

# 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)**

Dr. Joan Clos' Briefing during the 64th Regular Meeting of the CPR held on 20 March 2017 at 09:00a.m.

Thank you chair and distinguished delegates, it is an honour to report to you the main events and highlights of activities of myself and the institution since the last regular meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. I would say that this period coming from the last meeting of the CPR to today has been dominated by the preparatory work of the Governing Council that we are going to have in May. All the members of the institution have been working very actively on the preparation of the Governing Council, especially in preparing the draft Work Programme and Budget, probably the most important instrument that is going to guide our activities in the forthcoming years.

Also in this occasion we have the Mid-Term revision of the Strategic Plan that is expected to incorporate the outcomes of Habitat III in Quito last October. These are the main substantive documents that are going to be considered by the Governing Council and, if so agreed, approved. Also there has been intensive work in the preparation of the theme of the Governing Council. That has been agreed, finally, and we are working very hard on the preparation of the theme in order to guarantee that apart from the most traditional part of the agenda points that we deal with in the Governing Council we also have a substantive theme that can unite the Member States in a conversation on the implementation and follow-up of Habitat III. I think that this is also extremely important after several meetings in several sub-committees. We have agreed on that and are now ready to advance.

I must say also that the 2016 Annual Progress Report requested by the Governing Council has been distributed to you. It would be the third report of the existing Strategic Plan, and we put a lot of effort in trying to explain in an understandable and comprehensive manner the situation of the programme of UN-Habitat, especially on what has happened in 2016. This report has been consulted on with the CPR sub-committee on Policy and Programme and is now available for distribution to the Governing Council.

During these three months we have another highlight which has been the delivery of the MOPAN Evaluation. I think that this evaluation of a substantive number of Member States is a very positive document. It is a totally independent evaluation that gives us an advantage of a totally external vision of UN-Habitat and we focus on the strengths and the points where UN-Habitat can deliver better in the forthcoming years. I think that this report is very interesting, not just in its content or because it represents the opinion of quite a number of Member States, but also because of its opportunity as we are moving towards the assessment and the high-level assessment panel and in preparation of the High-Level Summit in late August in New York that is going to consider, following the direction of Habitat III, the strengthening of UN-Habitat in the future. This in order to provide inputs to the second and fifth committee at the end of the year and so that all the provisions agreed by the second and fifth committee can be incorporated in the

biennial budget of 2018/2019. The MOPAN evaluation is a timely one, and I think it is material for thought for Member States when considering the conditions of strengthening UN-Habitat.

I would like to highlight in this occasion the first visit of the Secretary-General to Nairobi that happened a little more than a week ago. It has been a very important visit, it has been the first visit of the Secretary-General to a UN Headquarter outside New York and we are very pleased with this visit. We had the opportunity to engage with the Secretary-General in a very well attended the Town Hall, which had a high turnout of all UN institutions based in Nairobi. We as UN-Habitat are very happy that he chose to visit a UN-Habitat programme in one of the slums of Nairobi – specifically the slum of Mathare – where he had the opportunity to meet the local people in a public space that has been created through the programme of Public Spaces of UN-Habitat. We also had an opportunity to visit an ICT programme of making ICT available to young people in the slums which is also a UN-Habitat funded programme and is extremely successful. The third point of the field trip was a dialogue with UN-Women and with the women leaders of Kenya who celebrated International Women’s Day with the Secretary-General. It was a very interesting and positive visit and the Secretary-General directly experienced our activities in the field. We are thankful for that and this helps us to continue our commitment to the programmes in the different countries and of course including the activities in the Africa region.

Finally let me say a few words on the financial situation although it will later on be dealt with in a more specific point. I would like to report to you, as we are in the first quarter of 2017, we are closing the figure of 2016 in a permanent dialogue with UNON and its function of overseeing accountability, and the Secretariat in New York. But I can report to you that the gross revenue of the period has been US\$ 241million which is a very good closing figure for UN-Habitat. We have increased in a big percentage the resources that we have been able to mobilize in relation to the last year. Of this US\$241 million we have a core income of US\$29.9 million and US\$211 million was related to the rest of the activities which are earmarked. At the beginning of 2016 the total core fund balance including reserves stood at US\$23.8m, US\$10.1m related to the Foundation General Purpose and US\$13.7m to the Programme Support. Closing core fund balances excluding reserves amounts to US\$14.4m, comprising US\$1.6m for Foundation General Purpose and US\$12.9 for Programme Support. All this is going to be detailed later on in the specific point of financial status of UN-Habitat, but I want to stress that the, in cognizance of the peculiarity of the year 2016 and Habitat III, we are seeing an increase of funds coming to UN-Habitat in field operations and also in the Foundation Special Purpose. I think that this is good news that we hope that we can continue in the future in relation to the voluntary and earmarked contributions of Member States.

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.