



Committee of Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations Human Settlements
Programme
Sixty-first meeting
Nairobi, 14 September 2016

Draft minutes of the sixty-first meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, held on 15 June 2016

Opening of the meeting

1. The meeting was opened at 9.45 a.m. on Wednesday, 15 June 2016, 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 Chair informed the Committee that Mr. Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, was on mission and would not be able to attend the current meeting and that Ms. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat, would speak on his behalf.
3. The meeting was attended by 74 participants from 48 countries and 2 observer missions.
4. The Chair welcomed the following new permanent representatives to the Committee: Mr. Salah Francis Elhamdi (Algeria); Mr. Soehardjono Sastromihardjo (Indonesia); and Mr. Toshitsugu Uesawa (Japan).
5. He bade farewell to the following departing members, thanking them for their contribution to the work of the Committee: Mr. Bayani V. Mangibin (Philippines) and Mr. Mariano Deng Ngor (South Sudan).

Agenda item 1

Adoption of the agenda

6. The agenda was adopted, as amended, on the basis of the provisional agenda (HSP/CPR/61/1/Rev.1).

Agenda item 2

Adoption of the draft minutes of the sixtieth regular meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

7. The Committee adopted the draft minutes of its sixtieth regular meeting, as amended, on the basis of the draft minutes (HSP/CPR/61/L.1).

Agenda item 3

Executive Director's briefing to the Committee of Permanent Representatives

8. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to a document entitled "Executive Director's briefing to the CPR" (HSP/CPR/61/3), outlining key activities undertaken by UN-Habitat since the previous meeting of the Committee as well as other developments of relevance to the Programme.
9. The Deputy Executive Director, speaking on behalf of the Executive Director, highlighted activities described in the briefing document, focusing on the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III); work undertaken by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination; the implementation of the Umoja enterprise planning system; and recent missions undertaken by the Executive Director and his Deputy.
10. On the Habitat III preparations, a Habitat III regional meeting had been held in Toluca, Mexico, from 18 to 20 April 2016, while thematic meetings had been held in Barcelona, Spain, and in Pretoria in early April to discuss, respectively, the role of public spaces in sustainable urban development and strategies for improving the living conditions of informal settlement dwellers by addressing issues such as security of tenure, infrastructure services and unemployment. Open-ended informal consultative meetings had been held in New York from 24 to 29 April 2016, enabling a range of stakeholders to provide feedback on the conclusions of the Habitat III policy units and thematic and regional meetings for input into the "zero draft" of the Habitat III outcome document. The "zero draft of the new urban agenda", had been released by the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III on 6 May 2016 and had been discussed during informal intergovernmental meetings and informal hearings with local authority associations held in New York in May 2016.
11. Other recent Habitat III preparatory activities included the holding of urban breakfasts in New York and Geneva to discuss key urban issues such as sustainable urban development in small island States, sustainable urban development challenges in Europe and North America, and humanitarian aid and human rights in the new urban agenda, and the holding of Habitat III urban walks in New York to share the city's best practices of urban design and governance and showcase how the new urban agenda could translate into real life in cities.
12. The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination had adopted, at its first regular session of 2016, held in Vienna on 27 and 28 April, a joint statement to Habitat III presenting ten guiding principles for the United Nations system for transformative change towards sustainable urbanization. The Chief Executives Board had also approved a paper entitled "Urbanization and sustainable development: a UN system input to a new urban agenda", to which UN-Habitat and other entities had contributed and which included a proposal to use the Habitat III "World Urban Campaign" as a multi-stakeholder platform for the implementation of the new urban agenda by United Nations system bodies.
13. As for the Umoja enterprise planning system, the secretariat continued to engage with the United Nations Secretariat to grapple with implementation challenges. Progress had been made in some areas, such as a reduction of travel claims processing times, with similar time reductions expected for the processing of consultant appointments, which UN-Habitat could now delegate to regional offices, but much work remained to be done. Most notably, UN-Habitat still lacked access to SAP-HANA, the Umoja reporting database, which made the timely production of reports to member States and partners difficult.
14. Lastly, in respect of missions, the Executive Director had attended the Saudi Urban Forum 2016, held in Riyadh from 29 to 31 March 2016, where Government stakeholders and worldwide experts had discussed the future of urban development in Saudi Arabia; the first African Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development, held in Rabat on 11 and 12 May 2016, where Ministers had adopted a strong message in support of the new urban agenda; the first World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul on 23 and 24 May 2016, during which UN-Habitat and 65 other organizations had launched the Global Alliance for Urban Crises to better support member States, local authorities and other partners in addressing humanitarian crises; and an informal meeting of European Union ministers responsible for urban matters, held in Amsterdam on 30 May 2016, where ministers had adopted a document entitled "Pact of Amsterdam", which set out an urban agenda for the European Union in the framework of the Habitat III preparations..
15. The Deputy Executive Director had visited Mozambique and Angola in April 2016 to see UN-Habitat fieldwork and meet with Government officials and had participated in a number of meetings: a UN-Habitat expert group meeting held in Barcelona, Spain, on 20 and 21 April 2016, where linkages between relief, rehabilitation and development and UN-Habitat gender-responsive engagement in post-conflict contexts had been discussed; the fifty-first annual meeting of the African

Development Bank, held in Lusaka from 23 to 27 May 2016, where a report entitled African Economic Outlook 2016, which reviewed the role of sustainable cities and urbanization in Africa's development, had been launched; the World Bank's seventh Global Housing Finance Conference, held in Washington, D.C., on 25 and 26 May 2016, where the global issue of affordable housing had been discussed. She had also undertaken visits to Iraq and Jordan, where she had seen the impacts of UN-Habitat work and attended a retreat for the Arab region held in Amman.

16. In the following discussion, many representatives expressed appreciation to the Executive Director for his written report and to the Deputy Executive Director for her oral briefing.

17. With regard to the Habitat III preparations, one representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries asked that the Executive Director provide frequent and timely updates on preparations to the Committee, through its subcommittees. He further requested the secretariat to share with the Committee the joint statement and paper endorsed by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination in April 2016 and to provide a more detailed briefing to the Committee on the work being undertaken by UN-Habitat and other United Nations bodies on the United Nations system input to the new urban agenda.

18. The representative of Japan announced that his Government would co-host the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development in Nairobi on 27 and 28 August 2016. Participants in the conference would discuss sustainable urbanization as a main theme and the Conference outcome was expected to shed light on solutions to the challenges of sustainable urbanization, thereby contributing to Habitat III.

19. With regard to the Umoja enterprise resource planning system, two representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed satisfaction that UN-Habitat continued to work with the United Nations Secretariat to address challenges associated with the system, in particular those regarding reporting. One representative expressed the hope that UN-Habitat would soon provide to member States its financial statements for 2015, as well as more recent information on the Programme's financial situation with regard to reserves, since there appeared to have been a significant decrease in the reserves. In order to fulfil their responsibility to deal with the financial situation of UN-Habitat, member States must be fully aware of the facts. The representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries expressed concern that, according to the quarterly report on the financial status of UN-Habitat (HSP/CPR/61/4), only \$190,000 of the expected \$5.7 million non-earmarked pledges had been received during the first quarter of 2016 and asked whether that situation had changed since 31 March 2016. He requested the secretariat, in view of the upcoming discussions on the UN-Habitat budget for the biennium 2018–2019 biennium, to prepare a list of projections corresponding to actual levels of contributions received, in particular non-earmarked contributions.

20. In respect of missions, the representative of the European Union thanked the Executive Director for attending the informal ministerial meeting that had resulted in the adoption of the "Pact of Amsterdam", saying that at Habitat III the member States of the European Union would share their experiences with the Pact.

21. Several representatives welcomed the report to the Committee of the working group on programme and budget (HSP/CPR/61/9), with two representatives, each speaking on behalf of a group of countries, requesting that the Executive Director implement the recommendations contained therein and commending the spirit of cooperation and level of engagement of the secretariat and member States in the group. One of the representatives asked that in the future the secretariat send invitations to the group's informal and formal meetings well in advance of those meetings, expressing regret that several representatives had not been able to attend the last meeting because invitations had been received less than 24 hours prior thereto.

22. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, further welcomed the briefing to the Committee on the implementation plan for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HSP/CPR/61/6), noting that UN-Habitat and other United Nations entities had a central role to play in helping member States to implement and review the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and related targets, and in developing relevant indicators. She suggested that the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development had a central oversight role to play in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level.

23. The Deputy Executive Director thanked representatives for their comments and said that the secretariat had taken note of requests. As for questions raised by representatives concerning the financial status of UN-Habitat and the Habitat III preparations, the secretariat would respond to them when the Committee considered agenda items 4 and 5, respectively.

24. In closing, she thanked the Governments of Japan and the United States of America, as well as the European Union, for their continued support to the work of UN-Habitat in places such as Afghanistan and Iraq. She expressed appreciation to the Government of Japan for support provided to UN-Habitat activities in Africa and said that the secretariat would continue to collaborate with that Government to ensure that the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development was a success.

Agenda item 4

Quarterly report on the financial status of UN-Habitat

25. Introducing the item, a representative of the Secretariat drew attention to the quarterly report on the financial status of UN-Habitat (HSP/CPR/61/4), which outlined the financial situation of UN-Habitat for the quarter ending on 31 March 2016 and was the first such report to be prepared fully in compliance with Umoja. The report showed that UN-Habitat revenue for the quarter, before inter-fund eliminations, totalled \$37.7 million, of which \$4.8 million related to core funds and \$32.9 million related to earmarked funds. Total revenue after inter-fund eliminations, which were required under the Umoja system, amounted to \$36.5 million. Total expenditures during the same period amounted to \$34.5 million, comprising \$7.6 million for core expenses and \$26.9 million for earmarked expenses; in addition to these actual expenditures, there were commitments of \$2.3 million for activities under implementation.

26. He expressed deep appreciation to the European Union and to the Governments of Afghanistan, Argentina, Chile, Czech Republic, Germany, Ghana, India, Israel, Japan, Kuwait, Mexico, Morocco, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Zimbabwe for their core and earmarked contributions since the previous meeting of the Committee. He further thanked the European Commission and the Governments of Cameroon, Czech Republic, Japan, Mexico, South Africa and Sweden for contribution agreements they had signed with UN-Habitat between January and March 2016 amounting to some \$32.2 million in earmarked funds. An agreement had also been signed with the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

27. With regard to a question raised under the previous agenda item concerning the low level of non-earmarked contributions to UN-Habitat as at 31 March 2016, he explained that member States tended to make their annual contributions to the UN-Habitat general purpose account late in the year. However, he invited member States to make their contributions early to enable the implementation of the activities authorized by the Governing Council, stressing that non-earmarked contributions were crucial to the financial and operational situation and capabilities of UN-Habitat, especially with regard to its core normative work.

28. On issues raised by representatives under agenda item 3 regarding the UN-Habitat financial statements for 2015, he said that 2016 had been an unusual year for UN-Habitat and other United Nations Secretariat entities given the serious challenges associated with the implementation of Umoja. Despite such challenges, UN-Habitat had submitted its 2015 financial statements, which included information on the Programme's reserves, to the United Nations Board of Auditors and, following completion of the Board's audit at the end of June 2016, the secretariat would share the audited statements with the Committee, probably through its subcommittee on finance and administration. UN-Habitat was committed to balancing its income and expenditures and to applying the United Nations management tools, rules and regulations to deal with its financial situation.

29. The Board of Auditors was currently reviewing the implementation challenges that Umoja continued to present. While some progress had been made and most transactions were being processed smoothly, Umoja was placing a high burden and significant time demands on a small number of people both in Nairobi and in New York, with hundreds of issues to be addressed that affected the operational effectiveness of UN-Habitat and other entities. Two major issues that would continue to pose challenges to UN-Habitat were the reporting functionality of the system, which made it very difficult to access meaningful and accurate data and required staff to engage in manual, time-consuming data collection and analysis exercises to produce reports and financial statements, and issues of system design that made delivery of the same product more time-consuming and costly for UN-Habitat than before.

30. Responding to a question from the floor regarding the expected time of release of the 2015 financial statements, he said that the secretariat would release the statements to member States soon after the completion of the audit by United Nations auditors, at the end of June 2016.

Agenda item 5

Briefing to the Committee on the status of preparations for Habitat III and the third session of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III

31. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to a document titled “Briefing to the CPR on the status of preparations for Habitat III and PrepCom III” (HSP/CPR/61/5) and invited members to make meaningful contributions to the preparatory process at the current meeting, which provided the last opportunity in that regard given that the next regular meeting of the Committee would be held shortly before Habitat III.

32. Mr. Kumaresh Misra, Deputy Secretary-General of Habitat III, provided an update on the preparations for the Conference. He said that the process of preparing technical inputs for Habitat III had been completed in April 2016, with the convening of the last two thematic meetings and the last regional meeting in Spain, South Africa and Mexico, respectively. The entire process had involved holding four regional meetings and seven thematic meetings, each of which had resulted in the adoption of a declaration and had involved consultations with a large number of experts and online open dialogues; the production of 10 policy papers by 10 policy units led by 20 co-leaders, including UN-Habitat, and by 200 worldwide experts; and the production of 22 issue papers by the United Nations task team on Habitat III. The task team, which was made up of 25 United Nations agencies and programmes, including UN-Habitat, had held monthly meetings to finalize the issue papers and to provide inputs to the preparation of the Habitat III draft outcome document. All the declarations and papers were available on the Habitat III website.

33. In addition, the United Nations regional commissions and the UN-Habitat regional offices had developed Habitat III regional reports, which would be finalized following a last round of discussions on 21 June 2016, and United Nations expert group meetings had been or would be held over the following weeks to prepare inputs for the Conference on issues such as human rights, food security, gender, land, migration, safer cities, and driving smart and sustainable cities.

34. With regard to the intersessional process, informal intergovernmental meetings and informal hearings with local authority associations had been held in New York in May 2016 to discuss the “zero draft of the new urban agenda,” and additional informal intergovernmental meetings were scheduled to take place at the end of June. Open-ended informal consultative meetings had also been held, as had informal hearings with stakeholder groups of the general assembly of partners; statements delivered at those meetings and hearings were available on the Habitat III website and a report of each had been produced by the International Institute for Sustainable Development.

35. Following the release of the “zero draft”, member States had identified the need to continue discussions on the document and had appointed two co-facilitators, from the Philippines and Mexico, to guide the discussions. Two issues that required further consideration had been identified, namely, the right to the city and the issue of follow-up and review of the new urban agenda, including the role and structure of UN-Habitat. Informal consultations on those two issues were ongoing, following which the co-facilitators would produce a revised, enhanced version of the “zero draft” for consideration by member States during the informal intergovernmental negotiations scheduled to start at the end of June 2016.

36. Informal processes, in the form of Urban Breakfasts, had been organized in Brussels, Quito, Geneva and Paris, and Habitat III urban breakfasts had been held in New York, every third Thursday of the month, with the aim of obtaining feedback from participants on activities taking place in their countries and regions. One or two such breakfasts were also planned for Nairobi.

37. As for the third session of the Preparatory Committee, to be held in Surabaya, Indonesia, from 23 to 27 July 2016, letters of invitation had been sent to all permanent missions in New York, which had been asked to confirm their participation by 25 June 2016, and the deadline for arranging side events had been extended to 25 June 2016. Information on the programme and logistics for the session, including parallel events, was available on the Habitat III website, and the Habitat III trust fund would be used to support the participation of least developed countries in the session. It was to be hoped that the new urban agenda would be finalized during the session for consideration at Habitat III.

38. In the ensuing discussion, representatives expressed appreciation to the Habitat III and UN-Habitat secretariats for the written and oral reports on the preparations for Habitat III.

39. With regard to the “zero draft”, one representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries said that it should reflect an inclusive agenda founded on relevant international agreements, including the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, given that sustainable urbanization and human

settlements could be key drivers of sustainable development; address developmental challenges associated with the management of sustainable cities and human settlements; explore innovative methods to enable cities to cope with demographic trends and rapid urbanization rates, especially in developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean; and reduce disparities along the rural-urban continuum. She expressed the view that developed countries should support efforts by developing countries to implement the new urban agenda through the provision of means of implementation, including resources, capacity-building and technology transfer, and through the creation of an international enabling environment for sustainable development. In closing, she requested that the Habitat III secretariat provide detailed statements for the Habitat III trust fund and finance the participation of Nairobi-based regional representatives from developing countries in the third session of the Habitat III Preparatory Committee and in Habitat III.

40. One representative expressed concern that the “zero draft” focused primarily on urban development and lacked much-needed attention to rural development, as reflected in the document’s title and that of the proposed “Quito Declaration on Cities for All”, and said that this should be rectified in order to address the concerns of, and different levels of development and urbanization in, member States.

41. Two representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that there was a need for greater participation by members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat in the Habitat III process, especially in the drafting of the Habitat III outcome document, and for improved and more substantive briefings to the Committee on the process, given that the Committee would be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the new urban agenda. Together with another representative, they called on the Habitat III secretariat to support the participation of developing countries in the preparatory meetings for Habitat III and in the Conference itself, noting that such participation was essential to ensure that Governments fully owned and were committed to the new urban agenda and that the outcome of the third session of the Preparatory Committee was not reopened for discussion at Habitat III.

42. One representative expressed the view that the Habitat III preparatory process should have taken place in Nairobi with the Habitat III secretariat located in Nairobi. Another representative sought clarification regarding the basis for the decision to conduct the Habitat III preparatory process in New York; the role of UN-Habitat in the Habitat III process; and the role of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat in the drafting and further enhancement of the “zero draft”.

43. Reacting to these comments, one representative said that there appeared to be some confusion as to who was leading the Habitat III process, stressing that Habitat III was a conference of the General Assembly of the United Nations and was therefore a New York-led process in which member States had decided how the Committee of Permanent Representatives and other stakeholders could provide inputs to the process. Suggesting that the Committee could perhaps have done a better job of preparing a unified position to Habitat III, he said that the General Assembly had not intended for Committee members to attend every Habitat III preparatory meeting and it was therefore a strange proposition that the Habitat III secretariat should finance their participation in such meetings.

44. Another representative said that Committee members were aware that Habitat III was led by the General Assembly, but recognized the important role that the Committee had to play in the process, given that it would be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the outcomes of the Conference. Speaking on behalf of a group of countries, she asked the Habitat III secretariat to reconsider its negative response to an earlier request that it finance the participation of certain developing countries in the Habitat III preparatory meetings and in Habitat III.

45. Yet another representative said that the General Assembly had called for support for the participation of developing countries, not only least-developed countries, in the Habitat III process. He stressed that UN-Habitat should do more to showcase its work in the context of the negotiations in New York, thereby demonstrating the key role it could play in the implementation of the new urban agenda. In that regard, he drew attention to the Abuja Declaration on Habitat III, which called for UN-Habitat to be strengthened as the key player in the implementation of the outcome of Habitat III.

46. One representative drew attention to an expert group meeting on land, law and the new urban agenda, held in New York on 2 and 3 June 2016, in which experts had discussed a brief produced by the Global Land Tool Network on security of tenure, sustainable land use, responsible land management and governance and land-based revenue generation, saying that the Network would welcome the opportunity to brief the Committee on its involvement in Habitat III in preparation for the Conference.

47. The Deputy Secretary-General thanked representatives for their comments, stressing that Habitat III was in the hands of member States and that the Habitat III secretariat was open to receiving their input, especially in the context of intergovernmental negotiations in New York. With regard to financing the participation of some countries in Habitat III meetings, he said that the Habitat III secretariat was following the process agreed to by member States and was therefore not in a position to support the participation of developing countries other than least-developed countries in such meetings. As for the Habitat III trust fund financial statements, the Habitat III secretariat would be able to provide those to member States after the Conference.

48. Responding to a follow-up question from the floor, the Deputy Secretary-General said that he would confirm which resolution of the General Assembly provided that the Habitat III trust fund would support only the participation of least-developed countries in Habitat III meetings. Also responding to a follow-up question on the Habitat III trust fund, a representative of the UN-Habitat secretariat said that the secretariat expected to provide to the Committee an updated report on the Habitat III trust fund at around the same time the UN-Habitat 2015 financial statements were released, after United Nations auditors finalized their work at the end of June 2016.

49. The Deputy Executive-Director said that the UN-Habitat secretariat had taken note of comments made and would share them with the Executive Director in his capacity as Secretary-General of Habitat III. She said that while Habitat III was a process of the General Assembly, the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the UN-Habitat secretariat had important roles to play in the process. The latter had contributed substantively to the Habitat III preparations and planned to distribute widely the report entitled “Bi-annual programme activity report: December 2015” (HSP/CPR/61/INF.1), which had been shared with the Committee at the current session.

50. Providing details on contributions by UN-Habitat to the Habitat III process, a representative of the secretariat said that UN-Habitat had been actively engaged in the process from its beginning: several UN-Habitat staff members were members of the United Nations task team on Habitat III and UN-Habitat had co-led the policy unit on national urban policies; helped to draft 19 of the 22 issue papers; contributed to the thematic meetings and, through its regional offices, to all the regional meetings; submitted technical comments on the “zero draft” through the task team; and delivered statements during the eight informal consultations held in New York on issues such as housing, national urban policies and partnerships.

51. In response to a request from the floor that UN-Habitat share with the Committee its technical comments on the “zero draft”, the Deputy Executive Director said that the comments had been delivered within the framework of the task team so the secretariat would share the comments submitted by the task team.

Agenda item 6

Briefing to the Committee on the implementation plan for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

52. The Committee deferred consideration of agenda item 6 to its sixty-second meeting.

Agenda item 7

Thematic/country activities presentation

53. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to a note by the secretariat on UN-Habitat work in Iraq (HSP/CPR/61/7) and to two information documents, entitled “Bi-annual programme activity report: December 2015” (HSP/CPR/61/INF.1) and “Country profile: Iraq” (HSP/CPR/61/INF.2).

54. Mr. Dyfed Aubrey, Regional Director, UN-Habitat Egypt Office, gave a presentation on the work of UN-Habitat in Iraq, which, he said, dated back 20 years and had relied purely on project resources, mainly from the Iraq Trust Fund from 2003 to 2013 and thereafter from the Government of Iraq and international donors. Providing an overview of the country, he said that Iraq was facing very significant challenges associated with the location in the country of around 3.5 million internally displaced people and 250,000 refugees; political instability; a lack of social cohesion and very limited social protection; unacceptably high levels of multidimensional poverty; a worsening security situation, despite the recent take-over by the Government of certain areas that had been under the control of the so-called “Islamic State”; and very high dependence on oil revenues, which posed difficulties given reduced oil prices and increased military expenditures. In spite of those challenges, the Iraqi Government was working on a poverty reduction strategy and had developed two consecutive national development plans focusing on diversifying the economy, decentralizing governance,

incorporating green investments and promoting balanced growth, inclusive capacity-building and decent work targeting women and young people.

55. The work of UN-Habitat in Iraq was currently focused on supporting the Government in three areas, namely, dealing with crises, tackling the symptoms of unplanned urbanization and enabling sustainable urbanization through a \$43 million portfolio of projects dealing with urban legislation, land and governance, urban planning and design, housing and slum upgrading, urban basic services, and risk reduction and rehabilitation.

56. With regard to crises, UN-Habitat was helping the Government to deal with refugees and internally displaced persons through the identification and implementation of long-term solutions enabling cities to accommodate displaced populations. One such solution had been to help families that had generously hosted refugees or internally displaced persons to build small house extensions to accommodate their guests, asking that in return they provide security of tenure to those refugees or internally displaced persons. To date, 1,045 families had been given such support, including basic water and sanitation services, which had benefitted 232,000 refugees and host community members.

57. Another solution involved creating permanent structures connected to the infrastructure of nearby cities as an alternative to camps, which were designed as temporary solutions and did not take into account public spaces, streets, schools or social services to the extent needed. Premised on the application of sustainable neighbourhood planning principles, the solution sought to prevent situations in which camp occupants replaced their tents with permanent structures that later became slums. With the support of the Government of Saudi Arabia and in collaboration with United Nations partners, UN-Habitat had built 1,356 houses, schools and social facilities using pre-fabricated houses, which required considerably less maintenance than tents and were thus more cost-effective. An additional 2,928 houses and student dormitories, benefitting 17,000 people, were being built with support from the Government of Japan, which was also supporting UN-Habitat activities to enable displaced persons to return to their homes by rebuilding and rehabilitating their houses, public services and infrastructure and by addressing land tenure issues through the use of participatory reconstruction planning.

58. When dealing with crises, UN-Habitat also sought to address the results of unplanned urbanization. For instance, in collaboration with partners, the Programme had implemented a very successful pilot project that had helped a local government to re-plan an informal settlement by means of community planning. The project had introduced community participation, including of women and young people, as the new norm; strengthened community cohesion; and involved the relocation of 400 households in order to make space for new public facilities, including a primary school, a government-funded community centre for women, a police station, and five points of access into the settlement from other locations, which had improved the security of the area.

59. In the space of only five years, and with support from the Government of the United States of America, the pilot project was being scaled up to the city and national levels. At the city level, UN-Habitat had assessed 296 informal areas in Baghdad and developed, with various authorities, plans for upgrading, relocating or redeveloping such areas for incorporation into the city's "master plan", which was the legislative basis for government investments. At the national level, the Programme was developing legislative, institutional, technical, planning and financial solutions to help the national Government to deal with informal settlements through a national programme.

60. Lastly, UN-Habitat was promoting sustainable urban development in Iraq through a focus on legislation, for instance through the introduction of a new building control mechanism, safer city interventions, and the development of a framework for national urban development that incorporated localized frameworks for urban development and spatial planning, and linked spatial plans with sectoral plans and budget mechanisms.

61. In closing, he expressed deep appreciation to all those who had supported the work of UN-Habitat in Iraq. He urged member States to convey to their capitals the importance of supporting the core normative and technical work carried out at UN-Habitat headquarters, on which country programmes relied heavily and which were essential to ensuring the quality and consistency of the Programme's activities at the country level.

62. Following the presentation, a representative of the secretariat drew attention to salient aspects of the "Bi-annual programme activity report: December 2015" (HSP/CPR/61/INF.1), which had been prepared using a new format in response to a request by the Committee that the bi-annual reports on country activities be more concise and results-oriented. The report showed results achieved across seven subprogrammes and thematic areas during 2015 and provided an analysis of project portfolio performance and delivery. It did not incorporate financial figures due to delays associated with the

Umoja enterprise planning system, but future reports would include such figures. In closing, he invited representatives to provide comments on the new format to enable the secretariat to further improve it.

63. In the ensuing discussion, representatives welcomed the presentation on activities in Iraq, which, said many, demonstrated the significance of UN-Habitat activities at the country level. The representative of Iraq expressed his gratitude to UN-Habitat for work conducted in his country, welcoming the 11 projects planned for 2013–2017. He also thanked all those who had supported the work of UN-Habitat in Iraq, including other United Nations entities, the European Union and the Governments of Japan, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia and the United States, expressing the hope that with the support of its partners Iraq would be able to achieve goal 11 of the Sustainable Development Goals (make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable). The representative of Egypt said that his Government had supported and would continue to support the UN-Habitat regional office for Arab States, which it had hosted since 2011.

64. Two representatives welcomed the report, which, they said, provided a good overview of the important work of UN-Habitat across the regions. One representative requested that the secretariat produce an abbreviated version of the report for wide distribution to key partners, including permanent missions in New York.

Agenda 8

Report on the work of the subcommittees.

65. The Committee took note of the report on the work of the subcommittees (HSP/CPR/61/8).

Agenda item 9

Report of the working group on programme and budget

66. The Committee took note of the report on the work of the working group on programme and budget (HSP/CPR/61/9).

Agenda item 10

Any other matters

67. No other matters were discussed.

Closing of the meeting

68. The meeting was declared closed at 1.15 p.m. on Wednesday, 15 June 2016.