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Committee of Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations Human Settlements
Programme
Sixty-sixth meeting
Nairobi, 27 September 2017

**Draft minutes of the sixty-fifth meeting of the Committee of
Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human
Settlements Programme, held on 29 June 2017**

Opening of the meeting

1. The meeting was opened at 9.20 a.m. on Thursday, 29 June 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 58 participants from 43 countries and 1 observer mission.
3. The chair welcomed the following new permanent representatives to the Committee: Mr. Rémy Barampama (Burundi); Mr. Gaetan Siew (Mauritius); Ms. Theresia Samaria (Namibia); Mr. Uriel Norman R. Garibay (Philippines); Mr. Javier Garcia de Viedma Bernaldo de Quirós (Spain); and Ms. Pindi Hazara Chana (United Republic of Tanzania).
4. He bade farewell to the following departing members, thanking them for their contribution to the work of the Committee: Ms. Annick Mathis (France); Mr. Samson Ogeri (Kenya); Mr. Ismail Salam (Malaysia); Mr. Augusto Ruffo di Calabria (Malta); Mr. José Javier Nagore (Spain); and Ms. Ozge Drinkard (United States of America).

Agenda item 1

Adoption of the agenda

5. The agenda was adopted on the basis of the provisional agenda (HSP/CPR/65/1/Rev.1).

Agenda item 2

**Adoption of the draft minutes of the sixty-third meeting of the Committee of
Permanent Representatives**

6. The Committee adopted the draft minutes of its sixty-fourth meeting on the basis of the draft minutes (HSP/CPR/65/L.1).
7. One representative noted that it was customary in the minutes of the Committee's meetings to refer to groups of countries without naming their regions and he asked that in the future those groups should be clearly identified in the minutes.

Agenda item 3

Executive Director's briefing to the Committee of Permanent Representatives

8. In his oral briefing, the Executive Director drew attention to a number of highlights from the main activities undertaken since the previous meeting of the Committee, as described in a document entitled "Executive Director's briefing to the Committee of Permanent Representatives" (HSP/CPR/65/3).
9. He said that the most important event in the previous three months had been the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, held in May 2017. He expressed gratitude to the member States and all the delegations that had taken part in the session for making it a success. As the first Governing Council session to be held since the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito in October 2016, it had been extremely important for the revision of the UN-Habitat programme of work and budget and the strategic plan in line with the outcomes of Habitat III, notably the New Urban Agenda, and furthermore for the forthcoming negotiations of the General Assembly on the strengthening of UN-Habitat. The Governing Council session had reaffirmed the commitment of member States and stakeholders to the dialogue on urbanization worldwide and their support for the New Urban Agenda and its implementation. Since Habitat III, the portfolio of UN-Habitat had continued to grow and the organization was receiving an increasing number of requests for its participation in high-level meetings on strategies for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
10. Turning to the missions he had undertaken, he highlighted a few of the more recent visits which had provided opportunities to present the New Urban Agenda in various forums and regions.
11. At the invitation of the Government of the Russian Federation, he had visited St. Petersburg on 1 and 2 June 2017 to attend the international conference on "Promoting the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Urban Development in Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States Region". The meeting had been the first high-level meeting of its kind hosted by the Russian Federation and indicated the level of interest in the New Urban Agenda in the country and the region. He had also attended the twelfth Metropolis World Congress, held in Montreal, Canada, from 19 to 22 June 2017, and he expressed appreciation to the city of Montreal and its mayor for the organization of the event, which had brought together more than 2,000 participants and had allowed UN-Habitat to present developments with regard to the New Urban Agenda. In Buenos Aires, he had attended the recently concluded twenty-sixth General Assembly of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI) and also the first Argentina National Urban Forum, held in Mendoza, Argentina, at the end of June. Argentina was undergoing a major revision of urbanization legislation to bring the country into line with the New Urban Agenda, and the meetings were a clear indication of the high level of engagement of Latin American countries in implementing the Agenda.
12. Among other meetings he had attended, he drew attention to the meeting of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, held in Beijing on 14 and 15 May, in which he had participated with other high-level United Nations representatives and at which China had committed additional resources to support the participation of other member States in the initiative. He had also signed a bilateral memorandum of understanding between UN-Habitat and the Belt and Road Initiative on channelling resources to support cities and subnational governments in implementing projects related to the New Urban Agenda. The Government of China had also shown interest in adopting the UN-Habitat City Prosperity Initiative to build a tool for the follow-up of the process of urbanization in the country. Another important meeting had been the second Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Urban Development, held in Cairo on 21 and 22 May 2017, providing another opportunity to present the New Urban Agenda, which was attracting much interest in the region, particularly in the light of migration issues.
13. Migration and urbanization would also be the subject of a forthcoming global conference on cities and migrants to be held in Mechelen, Belgium, in November 2017, co-hosted by the International Organization for Migration, UN-Habitat and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). The relationship between urbanization and tourism would similarly be addressed at the sixth global summit on urban tourism to be held in Kuala Lumpur in December 2017.
14. Lastly, with regard to the portfolio of UN-Habitat, he drew attention to the launch of new projects in Afghanistan, Egypt, Mexico, and Sao Tome and Principe, thanks to contributions from donors and following an increase in interest from member States in engaging with UN-Habitat in developing new approaches arising from the adoption of the New Urban Agenda.

15. In the ensuing discussion, general appreciation was expressed to the Executive Director for his report and for his oral briefing. A number of representatives also expressed appreciation to the secretariat and UN-Habitat staff for the success of the Governing Council session.
16. One representative welcomed the greater detail in the Executive Director's report on the outcomes and purpose of the activities described and looked forward to more such reporting. Another representative thanked the Executive Director for the timely receipt of the written report ahead of the present meeting and expressed appreciation in particular for the reporting on regional projects.
17. On the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council, one representative commended the constructive engagement among member States during the session, describing it as a good basis for further discussions aimed at making UN-Habitat fit for purpose.
18. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the package of resolutions passed at the session, which, he said, would guide the secretariat in the next biennium, notably in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. He said it was essential that the Committee was kept up to date on the secretariat's work on implementing the Agenda and he sought an in-depth discussion, preferably in the context of a subcommittee or working group meeting, to consider the best way of reporting thereon. He also sought further clarification regarding the division of work within the United Nations system, for instance on the respective mandates of the Habitat III United Nations task team and Habitat III secretariat. Another representative highlighted the interrelated significance of the resolutions, noting that their implementation would make a significant contribution to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
19. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, paid tribute to the tireless work of all the delegations at the Governing Council session that had enabled very good results to be achieved. She expressed the view that the progress made at the session towards the full implementation of the New Urban Agenda was essential to achieving sustainable territories and cities. She highlighted the importance of working with other organizations within the United Nations system to achieve optimal results and of strengthening the coordinated work of local authorities and national Governments to achieve the full and effective implementation of the Agenda in all countries. To that end, member States needed to work together towards the implementation of all the resolutions adopted at the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council with proactive and efficient management and early identification of the resources required. She called on UN-Habitat to strengthen the regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean to better meet the needs of the region in terms of housing and sustainable urban development.
20. One representative welcomed the efforts made by the secretariat to prepare an action framework for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and called for further consultations with member States on its preparation and finalization. Time was of the essence, he said, and he urged the secretariat to begin consultations on that matter.
21. With regard to the working group on programme and budget, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the extension by the Governing Council of the working group's mandate as further strengthening the oversight of UN-Habitat. He applauded the strong engagement of member States in the working group and the steadily improving interactions with the secretariat, which was paving the way for the necessary governance recommendations to be formulated by the high-level panel of experts appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to conduct an evidence-based independent assessment of UN-Habitat. Another representative urged the working group to start planning for its future meetings. He said that the working group was adding value to the running of the affairs of UN-Habitat and needed to be supported, among other things, by the timely provision of the requisite documents and updates on the status of the implementation of its previous recommendations.
22. One representative called for the early implementation of Governing Council resolution 26/7 on accreditation, which sought to improve UN-Habitat engagement with stakeholders by reconfirming the accreditation to the Governing Council of stakeholders that had been accredited to Habitat III and developing a draft stakeholder engagement policy. He said that he looked forward to the secretariat initiating the necessary steps in that regard.
23. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, drew attention to Governing Council resolution 26/6, in which the Council had requested the Executive Director to ensure that the secretariat of the Forum continued to be based at the headquarters of UN-Habitat in Nairobi and that preparations for all sessions of the Forum were effectively coordinated by the World Urban Forum Unit at UN-Habitat headquarters and that the Committee of Permanent Representatives was adequately consulted and fully involved in the preparatory process for all sessions of the Forum.. He

called on the secretariat to hold regular consultations with the Committee in the run-up to the ninth session of the Forum. He suggested that inviting countries to express their interest in hosting the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum in 2022 was premature and that established practice should be adhered to. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, called for briefings on the preparations for sessions of the Forum to be included as a standing agenda item for forthcoming Committee meetings in order to comply with the provisions of resolution 26/6.

24. A number of representatives welcomed the forthcoming visit in July by the high-level panel of experts to Nairobi. One representative looked forward to receiving the suggestions of the Panel and to subsequent discussions among member States on the future of UN-Habitat. The reform of the organization was a crucial part of broader United Nations reform, in which the Panel represented a first step. Another hailed the main purpose of the Panel's assessment, which was to make UN-Habitat a better functioning entity in terms of effectiveness and transparency. One representative requested more details regarding the type of meetings that would take place with the panel and the dates thereof. Another suggested approaching the Office of the Secretary-General for further information in view of the short time remaining before the visit. She also supported the idea of consultations on the matter in the subcommittee or regional group meetings.

25. A number of representatives welcomed the missions undertaken by the Executive Director and the new UN-Habitat programmes being launched in various countries. One representative said that she was encouraged by the many activities of UN-Habitat worldwide. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, noted the important role played by the various missions of the Executive Director in raising the profile of UN-Habitat and in enhancing partnerships and collaboration with other United Nations entities, Governments and stakeholders, and called for more and bigger projects to be implemented on the African continent.

26. The Executive Director said that comments by representatives had been duly noted. With regard to the visit of the high-level panel, he said that it was being organized by the Office of the Secretary-General and no further information was presently available. Further details would be conveyed to the Committee as soon as possible.

Agenda item 4

Quarterly report on the financial status of UN-Habitat

Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to the detailed report on the financial status of UN-Habitat covering the quarter ended 31 March 2017 (HSP/CPR/65/4), presenting the salient aspects thereof.

27. He pointed out that UN-Habitat revenue for the period in question had totalled \$29.3 million, of which \$4.9 million related to core funds, while \$24.4 million was earmarked revenue. Total expenditure had amounted to \$35.1 million, comprising \$7.9 million for core expenses and \$27.2 million for earmarked expenses. At the beginning of 2017, total core fund balances, including reserves, had stood at \$21.8 million, comprising \$6.1 million in United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation general purpose funds and \$15.7 million in programme support funds.

28. Expected funding for the first quarter of 2017 under Foundation general purpose was approximately \$5.7 million, being one quarter of the annual budget of \$222.8 million, as approved by the Governing Council. He noted, however, that only \$300,000 had been received during that quarter, indicating a gap between expected and actual revenue of \$5.4 million, meaning that there continued to be a challenge in the core budget.

29. He underlined the need for changes in the financing of UN-Habitat, as indicated at previous meetings, and expressed the hope that in 2017, there would be much-needed and careful reflection by member States on how the core financial needs of an efficient, specialized and focused organization might be met. He called for adequate core financing, particularly while the work of the high-level panel of experts was continuing.

30. He expressed gratitude to the Governments of those member States that had already made their contributions to core funding by the end of the first quarter, namely Barbados, Chile, Haiti, Japan, Kenya and South Africa, and he urged all member States to work closely together to fund UN-Habitat basic requirements in 2017, contrary to which the Programme would be forced to continue to find efficiencies and reductions in expenditure. He also asked other member States that were expecting to make core contributions in 2017 to do so as early as possible.

31. He further thanked the Governments of Australia, Cabo Verde, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Spain and Uganda as well as the European Union for the new contribution agreements they had

signed with UN-Habitat in the first quarter of 2017, which amounted to \$24.4 million in earmarked funding.

32. In the ensuing discussion all the representatives who spoke expressed appreciation for the detailed report.

33. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the report revealed a continuous pattern of dwindling financial resources, particularly in the general purpose fund. He called for urgent action to enable the organization to continue to effectively discharge its important mandate, including additional work arising from the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. He emphasized the need to continue and strengthen resource mobilization as noted in Governing Council resolution 26/3 on the revised strategic plan for 2014–2019 and work programme and budget of UN-Habitat for 2018–2019, which urged the Executive Director to adopt effective measures and to enhance efforts to broaden the donor base of the Foundation general purpose budget in consultation with member States and in accordance with the programmes resource mobilization strategy. Another representative noted that the status of the Foundation general purpose fund had not improved since the previous year when the Executive Director had informed the Committee of the dire situation. Both recalled the words of the President of Kenya, Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta, in his keynote address to the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session, urging all member States in a position to do so to provide financial resources to the Programme.

34. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed concern at the figures for the first quarter of 2017, especially for revenue and expenditure in the core budget, showing that expenditure exceeded revenue by \$3 million. He expressed appreciation for the explanation of the gap structure and what had been done so far, but he also noted the need for structural changes as referred to in the presentation and sought more detailed information, including on how the Committee could be urgently engaged to reverse current trends.

35. One representative questioned the notion that the Committee of Permanent Representatives was responsible only for the Foundation general purpose budget, noting that the entire budget was reflected in the programme of work and budget, which was approved by the Governing Council for follow-up by the Committee. She also noted that the discrepancy between budgeted core resources and actual revenue was a continuing problem, and suggested that the secretariat should produce a table showing recovery rates for the various programmes. She further noted that with the current budget approval process, the bifurcated oversight mechanism between New York and Nairobi continued to weaken the oversight capacity of the Committee. She urged greater transparency and the ability to track the entire budget of UN-Habitat in Nairobi, which would be beneficial to the functioning of UN-Habitat.

36. One representative urged UN-Habitat to consider additional budgetary provision for activities such as documentation and dissemination of good practices on habitat-related projects, skills development, capacity-building and training, and increasing its outreach in different countries.

37. Responding to the comments made, the representative of the secretariat said that with regard to the discrepancy between the provisions of financing and the approved budget, an important step forward had been made at the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council. It was important to note, however, that in the present context of funding patterns, there was still much to be done in the area of non-earmarked resources.

38. He emphasized that in the current year it was important for member States to carefully consider what the financing model of UN-Habitat should be following on from the work of the high-level panel and the subsequent high-level meeting to be held at the seventy-first session of the General Assembly. The opportunity presented by the assessments taking place in the current year should be taken advantage of by Member States to tackle the gap between income and delivery. An interesting shift was taking place in thinking about the financing of UN-Habitat, requiring a close connection between the expectations of member States with regard to the services and work that UN-Habitat was providing and how it should be paid for. Much of the organization's work was now being paid for directly by middle-income countries, indicating the high value and high demand being placed upon it. Even some least developed countries were paying directly for services that they needed. Nevertheless, it was clear that the current pattern of funding was not sustainable under the expected model of operation for UN-Habitat.

39. With regard to financial reporting, he noted that in the future it should be possible to provide cost recovery data. In previous years it had been difficult to run the cost recovery mechanism because of the implementation of the Umoja enterprise resource planning system; from 2017 onwards, however, cost recovery cycles would probably be running quarterly and member States would be kept

up to date. He said that the financial reports before the Committee gave a full picture of all income and expenditure across all aspects of UN-Habitat work.

40. In his response, the Executive Director said, with regard to the provision of information, that his main goal was to provide all available information on the financial situation of UN-Habitat to the Committee and the quarterly reports reflected that. The introduction of Umoja was changing the process of reporting on the financial situation, although more slowly than he would have liked. The accrual methodology would be fully applied once the process was complete and UN-Habitat was advancing in that direction. Umoja reports were accrual-based and exhaustive, showing all financial transactions instantaneously, both to member States in Nairobi and to New York. Moreover, since its inception, the working group on programme and budget had also provided a forum for examining the detail of the financial transactions of UN-Habitat, providing increased transparency and the capacity for the Committee to oversee the financial situation of the organization.

41. He further noted that Habitat III had requested a small increase in the regular budget of UN-Habitat which had not yet been agreed upon and should be considered by member States in order to meet the demands of the least developed countries. Some member States had also requested a change in governance of UN-Habitat and that would be considered by the high-level panel in the course of its work. Similarly changes were to be made to the rules and regulations of UN-Habitat to increase efficiency and make available more resources for funding normative activities. In the meantime, efforts were being made to achieve maximum productivity with the available resources as part of the United Nations policy of “doing more with less”. To that end, UN-Habitat had reduced some 60 per cent of non-staff costs from the core budget and some 40 per cent of the staff costs while increasing delivery of the portfolio, showing a substantive improvement in the productivity of the organization.

Agenda item 5

Thematic/country presentation

42. Introducing the thematic presentation on the work of UN-Habitat on public spaces in the Asia-Pacific region, the Chair drew attention to a document entitled “Briefing note on public space in Asia-Pacific” (HSP/CPR/65/5).

43. In his presentation, the representative of the secretariat highlighted the growing attention paid to public space in recent years, notably in the Sustainable Development Goal target dedicated specifically to public space, as well as in the New Urban Agenda. He stressed the importance of good quality public space for urbanization and for sustainable development as it provided connectivity and access, protection from crime and violence, shelter from climate, seclusion from traffic and recreational opportunities. Well planned public space could be a lever of sustainable urban development and transform the quality of urbanization.

44. He noted, however, that many issues could affect the quality and quantity of public space. In the Asia-Pacific region, as elsewhere, public space was seen to be decreasing, had become highly commercialized over the past 30 years and had been replaced by private or semi-public buildings such as shopping malls and gated communities. The quality of public spaces was also declining and they were often not maintained and left derelict. Weak legal frameworks and lack of political will had resulted in the grabbing of public land.

45. On a positive note, he highlighted examples in which public space was firmly placed at the core of the development agenda, for example the new national guidance policy on people-centred urban development in China; the sky garden in Seoul; and the greening of public space in Surabaya, Indonesia.

46. He welcomed the appointment in June 2017 of the Director of the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Mr. Atsushi Koresawa, on whose behalf another representative of the secretariat made a presentation on examples of the work of UN-Habitat on public space in the Asia-Pacific region. In her presentation, she drew attention to the benefits of public spaces, noting that streets, squares and public facilities were as important as green spaces. Investment in such spaces also supported the economy as shown by increased property prices and retail value in those areas, and offered quality of life benefits, fostering social cohesion and cultural interaction, security, health and well-being, among other things.

47. The adoption in October 2015 of a specific target (target 11.7) of the Sustainable Development Goals on public space represented a milestone in terms of urbanization, setting the objective for Governments of providing universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces by 2030. The New Urban Agenda contained 10 references to public space, highlighting the promotion

of multifunctional use and social interaction and inclusion in public space; promoting the social and economic values of public space; contributing to livelihoods, urban renewal and regeneration; and ensuring the safety of women and girls, among others.

48. In an illustrated overview she gave examples of the approach of UN-Habitat on public space, looking at rules and regulations, legal protection of public space from land grabbing, influencing building codes, urban design and public space layout. To carry out those activities a solid financial plan was required, incorporating land value capture and land value sharing - frameworks to support local governments in capturing that value - and for the maintenance of public spaces.

49. The work of UN-Habitat focused on three key areas, namely knowledge, management, advocacy and tools; developing partnerships and networks; and technical cooperation and capacity-building for local governments. It involved working with global partnerships, local government associations, private sector foundations and non-governmental organizations. UN-Habitat was also developing tools such as using the Minecraft game to engage communities in designing public spaces, a software application that had been piloted in Nairobi and was being rolled out elsewhere. UN-Habitat was also contributing to the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals' indicator setting out the average area of cities that should be open space for public use by all, and was supporting Governments and statistical bureaux in gathering statistical information.

50. Turning specifically to the Asia-Pacific region, she described the work of UN-Habitat with cities in the region begun in 2017, in partnership with, among others, planning institutes, women's groups, United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific, and the CITYNET regional network of organizations for sustainable urban development. She also highlighted a number of examples of individual projects.

51. On financing, she emphasized that no core resources were involved and that all funding was extrabudgetary provided by global partners and private sector funding, and from local governments themselves for investment in public space.

52. The Chair invited interested member States to seek further information from the secretariat as required.

53. One representative expressed appreciation for the presentation and requested that more such thematic or country presentations should be made regularly as they constituted a form of accountability. He proposed, however, that the presentation could be shorter and the details provided in written form. Another representative, congratulating the secretariat on the outstanding presentation, said that such presentations enhanced the image of UN-Habitat and provided excellent insights into the tangible difference its work was making in the lives of ordinary people.

54. Thanking the representatives for their comments, the Executive Director underlined the main issue, namely that UN-Habitat monitoring and evaluation of urbanization had shown a decrease in public space, undermining urban value. This could easily be corrected through higher standards of urban planning but required the intervention of public institutions and political will to ensure that this key element of urban value was properly addressed; the recovery of public space could not be delegated to the market. He strongly urged member States to take a proactive and preventive stance to safeguard public space in the design of new urban areas.

Agenda item 6

Report on the work of the subcommittees.

55. The Committee took note of the report on the work of the subcommittees (HSP/CPR/65/6).

Agenda item 7

Report of the working group on programme and budget

56. Introducing the item, Ms. Julia Pataki, Permanent Representative of Romania and Chair of the working group on programme and budget, referred to the fourth formal meeting of the working group, held in February 2017, and the report thereon which she had presented to the Committee at its sixty-fourth regular meeting in March. Since that meeting the working group had not formally met due to the extensive preparations required for the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council, including the preparation of the report of the working group and the draft resolution on the extension of its mandate. She expressed satisfaction at the adoption of resolution 26/1 on the governance reform of UN-Habitat and extension of the mandate of the working group. The working group would therefore continue its activities for at least the following two years.

57. Expressing her appreciation to all member States for their support, including in the adoption of the resolution, she noted that the working group was open to all member States and she encouraged them to participate in all its meetings.
58. The working group was expected to resume its activities informally in July, while its first formal meeting would take place in September. She invited new nominations or reconfirmation of membership of the working group from each regional group that had not yet submitted them.
59. The Committee endorsed the list of regional representatives to the working group as follows:
- (a) Asia-Pacific States: Iraq, Japan
 - (b) Eastern European States: Hungary, Poland, Romania
 - (c) Latin American and Caribbean States: Argentina, Brazil and Mexico
 - (d) Western European and other States: France, Germany, United States of America
60. Nominations for the representatives of the African group and an additional representative of the Asia-Pacific States had yet to be submitted.
61. One representative noted that at the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council, a compromise had been reached with regard to the name of the working group, and that the agreed title of “working group on programme and budget” should be adhered to.

Agenda item 8

Report on the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat

Agenda item 9

Report on the status of implementation of the New Urban Agenda

62. Owing to time constraints, the Chair invited the Committee members to consider the reports relevant to agenda items 8 and 9 and to raise any questions thereon in upcoming meetings.
63. One representative, while not opposing the suggestion that items 8 and 9 be considered at another time, stressed that they should be discussed soon. With regard to the report on the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council, he said it should be finalized as soon as possible and made available in the six official languages of the United Nations. He stressed the importance for delegations of having complete documentation; translations of the Governing Council resolutions had not been available at the end of the twenty-sixth session and he called for those to be delivered to member States as soon as possible. With regard to the report on the status of implementation of the New Urban Agenda, he asked that the item should be addressed in a formal manner in the near future. He further noted that the report of the Executive Director was very general in nature and did not enable the Committee to take note of all the activities carried out and the full impact of the work UN-Habitat. He therefore requested that in future, a more explicit document be made available.

Agenda item 10

Any other matters

64. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, referred to the language emanating from the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session, in resolution 26/6, that preparations for the ninth session of the World Urban Forum should be based in Nairobi so that the process could benefit from the participation of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and sought confirmation that this would be the case. Regarding the invitation for expressions of interest in hosting the eleventh session of the Forum, he proposed, given that the event would take place in 2022 and in the light of pending changes at the senior management level of UN-Habitat, that any decision on the venue of the session should be deferred until the new management was in place.

Closure of the meeting

65. The meeting was declared closed at 11.50 a.m. on Thursday, 29 June 2017.