

## Statement by Zimbabwe on WUF During the 64<sup>th</sup> Session of the CPR

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to express our gratitude to UN-Habitat for the briefing on WUF 9 last week and to also extend our congratulations to UN-Habitat and Malaysia in light of the signing of the Conference Agreement. Our special thanks goes to Malaysia for the commitment of 6 Million USD. This is noteworthy and encouraging.

I wish at the outset to seek clarification on a very pertinent issue. During the briefing on WUF 9, the representative of the secretariat, I believe Ms. Ana Moreno stated that WUF 8 had taken place in Quito during the Habitat3 conference. Is that correct.? If so it would be the first time the CPR has been informed of this.

I want to know if this is true, because WUF is convened by UN-HABITAT and so how is it that WUF 8 was prepared and convened without the CPR involvement and what was the theme. It should be on record that we do not and will not accept this notion that WUF 8 has taken place anywhere and we therefore seek clarification on this matter.

Mr. Chairman, We cannot find the previous WUF website and the contents that went with it. Could the links of at least the last 3 sessions be made available to us? This is very important for us to be able to see the website and all information on its evolution.

With respect to the WUF 9 website and the need for current information, we were informed that the WUF9 website may go live in May.

Why the inconclusiveness, does UN-Habitat not have the capacity to develop the website?

During the briefing, we were informed that the staff working on the preparations of WUF have to dedicate 100 percent of their time to carry out their duty. What does that mean?:

My delegation therefore wish to raise the following questions:

As per her own introduction, the WUF Coordinator who should be a staff of UN-Habitat, is also carrying out assignments with the Habitat III secretariat till June, so where is the logic on the percentage distribution.

We were informed that a“successful formula” would be used in the organization of WUF 9. What is this formula and when will it be presented to the CPR for discussion? How was WUF so successfully organized in the past by UN-Habitat staff if we are now hearing the mention of a successful formula?

During the Briefing, we were also informed that and I quote “if UN-Habitat does not have the capacity of certain functions or tasks to prepare the World Urban Forum, then consultants are needed”. I might

add that we were informed that the hiring of consultants would be made “transparent without outlining the specific task for which the consultants” would be employed.

At the risk of be accused of micro-management, I would wish to get more information on within the current composition of the WUF Unit: the distribution of staff and consultants.

We need to be concerned because of the current situation when we are hearing staff is being separated due to lack of funds and the same Organization is talking about hiring consultants.

IN LIGHT of the fact that the WUF is a very important advocacy tool which, is part of the Work Programme and budget, and knowing that WUF will take place every 2 years, also with the upcoming announcement by the ED of who will be hosting WUF10 in 2020, We are requesting:

a) Review or revival of the WUF Unit with appointing a designated WUF Coordinator located in Nairobi. It is understood that if the functions are really not within the capacity of UN-Habitat this review would need to be done.

b) A breakdown of how the huge sum of money given by the Host country as payment for the organization is used. Could the financial report of the WUF7 be shared with the CPR?

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to refer to a few documents that we the CPR and the Governing Council have approved. These area. HSP/GC/23/5, Proposed work programme and budget for the biennium 2012–2013 Report of the Executive Director; Resolution 23/5 on World Urban Forum and, Resolution 22/10: World Urban Forum

We are really concerned about the extent to which the CPR needs to be vigilant about its insolvent of the work of WUF in that respect.

Accordingly, Mr. Chairman We are requesting immediately, the subcommittee to meet to address the WUF in all aspects to ensure that the CPR is duly involved as anticipated in the approved documents.

In anticipation of that meeting, we request the following:

- i. The documents on “lessons-learned review of all previous sessions of the World Urban Forum” as mentioned by Germany during the briefing and stating resolution 22/10 as well as the Committee of Permanent Representatives report on “further recommendations to the Executive Director on future sessions of the Forum”.
- ii. the draft strategic framework for WUF9 based on lessons learned from the previous World Urban Forum sessions.

- iii. a detailed road map, reflecting all aspects and dates, for the preparation of WUF 9. This is as well important for our Capital.
- iv. the first draft of the theme and sub-theme.
- v. documentation mentioned by the coordinator during the briefing on the strategic reviews, reports, lessons learned.

Mr. Chairman we will also appreciate the assurance that WUF will be organised in consultation with the CPR and we are looking forward to hearing from the secretariat soonest and before the up-coming Governing Council on the requested CPR subcommittee and to answers to our questions raised.

Thank you.