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

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

**Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat):
progress report of the Executive Director**

**Report on the work of the Committee of Permanent
Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements
Programme (UN-Habitat), during the period between the
nineteenth and twentieth sessions of the Governing Council**

I. Introduction

1. The Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat, the inter-sessional subsidiary body of the Governing Council, held the following meetings during the period between the nineteenth (5–9 May 2003) and the twentieth (4–8 April 2005) sessions of the Governing Council:

- (a) Meetings during 2003:
 - 04 June 2003;
 - 04 September 2003;
 - 11 December 2003;
- (b) Meetings during 2004:
 - 03 March 2004;
 - 30 June 2004;
 - 30 September 2004;
 - 9 December 2004;
- (c) Meetings during 2005:
 - 14 March 2005.

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

2. The members of the Bureau during the period 2003 to 2004 were:
 - Ms. Rosalinda Valento Tirona (Philippines) – Chair
 - Mr. L.M. Makhubela (South Africa) – Vice-Chair
 - Mr. Wojciech Jasinski (Poland) – Vice-Chair
 - Mr. Jose Luis Casal (Argentina) – Vice-Chair
 - Mr. Varol Özkocak (Turkey) – Rapporteur
3. The members of the Bureau during the period 2004 to 2005 were:
 - Mr. Wojciech Jasinski (Poland) - Chair
 - Mr. Pedro Luis Pedrosa (Cuba) - Vice-Chair
 - Mr. Surendra Kumar (India) - Vice-Chair
 - Mr. Jonas Westerlund (Sweden)/Mr. Bernd Braun (Germany) – Vice-Chair
 - Mr. Ayo Olukanni (Nigeria) – Rapporteur
4. Upon the departure of Mr. Jonas Westerlund (Sweden) at the end of his tour of duty, he was replaced, as Vice-Chair, by Mr. Bernd Braun, the Permanent Representative of Germany to UN-Habitat.

III. Summary of the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for 2003

A. Meeting of 4 June 2003

5. At this meeting, the Committee of the Permanent reviewed the report of the nineteenth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and reactivated its two working groups to review follow-up actions on the eighteen resolutions that had been adopted at the session. The Executive Director reported on the implementation of the work programme of UN-Habitat for the biennium 2002–2003 and briefed the Committee on the financial status of UN-Habitat.

B. Meeting of 4 September 2003

6. The main subject of discussion at this meeting was the follow-up to the decisions of the Governing Council taken at its nineteenth session.
7. Referring to the report of the nineteenth session, which had been circulated to the members of the Committee, the Acting Deputy Executive Director drew the attention of the Committee to a revised version of appendix IV, entitled "Oral Statement by the Chairman of the Working Group on Rules of Procedures of the Governing Council". The Acting Deputy Executive Director explained that a paragraph was missing in the previous version of appendix IV, which referred to the responsibility of the Executive Director to notify all Member States of the United Nations, at least six months before the next Governing Council meeting, of the provision on consultation of Governments contained in Rule 64 and ask the Member States if they require such consultation, on the understanding that once a Government has indicated that it requires to be consulted, that requirement shall remain in force until withdrawn, in writing, by that Government. The Acting Deputy Executive Director further explained that the chapeau of the appendix had been adjusted accordingly. The Committee agreed to the revised version of appendix IV.
8. The other substantive issue was a report by the Executive Director on the implementation of the work programme of UN-Habitat for the biennium 2002–2003.

C. Meeting of 11 December 2003

9. At this meeting, the secretariat presented a progress report on the implementation of the global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance and explained how the twin campaigns constituted entry points for implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The secretariat also elaborated on the principles underlying each of the two campaigns.

10. The other substantive agenda items were a report on UN-Habitat's operational activities, in which the secretariat traced the background of the mandate UN-Habitat had been given for operational activities, starting with excerpts from paragraphs 207, 208 and 228 of the Habitat Agenda and from Governing Council resolution 19/7, and outlined the objectives of operational activities, which included, first, the building of institutional and human capacities at all levels, the testing and dissemination of policy options through demonstration projects and supporting the implementation of local and national plans of action, including policy reforms and capacity-building, demonstration projects and resource mobilization, and, second, preparations for the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly, with regard to which the Executive Director briefed the Committee on the outcome of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council of 2003 and the current status of the preparations for the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly, highlighting item 103 of the provisional agenda for that session (Implementation of General Assembly resolution 57/275).

IV. Summary of the meetings for 2004

A. Meeting of 3 March 2004

11. The substantive issues discussed at this meeting included UN-Habitat's work plan for the year 2004, which described the priority areas of focus for the secretariat during 2004; a report of the working group of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on preparations for the second session of the World Urban Forum (Barcelona, Spain; 13 to 17 September 2004); the financial status of UN-Habitat, as described in the document entitled "Financial report for the year 2003", and the UN-Habitat medium-term plan. The Committee was informed that the four-year medium-term plan had been suspended and would be replaced with a two-year strategic framework on a trial basis.

B. Meeting of 30 June 2004

12. At this meeting, the chairs of the working group on policy and programme matters, the working group on finance, budget and administrative matters, and the working group on preparations for the second session of the World Urban Forum presented progress reports on the work of their respective groups to the Committee. The Secretariat briefed the Committee on the outcome of the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, 14–30 April 2004), the implementation of the goal of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on slum upgrading, and the programme on water and sanitation for cities, and distributed background papers on the above-mentioned items. The secretariat made a presentation entitled "Monitoring and Evaluation of the Work of UN-HABITAT", as had been requested by the representative of the Netherlands. The secretariat further presented an update on measures being undertaken to strengthen the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation.

C. Meeting of 30 September 2004

13. At this meeting, the secretariat briefed the Committee on the outcome of the second session of the World Urban Forum (Barcelona, Spain, 13–17 September 2004) and presented the draft report of the session. The secretariat also briefed the Committee on UN-Habitat's efforts to strengthen the role and status of local authorities and promote effective decentralization in line with the Habitat Agenda and presented a report entitled "Decentralization and Strengthening of Local Authorities" (HSP/CPR/14/3). Other substantive issues discussed at this meeting included the funding of operational activities, mainstreaming gender issues in the work of UN-Habitat, preparations for the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, and the financial status of UN-Habitat.

D. Meeting of 9 December 2004

14. The main issues discussed at this meeting were the status of preparations for the twentieth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat; a progress report on the implementation of the work programme of UN-Habitat for the biennium 2004–2005; and a review of the global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance and the UN-Habitat budget for the biennium 2006–2007.

V. Summary of meetings for 2005**Meeting of 14 March 2005**

15. At this meeting, the chair of the working group on preparations for the twentieth session of the Governing Council, Mr. Bernd Braun, Permanent Representative of Germany to UN-Habitat, briefed the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the working group's progress. The secretariat briefed the Committee on the budgetary constraints facing UN-Habitat with respect to preparations for the twentieth session of the Governing Council and presented a report on the global campaigns on urban governance and secure tenure, as well as a report of the Office for Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of UN-Habitat programmes and activities.

VI. The working groups of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, 2003–2005

16. During the period 2003–2004, the following working groups were activated:

- (a) Working group on policy and programme matters, chaired by Mr. Wojciech Jasinski (Poland);
- (b) Working group on budget, finance and administrative matters, chaired by Mr. L.M. Makhubela (South Africa);
- (c) Working group on the strengthening of preparations for the twentieth session of the Governing Council and the second session of the World Urban Forum, chaired by Mr. José Luis Casal (Argentina).

Reports of these working groups were presented at the eleventh regular meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, on 11 December 2003 (HSP/CPR/11/3).

17. The following working groups were activated during 2004:

- (a) Working group on policy and programme matters, chaired by Mr. Pedro Luis Pedrosa (Cuba);
- (b) Working group on budget, finance and administrative matters, chaired by Mr. Surendra Kumar (India);
- (c) Working group on the preparations for the second session of the World Urban Forum, chaired by Mr. Jonas Westerlund (Sweden).

Reports of these working groups were presented at the thirteenth regular meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, on 30 June 2004 (HSP/CPR/13/3).

18. The following working groups were activated during the period 2004–2005:

- (a) Working group on the preparations for the twentieth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, chaired by Mr. Bernd Braun (Germany);
- (b) Special working group on the organization of future sessions of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, chaired by H.E. Mr. José Luis Casal (Argentina).

Reports of these working groups, including draft resolutions, were presented at the sixteenth regular meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, on 14 March 2005 (HSP/CPR/20/3/Add.1).