# UN HABITAT
## FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

**61st    REGULAR  MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME**

**15 JUNE 2016**

**Agenda Item 8:**

**Report on the Work of the Subcommittees of the CPR (HSP/CPR/61/8)**

**61<sup>st</sup> Regular Meeting of the CPR**

**REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (CPR).**

The Subcommittees of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) held three (3) meetings between 23 March and 1 June 2016. The following are the three meetings of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of work took place:

1.  Ninth Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: **Update on UN-Habitat's work on Basic Urban Services  and Disaster Risk Reduction including Preparations for World Humanitarian Summit**

2.  Tenth Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: **Briefing on the Work of UN-Habitat's Local Government Unit- The Role of Local Governments in the SDGs**

3.  Eleventh Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: **Presentation on the work of the UN-Habitat Urban Planning and Design Lab**

**OVERVIEW OF THE MEETINGS**

1.  Ninth Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: **Update on UN-Habitat's work on Basic Urban Services  and Disaster Risk Reduction including Preparations for World Humanitarian Summit**

Subcommittee meeting began with discussions on urban basic services and key achievements so far realized towards achieving the strategic results of the Strategic Framework 2014-2019 and as well as GC resolution 25/4. In this regard, the Member States were briefed of the significant  achievements in the East Africa region which included; i) Institutional capacity for solid waste management strengthened in municipal authorities;  ii) Water tariff policy developed by UN-Habitat approved and implemented by the Government of Rwanda since September 2015 iii)adoption of the handbook "Sustainable Building Design for Tropical Climates" as a training tool for institutions of higher learning in East Africa, iv) Training of  media houses on reporting sustainability in the built environment and on creating awareness on green building design and v) Strategic Business Plans to guide institutional reform and investments developed in the 5 EAC member states.

Members were also informed of an on-going water and sanitation (WASH) project in Malawi with the financial support of European Union, which would benefit pupils and persons living in three peri-urban informal settlements. Performance Improvement Plans (PIPs) had also been developed for 7 (seven) African Water utilities. The presentation also highlighted the growing partnership with key financial institutions and other partners in strengthening the work of UN-Habitat on urban basic services. A specific partnership with the World Bank and Africa Development Bank under the project 'promoting sustainable transport solutions for East African cities - SUSTRAN' in Addis Ababa, Nairobi and Kampala focusing on design and demonstration of a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system in these major cities was singled out and was reported to have made substantial progress.

In addition to the above progressive achievements related to urban basic services, members were also briefed on the status of the urban basic services trust fund which showed a decrease in funding in 2015 from 2014- 14 million USD in 2014 to 3.6million USD in 2015. The urban electric mobility initiative launched in 2014 which aimed to reduce air pollution and enhance accessibility was also highlighted as was the work on the integrated monitoring of water and sanitation related SDG targets (GEMI) which began in 2014 that is being managed by the World Health Organization (WHO) & UN-Habitat under the framework of the UN-Water. UN-Habitat was also working on energy efficiency in buildings, and development of building codes in East and West Africa.

In the discussions, Members commended the good work on urban services in the East Africa region and called for inclusion of these services in the outcome document of Habitat III. Members encouraged collaboration with the GEMS/Water database based at UNEP. Members sought clarification on the role of the various UN bodies and partnerships in basic services and the niche UN-Habitat had in relation to the partners. In this regard, it was clarified that for water, the coordinating body within in United Nations is UN Water in which UN-Habitat was active and is the Chair of urban water. UN Energy is another such coordinating mechanism led by UNIDO and further, a UN transport working group also existed led by UNDESA, and in which UN Habitat is an active member. Further, it was stated that in these coordination mechanisms, UN-Habitat focuses on the urban component and on local authorities as actors.

In the second part of the Subcommittee meeting, the Secretariat briefed Members on its work related to Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation which aims to increase the resilience of cities to the impacts of natural and human-made crises and undertake rehabilitation in ways that advance sustainable urban development. In this regard, the City Resilience Profiling programme was outlined as one of the core activities towards achieving the

stated objective and which was stated to be active in some 33 cities in 12 countries. On the other hand, UN-Habitat continues to influence Emergency Response and Rehabilitation in cities and is strengthening global knowledge of post-crisis urban recovery through membership in the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) on Humanitarian Affairs and the Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas Reference Group (MHCUA). It was further said that UN-Habitat had a Standby capacity for response to urban emergencies and had established deployment mechanisms including through 'Virtual Branch' facilitating internal collaboration within the Agency and which involved regional offices. Among the opportunities stated for strengthening the UN-Habitat work on Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation was the Global Alliance for Urban Crisis which is a global, multi-disciplinary and collaborative community of practice, working to prevent, prepare for and effectively respond to humanitarian crises in urban settings, that was to be launched at the World humanitarian Summit in May 2016.

In the related discussions, Members encouraged UN-Habitat to consider internally displaced persons living in camps in their work on rehabilitation to which the secretariat affirmed its work in this regard with examples through properly planned and integrated settlements. Members also sought to be informed on how UN-habitat collaborates with International Organization for Migration (IOM). The secretariat elaborated that UN-habitat works with IOM both at the global and country levels citing signed agreement with IOM on urban refugees and cluster services work at the country level under the IASC. At the request of members, the internal capacity of UN-Habitat to handle emergencies was also further explained as mainly involving the ' virtual branch 'comprising of the Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation Branch and regional offices who each have 3-4 staff members trained on emergency response and are easily deployed through the emergency response protocol in place for surge capacity . This is in addition to internal roster of staff and external roster of experts.

2. Tenth Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: **Briefing on the Work of UN-Habitat's Local Government Unit- The Role of Local Governments in the SDGs**

The meeting began with a highlight of some of the mandates governing the work of UN-Habitat on Local Government ranging from General Assembly resolutions, the Istanbul Declaration and the Governing Council resolutions. The General Assembly resolution 17/18 of 1999 which created the UN Committee of local authorities (UNACLA) was one such mandate.

The core activities under the Local Government Unit were stated as support to the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments for the post 2015 development agenda. The Global Taskforce assumed the representation of the Local Authorities Major Group (LAMG) during the debates of the SDGs and continued to be active in bringing the SDGs to local governments for effective implementation of all the SDGs with a local dimension. The Unit was also involved in development of innovative tools for mapping urban governance. In this regard a governance mapping exercise in which some 150 cities had been involved globally was advanced and the survey results on the models of governance in these cities as well as their profiles had been availed on the website at www.urbangovernance.net. Additionally, the unit was also working on Metropolitan Governance Tools involving particular case studies of cities such as Guadalajara (Mexico), Durban (South Africa), and Bandung (Indonesia). Another core activity of the Unit was also in the area of Transparency where a new project to support local government associations support their members in tackling urban corruption had been launched.  The Unit was also working on municipal institutional and financial sustainability through the 'SMART technologies for innovative municipal management' initiative. In this regard the 'Uraia Platform' for example uses mobile phones as instruments of active citizenship and was active in some 40 cities and 20 institutions globally.

UN-Habitat was said to be the focal point for Local Government within the UN System. Through its local government work, the Agency actively collaborates, with the UN Committee of local authorities (UNACLA) and with The Global Taskforce.

In Localising the SDGs, UN-Habitat had worked closely with the Global Taskforce and UNDP in the campaign for the SDGs and urban goal and in this regard held extensive consultative processes which had resulted in the publications on 'Localizing the Post-2015 Agenda', and 'Delivering the Post-2015 Agenda'. An advanced draft of the toolkit on the 'Road Map to Localize the SDGs' was also available. The toolkit was said to be aiming at helping to strengthen the national mechanisms to guarantee effective coordination between the different levels of Government for the SDGS.  UN-Habitat was also engaged in organizing a meeting of the World Assembly of Local and Regional Authorities (WALRA) that would take place back to back with the Habitat III Conference in Quito, October 2016.

In the discussions members wanted to know how coordination was done between regional and local government and how the national governments are involved in the UN-Habitat interventions with Local Governments. This was explained as taking due consideration of the legal framework of each country and engaging in dialogue among the different levels of government. Members also wanted to know how the cities participating on the 'Uraia platform' were selected and it was explained that the initial

cities had participated in a financial management project and an expansion process was place from the initial 40 cities with funding secured for cities in least developed countries.

3. Eleventh Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work: **Presentation on the work of the UN-Habitat Urban Planning and Design Lab**

The Subcommittee was briefed that the Urban Planning and Design Lab (UPD-LAB) is a UN-Habitat initiative that promptly responds to the requests of national and local governments to support sustainable urban development. It was stated that the LAB acts as the integrative facility of the Agency in which spatial planning is used as the tool coordinating economic, legal, social and environmental aspects of urban development, translating them into concrete and implementable strategies and bankable projects that materialize the normative work of UN-Habitat. It was also emphasized that while the LAB was located within the Urban Planning and Design Branch of UN-Habitat, it was composed of a multidisciplinary team of urban planners, legal and financial experts providing a holistic proactive approach. The LAB also operated within a network of international and local peers, allowing the LAB to both draw and share state-of-the-art best practices and know-how.

The LAB's was said to be active in 20 countries and 40 cities in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and Asia with a focus on Citywide strategies; Planned city extensions (and new towns); Urban infill, densification and renewal; planning guidelines and capacity development; Climate change and urban planning; and, process management and supervision of development projects.

Members were briefed on the actual work and achievements of the LAB in countries where the initiative had been active. The examples included, Colombia, greater Accra (Ghana), Manila (Philippines), Tehran (Iran), Rubavu (Rwanda), Myanmar, Johannesburg (South Africa), Canaan (Haiti), Gaza (Palestine), Hargesia and Borsasio (Somalia) and Kolobeyi refugee camp(Kenya).

In the discussions members wanted to know if the global guidelines on urban and territorial planning had been translated into other languages and it was confirmed that the guidelines were now available in all six UN official languages. On request, clarifications on terms such as 'planned city extensions' and 'compact cities' were given as well as the approach of the LAB in dealing with old cities, shrinking cities and conflict prevention. Members expressed concerns that resource limitation may hinder the transition of the work of the LAB from planning to implementation. Acknowledging this challenge, the secretariat explained that the business model for the LAB is that projects are purely demand based from the cities benefiting and further , that i) fundraising was usually with donors in countries of ii)some dedicated planning funding was available to UN-Habitat

from the Governments of Sweden and Norway as well as private sector funds from the Creative Industries based in Netherlands at a secondary level; iii) Efforts are made to ensure that a  LAB intervention is within existing project funding as was the case in Somalia and Haiti, and iv) that  Cities who need the support and are able to fund the intervention such as was the case with Johannesburg. It was also explained that in kind support from Arcadis and Guangzhou institute of planning was also available to the Lab Initiative. Members encouraged the secretariat to use the LAB as an important tool for capacity building for urban planning and for city authorities as well as for sharing experiences and data collection.