Agenda Item 5:

Report of the Work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the Inter-sessional Period, including Draft Resolutions prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives for transmission to the 23rd Session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat.

Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on its work during the intersessional period: Note by the secretariat (HSP/CPR/40/5/1)
Twenty-third session
Nairobi, 11 – 15 April 2011

Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters

Report of the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the intersessional period

Note by the secretariat

* HSP/GC/23/1.
Introduction

1. The Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat, the intersessional subsidiary body of the Governing Council, held the following meetings during the period between the Governing Council’s twenty-second session (30 March–3 April 2009) and its twenty-second session (11–15 April 2011):

(a) **Meetings during 2009:**

Thirty-third regular meeting – 11 June 2009;
Thirty-fourth regular meeting – 24 September 2009;

(b) **Meetings during 2010:**

Thirty-sixth regular meeting – 5 March 2010;
Thirty-seventh regular meeting – 14 June 2010;
Thirty-eighth regular meeting – 15 September 2010;
Thirty-ninth regular meeting – 16 December 2010.

(c) **Meetings during 2011 (To be held):**

Fortieth regular meeting – 5 March 2011;
Extraordinary meeting – 31 March 2011.

I. Members of the bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

2. The members of the Bureau during the period 2008–2009 were:

Ms. Jacqueline Mendoza (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) – Chair
Mr. Kelebet Nkomani (Zimbabwe) – Vice-Chair
Mr. Iftikhar A. Arain (Pakistan) – Vice-Chair
Mr. Igor Liška (Slovakia) – Vice-Chair
Mr. James Stewart (United States of America) – Rapporteur

3. The current members of the Bureau during the period 2010–2011 are:

Mr. Macharia Kamau (Kenya) – Chair
Mr. Masoud Gharanfoli (Islamic Republic of Iran) – Vice-Chair
Mr. Sergey Trepelkov (Russian Federation) – Vice-Chair
Mr. Bruno Garcia-Dobarco Gonzalez (Spain) – Vice-Chair
Mr. Konrad Paulsen (Chile) – Rapporteur

II. Summary of the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in 2009

A. Thirty-third regular meeting, 11 June 2009

4. At this meeting, the Committee observed a minute’s silence as a mark of respect for the victims and the bereaved following the disappearance of Air France flight from Brazil to France on 1 June 2009 and reviewed the report of the twenty-second session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat. It also reactivated three working groups to review follow-up actions on the resolutions and decisions that had been adopted at that session. The Executive Director briefed the Committee on the progress in the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan, including experimental reimbursable seeding operations, country-level activities, preparations for the fifth session of the World Urban Forum and financial status of UN-Habitat.

B. Thirty-fourth regular meeting, 24 September 2009

5. At this meeting, the draft terms of reference for a governance review of UN-Habitat was introduced by the chair of the contact group, which was discussed and approved by the Committee. Members were also requested to join the implementation and assessment teams of the governance review. The Deputy Executive Director described the format and contents of the quarterly report on
UN-Habitat country activities, and subsequent to comments and proposals made by the Committee, she committed that the future report will be refined and improved. Participants also discussed the terms of reference for the medium-term strategic and institutional plan peer review; the report of the review of the past four sessions of the World Urban Forum 2002–2008; the status of preparations for the fifth session of the World Urban Forum; the preparations for the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly; and the quarterly report on the financial status of UN-Habitat.

C. Thirty-fifth regular meeting, 7 December 2009

6. At this meeting, elections for the Bureau for the biennium 2010–2011 were held. The Executive Director presented the sixth-monthly progress report on the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan 2008–2013, and briefed the Committee on the various advocacy activities on human settlement issues in the world including the World Habitat Day celebrations hosted by the Government of the United States of America in Washington D.C., and presentation of the UN-Habitat flagship report on urban planning, Global Report on Human Settlements 2009: Planning Sustainable Cities, to the European Parliament in Brussels and discussions thereafter with the European Commission. The co-chair of the open-ended contact group for the governance review process provided an update on the progress of the review including the outcome of the visioning workshop held in November 2009. The secretariat briefed the Committee on developments at the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly and presented the quarterly report on UN-Habitat country activities, an update on preparations for the fifth session of the World Urban Forum and the quarterly financial report on the financial status of UN-Habitat.

III. Summary of the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in 2010

A. Thirty-sixth regular meeting, 5 March 2010

7. At this meeting, the Committee observed a minute’s silence to pay tribute to the memory of the victims of and those affected by the recent earthquakes in Chile and Haiti. The Committee approved its work schedule for 2010 and the Executive Director provided updates on preparations for the fifth session of the World Urban Forum to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 22 to 26 March 2010 as well as for the Shanghai World Expo to be held in Shanghai, China from 1 May to 31 October 2010. The Committee took notes of the reports of the chair of the working group on the work programme and budget on the proposed strategic framework for 2012-2013; the co-chair of the implementation team on the UN-Habitat governance review process; and the vice-chair of the peer review on the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan. The secretariat’s quarterly reports on country activities and financial status were also presented and noted.

B. Thirty-seventh regular meeting, 14 June 2010

8. At this meeting, the Committee was presented with a report on the outcome of the fifth session of the World Urban Forum and progress made for the sixth session of the World Urban Forum. The Executive Director also presented the sixth-monthly progress report on the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan 2008–2013, the quarterly report on UN-Habitat country activities and the quarterly report on the financial status of UN-Habitat. The co-chair of the governance review implementation team provided an update on the progress achieved in the governance review. Given that it was the last meeting of Ms. Anna K. Tibaijuka as Executive Director of UN-Habitat, the Committee expressed its gratitude to her exemplary work in championing the mission of UN-Habitat and in transforming the organisation from a centre into a fully-fledged programme of the United Nations. The Executive Director thanked the Committee members for their support and guidance during her ten-year tenure and affirmed her commitment in human settlement issues in the future.

C. Thirty-eighth regular meeting, 15 September 2010

9. At this meeting, the Committee recalled that Ms. Anna K. Tibaijuka’s tenure as Executive Director of UN-Habitat had come to an end on 31 August 2010, and Mr. Joan Clos of Spain has been elected by the General Assembly as her replacement for a term of four years with effect from 18 October 2010. In the meantime, the Secretary-General had appointed Ms. Inga Björk-Klevby, Deputy Executive Director, as the Officer-in-Charge of UN-Habitat. Election to replace a departing member for the Bureau for the biennium 2010–2011 was held, and the Officer-in-charge presented the report of the
peer review on the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan 2008-2013, the preparations for the medium-term strategic and institutional plan mid-term review, the preparations for the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the preparations for the twenty-third session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 11 to 15 April 2011, the quarterly reports on country activities and financial status. The chair of the implementation team on the governance review process provided a progress report on the governance review process, and the Committee endorsed the quick-wins proposed by the team.

D. Thirty-ninth regular meeting, 16 December 2010

10. At this meeting, the Committee welcomed Dr. Clos on taking up his position as Executive Director of UN-Habitat as of 18 October 2010, and thanked the Officer-in-charge for her work in the period between the departure of the former Executive Director and the arrival of Dr. Clos. Election to replace a departing member for the Bureau for the biennium 2010–2011 was held and the dates for the regular sessions of the CPR for 2011 were proposed. The Committee approved the Draft Work Programme and Budget for the biennium 2012–2013, which will be presented to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Substantive issues discussed included: the report of the working groups for the preparations of the twenty-third session of the Governing Council; the six-monthly progress report on the implementation of the medium-term strategic; the quarterly report on UN-Habitat country activities; the quarterly report on the financial status of UN-Habitat; and the report on the deliberations at the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly. The Committee was also briefed on the progress made by the implementation team of the UN-Habitat governance review process and endorsed the additional quick-wins and medium/long-term interventions proposed by the team.

IV. Summary of meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in 2011

A. Fortieth regular meeting, 2 March 2011 (to be held)

B. Extraordinary meeting, 31 March 2011 (to be held)

V. Working groups of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, 2009–2011

11. The following working groups were activated during 2009:

(a) Working group on preparations for the fifth session of the World Urban Forum, chaired by Mr. James Stewart (United States);

(b) Working group on the implementation of the experimental reimbursable seeding operations, chaired by Mr. Igor Liška (Slovakia);

(c) Working group on the medium-term strategic and institutional plan and work programme and budget of UN-Habitat, chaired by Mr. Kelebert Nkomani (Zimbabwe);

(d) Working group on the work programme and budget, chaired by Mr. Masroor A. Junejo (Pakistan).

12. The following working groups were activated during 2010 by the Bureau of the Committee on 19 January 2010:

(a) Working group on preparations for the Governing Council and the World Urban Forum, chaired by Mr. Konrad Paulsen (Chile);

(b) Working group on the Work Programme and Budget, chaired by Mr. Ketan Shukla (India) and Mr. Tse Hou Hew (Malaysia);

(c) Working group on the medium-term strategic and institutional plan, chaired by Mr. Sergey Trepelkov (Russian Federation);

(d) Working group on the experimental reimbursable seeding operations, chaired by Mr. Bruno Garcia-Dobarco Gonzalez (Spain).
13. The following working groups were activated during 2011 by the Bureau of the Committee on 20 January 2011:

   (a) Working group for planning, co-chaired by Mr. Konrad Paulsen (Chile) and Mr. Masoud Gharanfoli (Iran);

   (b) Working group for monitoring, co-chaired by Mr. Sergey Trepelkov (Russian Federation) and Mr. Bruno Garcia-Dobarco Gonzalez (Spain).