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Governing Council
of the United Nations Human
Settlements Programme

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Nairobi, 30 March–3 April 2009
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

**Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements
Programme, including coordination matters**

Report of the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the intersessional period

Note by the secretariat

At its thirty-second regular meeting, held on 5 March 2009, the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) adopted its intersessional report for the period 2007–2009, which it hereby submits to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session for its consideration.

* HSP/GC/22/1.

Introduction

1. The Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat, the intersessional subsidiary body of the Governing Council, held the following meetings during the period between the Governing Council's twenty-first session (16–20 April 2007) and its twenty-second session (30 March–3 April 2009):

(a) **Meetings during 2007:**

Twenty-fifth regular meeting – 13 June 2007;
Twenty-sixth regular meeting – 27 September 2007;
Twenty-seventh regular meeting – 6 December 2007.

(b) **Meetings during 2008:**

Twenty-eighth regular meeting – 3 April 2008;
Twenty-ninth regular meeting – 11 June 2008;
Thirtieth regular meeting – 24 September 2008;
Thirty-first regular meeting – 3 December 2008.¹

(c) **Meetings during 2009:**

Thirty-second regular meeting – 5 March 2009;
Extraordinary meeting – 24 March 2009.

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

2. The members of the Bureau during the period 2006–2007 were:

Ms. Elisabeth Jacobsen (Norway) – Chair
Mr. Wojciech Jasinski (Poland) – Vice-Chair
Mr. Solomon Karanja (Kenya) – Vice-Chair
Mr. Daniel Chuburu (Argentina) – Vice-Chair
Mr. Iftikhar A. Arain (Pakistan) – Rapporteur

3. The members of the Bureau during the period 2008–2009 are:

Ms. Jacqueline Mendoza (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) – Chair
Mr. Kelebet Nkomani (Zimbabwe) – Vice-Chair
Mr. Iftikhar A. Arain (Pakistan) – Vice-Chair
Mr. Igor Liška (Slovakia) – Vice-Chair
Mr. James Stewart (United States of America) – Rapporteur

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

A. Twenty-fifth regular meeting, 13 June 2007

4. At this meeting, the Committee reviewed the report of the twenty-first session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and reactivated four working groups to review follow-up actions on the resolutions and decisions that had been adopted at that session. The Executive Director briefed the Committee on the financial status of UN-Habitat.

B. Twenty-sixth regular meeting, 27 September 2007

5. The main issues discussed at this meeting were the current strategic UN-Habitat activities within the context of United Nations reform, including preparations for the sixty-second session of the General Assembly. The Executive Director informed the Committee that the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and Strengthening of the United Nations Human settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/62/219) had just been released. She expressed the belief that it would be opportune to have the Habitat Agenda and

1 The meeting was concluded on 19 January 2009 for technical reasons.

sustainable urbanization included on the agenda of the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council. Participants also discussed progress in the medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008–2013, including experimental reimbursable seeding operations; the quarterly report on the financial status of UN-Habitat; and the preparations for the fourth session of the World Urban Forum.

C. Twenty-seventh regular meeting, 6 December 2007

6. At this meeting, elections for the Bureau for the biennium 2008–2009 were held. The Committee endorsed three documents before it: the report of the working group on the draft action plan for the medium-term strategic and institutional action plan; the strategic policy on human settlements and crisis; and the strategic framework of the UN-Habitat work programme for 2010–2011. The secretariat briefed the Committee on developments at the sixty-second regular session of the General Assembly and reported that three reports relevant to the work of UN-Habitat had been presented to the Second Committee of the General Assembly, namely, the report of the Governing Council at its twenty-first session; the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda; and the report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme. The secretariat also reported on the financial status of UN-Habitat and the preparations for the fourth session of the World Urban Forum.

III. Summary of the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in 2008

A. Twenty-eighth regular meeting, 3 April 2008

7. At this meeting, the Committee approved its work schedule for 2008 and endorsed the report of the working group on implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan within the programme of work of UN-Habitat for 2008, in addition to the report of the working group on the draft operational procedures and guidelines for the activities of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation's experimental reimbursable seeding operations and other innovative financial mechanisms. A progress report of the working group on preparations for the fourth session of the World Urban Forum was also endorsed. The secretariat presented a quarterly report on the financial status of UN-Habitat.

B. Twenty-ninth regular meeting, 11 June 2008

8. At this meeting the Committee observed one minute's silence to remember the victims of the natural disasters in China and Myanmar, and the aviation accident in Kenya in which two government ministers had died. Items discussed by the Committee members were: progress in the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan, including the experimental reimbursable seeding operations; progress in the preparations for the fourth session of the World Urban Forum; and the quarterly report on the financial status of UN-Habitat.

C. Thirtieth regular meeting, 24 September 2008

9. The substantive issues discussed at this meeting included progress in the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan, including the experimental reimbursable seeding operations; and a progress report on preparations for the fourth session of the World Urban Forum. The secretariat also reported on preparations for the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, noting that there had been an attempt to render the report of UN-Habitat to the General Assembly more results-oriented. The preparations for the twenty-second session of the Governing Council were also discussed, and the secretariat presented a progress report on the financial status of UN-Habitat. The secretariat announced that World Habitat Day would be celebrated on 6 October 2008.

D. Thirty-first regular meeting, 3 December 2008

10. At this meeting, the substantive issues discussed included: the outcome of the fourth session of the World Urban Forum (3–6 November 2008, Nanjing, China); and progress in the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan including the experimental reimbursable seeding operations. The meeting was adjourned following technical problems and was resumed on 19 January 2009. At the resumed meeting, the Committee observed one minute's silence in memory of the victims of the conflict in the Middle East. The main items discussed at the resumed meeting included: progress

in the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan, including the experimental reimbursable seeding operations; the efficiency and effectiveness of the governance structure of UN-Habitat; the status of preparations for the twenty-second session of the Governing Council and work programme and budget of UN-Habitat for the biennium 2010–2011; the quarterly report on the financial status of UN-Habitat; and the outcome of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly.

IV. Summary of meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in 2009

A. Thirty-second regular meeting, 5 March 2009

11. At this meeting, the Committee adopted its report on its work during the intersessional period, which included draft resolutions that it had prepared for transmission to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session for its further consideration. The regular quarterly report on the financial status of UN-Habitat was also reviewed.

B. Extraordinary meeting, 24 March 2009

12. At its extraordinary meeting, held on 24 March 2009, the secretariat presented a final briefing to the Committee on the arrangements for the twenty-second session of the Governing Council.

V. Working groups of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, 2007–2009

13. The following working groups were activated during 2007:

- (a) Working group on policy and programme matters, chaired by Mr. Daniel Chuburu (Argentina);
- (b) Working group on budget and finance, chaired by Mr. Solomon Karanja (Kenya);
- (c) Working group on preparations for the twenty-first session of the Governing Council, chaired by Ms. Elizabeth Jacobsen (Norway).

14. The following working groups were activated during the period 2008–2009 by the Bureau of the Committee on 29 January 2008, and the work of the working groups divided among the Chairs as follows:

- (a) Working group on preparations for the fourth session of the World Urban Forum, to be chaired by Mr. James Stewart (United States);
- (b) Working group on the implementation of the experimental reimbursable seeding operations, to be chaired by Mr. Igor Liška (Slovakia);
- (c) Working group on the medium-term strategic and institutional plan and work programme and budget of UN-Habitat, to be chaired by Mr. Kelebert Nkomani (Zimbabwe);
- (d) Working group on preparations for the twenty-second session of the Governing Council, to be chaired by Ms. Jacqueline Mendoza (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela).

15. Draft resolutions prepared by the Committee for the Governing Council at its twenty-second session are contained in document HSP/GC/22/3/Add.1.