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**Governing Council
of the United Nations Human
Settlements Programme**

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Nairobi, 16–20 April 2007

Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

**Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements
Programme (UN-Habitat), including coordination matters**

**Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme:
progress report of the Executive Director**

Addendum

**Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the
intersessional period, including proposals for the organization of the
twenty-first and future sessions of the Governing Council**

Summary

At its twenty-fourth regular meeting, held on 21 February 2007, the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) adopted its intersessional report for the period 2005–2007, which it hereby submits to the Governing Council for consideration at its twenty-first session.

Introduction

1. The Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat, which is the intersessional subsidiary body of the Governing Council, held the following meetings during the period between the Governing Council's twentieth session, held from 4 to 8 April 2005, and its twenty-first session, held from 16 to 20 April 2007:

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- (a) **Meetings during 2005:**
Seventeenth regular meeting – 5 May 2005;
Eighteenth regular meeting – 29 September 2005;
Nineteenth regular meeting – 1 December 2005.
- (b) **Meetings during 2006:**
Twentieth regular meeting – 16 March 2006;
Twenty-first regular meeting – 8 June 2006;
Twenty-second regular meeting – 28 September 2006;
Twenty-third regular meeting – 7 December 2006.
- (c) **Meetings during 2007:**
Twenty-fourth regular meeting – 21 February 2007
Extraordinary meeting – 28 March 2007

I. Members of the bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

- 2. The members of the Bureau during the period 2004 to 2005 were:
Mr. Wojciech Jasinski (Poland) – Chair
Mr. Surendra Kumar (India) – Vice-Chair
Mr. Pedro Luis Pedroso (Cuba) – Vice-Chair
Mr. Jonas Westerlund (Sweden)/Mr. Bernd Braun (Germany) – Vice-Chair
Mr. Ayo Olukanni (Nigeria) – Rapporteur
- 3. Upon the departure of Mr. Jonas Westerlund (Sweden) at the end of his term, he was replaced as Vice-Chair by Mr. Bernd Braun, the Permanent Representative of Germany to UN-Habitat.
- 4. The members of the Bureau during the period 2006 to 2007 were:
Ms. Elisabeth Jacobsen (Norway) – Chair
Mr. Daniel Chuburu (Argentina) – Vice-Chair
Mr. Wojciech Jasinski (Poland) – Vice-Chair
Mr. Solomon Karanja (Kenya) – Vice-Chair
Mr. Iftikhar Arain (Pakistan) – Rapporteur

II. Summary of the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in 2005

A. Seventeenth regular meeting – 5 May 2005

5. At its seventeenth meeting, the Committee of the Permanent Representatives reviewed the report of the twentieth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and reactivated two working groups to review follow-up actions on the resolutions and decisions that had been adopted at that session. The secretariat briefed the Committee on the decisions of the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, held in New York, on 11 and 12 April 2005, and also on the implementation of the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on Slum Upgrading. The Executive Director reported on the implementation of the work programme of UN-Habitat for the biennium 2004–2005 and briefed the Committee on the financial status of UN-Habitat and on the work of the Financing Human Settlements Division – Subprogramme 4. The Committee was presented a report entitled, “In depth evaluation of UN-Habitat’s programme and activities”, which had been prepared by the Office of Internal Oversight Services for the Committee for Programme and Coordination and was to be discussed by that Committee in June 2005. A number of delegations underscored the importance of ensuring that the report’s recommendations were included in UN-Habitat’s medium-term strategic and institutional plan for 2008–2013. The new Secretary to the Governing Council, Mr. Rolf Wichmann, and the new Chief of Strategic Planning, Mr. Nicholas You, were introduced to the Committee.

B. Eighteenth regular meeting – 29 September 2005

6. The main issues discussed at the eighteenth meeting were the preparations for the sixtieth regular session of the General Assembly and the outcome of the 2005 World Summit, held from 14 to 16 September 2005; the preparations for the third session of the World Urban Forum, held from 19 to 23 June 2006, in Vancouver, Canada; the progress report on the implementation of the Programme on Water and Sanitation for Cities; and the regular quarterly report on the financial status of UN-Habitat.

7. The chair of the Committee's working group on policy and programme matters, Mr. Pedro Pedroso (Cuba), the chair of the working group on budget, finance and administrative matters, Mr. Surendra Kumar (India), and the chair of the working group on the preparations for the World Urban Forum, Mr. Bernd Braun (Germany) presented progress reports on the groups' activities.

C. Nineteenth regular meeting – 1 December 2005

8. At the nineteenth meeting, elections for the Bureau for the biennium 2006–2007 were held. The secretariat briefed the Committee on developments at the sixtieth regular session of the General Assembly and reported on the Forward Looking Strategic Plan on the two global campaigns of UN-Habitat and also on the status of the preparations for the disaster management strategic plan, as requested by Governing Council at its twentieth session. The secretariat also presented progress reports on the implementation of the work programme of UN-Habitat for the biennium 2004–2005, on the financial situation of UN-Habitat and on the preparations for the third session of the World Urban Forum. The secretariat informed the Committee that Ms. Inga Björk-Klevby had been appointed as Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat.

III. Summary of the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in 2006

A. Twentieth regular meeting – 16 March 2006

9. The substantive issues discussed at the twentieth meeting included UN-Habitat's workplan for 2006, which described the priority areas of focus for the secretariat during 2006–2007; a progress report on preparations for the third session of the World Urban Forum; the financial status of UN-Habitat; and the work schedule for the Committee meetings for 2006. The secretariat also briefed the Committee on the meeting of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, held in Nairobi on 3 and 4 April 2006.

B. Twenty-first regular meeting – 8 June 2006

10. At the Committee's twenty-first meeting, the secretariat presented progress reports on preparations for the third session of the World Urban Forum; on the implementation of the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services; and on the preparations for the twenty-first session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat. The secretariat also presented a status report on the forward looking strategic framework for the period 2008–2009, and on the status of the evaluation of the UN-Habitat programme managers. The Executive Director presented a brief overview of the progress of preparation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan for 2008–2009.

11. The Committee took a decision at this meeting to reduce the number of resolutions that would be presented to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session, as agreed at the twentieth session of the Governing Council.

C. Twenty-second regular meeting – 28 September 2006

12. At the Committee's twenty-second meeting, the secretariat briefed the Committee on the outcome of the third session of the World Urban Forum and presented the draft report of the session. The Executive Director thanked the people of Vancouver and the Government of Canada for hosting the Forum. The secretariat also presented progress reports on the financial situation of UN-Habitat and on the proposed Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan 2008–2013, and also on the resource mobilization strategy. The chair of the working group on preparations for the twenty-first session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat reported on the meetings of that group that had been held on 6 and 20 September 2006.

13. The Committee was informed that the Secretary-General had promulgated under the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, a special annex for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, which had entered into force on 1 August 2006. It was announced that World Habitat Day would be celebrated on 2 October 2006 and the world celebrations would be hosted by the city of Naples and the Russian Federation. The representative of Kenya informed the meeting that Kenya's World Habitat Day celebrations would be held in Eldoret, Kenya.

D. Twenty-third regular meeting – 7 December 2006

14. At the Committee's twenty-third meeting, the secretariat presented progress reports on the evaluation of the UN-Habitat programme managers and on the implementation of the work programme of UN-Habitat for the biennium 2006–2007. The chair of the working group on preparations for the twenty-first session of the Governing Council, Ms. Elisabeth Jacobsen (Norway), presented a progress report, noting that the proposed theme for the twenty-first session would be "sustainable urbanization: local action for urban poverty reduction with an emphasis on finance and planning" and outlining various recommendations to improve the structure and organizational arrangements for the twenty-first session, as requested in resolution 20/21. The Committee endorsed the theme and recommendations.

15. The chairs of the working group on policy, budgetary and administrative matters, Mr. Solomon Karanja (Kenya) and Mr. Daniel Chuburu (Argentina), presented progress reports, respectively, on the preparation of the work programme and budget for 2008–2009 and on the preparation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan 2008–2013, including the strengthening of the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and the resource mobilization strategy.

IV. Summary of the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in 2007

A. Twenty-fourth regular meeting – 21 February 2007

16. At its twenty-fourth regular meeting, held on 21 February 2007, the Committee adopted a draft version of the present report. A report was also presented on draft resolutions prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for forwarding to the Governing Council for consideration. The Committee was also briefed by the Executive Director on the developments at the sixty-first session of the General Assembly and on the strengthening of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation.

B. Extraordinary meeting – 28 March 2007

17. At the Committee's extraordinary meeting, held on 28 March 2007, the secretariat presented a final briefing to the Committee on the arrangements for the twenty-first session of the Governing Council. The regular quarterly report on UN-Habitat's financial situation was also reviewed.

V. Working groups of the Committee of Permanent Representatives 2005–2007

18. The following working groups were activated during the period 2005:

- (a) Working group on policy and programme matters, chaired by Mr. Pedro Pedroso (Cuba);
- (b) Working group on budget, finance and administrative matters, chaired by Mr. Surendra Kumar (India).

19. In addition, an ad hoc working group on the preparations for the third session of the World Urban Forum was created and chaired by Mr. Bernd Braun (Germany).

20. Reports from these working groups were presented to the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its eighteenth regular meeting, on 29 September 2005 (as set out in document HSP/CPR/18/5), and its nineteenth regular meeting, on 1 December 2005 (as set out in document HSP/CPR/19/7).

21. The Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives decided to merge the working group on budget, finance and administrative matters and the working group on policy and programme matters into one working group on 9 February 2006. It was agreed that the new group, entitled the

working group on policy, budgetary and administrative matters, would additionally deal with preparations for the twenty-first session of the Governing Council. The work of the working group was divided among the vice-chairs of the Bureau as follows:

- (a) Matters relating to budget and finance would be chaired by Mr. Solomon Karanja (Kenya);
- (b) Matters relating to programme and policy matters would be chaired by Mr. Daniel Chuburu (Argentina);
- (c) Matters relating to the preparations for the twenty-first session of the Governing Council to be chaired by Ms. Elisabeth Jacobsen (Norway);
- (d) The working group on the preparations for the third session of the World Urban Forum was retained under the chairmanship of Mr. Wojciech Jasinski (Poland).

22. The progress report of the working group on the preparations for the third session of the World Urban Forum, including draft resolutions, was presented to the Committee at its twentieth regular meeting on 16 March 2006 and is set out in document HSP/CPR/20/7. A progress report on policy, budgetary and administrative matters was presented to the Committee at its twenty-third regular meeting on 7 December 2006.

23. The draft resolutions prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives for the twenty-first session of the Governing Council are contained in document HSP/GC/21/2/Add.10.
