

# UN HABITAT

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

64<sup>th</sup> REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVES TO UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS  
PROGRAMME

20 MARCH 2017

**Agenda Item 3:**

**Executive Director's Briefing to the Committee of Permanent Representatives  
(HSP/CPR/64/3)**

## 1. Introduction

Activities in the period since the last CPR has focused predominantly on the follow-up of the Habitat III Conference, held in Quito, Ecuador from 17-20 October. In this briefing, I would like to focus on this and related issues, including activities I have undertaken in my capacity as the secretary-general of the Habitat III conference. I will also provide an update on recent missions undertaken by me and my Deputy:

- Habitat III activities in December, January and February.
- Revision of the Strategic Plan 2014-2019
- Preparation of Strategic Framework and Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019
- Preparations for the Governing Council
- Recent missions undertaken by myself and the Deputy Executive Director.

### 1. Post-Habitat III process

The period from December to February was dedicated to consolidating the results of the Conference, and to promote the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, as well as to start outlining a strategy for reporting on the outcomes of the conference. The Habitat III Secretariat was invited to participate in a number of events related to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. More details on these activities and other substantively notable milestones are described below.

#### *a. Second and Fifth Committee Resolutions on the New Urban Agenda and related processes*

In December 2016 the Second Committee adopted resolution 71/235 on ‘Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)’. In this resolution, Member States requested the Secretary-General to report on the progress of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda every four years, with the first report to be submitted to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council in 2018, in accordance with paragraphs 166 and 168 of the New Urban Agenda and the associated footnote. The Secretary-General was also requested to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

#### *b. Adoption of the New Urban Agenda by the General Assembly*

Following the submission by the President of the General Assembly, the Assembly adopted the New Urban Agenda in its 68<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session on 23 December 2016. This version of the New Urban Agenda can be found at the official Habitat III website.

#### *c. Meeting with stakeholders on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda*

In my capacity as secretary-general of Habitat III, I met with representatives of civil society in New York to discuss the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. This was the first meeting held with civil society organizations and stakeholders in New York after the official adoption of

the New Urban Agenda. The main discussion focused on ways to raise awareness about the New Urban Agenda, different ideas on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, and its follow-up and review. Stakeholders also stressed the importance of platforms such as the World Urban Forum and World Cities Day for follow-up and review of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

*d. Implementation of the New Urban Agenda: Presentation of the Shanghai Manual in New York*

The presentation of the Shanghai Manual was co-organized by the Permanent Mission of China to the UN, the Shanghai Municipality, and the Habitat III Secretariat on 16 February. The presentation of the Manual was significant as the Manual is intended to serve as one of the tools in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The Shanghai Manual will be updated annually as part of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with World Cities Day as the main platform through which its work and content can be promoted.

## **2. Revision of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2014-2019**

The current UN-Habitat Strategic Plan for 2014-2019 was approved by the Governing Council in April 2013, through its resolution 24/15. Paragraph 95 of the Strategic Plan states that the plan is to be adjusted on the basis of the midterm evaluation of its implementation, the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), i.e. the New Urban Agenda, and any changes in the governance structure of UN-Habitat.

The revision of the Strategic Plan has followed a participatory process. After a number of meetings of the CPR Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work, the draft revised Strategic Plan was approved by the Subcommittee on 15 February 2017 and it is expected that the CPR will approve the draft during the present meeting. The Governing Council is expected to give its final approval in May 2017 at its twenty-sixth session.

The overall structure of the Strategic Plan remains the same. As may be recalled, the Plan is divided into three parts. The first provides a rationale for the Plan – it answers the question WHY? The second provides the actual substantive content of the Plan – it answers the question WHAT? The third part describes HOW the Plan is to be implemented. The Plan still has seven focus areas, with the first four still prioritized.

In more specific terms, the revised Strategic Plan responds to the outcome of Habitat III, the New Urban Agenda, and to lessons learnt in the implementation of the Plan during its first three years, that is January 2014 to December 2016. A section on these lessons has been added. Additionally, the revised Plan responds to other UN international agreements that are relevant to sustainable cities and human settlements, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals, which include Goal 11 on cities and human settlements, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the

Paris Agreement adopted under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants adopted in 2016.

Consequently, the narrative of the Strategic Plan including its vision statement and some of the focus area strategic results have been amended. The challenges that the Strategic Plan addresses, the specific actions for addressing the identified challenges and the strategies for implementing these specific actions have also been amended to an extent. In addition, the methodology for implementing the cross-cutting issues (gender; human rights; climate change; and youth) and a few indicators of achievement in the Plan's results framework have been slightly amended. Furthermore, a significant amendment has been the introduction of strategic results and indicators of achievement for the work of the Office of the Executive Director, the Programme Division, the External Relations Division and the Management and Operations Division.

The midterm evaluation of the Strategic Plan is currently on-going. You may recall that towards the end of February I sent to all CPR members a notification on the midterm evaluation. The draft report of this evaluation is expected at the end of March 2017. The present draft revised strategic plan may be further updated to reflect the recommendations of that evaluation.

### **3. Preparation of Strategic Framework and Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019**

I am pleased to present to you at this CPR, UN-Habitat's proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019 as well as the biennial Strategic Framework for 2018-2019. The two documents were both revised to fully align them to the New Urban Agenda and also take note of other recent international agreements. The Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019 reflects these changes in the overall orientation, strategy sections and outputs. The document was reviewed by the CPR Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work. In this respect, I wish to sincerely thank members of the CPR for the hard work, valuable inputs and for working graciously under very tight deadlines.

The Work Programme and Budget was submitted to the office of the UN Controller on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), and to UNON in preparation for the Governing Council.

Further details about these documents will be presented under a separate agenda item.

### **4. Key portfolio developments**

As part of a new standing item in this briefing, an update is provided on key new projects that were approved by the UN-Habitat Project Advisory Group during the reporting period and for which grants have been acquired or are about to be signed.

#### **Asia-Pacific region:**

- A new programme on 'Sustainable Human Settlements in Urban areas to support Reintegration in **Afghanistan** (SHURA)' (tentative budget \$88,000,000 to be further

negotiated), with the purpose to provide a 'foundation' for integration of returnees and protracted Internally Displaced People through offering them access to land and housing through planned city extensions and other sustainable urban development measures.

- A project on “Support to Stabilisation through the Rehabilitation of Infrastructure and Housing in Contested Areas in **Syria**” funded by Norway (\$2,140,000). The project aims to contribute to the realization of a "peace dividend" by addressing priorities identified locally by women, men and youth, strengthening agreement monitoring mechanisms and improving local governance.

#### **Arab States:**

- A project on ‘Rapid City Profiling and Monitoring System in **Libya**’ (\$1,040,000) funded by the European Commission. The overall objective of the project is to improve urban information and analysis in Libya so that Libyan authorities and their partners can better plan, target and monitor humanitarian, stabilization and recovery interventions.

#### **Africa:**

- A project on ‘Housing for Veterans for Sustainable Peace and Development Programme in **South Sudan**’ with funding from the Government of Japan (\$525,000) will contribute to the peace process by providing permanent housing for veteran soldiers from both sides, and other social amenities and alternative livelihoods in order to reduce the possibility that ex-combatants being easily drawn back into fighting should tensions re-emerge.

#### **Latin America:**

- A project funded by the Regional Government of Andalusia (\$200,000) to contribute to the elaboration of a National Urban Policy for **Cuba** aligned with NAU and Agenda 2030 by providing technical assistance to national and local authorities in the review of information, good practices, tools, policies and international and regional urban development strategies.

#### **Europe:**

- A project on ‘Fostering inclusive development and good governance in **Northern Kosovo**’ (\$621,000) funded by SIDA/Sweden, aiming at planned and conflict-sensitive development of municipalities, with communities integrated at all stages of planning and implementation, and within a framework of effective inter-municipal cooperation and multi-level governance.

#### **Global:**

- The Third phase of the **Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme** – (EUR 10,000,000) was approved by the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and the EU member states.

- **Public Space Implementation Project.** The project will contribute to improving the quality of public space in 6 partner cities, with initial cities selected in African countries, funded by LafargeHolcim (private sector) (\$530,000).

## **5. Preparations for the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council**

The twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council (GC26) is scheduled to take place from 8-12 May 2017, following agreement amongst the members to postpone the session, taking into account the outcomes of Habitat III and related processes.

This Governing Council marks the first formal gathering of Member States and other stakeholders on the issue of sustainable urban development since the adoption of the New Urban Agenda at the Habitat III Conference held in Quito, Ecuador from 17-20 October 2016.

GC26 aims to build on the great momentum and participatory nature of Habitat III, which reaffirmed sustainable urbanization as a key driver for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This Governing Council thus represents a significant opportunity to discuss how UN-Habitat will continue to support governments in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in light of the focal point role ascribed to UN-Habitat by Member States and as mandated by the UN General Assembly.

The theme of GC26 agreed by the CPR is: “**Opportunities for the Effective Implementation of the New Urban Agenda**”. This would be an opportunity to provide the overall background of the New Urban Agenda and discuss UN-Habitat's role in supporting its implementation. It would end by introducing three sub-themes as entry points to effective implementation. These are;

Sub-theme 1: ‘Towards inclusive, sustainable and adequate housing for a better future’

Sub-theme 2: ‘Integrated human settlements planning for sustainable urbanization’

Sub-theme 3: ‘Synergies and financing for sustainable urbanization’.

Among other matters of importance, this session will present a report on UN-Habitat’s recent achievements in delivering sustainable urban development and related coordination efforts as well as a dedicated discussion on the Agency’s work programme and budget for the period of 2018-2019.

I hope this session of the GC will provide member states with a comprehensive review of UN Habitat’s work, demonstrable results and position to effectively lead the support to countries in implementation of the NUA, as well as re-affirm our convening role in Sustainable Urban Development and Human Settlements with our partners such as Local Authorities, Private Sector, UN Agencies and governments.

## **6. Recent missions by the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director**

### Missions by the Executive Director:

On 22 and 23 January, I visited Brussels where I met with partners at the European Commission (EC). At a bilateral meeting with the European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Mr. Neven Mimica, where I thanked the Commissioner for the support and active involvement of the EC in the Habitat III process and for its support to UN-Habitat, particularly for the funding it has provided to projects in field over the years. We agreed to further strengthen the collaboration between the two institutions in supporting the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and our respective teams are currently engaged in technical consultations to determine the details.

During this visit, I also met with the Director-General of ECHO where areas of cooperation with regards to humanitarian affairs and migration were outlined. UN-Habitat, UNHCR and ECHO is now cooperating to achieve more long term settlement planning in refugee camps in northern Kenya (Kakuma and Kalabei camps). I also met with the Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP) Secretariat to express his gratitude for the commitment of ACP to the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme which is confirmed to enter its third phase.

### Missions by the Deputy Executive Director:

The DED represented UN-Habitat at the MoU Signing Ceremony with Gangwon Province, in Pyeong Chang, Republic of South Korea, on 24 January. This event took place on the site of the upcoming 2018 Winter Olympics and served to renew the partnership of 10 years on the International Urban Training Centre for an additional five years, with a focus on strengthening the capacity of local governments in the context of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The meeting was followed by a stop-over in Seoul, where the DED met with representatives from Seoul Metropolitan Government as well as the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport discussing ongoing and potential further collaboration.

On 13 February, the DED went on a joint mission with the Kenya Representative of UNHCR, Mr. Raouf Mazou, to Kakuma and Kalobeyei in Turkana County, to support the Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement Development Programme, a project undertaken in partnership with UNHCR and the Turkana County Government, and to see progress made on the implementation of plans developed by UN-Habitat. The delegation met with senior representatives of Turkana County and visited the new refugee site, as well as other projects implemented alongside the planning process, including construction sites of a high capacity water pan in the host community and a road in the new site. UN-Habitat is supporting the planning for sustainable integration of 60,000 refugees with the local population while demonstrating sustainable approaches in human settlement.