



Twenty-third session  
Nairobi, 11–15 April 2011

## Draft report of the Committee of the Whole

### Introduction

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on Monday, 11 April 2011, the Governing Council agreed to establish a committee of the whole to consider agenda items 5, 7 and 8.
2. The Committee of the Whole was chaired by Mr. Liu Guangyuan (China), one of the three vice-presidents of the Governing Council. At its 1st meeting, on the afternoon of Monday, 11 April 2011, the Chair informed the Committee that it would consider agenda items 5, 7 and 8.

### I. Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters (agenda item 5)

3. The Committee took up the agenda item at its 1st meeting, on the afternoon of Monday, 11 April 2011. The Committee agreed to organize its work by entrusting consideration of the draft resolutions set out in document HSP/GC/23/3/Add.1 to the drafting committee that had been established by the Governing Council.
4. It also agreed to take up the items entrusted to it in the following order: activities of UN-Habitat (HSP/GC/23/2), report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on its work during the intersessional period (HSP/GC/23/3), cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations (HSP/GC/23/2/Add.7), joint progress report of the executive directors of UN-Habitat and the United Nations Environment Programme on activities in the field of the urban environment over the reporting period 2009–2010 (HSP/GC/23/2/Add.6), coordinated implementation of the guidelines on access to basic services for all and the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities (HSP/GC/23/2/Add.5), the World Urban Forum (HSP/GC/23/2/Add.2 and Add.3), the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (HSP/GC/23/2/Add.4) and review of the governance structure of UN-Habitat (HSP/GC/23/2/Add.1).
5. Ms. Inga Björk-Klevby, Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat, speaking as a representative of the secretariat, presented the report of the Executive Director on the activities of UN-Habitat, as set out in documents HSP/GC/23/2 and Add.1–7.

### A. Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

6. The representative of the secretariat drew attention to the report of the Executive Director on the activities of UN-Habitat, as set out in document HSP/GC/23/2. She explained that the report summarized activities undertaken by UN-Habitat in response to the resolutions adopted by the Governing Council at its twenty-second session. It was complemented by other reports that provided more detailed and additional information on activities undertaken in response to specific resolutions. She also highlighted the subjects covered by those reports and the documents in which they were discussed.

7. [To be completed]

**B. Report of the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the intersessional period**

8. Ms. Yvonne Khamati-Kilonzo, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, drew attention to the report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as set out in document HSP/GC/23/3, which gave a summary of the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in 2009 and 2010, together with the one meeting that had already taken place in 2011 in preparation for the current session.

9. [To be completed]

**C. Cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations**

10. The representative of the secretariat, drawing attention to the report on cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, as set out in document HSP/GC/23/2/Add.7, affirmed that cooperation had been extended, relationships with major partners consolidated and partnerships with multilateral and bilateral organizations, civil society groups, professional bodies and research and training institutions developed.

11. [To be completed]

**D. Joint progress report of the executive directors of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme on activities in the field of the urban environment over the reporting period 2009–2010**

12. The representative of the secretariat drew attention to the joint progress report of the Executive Directors of UN-Habitat and UNEP, as set out in document HSP/GC/23/2/Add.6, affirming that, as demonstrated in that report, cooperation between the two organizations had been further extended and institutionalized. The current joint work plan was being implemented under the overall theme of cities and climate change. It included activities on the documenting of urban greenhouse-gas emissions, the assessment of urban vulnerability to climate change impacts, the development of innovative adaptation mechanisms and mitigation efforts at the city level, particularly in the building and transport sectors.

13. [To be completed]

**E. Coordinated implementation of the guidelines on access to basic services for all and the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities**

14. The representative of the secretariat drew attention to the document on the coordinated implementation of the guidelines on access to basic services for all and the guidelines on decentralization and the strengthening of local authorities (HSP/GC/23/2/Add.5).

15. [To be completed]

**F. Fifth session of the World Urban Forum and lessons learned from previous sessions of the Forum**

16. Drawing attention to the report of the Executive Director on the fifth session of the World Urban Forum, set out in document HSP/GC/23/2/Add.2, the representative of the secretariat said that the Forum had been a great success. She also drew attention to the lessons learned from previous sessions of the Forum, as discussed in document HSP/GC/23/2/Add.3.

17. The representative of Brazil expressed her Government's honour at having hosted the fifth session of the World Urban Forum and the hope that its contribution would be taken into account in the future work of UN-Habitat.

18. [To be completed]

## **G. Third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development**

19. Drawing attention to the report on a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (HSP/GC/23/2/Add.4), the representative of the secretariat said that it had been prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 64/207 of 21 December 2009 and highlighted a number of developments that made it necessary to convene a third conference, potentially in 2016.

20. In the ensuing discussion, a number of representatives voiced support for the holding of a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development in 2016, viewing such a conference as an opportunity to assess the achievements of the previous two conferences, to reflect on progress made in urban development and to tackle the challenges that such development posed. One representative requested that the mandate of the conference should not be too detailed or specific and should be seen as a starting point for the evaluation and assessment of the achievements of the Habitat Agenda, among other things. He also proposed that the conference should be organized in conjunction with the World Urban Forum. Other representatives suggested that the Committee of the Whole should endorse, rather than take note, of the report to lend more weight to it at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

21. *[To be completed]*

## **H. Review of the governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme**

22. Drawing attention to the review of the governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, as discussed in document HSP/GC/23/2/Add.1, the representative of the secretariat said that the Secretariat and the Committee of Permanent Representatives had worked together in a constructive and collegial partnership to produce two specific outputs. The first was a series of measures characterized as “quick wins” and “medium/long-term interventions”, which had been formally adopted by the Committee and were at various stages of implementation. The responsibility to implement them lay with the Executive Director and the Committee, respectively. The second was the elaboration of options by the joint Secretariat/Committee implementation team for more fundamental, structural reforms for the information of the Governing Council. The findings were set out in document HSP/GC/23/INF/7, which proposed four options for potential changes in the governance structure.

23. *[To be completed]*

## **I. Response to the policy statement by the Executive Director**

24. The representative of the secretariat invited general comments on the Executive Director’s policy statement, which had been delivered during the morning plenary session of the Governing Council.

25. In the ensuing discussion, a number of representatives expressed appreciation for the policy statement and welcomed the topics considered therein; they looked forward to further discussion on strengthening the housing development sector, tackling the challenges of demographic trends and climate change and examining aspects of governance and management in the context of sustainable urban development. One representative highlighted the importance of agriculture and food security in the light of rapid urbanization and growth of cities and said that the issue should be considered further. Another welcomed the clarity and structure of the policy statement, describing it as a fresh and new approach that considered the problems of urban development in an intelligent way accessible to the layperson and set out achievable goals and objectives. He said that the report reflected a new way of working in UN-Habitat and of communicating and dealing with issues.

26. The Deputy Executive Director thanked the representatives for their constructive comments and took note of the importance of integrating the issue of agriculture and food security into future deliberations.

**II. Work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2012–2013 (agenda item 7)**

27. [To be completed]

**III. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council (agenda item 8)**

28. [To be completed]

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