Introductory Statement by the Co-Chair

Progress Report on the Governance Review Process

Agenda Item 8

HSP/CPR/41/8
Nairobi, 22 June 2011
Excellencies,
Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am pleased to provide you with an update on the progress of the Governance Review since the 40th CPR Regular Session held in March. You may recall that the CPR at that meeting reviewed the preparations that had been made for consideration of the Governance Review at the 23rd Session of the Governing Council to be held shortly thereafter. Those preparations mainly consisted a report analyzing the options available for the structural reform of the governance of UN-HABITAT.

The report was finalized by the Joint CPR-Secretariat Implementation Team at a meeting immediately following the 40th CPR. It was presented to the Governing Council between 11-15 April as an Information Document. Let me refresh the memories of CPR members on the options that were put forward for consideration. These were:

- the current situation (baseline);
- Annual Governing Council Meetings;
- Annual Governing Council Meetings plus an enlarged membership;
- Executive Board; and,
- Hybrid Governance Structure (along the lines of UN Women).

These options were assessed against a number of criteria although there was no recommendation of a preferred option.

The Governing Council duly considered the report and passed resolution 23/13 noting the document. The approved resolution is quite a long one so I will not read it out in its entirety. If you wish to revert to the agreed text please take a look at the Annex to the Executive Director’s report to this meeting.

In brief, the resolution requested the Executive Director, jointly with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to:

- further examine the options for reform and develop a preferred option;
- develop procedures for the examination phase;
- seek consensus on the identified option;
- develop an action plan.

In addition, the Governing Council mandated the Committee of Permanent Representatives to approve the action plan and to present it, if possible to the General Assembly at its 67th session, which commences in September 2011 and lasts for approximately 10 months.

Excellencies,

A meeting of the Joint CPR-Secretariat Implementation Team took place on 23 May 2011. It was agreed that the best way forward was to set up a new body - an Open Ended Consultative Group. This would be a joint body, as its predecessor, but would vary from it in having the each Regional Group assign two
permanent members to serve on it. However, representation from the CPR would not be limited to regional representatives only, with attendance being open to all.

Should the distinguished delegates endorse this proposal the first task of the Group would be to prepare the Terms of Reference that will guide the process for the assessment of the structural elements of the Governance Review. This is the same procedure that was adopted for the preceding phase of the Review. Although the process was initially difficult and time consuming, it reaped significant long term rewards in terms of providing a clear sense of direction, unity of purpose, a defined budget and a timeline for delivery of outputs.

It is intended to report progress to the next meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its 42nd meeting to be held in September.

Dear Colleagues,

I believe this proposal to be a good one, and to provide the opportunity to make solid progress on this important matter. The proposed change to the composition of the Consultative Group is an improvement. Notwithstanding, there remains a continuity with the procedures that have led to a practice of collegial endeavor that has been the hallmark of Governance Review activities undertaken to date.

Thank you for your attention and I would be happy to answer and questions or comments from representatives.