

UN HABITAT

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

**62nd REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVES TO UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
PROGRAMME**

14 SEPTEMBER 2016

Agenda Item 7:

Preparations for the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat (GC26); **3-7 April 2017**

(HSP/CPR/62/7)

PREPARATIONS FOR THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF UN-HABITAT (GC26).

Preparations for the up-coming twenty-sixth session of the UN-Habitat Governing Council (GC26), which is scheduled from **3-7April 2017** to be held at the UN-Habitat Headquarters in Nairobi Kenya have commenced and some highlights are provided as follows;

a) Provisional Agenda for the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council (GC26)

1. As required by the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council, the Provisional Agenda for the next session is always decided upon by the previous session. Accordingly, the Agenda for the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council, albeit provisionally, was decided by the twenty-fifth session in April 2015. **(see copy of the Agenda for GC26 attached as Annex1).**

b) Convocation/ Notification for the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Governing Council

2. The convocation note of the twenty sixth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat will go out to all Governments in September 2016.

In accordance with Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council, a Notification by Executive Director will be sent in November 2016, 60 days prior to the session, to the following;

- (a) All members of the Governing Council;
- (b) All other Member States of the United Nations or member States of specialized agencies;
- (c) The specialized agencies and appropriate United Nations bodies;
- (d) The entities, intergovernmental organizations and other entities referred to in rule 63;
- (e) The organizations referred to in rules 64, 65 and 66 of the Rules

(see copy of the Rules of procedure at <http://unhabitat.org/about-us/governing-council/>)

c) Proposed Organization of work and time table for GC 26

3. A draft organizational time table on how the schedule of work will look like during the one week session of the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council is

attached. The time table covers inter-alia, the Bureau meetings, the Plenary including the High Level Segment and Dialogue on the Special Themes. (see copy of draft sample attached as **Annex II**).

d) **List of Reports and other related documents before GC26**

4. These are the reports and other forms of documentation prepared by UN-Habitat on actions and activities undertaken by the Organization in response to requests by previous Governing Council sessions to the Executive Director. The bulk of the debates and discussions during GC26 will center around these reports which may culminate into further request to the Executive Director in the form of resolutions. At this stage the list is a draft which will be continuously reviewed in the course of the preparations for GC26. (see copy of documentation list attached as **Annex III**).

5. It is important to note that Habitat III conference scheduled for October 2016 in Ecuador, Quito and its outcome may or may not have a bearing on the GC26. Preparations are therefore being undertaken with some flexibility in case of any adjustments.

e) **Important time lines in the preparation for GC26**

6. A document indicating some important time lines towards GC 26 and which follow the rules established by the United Nations General Assembly for submission of documentation is attached for information. (see copy attached of the indicative timeline as **Annex IV**).

f) **Selection of the Theme of the twenty sixth session of the Governing Council**

7. There is a time sequence within which the Bureau of the Governing Council is expected to select the Special theme for the GC26 pursuant to Resolution 20/21 of April 2005. Specifically, the resolution states 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 Committee of the Permanent Representatives, 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 slums dwellers”

8. It is equally significant to note that there is no World Urban Forum (WUF) during this year (2016) and so the theme would have to be picked without the benefit of the outcomes of the sessions of WUF. Given that the Habitat III Conference in October 2016 is just before GC26, consideration could be given to a theme related to UN-

Habitat's preparedness in the implementation of the outcome of Habitat III as was done for post 2015 development Agenda.

9. Accordingly, the Bureau of the GC is required to select a theme in October 2016. (see copy of Past Themes attached as **Annex V**).

g) **Submission of draft Resolutions towards the GC26**

10. The procedure and timings for the submissions of resolutions to GC26 will be discussed by the CPR at its regular meetings and subcommittee meetings. Resolutions may be submitted time enough for consideration and discussions by the CPR and its subcommittees. In this regard Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council requires the Executive Director to prepare a statement of financial implications of implementing any proposal involving the expenditure of United Nations Funds, including that of the Foundation before the Governing Council could approve such a proposal. Ideally, it is envisaged that the CPR subcommittees will begin discussions on the draft resolutions by November 2016. (see a list of the Resolutions passed during the GC 25 attached as **Annex VI** and contained in the GC 25 Report available at <http://unhabitat.org/gc25-report>)

h) **Accreditation of Partners**

11. Accreditation of Partners of all categories can be found in Governing Council resolution 19/8 of 9 May 2003. It is, however, significant to draw attention to the accreditation of certain Habitat Agenda Partners on ad-hoc basis. These are: **a.** local authorities and Habitat Agenda Partners that were neither accredited to Habitat II nor to Istanbul +5; **b.** Partners that are not local authorities referred to in Rule 64 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council and **c.** Partners that are not in consultative status with ECOSOC.

12. Accreditation on ad-hoc basis requires the submission of the list of such partners to the CPR for approval on no-objection basis by final decision of the CPR, and to Governments not represented at the CPR for their consideration, 10 weeks in advance of the Governing Council. Ideally therefore, the CPR is expected to approve such a list by January 2017.