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Committee of Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations Human Settlements
Programme
Sixty-ninth meeting
Nairobi, 20 June 2018

Draft minutes of the sixty-eighth meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, held on 21 March 2018

Opening of the meeting

1. The meeting was opened at 9.15 a.m. on Wednesday, 21 March 2018, by Mr. Fernando Estellita Lins de Salvo Coimbra, Permanent representative of Brazil and Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat.
2. The meeting was attended by 91 participants from 58 countries and 2 observer missions.
3. Noting that he had recently joined the Committee, the Chair welcomed the following other new permanent representatives to the Committee: Ms. Alison Chartres (Australia); Ms. Marta Eugenia Juárez Ruiz (Costa Rica); Mr. Mosese Tikoitoga (Fiji); Mr. Burhan Namik Salim Al-Jaf (Iraq); and Mr. Ahmet Cemil Miroğlu (Turkey).
4. He then bade farewell to Ms. Deniz Eke (Turkey), who had recently departed the Nairobi duty station, thanking her for her contribution to the work of the Committee.

Agenda item 1

Adoption of the agenda

5. The agenda was adopted, as amended, on the basis of the revised provisional agenda (HSP/CPR/68/1/Rev.1).

Agenda item 2

Election to fill one vacant position in the Bureau of the Committee

6. Introducing the item, the Chair recalled that, during its sixty-seventh regular meeting, the Committee had elected its Bureau for the biennium 2018–2019, with the exception of the new vice-chair from the Asia-Pacific group, which it had agreed to defer to the current meeting because the Asia-Pacific group had not at that stage concluded its consultations on its nomination for the position.
7. The representative of the Asia-Pacific group said that the group had nominated Mr. Kwon Young-Dae, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea, for the position of vice-chair of the Bureau for the biennium 2018–2019.
8. The Committee elected Mr. Young-Dae as vice-chair of the Bureau for 2018–2019.

Agenda item 3

Adoption of the draft minutes of the sixty-seventh regular meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

9. The Chair drew attention to the draft minutes of the sixty-seventh regular meeting of the Committee, held on 14 December 2017 (HSP/CPR/68/L.1).
10. The Committee approved the minutes on the basis of the draft minutes, as orally amended.

Agenda item 4

Approval of the revised draft Committee work schedule for 2018

11. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to a document entitled “Revised draft CPR work schedule for 2018” (HSP/CPR/68/4), recalling that at its sixty-seventh regular meeting the Committee had approved a work schedule for 2018 on the understanding that the new Bureau and the new leadership of UN-Habitat might review it and propose changes to it at the current meeting and at future Committee meetings. Accordingly, the Bureau had reviewed the schedule and proposed a number of changes to the agendas of both the current meeting and the sixty-ninth regular meeting of the Committee, as reflected in document HSP/CPR/68/4 and in the adopted revised agenda for the current meeting (HSP/CPR/68/1/Rev.1).
12. The Committee adopted the proposed revised work schedule (HSP/CPR/68/4).

Agenda item 5

Executive Director’s briefing to the Committee of Permanent Representatives

13. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to a document entitled “Executive Director’s Briefing to the Committee of Permanent Representatives” (HSP/CPR/68/3), which he said provided an update on the activities undertaken by the secretariat since the last regular Committee meeting, focusing on those undertaken after 21 January 2018, when the new Executive Director had joined UN-Habitat.
14. The new Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Ms. Maimunah Mohammed Sharif, said that during her first two months in office she had held extensive meetings and discussions with UN-Habitat staff, member States, United Nations colleagues and other partners, which, she said, had helped her to understand the challenges facing the Programme and the opportunities available to it. She said that she had already held such discussions on a number of occasions, including during bilateral meetings with 73 delegations on the sidelines of the ninth session of the World Urban Forum, held in Kuala Lumpur from 7 to 13 February 2018; informal meetings held in Nairobi; and a town hall meeting with her staff, held on 24 January 2018, during which she had laid out the principles under which she would work, including mutual trust, good governance, competency, accountability, transparency, efficiency, inclusivity, teamwork and collaboration. She also planned to hold six additional town hall meetings to listen to the ideas and concerns of staff.
15. By the end of April 2018, Ms. Sharif said, the secretariat planned to share with member States a document setting out a common vision and mission for UN-Habitat, which would be produced on the basis of consultations with staff, member States and others, would be action-oriented, and would incorporate five or six short-term, medium-term and long-term priorities. Stressing that the discussions she had held thus far had revealed a commonly held view that UN-Habitat must strike a balance between its operational work and its normative work, she requested feedback from the Committee on how that view might be reflected in the vision document, stressing that through its normative work UN-Habitat helped cities and countries to prepare or update their urban development plans to ensure that they were consistent with the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals; to implement, or to measure the implementation of, such plans; to regenerate or renew urban or rural areas; and to deal with crises.
16. Another idea that could be reflected in the vision document was the view that UN-Habitat had great potential as a centre of knowledge, expertise and excellence in working with member States, cities and partners both within and outside the United Nations system to build quality human settlements in which people could live, work and play. In order for UN-Habitat to realize such potential and to deliver effectively on its mandate, it was necessary for member States to support the Programme both financially and politically, including by completing by 30 June 2018 their discussions on the reform of UN-Habitat in the open-ended working group established by the Chair of the Committee pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/226 on the implementation of the outcomes of

the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). In addition to such reforms, UN-Habitat needed to strategically revise its internal management systems, including its standard operating procedures and flowcharts, in order to win back the confidence of staff, member States and donors.

17. In closing, she noted that her written briefing (HSP/CPR/68/3) provided information on the ninth session of the World Urban Forum, which would be discussed in detail under agenda item 10; an update on the first Quadrennial Report on the Progress of the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda, to be submitted to the General Assembly in 2018; key portfolio developments since the last Committee meeting; and recent missions undertaken both by her and by the Deputy Executive Director.

18. In the discussion that ensued, representatives expressed appreciation to Ms. Sharif for her written and oral briefings and extended a warm welcome to her in her position as the new head of UN-Habitat, wishing her success in her new role and offering her the support of their respective regions and countries. Many representatives commended Ms. Sharif for her open and intensive engagement with member States and with her staff, saying that they were encouraged by her commitment to rebuild trust between the management of UN-Habitat and its staff and membership and for her refreshing approach and ideas, which two representatives said reflected her hands-on experience as an urban planner and former mayor. Representatives also extended a warm welcome to the new Chair of the Committee and thanked the previous Chair for his contributions to the work of the Committee.

19. Many representatives said that they were encouraged by the vision, principles and commitments set out by the Executive Director in her briefing to the Committee, including her commitment to the principles of inclusivity, trust and good governance, noting that they looked forward to reviewing the document to be prepared by the secretariat laying out a vision, mission and five or six priorities for UN-Habitat. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for the Executive Director's proposals to rebuild trust between the membership and the management of UN-Habitat, to achieve a balance between the Programme's normative and operational functions, and to establish UN-Habitat as the focal point of sustainable urbanization in order to support efforts at the national, regional and global levels to implement the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in a coherent and coordinated manner. Another representative said that the vision document and the priorities contained therein should be simple and understandable in order to gain the interest and support of the public and should include key performance indicators against which implementation of the identified priorities could be measured. The representative further suggested that there was a need to clarify the role of UN-Habitat in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, which he said he understood to be merely a coordinating role.

20. One representative expressed support for the Executive Director's plans to increase transparency, efficiency, teamwork and competence at UN-Habitat, to enhance her communication with staff and member States and to fully use the expertise of the Programme, stressing that, if successful, such plans would give a new face to UN-Habitat and restore its credibility. She suggested that, in order to strengthen the Programme, it was crucial that the recommendations of the working group on programme and budget, which had been presented to the Committee at its sixty-seventh session (HSP/CPR/67/7), should be implemented as soon as possible, in particular a recommendation related to transparency that requested the Executive Director to facilitate unhindered access to the UN-Habitat website in order to ensure transparency.

21. Two representatives said they were encouraged by the work of UN-Habitat in African countries and urged continued and serious consideration by the Programme of the links between rural and urban areas, stressing that in Africa 80 per cent of the population, many of them women, still lived in rural areas and depended on subsistence farming and that it was therefore crucial to provide public services to rural populations in order to prevent rural-to-urban migration and the creation of new slums.

22. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, encouraged the Executive Director to engage extensively with member States and stakeholders in the preparation of the strategic plan 2020–2025, which he said would contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. He also requested the secretariat to expedite consultations on the draft stakeholder engagement policy so that the policy would form part of the reform of UN-Habitat, expressing the hope that the finalized policy would be based on best practice and models from relevant multilateral institutions and would promote

transparency and the effective engagement of civil society in the work of UN-Habitat. Another representative said that the current draft of the policy was too long.

23. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, requested the secretariat to report on progress achieved in the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session, most of which he said related to the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda. He drew attention to the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Cities 2030, adopted at the ninth session of the World Urban Forum, which identified key challenges facing the world's cities and human settlements in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and set out avenues for action and collaboration at various levels to address such challenges.

24. With regard to the financial situation of UN-Habitat, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed concern about the financing structure of the Programme. Another representative said that it was unacceptable that UN-Habitat was struggling while there was enormous demand for sustainable cities and human settlements across the world and over 23,000 participants had attended the ninth session of the World Urban Forum, and he expressed the view that it was possible to resolve the financial and other challenges facing the Programme.

25. Commending the work of the Executive Director towards achieving gender equality, one representative said that in order to reach new heights, it was critical that UN-Habitat go beyond commitments and undertake specific actions that led to meaningful improvements in people's lives, including in countries ravaged by war. He expressed the hope that the Programme would play a key guiding role in the reconstruction of war-affected countries.

26. Drawing attention to the Rohingya humanitarian crisis in South Asia, the representative of Bangladesh said that his country had hosted 1.3 million Rohingya refugees and had received the support of many countries and organizations, including UN-Habitat, to help to deal with the crisis, but further support from member States, organizations and donors was urgently needed. He requested UN-Habitat to take stock of the global situation and impending threats and to prepare itself to act more proactively in the face of future crises.

27. A number of representatives thanked UN-Habitat for the support provided to their countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable urban development and invited the Executive Director to visit their countries to witness such efforts.

28. Responding to comments, the Executive Director expressed her appreciation to all representatives for their remarks, stressing that she had taken note of all the comments and suggestions and would consider at a later stage the invitations extended by representatives to visit their countries.

29. Regarding the document on a vision and mission for UN-Habitat, she said that she agreed with the view that it should be simple, easily understandable and incorporate key performance indicators against which to measure performance and report on progress. She expressed the hope that member States would contribute to the development of a mission and vision that common citizens could understand and that was focused on offering a good quality of life to their populations.

30. With regard to the rural-urban continuum, she said that addressing the links between urban, rural and intermediate human settlements was part of the mandate of UN-Habitat, stressing that she saw urbanization as a process and that providing a good quality of life to people in rural areas helped to reduce rural-to-urban migration and the creation and expansion of slums.

31. With regard to the financial difficulties of UN-Habitat, she had faced similar challenges as a mayor and had been able to address them with the support of her team and stakeholders. She expressed the hope that member States would support her in her efforts to tackle the financial difficulties faced by UN-Habitat and to develop its strategic plan for 2020–2025. As for the stakeholder engagement policy, she would examine it in detail in order to find ways to simplify and strengthen it.

32. Regarding the suggestion that the secretariat implement the recommendation of the working group on programme and budget regarding transparency, she had discussed with the senior management of UN-Habitat the importance of ensuring a free flow of communication with staff, member States, stakeholders and the world at large, and would further explore the ways in which it could be achieved.

33. Lastly, with regard to the impact of the work of UN-Habitat, she would examine how the Programme might increase the positive impact of its work on people's lives, including those living in war-affected areas, and stressed that providing support to cities and countries ravaged by war and other crises was part of the work of UN-Habitat.

Agenda item 6

Report on the open-ended working group by the Chair

34. The Chair reported that the open-ended working group established pursuant to paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 72/266 to examine options for strengthening member States' oversight of UN-Habitat and the appropriateness of financial rules and regulations and of personnel, procurement and budgetary matters had met three times, on 26 and 28 February 2018 and on 14 March 2018. He drew attention to a convergence paper that he had presented to the group at its last meeting, which identified topics discussed at the previous meetings and stressed that the matter of oversight and governance must be viewed in conjunction with the procedural issues set out in resolution 72/266, namely financial rules and regulations and personnel, procurement and budgetary matters. In an effort to better understand such procedural issues, on 19 March the open-ended working group had held an informal briefing with the Director, Division of Administrative Services, United Nations Office at Nairobi, who had also been invited to brief the Committee on such matters at the current meeting.

35. In closing, the Chair said that he would convene another meeting of the open-ended working group in April in order to discuss the two sets of matters set out in resolution 72/266 with a view to developing a single set of recommendations for consideration by the next regular meeting of the Committee.

36. In the ensuing discussion, two representatives, each speaking on behalf of a group of countries, thanked the Chair for his oral report and the convergence paper presented to the open-ended working group at its third meeting. One of them said that the convergence paper reflected the views expressed by members of the open-ended working group and formed a good basis for further discussion, inviting members to work constructively to reach consensus on a single set of recommendations for the reform of UN-Habitat. The other representative expressed support for establishing universal membership for the governing body of UN-Habitat but were analysing the hybrid option identified in the convergence paper as a possible way forward for the governance structure of the Programme.

37. The Chair thanked both representatives for their remarks and all those who had contributed to the work of the group. He said that he looked forward to the next round of discussions by the group and to producing recommendations by 30 June 2018 for consideration by the General Assembly.

Agenda item 7

Briefing by the United Nations Office at Nairobi on its engagement with UN-Habitat

38. Mr. Chris Kirkcaldy, Director, Division of Administrative Services, United Nations Office at Nairobi, briefed the Committee on the services being provided by the Office to UN-Habitat in Nairobi, including security and conference services and critical administrative services, such as staff recruitment, staff administration and procurement, as well as common services, such as information technology and facilities management, which the Office provided to the over fifty United Nations entities with offices in the Gigiri complex in Nairobi, including UN-Habitat.

39. Stressing that UN-Habitat and the United Nations Environment Programme were the Office's most important clients, he noted that in 2017 the United Nations Office at Nairobi had signed a memorandum of understanding with each entity that for the first time included key performance indicators against which its performance in delivering specific administrative services to each entity would be measured. The first quarter under the two memorandums would soon come to an end and the Office hoped to show that its performance during the quarter had been solid. In closing, he said that processes such as recruitment and procurement were very slow across the United Nations system and that the Office was actively supporting the Secretary-General's management reform of the United Nations in order to make the Organization more flexible.

40. The Chair thanked Mr. Kirkcaldy for his briefing, expressing the hope that a representative of the United Nations Office at Nairobi would attend future meetings of the Committee in order to ensure optimal dialogue between the Office and UN-Habitat.

Agenda item 8

Report on the draft stakeholder engagement policy

41. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the revised draft of the UN-Habitat stakeholder engagement policy, which he said had been shared with the subcommittee at a meeting held on 20 March 2018, stressing the importance of addressing the issue as expeditiously as possible.

42. Introducing the objectives of the draft policy and inviting member States to provide their input on the document, the Executive Director said that the proposed policy was a key tool for delivering on and implementing the New Urban Agenda within the wider framework of the 2030 Agenda. The policy sought to improve the engagement and participation of stakeholders in the policymaking and decision-making processes of UN-Habitat and in the design, implementation and evaluation of its work programme, including with regard to monitoring and reporting on the New Urban Agenda and relevant Sustainable Development Goals, and to increase communication among stakeholders and promote coherence in their engagement with UN-Habitat. In closing, she expressed the view that the policy would help UN-Habitat to enhance its transparency and accountability; build trust and ownership; promote equality, accessibility and sustainability; draw on stakeholder expertise; and improve its delivery of results.

43. Subsequently, Ms. Christine Musisi, Director, External Relations Division, presented the draft policy, which she said had been discussed in detail at a subcommittee meeting held on 20 March 2018. She stressed that the drafting process had taken much longer than anticipated because, as part of the drafting process, the secretariat had thought it important to consult with stakeholders in order to understand their interests and to examine the stakeholder policies of other United Nations bodies and the accreditation process of the Economic and Social Council. Stressing that it would complement the UN-Habitat partnership strategy 2017–2022, the Guidelines for the preparation of legal agreements and the Policy and operating procedures for implementing partners, she said that the proposed stakeholder engagement policy covered three main areas, namely accreditation, to enable the Programme to verify the status and activities of long-standing partners; reporting, to enable it to receive biennial reports from stakeholders setting out their contribution to the sustainable urbanization and human settlements agenda; and participation, to strengthen the participation of stakeholders in the work and governance processes of the Programme. The policy also sought to improve coherence in the ways in which UN-Habitat engaged with stakeholders and contained elements that would support its implementation and regular review.

44. Ms. Musisi expressed her appreciation to member States for comments provided on the draft policy during the subcommittee meeting of 20 March 2018, which included the need to simplify and make the policy more readable; clarify within the policy the fact that stakeholders had the power to exert influence on UN-Habitat, while not being members of the Programme; ensure that the policy encouraged broad and inclusive stakeholder participation; broaden the map of stakeholders beyond those already engaging with the Programme; create links with other United Nations system networks; facilitate stakeholder capacity-building and strengthen internal coordination of stakeholder engagement; facilitate the consolidation of stakeholder input in the governing processes of UN-Habitat; review the registration requirements contained in the draft policy in order to ensure inclusivity; and ensure that the stakeholder advisory group to the Executive Director proposed in the policy engaged fully with member States.

45. On the basis of the feedback provided by member States on 20 March 2018 and of further consultations with member States and internal discussions, the secretariat would produce a revised version of the draft policy by 17 April 2018 with a view to holding a second round of consultations with member States at the subcommittee meeting on 25 April 2018.

46. In the discussion that followed, representatives expressed appreciation to the secretariat for presenting the draft stakeholder engagement policy, which, said one, constituted an excellent basis for further discussion and should lead to the adoption of the policy as soon as possible in order to ensure inclusive stakeholder participation in the work of the Programme.

47. Two representatives, one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the policy should take into account the intergovernmental nature of UN-Habitat. One expressed the view that the criteria and requirements for the accreditation of stakeholders should be in line with the varying national circumstances, rules and regulations of member States, and that member States should maintain a level of monitoring and oversight over the process of accreditation, while the other suggested that member States should play a decision-making role with regard to the entire stakeholder accreditation process.

48. Closing the item, the Chair thanked representatives for their comments and reiterated that the secretariat would produce a revised version of the draft policy by 17 April 2018 for consideration by member States in the third week of April.

Agenda item 9

Quarterly report on the financial status of UN-Habitat

49. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the quarterly report on the financial status of UN-Habitat (HSP/CPR/68/9), outlining the financial situation of the Programme for the quarter ending on 31 December 2017.

50. The Executive Director highlighted the financial challenges facing UN-Habitat, which she believed were serious, highlighting the fact that contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation general purpose fund used by UN-Habitat to receive non-earmarked contributions to finance its core work, had been declining for the last 10 years and that a 2017 deficit of some \$5 million in the fund had forced UN-Habitat to use overhead account resources to finance its headquarters and regional offices, its core normative work and to end the year 2017 with the mandated minimum reserve in the fund.

51. Stressing that one of her key priorities as Executive Director would be to eliminate the deficit in the core budget and that she was committed to ensuring that UN-Habitat was focused, effective and efficient, she urged member States to contribute to the core budget in 2018 and to help strengthen the institutional architecture of UN-Habitat in order to enable the Programme to deliver on its mandate better, faster and more efficiently; to invest in its future; to strengthen its normative work; to grow into its coordinating role; and to become more transparent and accountable.

52. In closing, she expressed appreciation to the Governments of Barbados, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Czechia, Haiti, India, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Myanmar, Namibia, Norway, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, South Africa, the United States of America and Zambia for their contributions to the Foundation general purpose fund in 2017. She also expressed her appreciation to the European Union and to the Governments of Afghanistan, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Chad, China, Colombia, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Mexico, Mozambique, Niger, Norway, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda, United Arab Emirates and the United States of America for contribution agreements for earmarked activities signed in the year 2017, which amounted to \$144.2 million.

53. The representative of the Secretariat provided a summary of the UN-Habitat fund balances, expenses and revenue for the quarter ending 31 December 2017, which he said was provisional, as the Programme had not yet finalized its financial statements for the year 2017 as a whole. He said that the revenue for the period had amounted to \$175.9 million, of which \$28.9 million related to core funds and \$147 million related to earmarked funds. Total net revenue after intersegment eliminations and including revenue from employee end-of-service and post-employment benefits amounted to \$163 million. A total of 64 per cent of the income of UN-Habitat was technical cooperation income, 33.4 per cent was foundation special purpose income and the balance was core budget income. The largest source of income in the core budget was from the regular budget of the United Nations, which accounted for some \$13.6 million, followed by the programme support account (overhead) which accounted for \$10 million. The foundation general purpose fund accounted for \$5.3 million, which included a cost recovery amount of \$2.6 million.

54. Total expenditure for the period had amounted to \$201.5 million, comprising \$33.1 million for core expenses, including expenses to support its headquarters and regional offices and normative work, and \$168.4 million for earmarked expenses. The Foundation general purpose fund had spent considerably more than its income, and its reserve had been depleted to the statutory minimum amount of \$2.6 million as at 31 December 2017, compared with \$17 million in 2013. In closing, he stressed that UN-Habitat would have to draw heavily from its overhead account to support its core work and that unearmarked contributions by member States and others were therefore urgently needed to enable the Programme to implement the activities in its approved programme of work for 2018–2019.

55. The Chair thanked the secretariat for the report, which, he said, clearly indicated that the financial situation of UN-Habitat was serious and that member States should look for an effective solution to the issues raised.

56. In closing, the Executive Director said that, in order to help address the very serious financial situation of UN-Habitat, she had met with its staff to discuss how the Programme might reduce its costs of doing business and increase its core income through a strategic alignment of its internal systems and operations.

Agenda item 10

Report of the outcome of the ninth session of the World Urban Forum

57. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to three documents presented under the item, namely a presentation on the ninth session of the World Urban Forum; the “Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Cities 2030”, adopted at the session; and a document entitled “Summary of the Ninth Session of the World Urban Forum”, produced by the International Institute for Sustainable Development. He said that the subcommittee had discussed the topic in depth at a meeting held on 12 March 2018, so the briefing provided at the current meeting would be concise.

58. The Executive Director presented the highlights of the session, held in Kuala Lumpur from 7 to 13 February 2018, stressing that, with over 23,000 participants, it had been the best-attended session of the World Urban Forum to date and had confirmed the status of the Forum as the world’s premier conference on cities and sustainable urban development. The theme of the ninth session, “Cities 2030, cities for all: implementing the New Urban Agenda”, had prompted fruitful debate on the theme amongst a wide range of actors during the more than 500 events, countless networking activities, and formal and informal meetings that had comprised the session, and the session had resulted in the development of new partnerships and more coordinated actions for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda at all levels and by all relevant actors.

59. The main outcome of the session, the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Cities 2030, aimed to localize and scale up the implementation of the New Urban Agenda as a means to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and, together with the report of the session, it would be presented to the Governing Council of UN-Habitat with a view to informing the development of the Programme’s next programme of work and budget. The outcomes of the session would also inform the preparation by the secretariat of the quadrennial report on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council in July 2018.

60. Subsequently, the representative of the secretariat made a presentation on the session, outlining key figures of the session contained in the first document introduced by the Chair, which were related to the participation, events and main outcomes of the session. She drew special attention to the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Cities 2030, which was a key outcome of the session and sought to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda through frameworks for implementation, governance and partnerships, and innovative solutions. Stressing that the session had strengthened the position of UN-Habitat as the lead focal point for sustainable urban development in coordination with all levels of government, stakeholders and United Nations system bodies, she said that, as a follow-up to the session, a progressive reporting process had been set up that would involve the production, in May 2018 and July 2018, of two analysis reports on the session outcomes, and of a final, comprehensive report in October 2018 that would also include reports by stakeholders on the side events and networking events at the session.

61. In addition to the reporting exercise, and as had been the case in previous sessions, a consultant had been hired to conduct an independent evaluation of the impact and outcomes of the ninth session.

62. In closing, she said that the Executive Director had set up a task force to start preparing for the tenth session of the Forum and that in April 2018 the secretariat would call for expressions of interest to host the eleventh session of the Forum.

63. Following the presentation, the Committee watched a short video produced by the secretariat on the ninth session of the World Urban Forum.

64. Following the video projection, the Executive Director expressed her appreciation to all those who had contributed to the ninth session of the Forum and indicated that the task force that she had set up to prepare for the tenth session of the Forum would take into account the lessons learned from the ninth session.

65. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Malaysia thanked the secretariat for the briefing and for the support provided to his country in the organization of the ninth session of the Forum, which had provided a unique opportunity to member States and others to exchange ideas, expertise and experiences and to elaborate actionable recommendations to address the challenges faced by cities and human settlements, following the adoption of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda. The session’s theme had recognized that more than 50 per cent of the world’s population lived in urban areas and that cities must be reformed to become safe, inclusive, sustainable and prosperous, bearing in mind differing national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities in order to ensure that no person and no place was left

behind. Stressing that his Government was committed to the implementation of the outcomes of the session, he thanked all the participants in the session and said that he looked forward to the acceleration of implementation of the New Urban Agenda through the development of implementation frameworks and options for collaborative mechanisms and innovative solutions, in line with the Kuala Lumpur Declaration.

Agenda item 11

Road map and progress on the preparation of the strategic plan for 2020–2025 and strategic framework for 2020–2025

66. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to a document entitled “Reform of the United Nations Planning and Budget Cycle and Preparation of UN-Habitat Annual Budget 2020 and Strategic Plan 2020–2025” (HSP/CPR/68/11), noting that the subcommittee had discussed the topic at its meeting on 12 March 2018, so the briefing provided at the current meeting would be concise.

67. Recalling that the current UN-Habitat six-year strategic plan would end in 2019, the Executive Director said that UN-Habitat would commence in 2018 the preparation of its next strategic plan, which would cover the period between 2020 and 2025. When formulating the draft plan, the secretariat would integrate the lessons learned in the implementation of the strategic plan for 2014–2019 and take into account key global instruments such as the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, and the Kuala Lumpur Declaration.

68. With regard to the proposed timelines for the formulation of the next strategic plan, they included launching the preparatory process in April 2018 and starting consultations with member States and other stakeholders in May 2018; sharing the draft strategic plan with the Committee in July 2018; obtaining the endorsement of the draft strategic plan by the Committee in December 2018; and obtaining the approval of the plan by the Governing Council in 2019.

69. In closing, she said that the strategic plan for 2020–2025 would inform the annual budget of UN-Habitat for 2020 and all the rolling budgets during the period between 2020 and 2025.

Agenda item 12

Thematic/country presentations

70. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to a document entitled “Results of UN-Habitat’s work in selected countries in Africa: the cases of Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Rwanda” (HSP/CPR/68/12), which he said had been prepared by the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Africa.

71. Before turning to the presentation, the representative of the secretariat informed the Committee that the Economic Commission for Africa was producing, with the support of UN-Habitat, a harmonized framework for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Africa that would be shared with the Committee at a later date. He said that the document included six themes and policy priorities for Africa that the work of UN-Habitat in Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Rwanda exemplified, namely ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions and leaving no one behind; fostering peace and security; consolidating sustainable and inclusive urban prosperity; promoting and accelerating structural transformations; fostering environmental sustainability and enhancing resilience and risk reduction; and promoting regional integration.

72. Another representative of the secretariat delivered a presentation on the work of UN-Habitat in the aforementioned four countries, explaining that such work was coordinated by the Regional Office for Africa in collaboration with the UN-Habitat thematic branches, and was aligned with global strategies and plans, including the strategic plan for 2014–2019, the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as national development priorities and donor work plans and priorities. The country presence of UN-Habitat depended entirely on the existence of project funds and therefore required, among other things, the delivery of consistent and impactful results and the building of strong partnerships in order to attract funding.

73. Turning to the work of UN-Habitat in Angola, where as a result of a protracted civil war 70 per cent of the population of 30 million lived in urban areas, half of them in the capital and most of them in informal settlements, he said that it had included the successful development of a national urban policy under an agreement signed in 2011 and a Government contribution in 2014 of \$700,000. On the basis of that policy, UN-Habitat had developed a country programme for Angola that had been

adopted by the President's Office and was thus included in the Government's regular budget. Under the country programme, UN-Habitat was developing a number of projects and joint programming with other United Nations entities.

74. As for Ethiopia, in February 2018 UN-Habitat had signed a new agreement with the Government that addressed the four pillars of the UN-Habitat country programme, namely urban and regional planning; urban resilience; housing and urban basic services; and urban monitoring and research. Key projects in the country related to supporting planning at the city, metropolitan and regional levels to the city of Hawassa; urban resilience planning in three cities, with funding from Sweden and from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland's Department for International Development; stabilizing a collapsed dump site with funding from the Government of Japan; and finalizing a city performance governance framework inspired by the City Prosperity Index of the UN-Habitat City Prosperity Initiative with financial support from the Government of Ethiopia.

75. With regard to Rwanda, UN-Habitat had supported the Government in developing a national urbanization policy that had been adopted by the cabinet in December 2015, as well as a spatial development framework to support the implementation of the policy, and in October 2017 it had signed a new agreement with the Government to implement a country programme for Rwanda that included projects to develop an informal settlement upgrading strategy for Kigali; a project called "rapid planning" to enable the prompt implementation of plans; a project on low-emission development strategies; a project to develop a smart cities master plan for Rwanda; the coordination of the "One Stop Youth Centre" in Kigali, which had been replicated in several cities; and the construction of several hundred houses for Rwandan refugees.

76. As for Mozambique, a country which was rapidly urbanizing, but which was vulnerable to floods, cyclones and droughts and whose population had increased by 50 per cent in the previous decade, UN-Habitat had established its presence in the country in 2002 and, in the intervening 15 years, had developed over 40 projects and mobilized approximately \$30 million. With a current team of 20–25 staff on the ground, the work of UN-Habitat was focused on providing support to the country in the areas of resilient infrastructure and national urban policy implementation.

77. In closing, he highlighted as conclusions and recommendations that had emerged in discussions with the subcommittee the fact that, given the broadness and uniqueness of its mandate for sustainable urbanization in all human settlements, UN-Habitat had a key role to play in supporting local implementation of the New Urban Agenda through its country-level work and could use such work as an effective tool to increase its relevance in the field and to mobilize resources; that, at the country level, there was a need to combine policy and planning support with support with enforcement and implementation, since the normative and operational work of UN-Habitat informed each other; and that there was a need to re-examine the rules and regulations of the United Nations in order to enable UN-Habitat to retain a more sustainable presence and improve its delivery of results at the country level.

78. Emphasizing issues raised in the presentation, the Executive Director said that successful fundraising was a precondition for the presence of UN-Habitat at the country level and that to sustain country programmes UN-Habitat must earn the trust of stakeholders and deliver results through the establishment of strong partnerships with key central government institutions, local governments, other United Nations entities, bilateral and multilateral donors, civil society organizations, the private sector and academia. Angola was an example of a new trend for securing the presence of UN-Habitat in African countries, while Ethiopia and Mozambique both demonstrated the evolution of comprehensive country programmes with high levels of trust and credibility at all levels, and Rwanda showed how countries could place sustainable urbanization high on their development agendas as a means to reach middle-income status. In closing, she thanked all those who had provided financial support for the work of UN-Habitat in Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Rwanda. Stressing that the Governments of the four countries had also contributed financially to such work, she called on all African countries to consider providing domestic funding to UN-Habitat for technical assistance in areas where the Programme had a comparative advantage and requested both traditional and non-traditional donors to continue supporting the country-level work of UN-Habitat in Africa and other regions.

79. In the ensuing discussion, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, thanked the secretariat for the presentation and commended the Regional Office for Africa for its efforts to shed light on the UN-Habitat country programmes on urban development, housing and capacity-building, among others; for its vigorous attempts to build trust and partnerships with various stakeholders to address the multi-faceted urban development challenges of Africa; and for its commitment and hard work towards achieving tangible results at the country level.

Agenda item 13

Report of the work of the subcommittees

80. The Committee took note of the report on the work of the subcommittees (HSP/CPR/68/13).

Agenda item 14

Any other matters

81. No other matters were raised.

Closure of the meeting

82. The meeting was declared closed at 1.45 p.m. on Wednesday, 21 March 2018.