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UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Committee of Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations Human Settlements
Programme
Sixtieth meeting
Nairobi, 23 March 2016

**Draft minutes of the fifty-ninth meeting of the Committee of
Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human
Settlements Programme, held on 2 December 2015**

Opening of the meeting

1. The meeting was opened at 9.15 a.m. on Wednesday, 2 December 2015, by Mr. Michal Mlynár, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).
2. The meeting was attended by 88 participants from 60 countries and 2 observer missions.
3. Before turning to the agenda, the Chair called on the Committee to observe a minute of silence for the victims of the terrorist attacks that had taken place in Paris on 13 November 2015, and of other recent attacks, including in Lebanon, Mali and Nigeria.
4. The Chair welcomed the following new permanent representatives to the Committee: Ms. Jutta Frach (Germany); Ms. Suchitra Durai (India); Mr. Hadi Farajvand (Islamic Republic of Iran); Mr. Franciscus Albrecht Makken (Netherlands); Mr. Ralf Heckner (Switzerland) and Mr. Kwong Young-dae (Republic of Korea).
5. He bade farewell to Mr. Malik Hossein Givzad (Islamic Republic of Iran), thanking him for his contribution to the work of the Committee.
6. He congratulated the Holy See and the Government of Kenya on the recent visit of Pope Francis to Kenya and thanked the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi for arranging the papal visit to the United Nations compound and affording the diplomatic community the opportunity to participate therein.

Agenda item 1

Adoption of the agenda

7. The agenda was adopted, as amended, on the basis of the provisional agenda (HSP/CPR/59/1/Rev.1).

Agenda item 2

**Adoption of the draft minutes of the fifty-eighth regular meeting of the
Committee of Permanent Representatives, held on 16 September 2015**

8. The minutes of the fifty-eighth meeting of the Committee were adopted on the basis of the draft minutes (HSP/CPR/59/L.1).

Agenda item 3

Elections

A. Election to replace the departing member of the Bureau for the 2014–2015 biennium

9. Following the departure of Mr. Solomon Akintola Oyateru, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Nigeria, the Committee elected by acclamation Mr. Friday Okai, Permanent Representative of Nigeria to UN-Habitat, to the position of Rapporteur of the Bureau for the biennium 2014–2015.

B. Election of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for 2016–2017 biennium

10. The representative of the Western Europe and Other States Group proposed that the position of Chair of the Bureau should pass to the Group of African States as her group was unable to nominate a candidate at the present time.

11. Accordingly, the following new members of the Bureau for the 2016–2017 biennium were elected by acclamation, after nominations by the regional groups following the customary rotation of nominations:

Chair:	Mr. James Kimonyo (Rwanda)
Vice-chairs:	Mr. Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk (Ukraine)
	Ms. Maria Eugenia Correa Olarte (Colombia)
	Mr. Tobias Glucksman (United States of America)

12. The remaining bureau member would be elected at the following meeting of the Committee once the Asia Pacific Group had concluded its consultations on its nomination.

13. On behalf of the outgoing Bureau, the Chair welcomed the new incoming Bureau members

Agenda item 4

Adoption of the work schedule for the Committee of Permanent Representatives for 2016

14. Introducing the item, the Chair drew attention to the draft work schedule (HSP/CPR/59/4), which envisaged four regular meetings of the Committee in 2016 and took account in the provisional agendas for those meetings of key events leading to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and the activities of the working group on programme and budget.

15. The work schedule for 2016 was adopted on the basis of the draft work schedule.

Agenda item 5

Briefing of the Executive Director

16. Introducing the item, the Executive Director drew attention to his written report entitled “Executive Director’s briefing to the Committee of Permanent Representatives” (HSP/CPR/58/5) and highlighted a number of key activities undertaken in the previous three months.

17. He welcomed the adoption during the United Nations Summit for Sustainable Development, held in New York from 25 to 27 September 2015, of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals, which he described as a milestone for UN-Habitat. For the first time, urbanization was recognized as a pillar of sustainable development, notably in Goal 11, creating a platform for approaching urbanization as a tool and source of sustainable development. He stressed the importance of the linkage between the 2030 Agenda and Habitat III.

18. UN-Habitat had been actively involved in many aspects of the preparations for the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change currently taking place in Paris. It was to be hoped that the new climate change agenda emerging from the session would also be linked with Habitat III and the future work of UN-Habitat.

19. With regard to internal matters, he praised the functioning of the working group on programme and budget of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, which was proving to be a very positive

forum for increasing the dialogue between member States and the secretariat and facilitating better understanding of their positions. Efforts were continuing in the working group on the UN-Habitat accountability framework, enterprise risk management, resource mobilization and advocacy.

20. Progress was being made in the implementation of the enterprise resource planning system, Umoja, despite a further blackout period when the system had been introduced in other areas of the United Nations at the beginning of November. The new system represented a huge advance in the transparency and clarity of UN-Habitat administration, he said. There were still some difficulties in implementation, particularly with regard to the capacity of UN-Habitat to deliver on programmes in the field, and member States were asked to show forbearance. The importance of the implementation of Umoja far outweighed any inconvenience experienced in the process.

21. Other activities undertaken by the secretariat included, in particular, preparations for Habitat III. He thanked the Government of Indonesia for hosting the Habitat III Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting, held in Jakarta on 21 and 22 October 2015; the Government of Canada and the City of Montreal for organizing the thematic meeting on metropolitan regions, held on 6 and 7 October 2015; and the Government of Ecuador and the City of Cuenca for the thematic meeting on intermediate cities, held from 9 to 11 November 2015. The UN-Habitat Deputy Executive Director and the Habitat III Deputy Secretary-General were attending the important seventh Africities Summit taking place in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 29 November to 3 December 2015.

22. In conclusion, he referred to the recent visit of Pope Francis to Kenya, welcoming the message he had delivered in Nairobi, which had clearly addressed the global issues of poverty, exclusion, climate change and common responsibility for caring for the environment.

23. In the ensuing discussion, all the representatives who spoke thanked the Executive Director for his oral briefing and written report. Many of the representatives who spoke also thanked the Chair for his excellent leadership of the Committee and the Bureau and his contribution to the work of UN-Habitat during his tenure, as well as the outgoing Bureau members for their work in the previous biennium.

24. Several representatives, including three speaking on behalf of groups of countries, welcomed the outcome of the United Nations Summit for Sustainable Development and the effective participation of UN-Habitat therein, emphasizing the importance of Sustainable Development Goal 11 in particular.

25. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, hailed the efforts made to realize the stand-alone goal related to the work of UN-Habitat, noting that the Programme's relevance would be further enhanced through the efforts it would be exerting in cooperation with member States to achieve Goal 11 and its targets. Noting the events that had taken place on the margins of the summit, he asked the Executive Director to brief the Committee on the Heads of State Dialogue on the Africa Urban Agenda.

26. Another representative, also speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the adoption of Goal 11 had given new impetus to UN-Habitat and strengthened its role. She looked forward to greater efforts to achieve better urbanization and promote a better balance between the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. She called on the developed countries to adopt specific measures to target the elimination of inequalities between countries and improve access to markets, technologies and sources of finance for least developed countries in order to achieve the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those directly related to the mandate of UN-Habitat.

27. A third representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, noted that all the United Nations entities, including UN-Habitat, would need to channel efforts and resources into achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In discussions in the subcommittee on the UN-Habitat strategic framework for 2018-2019, specific emphasis should be placed on that challenge and discussion with other member States would be welcomed on the role of UN-Habitat with regard to relevant goals, targets and indicators.

28. A number of representatives drew attention to the challenges that the developing countries would face in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and the need for UN-Habitat support. One representative said that there were still many issues to be addressed such as the developing countries' needs for capacity development, technological cooperation and ensuring effective cooperation at all levels and among all actors in the implementation of the Goals. Another said that much needed to be done by individual member States and the international community as a whole, and she called on member States to provide the requisite support to UN-Habitat to enable the Programme to fully align itself with the agreements reached and emerging issues. She looked forward to future

briefings by the secretariat on how the Sustainable Development Goals would be further contextualized with urbanization and human settlements at the forefront.

29. One representative noted the absence of activities on the African continent in the report of the Executive Director; the Africities Summit mentioned in the briefing demonstrated the increasing focus of local authorities in Africa on the sustainable development and urbanization agenda and their alignment with the work of UN-Habitat. It was to be hoped that African countries would improve their contributions to address the serious deficiency in the non-earmarked funding of UN-Habitat.

30. On climate change, two representatives, speaking on behalf of groups of countries, welcomed the presence and engagement of UN-Habitat at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change as well as its overall involvement in climate programmes and initiatives. One called on the Executive Director to brief the Committee on the participation of UN-Habitat in the session. Another representative expressed the hope that the outcome of the session would create an enabling environment to assist developing countries in coping with the immediate negative effects of climate change.

31. Regarding preparations for Habitat III, one representative thanked the secretariat for the work done so far under the leadership of Ms. Ana Moreno, Coordinator of the Habitat III secretariat, citing in particular the translation of policy papers, allowing the dissemination of information in regions where English was not the mother tongue. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that it was very important that the preparatory process was conducted appropriately and the mistakes of the past were not repeated; in particular, documents, including the draft outcome, should be circulated in a timely manner. It was also necessary to agree on the inclusive participation of stakeholders and local authorities. Those issues should be tackled in the General Assembly resolution on implementing the outcome of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of UN-Habitat, thus allowing the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III at its third session to concentrate on the substantive preparation of the Conference.

32. One representative welcomed the efforts of the secretariat to keep member States informed, but cautioned that in some cases he was learning of developments in important documents and outcomes third-hand and not through the Habitat III secretariat; he called on the UN-Habitat and Habitat III secretariats to arrange more regular briefings, possibly on a monthly basis. He also called for a solution to the issue of stakeholder participation so that the outcome of Habitat III would not lack credibility.

33. A number of representatives expressed appreciation for the work of the working group on programme and budget. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the issues tackled in the meetings of the working group were of utmost importance to the work of UN-Habitat and he called on all member States to actively engage in the meetings. With regard to the resource mobilization strategy, he commended the steps taken by the secretariat to encourage member States to make non-earmarked voluntary contributions and requested an update on the matter. Another, also speaking on behalf of a group of countries, thanked the secretariat for its responsiveness and valuable contributions both to formal and informal meetings and called on member States to promptly agree on the agenda for the next meeting of the working group in 2016. He expressed concern at the low level of non-earmarked contributions despite the efforts of the secretariat in that regard and called for the problem to be addressed in the new resource mobilization strategy.

34. Another representative, also speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the efforts of the Executive Director and the secretariat to provide the working group with all the information required to make progress on the tasks at hand. She said the working group provided an appropriate platform for dialogue and analysis to improve accountability, transparency and follow-up on the implementation of the work programme. One representative welcomed the candid dialogue in the working group and said that the recommendations which would emerge from its productive work would determine the role of UN-Habitat with regard to the 2030 Agenda and the climate change discussion in Paris.

35. One representative congratulated Mr. Andrew Cox on his appointment as Head of Operations for UN-Habitat, a key position which, he said, had been vacant for too long. Core funding for UN-Habitat continued to be insufficient and a senior team was needed to drive efforts to translate the Programme's strategic vision into results and to convey to the donor community the critical role of UN-Habitat in the achievement of sustainable development.

36. Referring to the visit of Pope Francis to the United Nations Office at Nairobi and his reference to the rapid acceleration of urbanization and unprecedented rise in unplanned urban development, she

called for the political will and involvement of all stakeholders to tackle the challenges and ensure that cities became safer, more inclusive, sustainable and resilient.

37. The representative of China drew attention to a visit by the Executive Director to Beijing and Shanghai from 15 to 19 October 2015, during which meetings had been held with Government officials and academics that were widely seen as positive. The Government of China was willing to share its experiences in poverty reduction in urban and rural areas.

38. In his response, the Executive Director thanked the representatives for their comments and took note of the suggestions made, some of which were to be discussed under other agenda items. He acknowledged in particular the requests for better reporting of missions carried out by senior management and the work of the secretariat, and for an increased level of reporting to member States in Nairobi on preparations for Habitat III. He apologized for not mentioning his visit to China in his briefing and expressed the hope that the strong relationship between UN-Habitat and China would continue to develop in the coming months.

Agenda item 6

Quarterly report on the financial status of UN-Habitat

39. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat drew attention to the detailed quarterly financial report for the period to the end of September 2015 (HSP/CPR/59/6) and summarized the main points.

40. UN-Habitat revenue for the period amounted to \$148.6 million, comprising \$10.9 million in regular budget and non-earmarked funds, and \$137.7 million in earmarked contributions. Total expenditure amounted to \$70.1 million, comprising \$9.1 million for regular budget, \$6.9 million for United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation general purpose expenses and \$54.1 million for earmarked expenses and administrative overheads. In addition to these actual expenditures, there were commitments of \$110.6 million for activities under implementation.

41. She expressed deep appreciation to the European Union and to the Governments of Afghanistan, Argentina, Brazil, China, Colombia, Egypt, Finland, India, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Pakistan, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States for the core and earmarked contributions they had made since the fifty-eighth meeting of the Committee. She also thanked the Governments of Colombia, Djibouti, Ghana, Mexico, Norway, Rwanda, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as the European Commission for new agreements signed between July and September 2015 for earmarked activities amounting to \$24.1 million. Agreements had also been signed with the City of Rio de Janeiro, the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Council, Barcelona City Council and the Municipality of Santiago.

42. The Committee took note of the quarterly financial report and the information provided.

Agenda item 7

Thematic or country activities presentation

43. The Chair drew attention to a briefing note prepared by the Secretariat entitled “The work of UN-Habitat in the Arab States region with a focus on Syrian Arab Republic and Arab Republic of Egypt” (HSP/CPR/59/7).

44. Introducing the item, the Executive Director said that the work of UN-Habitat in Egypt, which had initially focused on developing strategic plans for 50 cities, was now focused on guiding and supporting sustainable urbanization through key interventions at the national and city levels, thanks to the Achieving Sustainable Urban Development (ASUD) programme. The Egyptian Government was supportive of the three-legged approach to sustainable urbanization – an approach premised on rules and regulations, urban design and a financial plan as the three core elements of planned urbanization – and, with support from the ASUD programme, was discussing a new urban planning law and a law on land readjustment, which was a method to acquire public space without resorting to expropriation.

45. In the Syrian Arab Republic, UN-Habitat had helped to map, via participatory planning, the demographic changes and impacts of the ongoing conflict on the functioning of key sectors. The Programme had also made interventions in Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon, which were all affected by the Syrian conflict. In Lebanon, regional technical offices had been established within municipalities to strengthen cities’ resilience; these offices were staffed by highly trained local professionals who could plan and in some cases implement critical infrastructure interventions to address strains on public services, and who tended to be incorporated into local governments later on, enabling cities to better

cope with future shocks. In Jordan, UN-Habitat was working with commercial banks and housing developers to create an affordable housing supply system for middle-income and low-income Jordanians and for refugees via rentals, while in Iraq it had developed durable shelters planned as city extensions managed by municipalities in order to avoid the problem of camps for refugees and internally-displaced persons turning into slums. The shelters improved social cohesion between internally displaced persons and host communities, enabled better access by internally displaced persons to social services and employment, and enabled donors to invest in permanent infrastructure rather than temporary water and sanitation systems, which tended to have high maintenance costs.

46. Mr. Mohamed Nada, UN-Habitat Egypt office, gave a presentation on the work of UN-Habitat in Egypt since 2008, when the office had been established and the Programme had started to shift from a project-based presence in the country to a programme-based approach. The new approach enabled better and more efficient and sustainable interventions through a diversification of partners and funding sources, a larger portfolio, a wider range of Government partners, and close collaboration with the Nairobi office with regard to three UN-Habitat programmes, namely, urban policy, governance and legislation; urban planning and design; and urban upgrading, basic services and urban mobility, under which complementary projects were developed to achieve the strategic goals of each programme.

47. The work of UN-Habitat in Egypt involved the development of knowledge products, the provision of political and legal support to the Government, and the piloting of activities, which informed the knowledge and policy-related work. Specific activities included the provision of support to the Government in developing a national housing strategy, a strategic plan for greater Cairo and a national urban policy to guide the urbanization process for the next 40 years, in updating Egypt's urban development legal framework, and in finding the means to finance sustainable urbanization interventions, from the upgrading of informal areas to the planning of city extensions. Other activities included the organization of a national urban forum in which over 600 stakeholders had participated; the delivery of innovative approaches to urban development, such as the use of the three-legged approach to examine planning, land and financial issues in connection with the expansion of existing cities and the development of new cities in previously uninhabited areas; the provision of support to the Government in examining the extent to which Egypt could contribute to the new urban agenda and to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 11; the development of a "city prosperity index", which would help the Government to monitor the extent to which Egyptian cities were achieving sustainable development, and of innovative solutions for sanitation; and the provision of support to the Government regarding safety, gender and urban mobility issues.

48. Mr. Dyfed Aubrey, Acting Director of the Regional Office for Arab States, then gave a presentation, via teleconference, of UN-Habitat activities in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, whose protracted conflicts had resulted in at least 4.2 million refugees around the Syrian Arab Republic, 6.5 million internally displaced persons in the Syrian Arab Republic and over 3 million such persons in Iraq, and were affecting neighbouring countries such as Jordan and Lebanon. In Lebanon approximately one in four people were now refugees. Over 80 per cent of refugees and internally displaced persons displaced due to the conflicts in the Syrian Arab Republic and the majority of the internally displaced population in Iraq lived outside camps, mainly in urban areas, and their distribution was uneven; for instance, the population of some neighbourhoods within the Syrian Arab Republic had tripled, and some in Lebanon had doubled, creating unemployment and spikes in rental prices that led to evictions and putting a strain on basic urban services such as water supply, waste collection and health services. The work of UN-Habitat in Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and neighbouring countries was thus focused on improving city resilience, defined as the ability of individuals and communities to withstand and effectively cope with and adapt to shocks and long-term stresses through their own resources. UN-Habitat built city resilience by enhancing knowledge and analysis on urban issues and by strengthening the capacity of municipalities to support communities, to obtain local sources of finance and to plan and manage shelters for refugees and internally displaced persons that led to social integration and sustainable urbanization.

49. UN-Habitat enhanced knowledge on the urban environment through the development of city profiles, which were multisectoral assessments that analysed information on housing and the functionality of services such as food, health, education, water and shelter and identified the most vulnerable and strained areas and neighbourhoods. City profiles enabled United Nations entities and others to work with local actors such as municipalities and civil society groups to develop area-based action plans to meet identified needs. In the Syrian Arab Republic, neighbourhood profiling had also served to identify issues of common concern to the conflicting sides and to bring the sides together to discuss how to deal with such issues.

With regard to municipalities, UN-Habitat had strengthened the ability of municipalities in Iraq to deal with internally displaced persons through the development of shelters as planned city extensions rather

than camps; such shelters enabled municipalities to benefit from donor investments in permanent infrastructure, promoted social cohesion by giving internally displaced persons access to city services and, if shelters were replaced with permanent structures, prevented the creation of informal settlements. In addition, through its regional technical offices in Lebanon, UN-Habitat had improved the ability of local authorities in that country to plan and implement shelter and infrastructure projects in locations strained through refugee influx, and to engage local communities in assessment and decision-making processes.

50. Lastly, on the issue of city financing, which was an essential part of city resilience, UN-Habitat had begun and planned to expand work on ways to strengthen municipal finances through improvements in local public financial management and diversification of the local revenue base via land-based financing, commercial licensing, advertising, and the introduction of municipal borrowing and of public-private partnerships in service delivery. In Jordan, UN-Habitat was working with banks and other private institutions on a project to finance low-income housing both for Jordanians and for refugees.

51. In closing, Mr. Aubrey said that building city resilience was the only viable approach to addressing protracted crises, since humanitarian funding would not be available indefinitely. UN-Habitat activities in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic showed that cities could move from dependence on external support to reliance on inner strengths to cope effectively with crises when the knowledge, capacities and resources of local and national governments were strengthened; that area-based approaches offered possibilities for peace-building at the local level; and that city profiling and local action planning helped to bring together different actors to address shared priorities.

52. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Egypt expressed appreciation for the activities of UN-Habitat in his country and for the information provided on such activities. The Government of Egypt was fully supportive of such work and, after having made a voluntary contribution of over \$5 million to UN-Habitat, was conducting studies aimed at increasing Egypt's contribution to the Programme in the framework of projects.

53. The Executive Director said that the information provided under the agenda item showed the changing nature of UN-Habitat programming and the shift from sectoral interventions to strategic advice on key issues such as the implementation of innovative housing solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons, who presented enormous challenges to the urban centres where most of them lived; it was important to help cities and Governments to deal with such challenges by focusing on strategic issues such as city financing and how refugees and internally displaced persons, many of whom were highly skilled, could be integrated into and become an asset to their host communities.

Agenda item 8

Briefing on preparations for Habitat III and the third session of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III

54. Introducing the item, the Chair said that the Secretariat would provide an oral briefing to the Committee, as no background document had been sent to the Committee prior to the current meeting. Any document to be produced subsequently on the item would appear as document HSP/CPR/59/8.

55. In his oral briefing to the Committee, the Executive Director, speaking in his capacity as Secretary-General of Habitat III, said that since the last meeting of the Committee, the Habitat III Bureau had held monthly meetings to discuss preparations for Habitat III, including the documents to be considered at, and a timetable for the preparation of the outcome document of, the Conference. The Bureau had agreed that the "zero draft" of the outcome document should be produced over the period from the end of January to April 2016, and that negotiations on the document should be held over the period from May to the end of July 2016, in time for the third session of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III, to be held in Indonesia. The Group of 77 and China had proposed a similar timetable to the United Nations General Assembly Second Committee, which was currently negotiating a resolution on Habitat III, and the Habitat III Secretariat was supporting member States in those negotiations to enable them to make informed decisions. Should the Second Committee adopt the proposed timetable, which was similar to that followed in 2015 to negotiate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Governments would have ample time to negotiate the Habitat III outcome document, agree on substantive issues at the third session of the Preparatory Committee and address all outstanding issues prior to Habitat III, to be held in Quito in October 2016.

56. As for other developments, over 100 countries had already submitted their Habitat III national reports; such early submissions represented a major improvement over Habitat II, for which most reports had been presented during the Conference itself. The Habitat III Secretariat was supporting the

elaboration of policy papers and the organization of regional meetings and of national urban forums that were taking place in many countries. The Policy papers were being produced by groups of experts nominated by member States and stakeholders and were expected to become available by 29 February 2016; a regional group meeting that had resulted in a declaration by the Asia-Pacific region had been held in Jakarta in October 2015 and additional regional meetings would be held in Abuja, Prague and Mexico and were also expected to result in regional declarations; and five technical regional reports, each prepared by one of the five United Nations regional economic commissions and UN-Habitat regional offices, were being produced and would be available at end of March 2016. The policy papers, regional declarations and regional technical reports would all constitute important inputs to the intergovernmental negotiations of the “zero draft” of the Habitat III outcome document.

57. Member States of the United Nations, both in the context of the Habitat III Bureau and the General Assembly, had expressed a desire to establish a clear link between Habitat III on the one hand and, on the other, the 2030 Agenda, the outcome of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the preparatory work of a humanitarian summit to be held in 2016, as well as the issue of urban refugees. Following the conclusion of the climate negotiations in Paris, the level of commitment by States Members of the United Nations to the preparations of Habitat III was expected to increase from January 2016, as Habitat III took a central role in the United Nations as the Conference through which both the 2030 Agenda and any climate agreement adopted in Paris could be implemented at the local level, and both the Habitat III and UN-Habitat secretariats were engaged in efforts to ensure that all Habitat III materials were fully in harmony with the sustainable development and climate agendas and integrated as much as possible the humanitarian agenda. Given the expected increase in activities, starting in January 2016 the Habitat III Secretariat planned to provide monthly reports on the preparations of Habitat III to the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

58. In closing, he expressed appreciation to those who were providing support to the preparatory process, including through donations and the hosting of regional and thematic meetings. In addition to the regional meetings referred to above, thematic meetings had been held in Tel-Aviv, Israel; Cuenca, Ecuador; and Montreal, Canada; between the months of September and November 2015, and additional thematic meetings were planned in 2016 in Abu Dhabi, Barcelona, South Africa and Mexico.

59. In the ensuing discussion, all the representatives who spoke thanked the Executive Director for his briefing.

60. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that it was of crucial importance that financial resources be provided for the participation of delegates from developing countries in the third session of the Preparatory Committee and in Habitat III in order to ensure an inclusive preparatory process and facilitate consensus on all outstanding issues. He requested that the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee make available to the Committee of Permanent Representatives in Nairobi a draft of the proposed outcome document of Habitat III as soon as possible to enable the Committee to review and provide inputs for the draft, and the Executive Director to advise on how Committee members in Nairobi could contribute to the Habitat III negotiations in New York.

Agenda item 9

Report on the work of the subcommittees

61. The Committee took note of the report of the work of the subcommittees (HSP/CPR/59/9).

Agenda item 10

Strategic framework

62. In response to a request by the Chair, the representative of the United States briefed the Committee on the discussions held by the subcommittee on policy and programme of work on the UN-Habitat strategic framework for 2018–2019, which he had chaired. He said that the subcommittee had held two meetings to discuss the strategic framework. At the second meeting, held on 30 November 2015, the Secretariat had briefed the subcommittee on the overall orientation and content of the framework, including new areas of work and a proposed way of dealing with the Sustainable Development Goals, and on the possible need to review the framework in 2017 to incorporate the outcomes of Habitat III and other key initiatives that remained to be completed, such as an indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals to be adopted in March 2016. Member States had provided general comments on the draft framework, but the subcommittee needed additional time to finalize its work.

63. The Committee requested the subcommittee to resume its work and to hold in-depth consultations on the strategic framework from 11 to 20 January 2016, with a view to submitting the strategic framework to the office of the United Nations Controller by 22 January 2016.

Agenda item 11

Any other matters

64. The representative of the United States informed the Committee that an informal meeting of the working group on programme and budget was planned for January 2016, to be followed by a formal meeting in February 2016.

65. Several representatives, joined by the Executive Director, expressed appreciation to the outgoing Chair of the Committee for his leadership, dedication and commitment to the work of the Committee and of UN-Habitat, including in particular the governance review process, and wished him well in his future endeavours.

Closure of the meeting

66. The meeting was declared closed at 12.45 p.m. on Wednesday, 2 December 2015.
