the duration of the GC23 would require a proposal from a member for the issue to be placed on the GC23 agenda.

J. Adjournment

13. At 11:32 A.M., there being no other business, the Chair thanked members for their contributions and then adjourned the meeting.