

# **UN HABITAT**

**FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE**

**Introductory Statement by Dr. Joan Clos  
Executive Director**

**Preparations for GC26 (3-7 April 2017)**

**Agenda Item 8**

**HSP/CPR/62/8  
Nairobi, 14 September 2016**

## **Agenda Item 8**

### **Preparations for GC26 (3-7 April 2017)**

Excellencies,

As you are aware the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council will be held from 3 - 7 April 2017 as approved by the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council held in April 2015.

The Habitat III Conference will take place this October in just a month in Quito, the Republic of Ecuador, the outcome of which may or not influence the discussions the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council.

Excellencies,

The Agenda for the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council was, as required by the Rules of Procedure, approved by the twenty-fifth session of the Council and this has been shared with Members prior to this meeting.

Of priority consideration at this point with respect to the preparations is the selection of the special theme for the twenty-sixth session. You may recall that Governing Council Resolution 20/21 of April 2005 requires that the theme "shall be selected by the Bureau of the Governing Council at least six months before the start of each session of the Governing Council, on the basis of advice from the Executive Director, in consultation with the CPR, taking into account the outcome of the sessions of the World Urban Forum and the requirements for a continuing focus on the implementation and monitoring of the goal of the Millennium Declaration on improving the lives of slum dwellers."

In this particular occasion, the selection of the theme may not benefit from the World Urban Forum which has not been held this year as is practice. As such, it is my recommendation that the theme of the twenty sixth-session be greatly guided by the outcome of Habitat III.

As the Secretariat, we are already working on a possible appropriate theme that will take into consideration of the above resolution, the Agenda 2030, the Paris Climate Change Agreement and, perhaps most importantly, the Habitat III process and the New Urban Agenda. I will be sharing my ideas with you very soon for guidance and hope that the Subcommittee of the CPR can convene soonest to discuss proposals for the theme.

In the meantime, you already have a copy of the past themes and will recall that the theme of the twenty-fifth session focused on implementation of the Post 2015 Agenda with two subthemes covering rural-urban linkages and sustainable urban development.

Excellencies

This is the right moment to begin thinking of the resolutions you wish to submit to the Governing Council. Very soon the Governing Council Secretariat will organize subcommittee meetings to enable updates on the progress of implementing the resolutions passed by the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session GC25 and to discuss new proposed resolution.

I wish to emphasize the fact that the General Assembly has established time lines by which we must abide so as to give Member States the opportunity and time to review the various pre-session documents, including resolutions, well before the commencement of the Governing Council session. I would be extremely grateful if we could abide by the time lines.

I also wish to note that Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council requires the Executive Director to prepare a statement on the financial implications of implementing any proposed resolution involving the expenditure of United Nations funds, including those of the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, before the Governing Council approves such a proposed resolution.

Excellencies,

Before I conclude, I wish to draw your attention to the possibility of the necessity to review the 2018-2019 Strategic Plan before discussions on the Work Programme and Budget for the same biennium can begin, as part of the preparations for the GC26. This is because we may need to take into account any outcome of Habitat III that would require attention in the short term within the biennium 2018-2019.

Finally, I wish to encourage member states to fill any vacant positions left in the membership of the Governing Council and it would be desirable if those vacancies could be filled prior to the commencement of the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council.

Thank You.