



**Committee of Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations Human Settlements
Programme
Sixty-seventh meeting
Nairobi, 14 December 2017**

Draft minutes of the sixty-sixth meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, held on 27 September 2017

Opening of the meeting

1. The meeting was opened at 9.15 a.m. on Wednesday, 27 September 2017, by Mr. James Kimonyo, Permanent Representative of Rwanda and Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).
2. The meeting was attended by 74 participants from 52 countries and 2 observer missions.
3. The Chair welcomed the following new permanent representatives to the Committee: Dr. Zaid Noori (Iraq); Mr. Alejandro Garofali (Uruguay); and Mr. Nebie Bédializoun Moussa (Burkina Faso). He also welcomed the following new permanent representatives-designate: Mr. Noah Gal Gendler (Israel); Mr. Nicolas Nihon (Belgium); Mr. Hernan Ivan Brantes Glavic (Chile); Mrs. Francisca Ashietey-Odunton (Ghana); Ms. Anna Jardfelt (Sweden); Mr. Loh Seck Tiong (Malaysia); Mr. Cherdkiat Atthakor (Thailand); Mr. Dragan Zupanjevac (Serbia); Mr. Sheidu Omeiza Momoh (Nigeria); and Mr. Nguyen Kim Doanh (Viet Nam).
4. He then bade farewell to the following members who had departed or had notified the Committee of their departure, thanking them for their contributions: Mrs. Roxane de Bilderling (Belgium); Mr. Johan Borgstam (Sweden); Mr. John Feakes (Australia); Mr. Friday O. Okai (Nigeria); Mr. Abdulrazak Hadi (United Arab Emirates); and Mr. Yahel Vilan (Israel). He also bade farewell to two members who had notified the Secretariat of their imminent departure: Mr. Chulpathmendra Dahanayake (Sri Lanka) and Ms. Angelina C. Wapakhabulo (Uganda).

Agenda item 1

Adoption of the agenda

5. The agenda was adopted on the basis of the revised provisional agenda (HSP/CPR/66/1/Rev.1).

Agenda item 2

Adoption of the draft minutes of the sixty-fifth meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

6. The Chair asked the Committee to consider two versions of the draft minutes of its sixty-fifth meeting, both of which bore the same document symbol (HSP/CPR/66/L.1). He said that the first version followed the practice of referring to all speakers as “representatives”, without identifying the country or group on whose behalf they were speaking, while the second version attributed statements to representatives of specific countries and regions. He noted that the Bureau had considered both versions and had recommended that the latter format be adopted and that the attribution of statements to representatives of specific countries and regions in the Committee’s meeting reports become the prevailing custom.

7. The Committee adopted the second version of the report (HSP/CPR/66/L.1), in which statements were attributed.

Agenda item 3

Executive Director’s briefing to the Committee

8. In his oral briefing, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Mr. Joan Clos, drew attention to his written report entitled “Briefing to the Committee of Permanent Representatives” (HSP/CPR/66/3/Rev.2), which described activities undertaken by or events related to UN-Habitat since the sixty-fifth meeting of the Committee.

9. He highlighted as a milestone event the convening in New York, on 5 and 6 September 2017, of a high-level meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the role of UN-Habitat in that regard. At the meeting, member States and others had recognized the strategic role of urbanization in sustainable development and expressed widespread support for strengthening UN-Habitat, which the Deputy Secretary-General had said was a central first step in the process of reforming the United Nations system and the United Nations Development Group. Member States had also discussed the recommendations of the independent panel to assess and enhance effectiveness of UN-Habitat after the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, a high-level panel established by the Secretary-General, including a recommendation that an entity called “UN-Urban” be created under the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Deputy Secretary-General had clarified that any coordination mechanism to be set up in that regard as part of the United Nations reform should be led by UN-Habitat.

10. Over the following weeks, member States were expected to discuss a General Assembly resolution on UN-Habitat, and the UN-Habitat secretariat stood ready to support them in their discussions. UN-Habitat was also advancing internal reforms in order to fulfil the objectives of efficiency, transparency and accountability that member States had been requesting of the Programme.

11. Noting that his term as Executive Director would end on 31 December 2017 and that the Secretary-General had called for nominations for the post by 25 October 2017, he invited member States to put forward applications for the position and said that he was committed to ensuring the smoothest and most efficient, transparent and participatory transition possible in order to facilitate the strengthening of UN-Habitat and ensure the success of the ninth session of the World Urban Forum. To achieve this, he had been holding an increased number of meetings with his senior management team and the secretariat had created a mechanism to engage with member States on both the outcome of the abovementioned high-level meeting and the preparations for the ninth session of the World Urban Forum, to be held in February 2018.

12. In the discussion that followed, all the representatives who spoke expressed appreciation to Mr. Clos for his written and oral briefings.

13. With regard to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly, several representatives said that the results and conclusions of the meeting were a good start for the reform of UN-Habitat and would help member States to improve the effectiveness of the Programme.

14. Regarding the recommendation of the high-level panel that a new body, “UN-Urban”, be created to support UN-Habitat in coordinating the work to be carried out under the New Urban Agenda, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the creation of such a body was unnecessary, presented enormous risks to UN-Habitat and could lead to a lack of coordination and focus. She added that the headquarters of UN-Habitat should continue to be based in Nairobi and that the secretariat should be strengthened to enable the Programme to implement its mandate in a comprehensive, effective and timely manner. Another representative said that the

UN-Habitat headquarters should be strengthened to facilitate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and suggested that the recommendation on UN-Urban required further consideration. Another representative said that the recommendation had been widely opposed during the high-level meeting, and noted that the proposed creation of an urban assembly to replace the Governing Council of UN-Habitat had received little or no support.

15. One representative, speaking on behalf a group of countries, sought clarification from the secretariat on the next stages of the process following the high-level meeting, and requested the secretariat to prepare documents to support the discussion and to explain the relationship between the reform of UN-Habitat and the United Nations system-wide reform. Noting that the first draft of the draft resolution on UN-Habitat would be submitted to the Second Committee of the General Assembly, another representative said that it would be important to work constructively over the following three weeks with colleagues both in Nairobi and in New York to support the process. One representative urged the secretariat to be more proactive and to develop a plan of its own for the reform of UN-Habitat for consideration by member States in New York during their discussions on the draft resolution. Another representative said that the reform of UN-Habitat should not involve radical changes, but should focus on reforming existing structures to enable the Programme to coordinate urban issues within a reformed United Nations development system in line with the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

16. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the main responsibility of UN-Habitat was to support member States in their efforts to implement the New Urban Agenda and the relevant targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in line with their national plans and priorities. Together with another representative, also speaking on behalf of a group of countries, she asked the secretariat to keep the Committee informed on the activities carried out by UN-Habitat to support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

17. With regard to the financial situation of UN-Habitat, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, urged member States in a position to do so to increase their contributions to the Programme and called for greater cooperation between the secretariat and the working group on programme and budget, whose regular meetings, she suggested, the Executive Director should attend given the importance of the topics discussed and the opportunity for direct communication that such meetings offered. She further called for the strengthening of the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean to enable the office to attend to the needs of, and to support sustainable urban development in, the countries in the region.

18. One representative said that the relevant committees of the General Assembly should take the necessary measures to address UN-Habitat's financial crisis and adopt immediate financial rescue measures in order to stabilize and strengthen the Programme and to prevent its imminent collapse. In the meantime, she urged all member States to provide voluntary contributions to enable the secretariat to implement its mandate.

19. With regard to the World Urban Forum, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, requested that the Committee be involved in and informed of, in a more timely and transparent manner, the preparations for the ninth session of the Forum and in the decision-making process. Regarding the announcement of the venue of the eleventh session of the Forum, the representative said that it should be postponed. Another representative urged the secretariat to implement without delay the provisions of Governing Council resolution 26/6, which, she said, had not been followed with regard to the ninth session and required that preparations for all Forum sessions be coordinated from the UN-Habitat headquarters in Nairobi and that the Committee be consulted and fully involved in the preparatory process. Together with another representative, she requested that the bidding to host the eleventh session of the Forum, which she said had not been handled in a transparent way, be suspended in order to enable the new Executive Director to handle the process.

20. One representative suggested that the ninth session of the Forum be used as a platform to enable broad stakeholder participation in the information on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and urged the secretariat to present the draft report to member States as soon as possible. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, sought clarification of the steps taken by the secretariat thus far to develop a new stakeholder engagement policy.

21. Before inviting the secretariat to respond to comments, the Chair said that the Bureau had proposed postponing to the next Committee meeting deliberations on the status of implementation of the New Urban Agenda in order to give more time to the secretariat to gather all the necessary information and produce a report for consideration by the Committee.

22. The Executive Director thanked representatives for their remarks, noting that the secretariat would provide details on the World Urban Forum under the relevant agenda item. With regard to next steps following the high-level meeting of the General Assembly, over the following weeks the secretariat would convene a series of meetings with groups of member States in order to facilitate their discussions on a draft General Assembly resolution on the strengthening of UN-Habitat. The Director of the External Relations Division, Ms. Christine Musisi, was fully dedicated to coordinating such activities to help member States to address the technical issues that would be discussed in New York and to make informed policy decisions on issues such as finance, governance, monitoring and overview.

23. Regarding the financial situation of UN-Habitat, he said that the problem lay not in the Programme's project portfolio but in its core budget, so while earmarked contributions were much appreciated, it was crucial that member States contribute to the core budget so as to enable the adequate functioning of UN-Habitat, which was subject to rules and regulations that did not permit the use of earmarked contributions to finance core expenditures.

24. With regard to the relationship between the reform of UN-Habitat and the United Nations system-wide reform, the latter was being led by the Secretary-General and his Deputy and had its own timetable, including the production of a report in December 2017 and the presentation of final proposals to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in the spring of 2018. Given that UN-Habitat did not have a national presence in all countries, the system-wide reform would have an impact on the Programme. It was crucial that the system-wide reform be sound and that a consensus proposal on the reform of UN-Habitat be tabled within the following three weeks so that member States could discuss it in the context of the system-wide reform.

25. Also responding to comments from representatives, the Deputy-Executive Director said that the areas of work on which UN-Habitat had been recognized at the high-level meeting were aligned with the strategic priorities of the system-wide reform agenda of the Secretary-General, which had identified poverty, exclusion and marginalization as key issues that the United Nations system should tackle. UN-Habitat also had a strategic role to play in bridging the humanitarian and development agendas in the face of protracted crises and increasing natural and man-made disasters. It was clear that the Programme had the necessary tools and vision, but insufficient capacity, to deliver on its mandate. Member States must therefore take advantage of the recognition of urbanization as a strategic development issue and empower UN-Habitat as a focal point to support and enable the United Nations to deliver on its mandate.

26. With regard to ways in which the secretariat would support member States in their discussions on the strengthening of UN-Habitat, following the high-level meeting in New York the secretariat had developed a way forward and collaborative implementation framework papers for consideration by the subcommittee and looked forward to engaging with, and receiving the inputs of, the regional groups in order to clarify the specific areas in need of strengthening.

27. With regard to the financial situation of the Programme, she asked member States to reflect on a recent report produced by the Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN), which showed that UN-Habitat was highly transformative and had a key role to play in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. She stressed that UN-Habitat was counting on member States to be its political and economic advocates as the Programme moved forward with its reform over the following months.

28. In closing, she said that the secretariat was working on a stakeholder engagement policy for the organization and would share more information on the matter with the subcommittee and the Committee in due course.

29. One representative requested the Chair to prepare, in collaboration with the secretariat, a draft resolution on the reform of UN-Habitat for consideration and possible endorsement by negotiators in New York, and to invite comments from the Committee prior to sending the draft resolution to their counterparts in New York. The Chair concurred that he would work with the secretariat to prepare such a draft resolution.

Agenda item 4

Quarterly report on the financial status of UN-Habitat

30. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to the quarterly report on the financial status of UN-Habitat (HSP/CPR/66/4), which, he said, highlighted the revenue, expenses and fund balances of UN-Habitat for the quarter ending 30 June 2017. The revenue for the period had totalled \$72.5 million, of which \$11.6 million were related to core funds and \$60.9 million

related to earmarked funds. The total expenditures for the period amounted to \$75.6 million, comprising \$14.8 million for core expenses and \$60.8 million for earmarked expenses. At the beginning of 2017, the total core fund balances, including reserves, stood at \$21.8 million, of which \$6.1 million related to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation general purpose fund and \$15.7 million related to the programme support fund. Details of fund balance movements for earmarked funds were provided in section 5.2 of the quarterly report.

31. Annex B of the quarterly report showed that the Governing Council had approved and expected to receive around \$11.4 million in the Foundation general purpose fund by the end of the second quarter. Of that approved amount, only \$994,000 had been received from eight countries; a gap of around \$10.4 million therefore existed between actual income and approved funding, showing the continued challenges UN-Habitat faced in its core budget. While 16 countries had contributed \$2.3 million to the Foundation general purpose fund in 2016, as of 31 Aug 2017, only 12 countries had contributed \$1.2 million to the same fund. Eleven countries that had provided core contributions in 2016 had not done so in 2017, but seven countries that had not contributed to the core budget in 2016 had contributed a total of around \$342,000 to it in 2017.

32. In view of the situation, the secretariat had been gradually depleting the reserves of the Foundation general purpose fund and had used \$3 million from programme support cost funds to meet commitments associated with the Foundation general purpose fund while it awaited new contributions to that fund from member States and while member States considered what funding model should apply to a strengthened UN-Habitat. A fundamental shift in that model was needed and member States should consider not only what they wanted from a strengthened UN-Habitat, but also how the Programme would be financed. It was critical that member States take a structured approach to considering the financing of UN-Habitat, and the secretariat stood ready to support any process that they may choose to employ for that purpose.

33. He expressed deep appreciation to the Governments of Barbados, Burkina Faso, Chile, Haiti, India, Japan, Kenya, Norway, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, South Africa and Zambia for their contributions to the Foundation general purpose fund received as at the end of the second quarter, expressing the hope that the 11 donors who had contributed to the fund in 2016 but had not yet done so in 2017, and many other donors, would soon join the list. He further extended his appreciation to the Governments of Afghanistan, Belgium, China, Colombia, Germany, India, Italy, Malaysia, Mexico, Mozambique, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates and the United States of America as well as the European Union for contribution agreements they had signed in the second quarter for earmarked activities amounting to \$36.5 million.

34. In closing, he urged all member States to urgently provide their 2017 contributions, and in particular those intended for the core budget, in order to enable UN-Habitat to implement the planned activities set out in the approved programme of work and carry out the work that was needed following the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). It was vital to keep the core budget financed at an appropriate level while the process of strengthening UN-Habitat was concluded.

35. In the ensuing discussion, one representative asked the secretariat to clarify which strategies it was using to close the gap between expenditure and revenue and whether the same gap was expected for the following two quarters. She also sought clarification on the fund balance figures included in section 5 of the quarterly report, which she said did not add up. Lastly, expressing concern that the deficit for the mandatory reserve of the Foundation general purpose fund had increased from \$600,000 to \$1.2 million, she said that UN-Habitat should not deplete the reserve any further and asked about the secretariat's strategy to achieve this and its views on the impacts and risks of tapping into reserves if member State contributions did not materialize.

36. The representative of the secretariat responded that the accounting rules of the United Nations required UN-Habitat to treat revenue and expenditure in a very different way, so the accounts presented a somewhat distorted picture of the Programme's revenue versus expenditure situation. He explained that revenue had to be recognized the moment a project agreement was signed, while expenditure had to be recognized when actually made, so if a \$50 million 5-year project was signed, UN-Habitat had to recognize the entire amount as income at that moment even if the funds would be spent over a period of 5 years.

37. With regard to the core budget, UN-Habitat was indeed running a deficit and the situation could not continue indefinitely. He urged member States to make contributions as a matter of urgency to close the gap. The secretariat's strategy to deal with the deficit had been to exercise strong cost controls in its core budget, including by reducing staff expenditure by about 30 per cent and non-staff costs by around 50 per cent, and to focus on priority activities to maintain its core capacities while

member States considered ways of strengthening the Programme. As the Executive Director had pointed out, a distinction needed to be made between the technical cooperation and Foundation special purpose accounts, which had performed very well financially, and the core budget, which was not sustainable at present. It was therefore crucial that member States conduct a strategic financing review of UN-Habitat and agree to a new, stronger financial model for the Programme in the context of the strengthening exercise. Without such a model, UN-Habitat would have to make fundamental changes because it could not keep running a deficit in the core budget indefinitely.

38. With regard to the discrepancies in section 5 of the quarterly report, he said that there was indeed a mistake in that section and the secretariat would circulate a new version of the report correcting the error.

Agenda item 5

Country/thematic presentation

39. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to a document titled “Briefing note on national urban policies with focus on Latin America and the Caribbean” (HSP/CPR/66/5/Rev.1) and said that, encouraged by the Governing Council, the secretariat had developed an action framework for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda that set out strategies that were urgently needed to seize the extraordinary opportunity that well-planned urbanization offered for achieving prosperity, employment and sustainability. One such strategy was the development of national urban policies, which the New Urban Agenda recognized as a key tool to lead urbanization and ensure that cities developed in a sustainable, equitable and productive manner. He said that sustainable and resilient urbanization must be led by national Governments working closely with subnational and local governments, and it was clear that unless countries made the necessary investment to promptly put in place robust urban policies, the cost of correcting mistakes would be many times higher than such investment.

40. In response to the growing recognition of national urban policies as a tool for advancing wider social, economic and environmental goals, the portfolio of UN-Habitat on this issue had grown, with around 30 countries receiving support. Seven of those countries were in the Latin American and Caribbean region, so the region had been chosen as the focus of the thematic presentation at the current meeting.

41. The Director of the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Latin America and Caribbean, Mr. Elkin Velázquez, made a presentation via video link on the work of UN-Habitat on national urban policies in the Latin American and Caribbean region. Stressing that the Governing Council had given the secretariat a specific mandate to develop a guiding framework to support member States in the development of national urban policies, he said that UN-Habitat had been developing a set of normative tools and guides to support ministries and other stakeholders in national urban policy discussions to help them to develop policies that created harmonious linkages between national, regional and local governments and public policies; ensured a connection between urban, peri-urban and rural dynamics in each territory, thereby creating a link between the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and facilitated the identification and integration of the different sectoral developments and perspectives. Participation, climate change, slum upgrading, poverty reduction and gender mainstreaming were key elements of the UN-Habitat approach to national urban policies.

42. In the Latin American and Caribbean region, UN-Habitat was working with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to develop a regional action plan that would include national urban policies as a key feature, and with the presidency of the Ministers and Highest Authorities of Housing and Urban Development in the region, known as MINURVI, to promote national urban policies in the region. The General Assembly of MINURVI had explicitly endorsed national urban policies as a tool to start the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and had requested UN-Habitat and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to undertake efforts to support member States in the region to either review their national urban policies or to develop new ones within the following three years.

43. In collaboration with partners such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Cities Alliance and the World Bank, UN-Habitat was providing support to member States in different phases of their national urban policy processes and had a global project portfolio worth approximately \$6 million in that regard. In Latin America, national urban policy projects had been finalized in Colombia, which had successfully finalized a national policy for a system of cities and was working on urban planning and management and on how to finance the development of cities, and in Ecuador, which had been working on a territorial development planning

strategy and had identified the need for stronger poly-centric development focused on cities. Projects were currently being implemented in Argentina, Cuba and Haiti, with new projects in Bolivia, El Salvador and Guatemala under discussion.

44. In collaboration with partners, UN-Habitat had produced a report entitled “The global state of national urban policy”, which outlined the state of national urban policy globally and the various tools and resources that the Programme had developed to support national urban policies in different regions. UN-Habitat had also created a “Global database on national urban policies,” which, he said, was very useful for benchmarking and seeing the work of specific stakeholders, and had developed a number of guiding frameworks that could be adapted to the different circumstances of different regions and countries.

45. In closing, he said that key messages for the development of national urban policies included the need to think nationally, coordinate regionally and act locally; the need for tailored approaches, given that urbanization processes differed from region to region and country to country; and the need to involve and integrate local authorities in the process, as had been the case in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

46. In the ensuing discussion, representatives expressed their appreciation to the presenters and welcomed the work of UN-Habitat on national urban policies, which, said one, were a strategic tool for implementing the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals.

47. One representative asked whether a different approach was needed to deal with existing cities that had become sprawling entities and which could not be demolished and built anew. Expressing scepticism about the need for tailored approaches to national urban policies, which, he said, should be based on basic principles applicable to all countries, he asked about the financial implications of UN-Habitat work in this area and requested that the secretariat share with member States more detailed information and specific evidence of UN-Habitat achievements.

48. One representative asked whether UN-Habitat and its Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean might find a way to support countries in the region affected by natural disasters, including through the provision of technical assistance and policy support to help them develop appropriate public policies to face such disasters.

49. Another representative commended UN-Habitat on its work on national urban policies at the global, regional, national and subnational levels, saying that it made clear the links between its normative and operational work. She asked whether the national urban policy database had been launched. She also asked the secretariat to explain why UN-Habitat and the United Nations Population Fund had proposed that indicator 11.a.1 of Sustainable Development Goal 11 be modified and how that change would be effected.

50. Responding to queries, the representative of the secretariat said that tailored approaches were needed to develop national urban policies because, as the regional Director had emphasized, each country had its own population projections and other specificities, which made it very difficult to transfer a national urban policy from one country to another. Thus, while UN-Habitat publications and tools on good practices could inspire all countries, the actual development of national urban policies was a multi-year effort requiring work at the country level that could not be substituted by quick, one-size-fits-all fixes.

51. With regard to financing, the work of UN-Habitat on national urban policies was being funded with earmarked contributions and not with core funding, so it did not have an effect on the core budget, with the exception, perhaps, of the time spent on such work by some staff at headquarters.

52. On the possible provision of support to countries affected by natural disasters, he said that UN-Habitat was working with Mexico, Cuba and other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to help them respond to natural disasters, stressing that resilience and disaster mitigation should indeed be included in the policy frameworks of such countries. In addition, the regional director had indicated that some grants had been received to provide immediate response to certain affected areas.

53. Regarding the national urban policy database, the database had been launched during Habitat III and was an evolving product that UN-Habitat would need to update continuously. Lastly, on Sustainable Development Goals indicator 11.a.1, the indicator, which referred to the development of urban and regional development plans, had been found to be unsatisfactory and UN-Habitat was waiting for the next session of the United Nations Statistical Commission to present an alternative indicator that focused on national urban policies as frameworks to ensure territorial balance. It was to

be hoped that member States would support the new indicator in the Commission discussions thereby giving a major boost to UN-Habitat work on national urban policies over the following 15 years.

54. Following the secretariat's responses, one representative reiterated his request for clarification of why specificity was needed in the development of national urban policies, stressing that elements such as inclusiveness, quality jobs, equitable access to education, sustainable and affordable transport and reliable public services were desirable in all countries and should be included in all national urban policies.

55. The Executive Director said that the New Urban Agenda had embraced the innovative idea that urbanization was an engine for sustainable development, but the extent to which urbanization generated development varied from country to country, region to region and even from city to city, so it was crucial that the specificities of each place be analysed. For instance, in some countries the federal government had no authority over urban matters. The tools and guidance developed by UN-Habitat were meant to facilitate the discussions of different countries and to offer new approaches to urbanization and its relationship with development. In Latin America, which was highly urbanized, the high interest in national urban policies presented an opportunity for UN-Habitat to define what an "integrated" and a "pro-development" approach meant, and how such policies could support development.

56. With regard to financing, he said that the work of UN-Habitat in national urban policies was being financed entirely by project beneficiary countries and donors, so it implied no cost for the core budget and was in fact helping to finance some of the UN-Habitat fixed costs and core work through project overheads and cost-recovery exercises, which member States had approved as a methodology. UN-Habitat was requesting additional non-earmarked contributions in order to help least developed countries and other countries that were in need of such support. Lastly, on support for countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region facing climate-related and other natural disasters, he said that the secretariat was developing a strategy to support those countries and was searching for funds at the international level to support countries severely affected by recent disasters.

57. In closing, the Chair said that the request by the representative of Pakistan that the secretariat provide more detailed information to the Committee on the work of UN-Habitat to enable member to better appreciate the work of the Programme had been discussed for some time and he suggested that the Committee consider in future meetings whether extraordinary meetings should be held for that purpose.

Agenda item 6

Report on the status of preparations for the ninth session of the World Urban Forum

58. Introducing the item, the Chair said that there was no background document on this specific item, but the subcommittee had discussed the status of the preparations for the ninth session of the World Urban Forum on 20 September 2017 as reflected in the document entitled "Report on the work of the subcommittees of the CPR" (HSP/CPR/66/8).

59. The Executive Director said that there had been a slight delay in the implementation of Governing Council resolution 26/6 owing to heavy staff workloads and the financial situation of UN-Habitat, but the secretariat had established an internal coordination team that was dealing almost daily with the management of the ninth session of the World Urban Forum and was preparing, together with the host country, a number of substantive documents for the session that would be released in a matter of days, making up for lost time. He shared his plans to increase his level of engagement with member States and other stakeholders in the preparations for the session in order to ensure its success, and noted that the secretariat would respond within the following week to written questions raised by member States over the previous weeks.

60. The Director of the External Relations Division, Ms. Christine Musisi, provided an update on the status of the preparations for the ninth session. She said the session would be held in Kuala Lumpur from 7 to 13 February 2018 under the theme "Cities 2030, cities for all: implementing the New Urban Agenda", which had been proposed by the host country and presented to the subcommittee and was grounded on the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda. Logistical arrangements with the host country were in place, and while there had been some delay in the substantive preparations, an internal coordination group was working closely with the World Urban Forum secretariat and was guiding the preparation of a concept note that would be presented to member States shortly. Over the following two weeks, the session's sub-themes, round-table themes, dialogue themes, as well as a logical framework highlighting the Forum's expected results and activities, would also be prepared. Registration had opened on 25 September 2017 and would close on 15 December 2017, while

networking, training and exhibition events had opened on 25 September and would close on 24 November 2017. In closing, she said that the secretariat would continue its monthly briefings to the Committee and the subcommittee and intensify its engagement with member States once the themes for dialogues and other activities of the ninth session had been defined.

61. The representative of Malaysia said that his Government had taken steps to ensure that the ninth session of the World Urban Forum was convened in a manner that was organized and that would educate the public and the private sector about the importance of sustainable urbanization. The session would provide the first platform for stakeholders to share best practices on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda since its adoption, making its success all the more important. The high interest in participation in the Forum demonstrated that urbanization and human settlements issues were close to people's hearts.

62. The Chair recalled that at a previous meeting of the Committee the group of African States had requested that the bidding for hosting the eleventh session of the Forum be suspended, which meant that implementation of paragraph 10 of Governing Council resolution 26/6, in which the Council had requested that the host country of the eleventh session be announced during the ninth session, would need to be revisited.

63. One representative said that she had seconded the request of the group of African States and asked whether the Committee could decide at the current meeting to suspend the bidding process or, if this was not possible, whether there was a way to speed up the process so a decision was taken before the next regular Committee meeting.

64. The Executive Director replied that he was not sure whether the Committee could take such a decision. Further legal advice had been sought to determine how the issue could be addressed. In the meantime, the secretariat had expanded the timetable to receive candidatures so as not to prejudice the outcome of any decision member States may adopt on the issue.

Agenda item 7

Report of the work of the working group on programme and budget

65. Introducing the item, the Chair invited the representatives of the groups of African and Asia-Pacific States to present their nominations for the working group on programme and budget.

66. The representative speaking on behalf of the group of African States said that the group had decided to nominate Egypt, Uganda and Zimbabwe to the working group.

67. The representative speaking on behalf of the Asia-Pacific States said that the group was looking for a new chair and would therefore present its nominations at a later date.

68. The Committee endorsed the nominations presented by the group of African States.

Agenda item 8

Report on the work of the subcommittees

69. The Committee took note of the report on the work of the subcommittees (HSP/CPR/66/8).

Agenda item 9

Any other matters

70. The Chair recalled that the term of the Bureau members would end on 31 December 2017 and he urged the chairs of the regional groups to nominate their representatives to the Bureau for the following biennium, noting that the composition of the Bureau would be formally endorsed by the Committee at its next regular meeting and would comprise a chair from the Latin American and Caribbean States, three vice-chairs from the African States, Eastern European States and the Asia-Pacific States, respectively, and a rapporteur from the Western European and other States.

71. The representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo asked the secretariat to explain why UN-Habitat had ended a programme on slums in the city of Kinshasa, in the municipality of Messina, early.

72. Another representative asked the secretariat to share its specific plans to draft the progress report on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, which she said was of paramount importance and whose consideration had been postponed to the following regular Committee meeting. She requested that the secretariat prepare an outline of the report and share it with member States for comment as soon as possible and that a first draft of the progress report be presented during the ninth session of the World Urban Forum for input from multilateral organizations and other stakeholders.

73. The Executive Director said that the secretariat would respond to both requests in writing over the following days. With regard to the proposal that the World Urban Forum discuss the draft progress report, he stressed that the Forum was a mechanism of participation and was not the entity responsible for the report.

74. The meeting was declared closed at 12.10 p.m. on Wednesday, 27 September 2017.
