



**Report on the status of preparations for the 24th Session of
the Governing Council of
UN-Habitat**

Statement

By

**Mr. Chris Mensah
Secretary to the Governing Council**

Agenda Item 4

Extra-ordinary Meeting of the CPR: 8 April 2013

**Mr Chair,
Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,**

1. Further to the Executive Director's briefing at the 48th Regular Meeting of the CPR on 20 March 2013 and his Introductory Statement made just now, I am pleased to provide further information on the status of the logistical preparations for the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council (GC24).

[Notification of Delegation and Credentials]

2. The Secretariat wishes to thank the various Governments and Habitat Agenda Partners who have informed us of the composition of their delegations to the GC24. We wish to urge other Member States to do the same as time is fast approaching so as to facilitate early preparations, including registration. The Secretariat would also be grateful if member states would provide information on the arrival and hotel or accommodation details of the delegations, especially information on the date of arrival and place of accommodation of the Ministers to enable easy reception at the airport among-others. In that respect wish to note that the GC24 website provides information on travel advisory details such as health, visas and hotels.

3. Distinguished delegates, as of today, the Secretariat has officially been informed of the participation of 14 Ministers and 10 Deputy Ministers from 64 member States, and we understand that other delegates are in the course of submitting information on ministerial participants.

4. With reference to Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council, the Secretariat wishes to remind you that the credentials of delegations shall be submitted to the Executive Director, at the latest, before the end of the first meeting of the session of the Governing Council. The credentials submitted under this rule shall be examined by the Bureau of the Governing Council.

[Speakers' List]

5. As mentioned at the last CPR meeting on 20 March 2013, the Secretariat is taking requests from member States for places on the Speakers' List for the High-level Segment of the Plenary, scheduled to take place on the first and second days of the GC24 – 15 and 16 April 2013. Governments are encouraged to forward their request to the Governing Council Secretariat at the earliest opportunity.

[Registration and Badging]

6. As you are aware, on-line registration is currently on going and can be done at the GC24 website (www.unhabitat.org/gc23), and I wish to inform you that on-line registration will be closed on Wednesday 10 April 2013, at 9 a.m. (Nairobi time). After that, all the information will be transferred to the on-site registration desk, which will commence on Friday, 12 April 2013 as follows

Friday 12 April 2013: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday 13 April 2013: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday 14 April 2013: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Monday 15 April 2013: 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tuesday 16 April 2013: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wednesday 17 April 2013: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thursday 18 April 2013: 8 a.m to 2 p.m.

7. The on-site registration desk, to be jointly staffed by our colleagues of the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), especially its Division of Conference Services (DCS), and UN-Habitat, will be located in the pavilions designated for this purpose, behind the Visitor's Entrance to UNON.

8. As of yesterday, 1,017 people had registered on-line, which includes 371 registrants from 64 national governments. With respect to picking your badges, once registered on-line, you only need verification with your ID to get a your badge.

9. We encourage you to obtain badges prior to the Opening of the Governing Council. The badges will be ready on Friday 12 April 2013 and can be collected starting that day. All delegates are required to be present for their pictures to be taken for the purposes of the badges, EXCEPT for the Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Heads of Delegation, Ambassadors/High Commissioners or Permanent Representatives. Member states can send someone to pick the badges on their behalf as appropriate with a letter authorizing the person to pick them up. Our colleagues at UNON DCS who kindly agreed to attend today's meeting to provide details, will provide you with further details on the badging, vehicle clearance and close protection officers.

[Documentation and GC24 Website]

10. We apologise for the delay in the issuance of documentation. Almost all the documents for decision are out and available at the GC 24 website. Translation of the remaining few documents by Conference Services is still on-going and these documents will be uploaded at the GC24 website as soon as they become available. The status of documentation will be forwarded to you after today's meeting.

11. As mentioned at the last Informal Briefing Session on GC24 Step and also by the Executive Director during the last CPR meeting on 20 March 2013, the Secretariat is aiming to introduce gently but practically a "paper-smarttr Governing Council" at its 24th Session. The way we have proposed for your consideration is that in addition to being available at the GC24 website, all pre-session documents will be uploaded in USBs provided by UN-Habitat, which will be distributed to the members of the government delegations. Due to limited resources, the Secretariat regrets to inform you that a maximum of 3 USBs will be provided per delegation. We are of course assuming that most delegates will have a laptop to use. If not we have made arrangement with the Ozone Secretariat of UNEP which has loaned us laptops for use on loan basisi by delegates who may not have laptops. During the Session, in-session documents will also be uploaded on the GC24 website as soon as they become available

[Provisional Programme and Annotated Agenda]

12. The Secretariat is finalising the Provisional Programme for the GC24, which is expected to be was shared with the member States on 22 March 2013. This is an addition to the Annotated Agenda (HSP/GC/24/1/Add.1), which lists the documents corresponding to each of the agenda items of the GC24. The document will shortly be available at the GC24 website.

[Journal]

13. A daily journal will be published on-line during the GC24, which will contain the work of the Governing Council for the current day and summarise the work of the previous day. It will include information on the side/parallel events and meetings of regional groups of the day, including their room numbers. Delegates wishing to place items in the next day's Journal may wish to contact the Secretariat by, latest, 7 pm on the day before.

[List of Pre-session and Side/Parallel Events for the GC24]

14. The Secretariat has finalised the list of i) pre-session events and ii) side/parallel events for the GC 24. The preliminary list was shared with the members of the Committee on 22 March 2013, and the final list will be distributed after this statement.

[Composition of the Bureau of the GC24 and Meeting between the Outgoing and Incoming Bureaux]

15. As mentioned at the last CPR meeting on 20 March 2013, The Secretariat received communication from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zimbabwe informing us that the African Group has nominated the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the Vice-Presidency of the GC24. We would like to take this opportunity to humbly note that we are still waiting for communication from other Regional Groups on the following outstanding nominations: (i) President, to be nominated by the Western European and Other States; Vice-President, to be nominated by the Eastern European States; (ii) Second, Vice-President, to be nominated by the Asian States; and (iii) Rapporteur, to be nominated by the Latin America and Caribbean States.

16. The Secretariat wishes to draw your attention to the fact that the meeting of the Bureau of the 23rd Session and the Bureau of the 24th Session is scheduled to be held on Sunday, 14 April 2013, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. The confirmed venue for this meeting will be announced through the Provisional Programme.

[Sponsorship of the LDCs]

17. As mentioned at the last CPR meeting on 20 March 2013, the Secretariat regrets to inform that due to the financial constraints, only one participant from a Least Developed Countries which is a current member of the Governing Council has been invited, and these are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Mali, Rwanda, Sudan and Zambia.

[Airport Reception]

18. The Secretariat would like to express its sincere gratitude to the Government of Kenya for its hospitality, cooperation and promise to ensure the smooth entry of delegations to the country to attend the GC24. We are working very closely with the relevant Ministries and Authorities of the GOK on issues including Protocol, Immigration, Customs, Health and Security. Internally, the Secretariat has made a provision of three airport reception teams, who will provide a round-the-clock presence at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. A welcoming desk will be set up at JKIA, which will provide assistance for arriving delegates and special arrangements for Ministerial-level participants. In this regard, the Secretariat

wishes to encourage the member States once again to share information on the arrival of Ministers and Heads of Delegations.

19. This year, unlike the previous year, Ministers and Heads of Delegations will have to make their own transport arrangements from the airport to the hotels and meeting venue because the Government of Kenya will not be in a position to provide vehicles for the occasion.

**Mr. Chair,
Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,**

20. Please allow me to introduce our colleagues from the Government of Kenya and UNON, who are present here with us to provide further information on their respective field:

1. Mr. Rudy Van-Dijck, Chief, Division of Conference Services, UNON
2. Mr. Francisco Vasquez, Chief of the Meeting Coordination Unit, DCS, UNON

I thank you for your kind attention.