

Kenya's Statement Delivered by Consolata Kiragu DPR, KMUN-H during the 66th Committee of the Permanent Representatives Meeting held on Wednesday September 27th, 2017 at the UN Complex in Gigiri, Nairobi

Chairman of the CPR,
Executive Director,
Excellencies,
Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Executive Director for his briefing and the Secretariat for availing to us the documents on time. At the same time, let me join in welcoming all the new Permanent Representatives (Iraq, Uruguay, Burkina Faso, Israel, Belgium, Chile, Malaysia, Serbia and Vietnam) respectively. We wish them a pleasant Tour of Duty here in Kenya.

Mr. Chairman,

This CPR meeting is very important as it is taking place after the High Level Meeting held in New York from 5-6 September, 2017 on "**Effective Implementation of the New Urban Agenda and Positioning of the UN- Habitat in that Regard**".

In this regard, I fully concur with the sentiments raised by Pakistan on behalf of the G77 & China.

Kenya participated at the said meeting. We do recognize that most of the recommendations did not meet the expectations of Member States. Indeed, some are glaringly problematic.

Nevertheless, some clear messages were articulated. Member States demonstrated resolve to engage in the Habitat process. Better coordination of urban matters across the entire UN system was a point of agreement. Of importance, UN- Habitat was identified as the appropriate focal point for the coordination role.

We are happy therefore, that UN- Habitat is already reaching out to its partners within the UN system for coordinated support to countries. We expect UN-habitat to move a notch higher by rallying the UN system in developing System Wide Strategy.

We also note that the proposal for the creation of UN-Urban was solidly opposed. Enthusiasm and appetite for an Urban Assembly to replace the 58 Member States Governing Council was apparent.

The relevant Committees of the UNGA should take some measures to urgently address in particular, the financial crisis at UN-Habitat. To “save, stabilize and rapidly strengthen UN-Habitat”, the UN must provide an immediate financial rescue measure to cushion the programme from imminent collapse.

These issues will be further deliberated during this session of UNGA. Kenya will be actively involved in the negotiations when the agenda item is tabled for discussion on the Second Committee.

Kenya joins itself in the call by various Member States in urging Member States with the capacity to do so to urgently provide voluntary contributions

To enable the Secretariat implement its mandate.

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to the World Urban Forum,

Kenya notes with utmost concern that the management of UN-Habitat continues to be insensitive to the agreements and concerns of Member States. Resolution **26/6** adopted in May, 2017, at the Governing Council of UN-Habitat states clearly that the preparatory process for WUF-9 will be coordinated in Nairobi in order to benefit from in-house expertise of all branches with the full involvement of this Committee.

However, this is not the case. A firewall similar to that witnessed during the Habitat III has been adopted by the management. The coordinator of WUF is based in New York, and has to travel to Nairobi to brief the CPR. This has created a serious information gap. The question is... At what point will the CPR be fully involved in the planning and organizing the Forum?

Kenya has in the past expressed concern with the unauthorized relocation of WUF coordination, an important headquarter function, to New York Liaison Office. The move is not only weakening the headquarters but is also costly as the coordinator has to travel each time for a briefing. This method of work is unacceptable. We therefore urge the Executive Director to ensure that resolution 26/6 is fully implemented in spirit and letter.

On the same note, we are concerned that the WUF Coordinator has approached Countries that may wish to bid to host the (WUF-11) in 2022. So far, the matter has not been handled in a transparent manner. We neither know the countries that have since submitted bids nor whether any has done so. But more importantly, this delegation has called for the immediate suspension of this bid to allow the next Executive Director handle the process.

In this regard, we request that the announcement of the host for WUF 11 be postponed.

Mr. Chair,

There are several questions that Kenya raised during the recent briefing on WUF to the CPR Sub Committee on 20th September 2017, here in Nairobi. We wish to put the same on record and request the Secretariat to kindly provide us with answers in writing. These are as follows:

1. Where is the concept note for the Theme?
2. Can UN-Habitat guarantee that WUF would be organized in accordance with the latest WUF resolution, at the UN-Habitat HQ here in Nairobi?

3. Who is working in the WUF Unit (Professional staff and Consultants) bearing in mind the provisions of resolution 26/6 which states *inter alia*...Under Operative Paragraph 9, *to make maximum use of in-house capacity and limit the use of consultants*;
4. A guarantee that WUF will be organized from Nairobi, and that the CPR will be *adequately consulted and fully involved in the Preparatory process for all sessions of the Forum* as per OP8 of the Said Resolution;
5. Please provide if possible, the focal point names of the WUF Unit/UN- Habitat for each of the events you have listed, namely side events, networking events, training events and exhibition and the registration focal point for ease of operations.
6. Since we have not received any documentation for WUF9, we require a response to the questions on accreditation. Since WUF is non legislative, **why the accreditation requirement?**
7. There are new roles being assigned to WUF without the CPR or GC approval. For instance:
8. **A.** The slide titled "WUF Results" (slide/page 11 shown to the Subcommittee) outlined intermediate and long term outcomes and official inputs of multilateral organizations and multi-stakeholder groups into the NUA. The question therefore is, **what has this to do with WUF as a non-legislative meeting?**

B. The reference to " **Youth Children Assembly**" has clear ambiguities. Youth we understand, but when is the move by the UN-Habitat into "**Children Assembly**" approved by the GC of UN Habitat or discussed with the CPR? Are we not encroaching into the mandate of UNICEF? And;

C. What is “Grassroots Assembly”? When was the concept discussed by the CPR or approved by the GC?

Kenya wishes to underscore that the role and objective of WUF, convened by UN-Habitat within its mandate, is to provide an advocacy platform on urban issues for UN-Habitat and act as a networking tool for all partners attending the Forum. This Committee will need to look more critically into this aspect, with a view of using the WUF to strengthen UN-Habitat with its role in the implementation of the NUA. WUF should not be empowered to transform itself into something else.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, Kenya will be actively engaging other Member States to work towards the adoption of a favorable resolution. We shall work alongside the Common African Position on the assessment of the UN-Habitat. Likewise, we will appreciate if the Secretariat would implement resolution 26/6 without further delay.

I thank you.