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Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

First session

New York, 17 and 18 September 2014

Agenda item 10

Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee on the work of its first session

Report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) on the work of its first session

Rapporteur: Mr. Mamadou Mbodj (Senegal)

I. Introduction

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/216 of 21 December 2012, the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) held its first session on 17 and 18 September 2014 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Committee held four plenary meetings and two working group meetings.

II. Organization of work

A. Opening of the session

2. The first session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) was opened on Wednesday, 17 September 2014, by the Secretary-General of the Conference, Mr. Joan Clos, as temporary Chair. The Preparatory Committee proceeded to elect two Co-Chairs. Opening statements were made by the Co-Chairs of the Committee and the Secretary-General of the Conference. A statement was also made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

B. Election of officers

3. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 17 September 2014, the Preparatory Committee elected its officers as follows:

Co-Chairs:

Diego Aulestia (Ecuador)
Maryse Gautier (France)

Bureau Members:

Eric Miangar (Chad)
Barbara Richards (Chile)
Daniela Grabmüllerová (Czech Republic)
Tania Roediger-Vorwerk (Germany)
Csaba Kőrösi (Hungary)
Purnomo A. Chandra (Indonesia)
Mamadou Mbodj (Senegal)
Majid Hasan Al-Suwaidi (United Arab Emirates)

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C. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

4. Also at its 1st plenary meeting, the Preparatory Committee adopted the agenda for its first session as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work.
4. Preparations for the Conference: progress report by the Secretary-General of the Conference.
5. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Provisional rules of procedure;
 - (b) Arrangements for accreditation and participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the preparatory process and in the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).
6. Progress to date in the implementation of the outcomes of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and identification of new and emerging challenges on sustainable urban development.
7. Financing of the preparatory process and the Conference.
8. Arrangements for future sessions of the Preparatory Committee.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee on the work of its first session.
11. Conclusion of the session.

5. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee decided to establish a working group on operational and administrative matters chaired by Mr. Majid Hasan Al-Suwaidi (United Arab Emirates), which would hold two meetings over the course of the two days of the first session, and also decided that the working group would take up the following items: agenda item 7 (Financing of the preparatory process and the Conference); agenda item 8 (Arrangements for future sessions of the Preparatory Committee); agenda item 5 (a) (Provisional rules of procedure); agenda item 5 (b) (Arrangements for accreditation and participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the preparatory process and in the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)). It also decided that the working group would report on the outcome of its discussions at the closing plenary meeting of the first session.

D. Organizational matters

6. Also at the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee agreed that, in keeping with past practice for preparatory committees of conferences in the economic and social fields, the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the supplementary arrangements established for the Commission on Sustainable Development by the Council in its decisions 1993/215 of 12 February 1993 and 1995/201 of 8 February 1995, should apply to the meetings of the Preparatory Committee, as applicable.

E. Preparation for the Conference

7. Also at the 1st plenary meeting, the Secretary-General of the Conference reported on the activities undertaken by the secretariat in preparation for the Conference and presented proposals for the improved participation of local authorities and other stakeholders in the preparatory process and in the Conference itself. He also reported on an outline of work to be carried out in the period between September 2014 and the holding of the Conference in 2016.

F. Progress to date in the implementation of the outcomes of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and identification of new and emerging challenges on sustainable urban development

8. At its 1st to 4th plenary meetings, the Preparatory Committee held a general exchange of views, during which statements were made by the representatives of the following countries: Angola,¹ Argentina, Benin,² Bolivia (Plurinational State of),³ Brazil, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt,¹ Ethiopia,¹ Finland, France, Germany, Grenada, Indonesia,¹ Japan, Kenya,¹ Lesotho, Madagascar, Mexico, Nigeria,¹ Russian Federation, Senegal,¹ Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Uganda,¹ United Arab Emirates, United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). The representative of the European Union also made a statement.

9. At the 2nd and 3rd plenary meetings, statements were made by the following intergovernmental and United Nations system organizations: International Labour Organization; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Fund for Agricultural Development; Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; and International Organization for Migration.

10. At its 2nd to 4th plenary meetings, statements were made by the following civil society organizations/coalitions: United Cities and Local Governments, the Huairou Commission; Habitat for Humanity International, Habitat International Coalition, Metropolis: World Association of the Major Metropolises; Institute for Transportation and Development Policy; the children and youth major group, International Society of City and Regional Planners, and Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood (GROOTS International).

G. Other matters

11. The Preparatory Committee took up other matters.

H. Report of the Working Group on Operational and Administrative Matters

12. At the 4th plenary meeting, the Chair of the Working Group reported on the outcome of its discussions. The Working Group on Operational and Administrative Matters held two meetings over the course of the first session.

I. Decisions adopted by the Preparatory Committee on the outcome of the considerations of the Working Group on Operational and Administrative Matters

13. The Preparatory Committee took note of the proposals contained in the note by the Secretary-General of the Conference on the financing of the preparatory process and the Conference (A/CONF.226/PC.1/INF/3). The Committee also took note of a note by the secretariat on arrangements for future sessions of the Preparatory Committee as contained in a conference room

¹ Statement delivered at the ministerial level.

² On behalf of the least developed countries.

³ On behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

paper, and recommended that the second session of the Preparatory Committee be held from 14 to 16 April 2015.

14. The Preparatory Committee recommended that the following documents be considered at its second session: the draft provisional rules of procedure of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) (A/CONF.226/PC.1/2/Rev.1, annex); the note by the secretariat on arrangements for accreditation and participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the preparatory process and in Habitat III (A/CONF.226/PC.1/3); and the note by the secretariat on the consolidated list of non-governmental organizations and major groups recommended for special accreditation to Habitat III (A/CONF.226/PC.1/INF/4).

15. The Preparatory Committee took note of the oral report of the Working Group.

J. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee on the work of its first session

16. The Preparatory Committee took note of the draft report on the work of its first session and authorized the Rapporteur to finalize the report.

K. Conclusion of the session

17. The Preparatory Committee concluded its first session with closing statements by the Co-Chairs of the Committee and the Secretary-General of the Conference.

Annex

Documents issued for the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

A/CONF.226/PC.1/1 and Rev. 1. Provisional agenda and annotations

A/CONF.226/PC.1/2 and Rev. 1. Note by the secretariat on the draft provisional rules of procedure of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

AA/CONF.226/PC.1/3. Note by the secretariat on arrangements for accreditation and participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the preparatory process and in the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

A/CONF.226/PC.1/4. Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on preparations for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

A/CONF.226/PC.1/5. Note by the secretariat on progress to date in the implementation of the outcomes of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and identification of new and emerging challenges on sustainable urban development

A/CONF.226/PC.1/6. Report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) on the work of its first session

A/CONF.226/PC.1/INF/1. List of participants

A/CONF.226/PC.1/INF/2. Note by the secretariat on the draft provisional rules of procedure of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

A/CONF.226/PC.1/INF/3. Note by the secretariat on the financing of the preparatory process and the Conference

A/CONF.226/PC.1/INF/4. Note by the secretariat on the consolidated list of non-governmental organizations and major groups recommended for special accreditation to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)
