



**72ND REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVES TO UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
PROGRAMME**

10 APRIL 2019

Agenda Item 3:

**Executive Director's Briefing to the Committee of Permanent Representatives
(HSP/CPR/72/3)**

Introduction

In addition to our regular programmatic work and key portfolio developments, since the last meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) on 6 December 2018, UN-Habitat continues to adapt and change, to be more responsive to Member States' demand for the increased transparency, agility and relevance of UN-Habitat.

This briefing will cover the following:

1. Update on our vision, mission, priorities
2. Update on the preparations for the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly
3. Update on the financial status of UN-Habitat
4. Update on the 2018 Annual report on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan
5. Update on the upcoming tenth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF10)
6. Thematic/country presentation (European Union institutions)
7. Key portfolio developments
8. Recent missions undertaken by the Deputy Executive Director and myself

1. Update on our vision, mission and priorities

Since we last met, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/73/239 on 20 December 2018, which approved a new governance framework for UN-Habitat. This was a historical moment for UN-Habitat, considering that a review of our governance structure has been under discussion and negotiation for the past fourteen years. This is a great achievement, for which I thank each Member State, for your dedication, perseverance and patience in seeing this milestone through.

(i) Financial, management and organizational reform

I have regularly briefed you on measures that I am taking on the administrative front, including the financial and management audit of the organization. This audit commenced on 8 January 2019 and a draft final report is expected to be presented by 31 March 2019.

Last month, UN-Habitat came together for a two-day retreat to discuss the restructuring of UN-Habitat. The purpose of this UN-Habitat restructuring exercise was to: **(i)** take stock of what UN-Habitat is today ("as is") and highlight the shortcomings of the current structure and operational model; and **(ii)** to articulate operational and institutional priorities and to establish the basis of a future organizational structure ("to be"). This organizational restructuring exercise commenced in October last year. One of the main outcomes of the restructuring retreat was the need to organize a series of mini-workshops for staff to consider key issues, which will have a bearing on the design of the new organizational structure of UN-Habitat. Nine issues were identified in this regard which are as follows: **(1)** programme development, coordination and evaluation; **(2)** regional and country presence, including liaison function; **(3)** UN-Habitat as a Centre of Excellence; **(4)** knowledge generation, advocacy, outreach and branding; **(5)** co-financing and resource mobilization; **(6)** capacity building; **(7)** partnership model, including the private sector; **(8)** streamlining multiple corporate reports and; **(9)** business processes. The forthcoming mini-workshops will investigate each area in depth with a view to identifying roles

and functions that will inform the finalization of a Responsible Accountable Consulted and Informed – “RACI” – chart. Subsequent to the mini-workshops, the next steps include, a retreat of the restructuring task force to take stock of the recommendations of the mini-workshops, a town hall meeting, and a workshop that will once more bring together staff from headquarters, regional and country offices, with a view to proposing a new structure of UN-Habitat. Other key outcomes of the retreat include: (i) a set of principles to be used by the restructuring team in defining a new structure for UN-Habitat, including a model drawn by the Executive Director; and (ii) a revised Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats – “SWOT” – analysis that further framed the current context of the agency.

In June 2018, you will remember that I implemented a number of austerity measures. You will recall that I also noted that these are temporary. Since their implementation, we have seen savings for UN-Habitat. Although the financial situation has slightly improved, with thanks to Member States who have committed to non-earmarked funding, these measures are likely to continue for a while longer. I am currently reassessing the situation, in order to chart the best way forward for UN-Habitat and all its personnel.

(ii) Engagement with Regional Groups: preparations for the UN-Habitat Assembly

Last month, I had the opportunity to engage with each of the Regional Groups, specifically on the status of preparations ahead of the first United Nations Habitat Assembly (UN-Habitat Assembly), to be held from 27 to 31 May 2019. I would like to thank you all for your engaging guidance, feedback and support towards what will be a milestone event for UN-Habitat. A milestone which I hope will clearly depict the direction that UN-Habitat hopes to take, supported by its new Strategic Plan 2020-2025. Specifically, it is hoped that the UN-Habitat Assembly will enable the organization to garner strong political and financial support as well as strategic alliances to advance the sustainable urbanization and human settlements agenda and to strengthen UN-Habitat as a Centre of Excellence and global leader in this field.

To this end, I cannot emphasize enough our collective desire to have an efficient, inclusive, and highly successful first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly. As you are aware the General Assembly did not approve the Programme Budget Implications for the new Governance structure and so funds available are still those that were originally allocated for the Governing Council. For this purpose, I would like to appeal to you for your financial support towards this first Assembly. Additional funding would enable representatives from Least Developed Countries to attend, as well as essential interpretation, translation, security, and other meetings facilitation activities to allow all delegates to participate effectively in all the sessions of the UN-Habitat Assembly, including the servicing of the Executive Board. I would be grateful for the support of Member States to raise additional funding required.

(iii) Internal reform

Concurrent with the adoption and implementation of the General Assembly resolution on UN-Habitat’s governance structure, the restructuring exercise and preparations to operationalise our new Strategic Plan 2020-2025, you will be familiar with the internal change process that I am leading. A document entitled the “Guiding Framework for the UN-Habitat Change Process: Changing to Increase Impact” has set the course for the organization, outlining specific change actions, quick-wins, short term, medium term and long-term actions. The change process is

expected to be completed by 31 December 2019. This year, main activities to be carried out will focus on:

1. Completion of the diagnostic management and financial review by 31 March 2019;
2. Completion of the organizational restructuring process by the end of July 2019;
3. Improvement of UN-Habitat's business/administrative processes in order to enhance efficiency and project delivery (on-going);
4. Behaviour shift among the senior management of UN-Habitat (on-going);
5. Significant improvement of continuous change monitoring and communication in order to make change accomplishments and staff views more visible; and
6. Completion of all other outstanding change actions by 31 December 2019.

2. Update on the preparations for the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly

As you are aware, the up-coming first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly will take place from 27 to 31 May 2019. This is pursuant to the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/73/239 of 20 December 2018 which abolished the previous Governing Council of UN-Habitat. The Governing Council consisted of 58 Member States and was replaced with the UN-Habitat Assembly, a universal body consisting of 193 Member States of the United Nations. I am very grateful for the support of Member States and their Regional Groups both here in Nairobi and in New York for your commitments to see the governance review process through.

With the guidance of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) which sat in an expanded format to include the chair and representatives of regional and political groups on 14 January 2019, the secretariat has been able to forge ahead with preparations for this important meeting. It is expected that the CPR will deliberate on the draft rules of procedure of the UN-Habitat Assembly as well as those of the Executive Board in its next meeting.

Together with the CPR Bureau, the proposed provisional Agenda for the UN-Habitat Assembly has been drawn. The UN-Habitat Assembly will review and approve Strategic Plan 2020-2025, review the progress in implementation of the New Urban Agenda and also discuss the World Urban Forum. Further, and in line with the findings of the Open-ended Working Group which were endorsed by the General Assembly resolution A/RES/73/239, it is expected that the Assembly will review major trends related to human settlements and urbanization. Specifically, it will examine global norms and standards in human settlements and sustainable urbanization, recommend strategies for coherent implementation of urban and human settlements dimensions of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda and other global agendas, including of the work of the United Nations System.

The Executive Board will have its first meeting on the side lines of the UN-Habitat Assembly for one day. The CPR Bureau has recommended the provisional agenda for that meeting which will mainly be to deliberate on organisational matters and to review and approve the Work Programme and Budget for the year 2020.

I have shared with you my Notification which contains details on the UN-Habitat Assembly including expected organizational arrangements. This first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly is very important for us and our partners which include Member States, United Nations agencies and

other stakeholders. Among the many activities planned during the week of the UN-Habitat Assembly is a global stakeholders meeting; a gathering of the private sector on innovation; a financing dialogue and pledging session; and an interactive strategic dialogue on the theme of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

It is expected that Heads of State and Government, ministers, other representatives of Member States and Observer States of the United Nations, will take part in the UN-Habitat Assembly. Subnational governments, heads and representatives of United Nations organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, and representatives of the private sector, academia and the media, to name just a few, will attend as observers.

It is my expectation that the first UN-Habitat Assembly and the new governance structure will play a critical role in strengthening UN-Habitat's normative, operational and coordination role as focal point in the United Nations System for sustainable urbanization and human settlements. I am respectfully counting on your support to make the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly a success as it will also set the pace for future sessions.

The preparations for the Assembly will be discussed in detail as separate agenda item during this meeting and for that purpose, a background document HSP/CPR/72/5 has been shared.

3. Update on the financial status of UN-Habitat

As you know, UN-Habitat is almost entirely funded from voluntary contributions.

The interim deficit of UN-Habitat's core resources by the end of 2018 was US\$ 1.7 million of which US\$ 0.2 million is from Foundation non-earmarked, while US\$ 1.5 million is from the Programme support account. The deficit on the Programme Support account is a result of bearing some of the costs ordinarily charged to the Foundation non-earmarked fund as UN-Habitat awaits the resumption to financing the Foundation non-earmarked fund.

The conclusion of the governance reform and the adoption of the General Assembly resolution on UN-Habitat has provided the direction for a robust governance structure with an Assembly that will meet every four years, an Executive Board that will provide legislative oversight and the Committee of Permanent Representatives as intersessional body. The Committee of Permanent Representatives approved a new Strategic Plan 2020-2025 in December of last year and we are currently in the early stages of a restructuring process which will create a structure that will have the right size, will equip us with the right expertise in the right places and will be sustained by a core budget that will be put before the Executive Board for approval in autumn of this year.

Last year, we have unfortunately only been able to mobilise US\$ 3.6 million non-earmarked contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation. While this showed a positive trajectory in respect to what was contributed in 2017, we are still at a considerable distance from what I believe is required to implement the work programme in the manner and with the quality that is required, which is about US\$ 13 million a year. We are still implementing austerity measures which I have outlined to you before. This includes only

extending fixed-term appointments that are funded from the critically affected funds for three months at a time in order to manager contractual liabilities. The austerity measures relating to human resources that were put in place have alleviated the payroll pressure on the Foundation and redirected staff costs to other sources of funding.

I have continued to undertake strategic funding dialogues with Member States, to reinforce resource mobilisation efforts. I have received positive responses during those meetings with several governments, most recently with Switzerland, Bahrain, Rwanda, Malaysia, France, Norway, Germany, Singapore and Spain. I will make the African continent a priority in 2019. There is an increased recognition and strengthened support from Member States for the work of UN-Habitat and the reform of the organization. This is evident from the feedback I am receiving when I am travelling and when I am interacting with government representatives. An increasing number of Member States have also committed to additional financial support subject to successful governance and institutional reforms. I wish to add that the sooner we will see this financial support in practical terms, the easier it will be for us to implement reform initiatives and support the change process with real measures on the ground.

In this context, I would like to express again my sincere appreciate for the following contributions that have been received in 2018 and 2019, including to those countries who have confirmed that contributions are forthcoming:

Country	2018	2019
Barbados	14,815	
Botswana	50,000	
Chile	5,000	
China	350,000	
Czech Republic	6,547	
Haiti	10,000	
India	100,000	
Japan		34,950
Kenya	206,678	
Kiribati	25,000	
Malaysia	1,200,000	
Norway	632,631	
Pakistan	6,000	
Philippines	25,000	
Republic of Korea	89,204	
South Africa	150,000	
Sri Lanka	25,000	
Tanzania	9,886	
United States of America	672,974	
Zambia	7,820	
TOTAL	3,586,555	34,950

The way forward will continue with the understanding of the still precarious financial situation and the obligations it imposes in respect to the building of trust, enhancement of

transparency, efficiency and accountability to rebuild UN-Habitat as an entity that will be able to deliver.

4. Update on the 2018 Annual report on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan

The 2018 Annual Performance Report on the implementation of our Strategic Plan of 2014-2019 is the fifth one informing on the progress that we are making on delivering the current Strategic Plan and the approved work programme and budget for 2018-2019. It reports on institutional and programmatic achievements made in 2018. Most of the report is on the delivery of the work programme by all organizational units, focusing mainly on results or transformations achieved through the normative and operational interventions of UN-Habitat and partners through the seven subprogrammes. The report also provides information on financial resources availed for each organizational unit and compare programme and budget performance.

The report presents progress made and results achieved at national, subnational and global levels against indicator targets for 2018-2019. I am glad to report that we are on track to achieving the indicator targets set for 2018-2019. The results that we report are the outcome of collaborative efforts of UN-Habitat and partners comprising national and local Governments and many development partners, including donors.

5. Update on the upcoming tenth session of the World Urban Forum

Following the signing of the Host Country Agreement, the World Urban Forum Unit, Partnerships & Advocacy Branch in UN-Habitat's External Relations Division has begun preparations for the tenth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF10). The tenth session of the WUF10 will be held in Abu Dhabi from 8 to 13 February 2020.

The Host Country Agreement was signed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Abu Dhabi Department of Urban Planning and Municipalities and UN-Habitat on 17 October 2018. The Host Country Agreement will guide timely and effective preparations for WUF10. The first joint meeting of the UN-Habitat and the Abu Dhabi Department of Urban Planning and Municipalities teams was held in November 2018, in Abu Dhabi, setting the fundamentals for joint WUF10 preparations.

In order to ensure coordination and meaningful contribution from UN-Habitat's sub-programmes and regional offices, an interdivisional support mechanism has been put in place in the form of a representative WUF10 Task Force established on 21 January 2019. The WUF10 Task Force met on 31 January 2019 for its inaugural meeting. In line with the latest WUF resolution, the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) is closely involved in the WUF10 preparatory process, and a first sub-committee meeting took place on 25 January 2019 to present the WUF10 theme, the WUF10 logo, brief the members on progress made and solicit their approval of the theme as well as general feedback on WUF preparations.

UN-Habitat will hold regular briefings with the CPR subcommittee and as the build up towards WUF10 gathers momentum, more frequent meetings will be held to update the CPR on progress made in the organization of the forum.

The WUF10 theme, endorsed by the CPR on 25 January 2019, is “Cities of Opportunities – Connecting Culture and Innovation”. The theme selection was informed among others by a WUF9 participants’ survey that identified the topics of culture and innovation as the top most themes that participants suggested for the next edition of the Forum. The WUF10 Task Force will be working on an engagement plan to mobilize other agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations System. This will be based on their mandate and areas of expertise as they relate to the theme and sub-themes. Based on this engagement, the Forum will play a key role to advance United Nations System-wide collaboration on sustainable urban development in line with the United Nations Secretary-General’s reform.

The WUF10 logo was designed in close cooperation with the host country focal point with full visual identity and icons to guide the branding and promotion of the event. In December 2018, UN-Habitat undertook a mission to Abu Dhabi in relation to the exhibition and branding needs, including logo design, and to jointly craft a communication strategy with the host. In February 2019, UN-Habitat further undertook a joint mission with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security to inspect the WUF10 venue, the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, for security clearance as a requirement for any conference venue utilized by the United Nations for high-profile conferences. At the same time, the Research & Capacity Development Branch discussed the WUF10 substantive programme with the host. The exchanges that ensued during the mission were centred on the different types of sessions, events, and the identification and mobilization of speakers and moderators.

I look forward to actively engagement with the CPR as we continue to move forward in the exciting preparations ahead of the next World Urban Forum.

6. Thematic/country presentation (European Union institutions)

I am pleased that at this meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the thematic country presentation will focus on one of UN-Habitat’s key partners, the European Union institutions. The European Union is the largest donor to UN-Habitat’s work, with a total project value in the last decade of over EUR 400 million. The European Union finances normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat on global, regional and country levels – ranging from financing large country recovery programmes in conflict and post-conflict or post disaster zones, such as in Afghanistan, Somalia and Sri Lanka – to – climate change and resilience work in urban areas and providing support to the European Union programme on international urban cooperation.

Although the agenda item dedicated to this presentation will go into detail on our cooperation with the European Union, I would like to recognize a welcome shift in our relationship. From UN-Habitat being an institution that only implements European Union funded programmes, to one that is gradually being recognized as one of strategic knowledge cooperation – where we work closer together and jointly harvest and share knowledge with the European Union Institutions.

This development goes beyond UN-Habitat, as the whole United Nations System and the European Union, are aligning their priorities ever closer.

7. Key portfolio developments

Grants amounting US\$ 61 million have been opened between mid-November 2018 and mid-March 2019. The acquisitions primarily include projects that integrate normative and operational work. Meanwhile, several new projects were approved by the Programme Advisory Group, covering all regions and contributing to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals. A selection of these projects is listed below:

Africa

Southern African Development Community – SADC

A two-year project “Strengthening the capacities for Reducing Urban Vulnerability and Building the Resilience in Southern Africa” with a value of US\$ 500,000 and funded by the World Bank. The project’s objective is to facilitate capacity building for the Southern African Development Community and its Member States related to urban vulnerability and resilience; and support the Southern African Development Community in identifying policies and guidance on collaboration with cities and local governments for strengthening urban resilience in Southern Africa.

Kenya

A one-year project on County Spatial Planning in Kenya with a total value of KSH 744,000 for Garissa, Marsabit and Isiolo counties, with support from the Northern Frontier Counties Development Council. The project’s objective is to provide an overall spatial development framework that identifies zones for various land uses and provides basis for infrastructure development and services delivery in the county; guide human settlement planning and development and improve transport, communication and other networks and linkages; and enhance environmental protection and conservation and guide the use and management of natural resources.

South Sudan

A two-year project entitled “Enhancing Women Access to Land in South Sudan” with a value of US\$ 1 million from the Secretary-General’s Peacebuilding Fund. The project’s objective is to enhance women’s access to land to consolidate peace in South Sudan through capacity building of traditional authorities’ leaders and communities (female and male) to feel more confident and committed to gender responsive land conflict/dispute resolution. It also aims to improve land management and administrative system at state and county level that facilitate/enhance access to land tenure security of most vulnerable women as internally displaced persons and returnees.

Arab states Region

Lebanon

A two-year project funded by the Government of Italy, through the Italian Cooperation Office, entitled “Support to Local Communities in Lebanon: Improving local socio-economic development planning through strengthened local planning capacities at the unions/clusters of municipalities level” with a value of EUR 1,200,000. The initiative aims at improving the socio-economic conditions of the local population through strengthened planning capacities at the level of unions and cluster of municipalities, using participatory approaches.

Latin America and Caribbean Region

Brazil

A two-year project entitled “Tackling Precarious Neighbourhoods and Vulnerable Urban Dwellers in Rio de Janeiro: the Social Territories Project in Large Favelas Complexes” with a value of US\$ 855,214, supported by the Municipality of Rio de Janeiro (Instituto Pereira Passos), Brazil. The project’s objective is to tackle urban poverty in large favelas complexes in the city of Rio de Janeiro, by identifying and providing adequate support to the most vulnerable slum dwellers.

Asia and the Pacific Region

Myanmar

A 18-month project entitled: “Rakhine Settlements Support Programme Supporting settlements in Rakhine: Reconstruction of Houses and Small-Scale Community Infrastructures for Returnees and Displaced People, Rakhine, Myanmar” with a total value of US\$ 4,821,428, supported by the Japanese Government. The project’s objective is to prepare for a community-driven, owner-led rebuilding of settlements by returning refugees in Northern Rakhine or by internally displaced persons now restricted to living in camps.

Malaysia

A three-year project entitled “Supporting Penang State Government in Localizing the SDGs and The New Urban Agenda” with a total value of US\$ 250,000, supported by the Chief Minister Incorporated, Penang State Government. The objective of the project is to enhance the capacity of Penang State Government in monitoring and assessing the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

Lao People’s Democratic Republic

A one-year project (2019-2020) entitled “Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Shelter in Lao PDR” with a total value of US\$ 2,200,000, supported by the Government of Japan. The project’s objective is to provide reconstruction and rehabilitation support and access to resilient housing and to basic services and amenities in four provinces affected by successive flooding events in 2018.

Russia and Commonwealth of Independent States’ countries

A five-year project; “Initiative Budgeting Programme: Municipal Finance, and Urban Planning in the Russian Federation, and other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)” with a total value of US\$ 5 million with support from the Ministry of Finance,

Russian Federation. The project's objective is to support national and local governments in Russia and other selected countries in the CIS region to expand the application of participatory budgeting and urban planning approaches and to ensure local communities benefit from enhanced municipal finance processes.

8. Recent missions by the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director

Missions by the Executive Director:

Rwanda: From 5 to 8 February 2018, I travelled to Kigali to formally open and participate in the Third National Urban Forum. I met with officials of the Rwandan Government, including the President, H.E. Mr. Paul Kagame, and the respective ministers of Infrastructure, Youth, ITC and Innovation as well as the Mayor of Kigali and the Director-General of the Rwandan Housing Authority. The meetings focused on: UN-Habitat repositioning within the Secretary-General's reform; our new Strategic Plan 2020-2025, with a view to strengthen and enhance our existing good relationship with the Government; reassure officials of steps taken to strengthen UN-Habitat; explore options for future joint fundraising; identify future opportunities for collaboration, and renew our Memorandum of Understanding with the Government, based on the new UN-Habitat Country Programme Document.

I also engaged with the UN Resident Coordinator and Country Team, to exchange information on activities in Rwanda, explore synergies and points of collaboration under the One UN umbrella and the 2nd United Nations Development Assistance Programme; provide an update on UN-Habitat's current work and new Strategic Plan 2020-2025, and receive their feedback.

Malaysia: From 18 to 22 February 2019, I travelled to Malaysia, where I participated in the Malaysian Urban Forum. On the margins of the Forum, I met with Malaysian officials to discuss ways to further enhance the partnership between UN-Habitat and the Government of Malaysia, including through: the establishment of a centre of excellence; the development of a city prosperity index to support the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda; and the preparation of a strategic collaboration framework in the form a country programme document. I also seized the opportunity of my visit to meet with the United Nations Resident Coordinator to discuss the participation of UN-Habitat in the development of Malaysia's United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

On 22 February 2019, I travelled to Penang where, jointly with the Chief Minister of the State of Penang I signed a contribution agreement in the context of the project titled "Supporting Penang state government in localizing the SDGs and New Urban Agenda". This project is meant to implement our Memorandum of Understanding signed in October 2018 with the State of Penang.

Spain: From 25 to 27 February 2019, I travelled to Madrid and Seville, Spain. In Madrid, I met with the Mayor of Madrid. I also met with the State Secretary for Cooperation and Latin America and the Director of the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development. In addition, I presided over the eleventh Global Water Operators Partnership Alliance (GWOPA)

international steering committee. It concluded that UN-Habitat would open a new call for interested countries to apply to host the GWOPA secretariat. I also attended an event on climate change organized by the City Council of Madrid and the Government of Spain titled “2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement: a fair and sustainable globalization”. This event was presided by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General.

In Seville, I participated as a panellist in an event on “Accelerating and supporting the implementation of the SDGs at the local level”. I also met with the Mayor of Seville and the Secretary-General of United Cities and Local Governments.

Belgium: On 7 March 2019, I participated in a European Commission High-Level event on the issue of Gender Equality in Cities which I initiated together and co-chaired with Ms. Corina Crețu, Member of the European Commission responsible for Regional and Urban Policy. I had the opportunity to share opening remarks with the audience – consisting of mayors of European cities. I specifically elaborated on UN-Habitat’s mandate, including our work on developing cities that promote inclusion and equality for all, including gender. I highlighted UN-Habitat’s work that aims to combat challenges surrounding gender inequality in cities, focusing on planning, representation, housing and migration. At this event, along with EU publications and tools, a Gender Equality Enhancer, developed by UN-Habitat and funded by the European Union, was been presented.

Missions by the Deputy Executive Director

Oslo: From 10 to 13 December 2018, the Deputy Executive Director attended the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize Forum on Climate Change. A public session with Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Al Gore was followed by a closed session to explore climate change and the related challenges of peace and security, migration, energy and climate finance, as well as the role of cities in achieving the Paris targets. A number of follow-up conferences will be organised by the Nobel Peace Institute and a session on cities and their role in climate mitigation and adaptation will be co-hosted by UN-Habitat in Nairobi in late June 2019. He also held several bilateral meetings, including with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Non-Governmental Organization Habitat Norway.

Brussels: From 4 to 5 February 2019, the Deputy Executive Director attended the Forum on Cities and Regions for Development Cooperation co-hosted by the European Committee of the Regions and the European Commission’s Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO). He delivered remarks in the session on “Global International Policy Frameworks for urban/local sustainable development”, highlighting the important role of cities and regions as centres for innovation and key players in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He further had bilateral meetings with DG DEVCO, the European External Action Service (EEAS) and signed a grant agreement with the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy to advance joint work on a people-based global definition of the degree of urbanisation in the context of measuring progress towards Sustainable Development Goals. He also met with the Coordinator of the UN Brussels team.

Stockholm: From 6 to 8 February 2019, the Deputy Executive Director travelled to Stockholm to chair the Global Land Tool Network Steering Committee induction seminar. He engaged with network and development partners and held bilateral meetings with the Swedish Development Agency and other government officials.

Dubai: From 10 to 11 February 2019, the Deputy Executive Director attended the World Government Summit. He held a bilateral meeting and a press conference with the Director General of the Dubai Municipality to announce the 12th cycle of Dubai International Awards for Best Practice. He further discussed collaboration on upcoming events in the United Arab Emirates, such as the tenth session of the World Urban Forum and Expo 2020.