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Item 9 of the provisional agenda*

**Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements
Programme, including coordination matters**

**Work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives during
the intersessional period**

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat hereby transmits to the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its first session the report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on its work for the period 2017–2019.

* HSP/HA/1/1.

Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on its work during the intersessional period

Summary

At its seventy-second regular meeting, to be held on 10 April 2019, the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is expected to adopt its report for the period 2017–2019 for consideration by the Habitat Assembly at its first session.

I. Introduction

1. The Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat, the intersessional subsidiary body of the Governing Council, held the following regular meetings during the period between the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council held from 8 to 12 May 2017, and the first session of the Habitat Assembly, to be held from 27 to 31 May 2019:
2. Meetings held during 2017:
 - 65th regular meeting: 29 June 2017
 - 66th regular meeting: 27 September 2017
 - 67th regular meeting: 14 December 2017
3. Meetings held during 2018:
 - 68th regular meeting: 21 March 2018
 - 69st regular meeting: 21 June 2018
 - 70th regular meeting: 20 September 2018
 - 71st regular meeting: 06 December 2018
4. Meetings to be held during 2019:
 - 72nd regular meeting: 10 April 2019

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

5. The members of the Bureau during the period 2017–2019 were as follows:
 - Mr. Fernando Coimbra (Brazil): Chair
 - Ms. Agrina Mussa (Malawi): Vice-Chair
 - Mr. Dragan Zupanjevac (Serbia): Vice-Chair
 - Mr. Kwon Young Dae (Korea): Vice-Chair (Replaced in 2019 by Mr. Choi Yeoghan)
 - Ms Lori Dando (United States of America): Rapporteur
6. The members of the Bureau during the period 2016–2017 were as follows:
 - Mr. James Kimonyo (Rwanda): Chair
 - Ms. Elizabeth Taylor (Colombia): Vice-Chair
 - Ms. Lori Dando (United States): Vice-Chair
 - Mr. Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk (Ukraine): Vice-Chair
 - Mr. Li Zhe (China): Rapporteur

III. Summary of the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in 2017

A. 65th regular meeting, 29 June 2017

7. At the 65th meeting, the Executive Director expressed gratitude to the member States and all the delegations that had taken part in the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council for making it a success. It had been the first session to be held following the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito in October 2016, and the adoption of

the New Urban Agenda. The Governing Council session had reaffirmed the commitment of member States and stakeholders to the dialogue on urbanization worldwide and their support for the New Urban Agenda and its implementation. The Committee was informed that UN-Habitat revenue for the quarter ending 31 March 2017 had totalled \$29.3 million, of which \$4.9 million related to core funds, while \$24.4 million was earmarked revenue. Total expenditure had amounted to \$35.1 million, comprising \$7.9 million for core expenses and \$27.2 million for earmarked expenses. The Committee took note of the dwindling resources, particularly in terms of the Foundation general purpose fund.

8. The Committee was briefed on the work of UN-Habitat on public spaces in the Asia-Pacific region, which had begun in 2017, in partnership with, among others, planning institutes, women's groups, United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific, and the CITYNET regional network of organizations for sustainable urban development. UN-Habitat was contributing globally to the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals' indicator setting out the average area of cities that should be open space for public use by all, and was supporting Governments and statistical bureaux in gathering statistical information.

9. Ms. Julia Pataki, Permanent Representative of Romania and Chair of the working group on programme and budget, provided an update on the activities of the working group, including on the adoption by the Governing Council of resolution 26/1, by which it had extended the mandate of the working group. The Committee endorsed the list of regional representatives to the working group of 15 member States for the period 2017–2019.

10. The Committee took note of the report of the work of the subcommittees.

B. 66th regular meeting, 27 September 2017

11. At the 66th meeting, the Executive Director provided an update on the high-level meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the role of UN-Habitat in that regard held in New York, on 5 and 6 September 2017, which he described as a milestone event. At the meeting, member States and others had recognized the strategic role of urbanization in sustainable development and expressed widespread support for strengthening UN-Habitat, which the Deputy Secretary-General had said was a central first step in the process of reforming the United Nations system and the United Nations Development Group. Member States had also discussed the recommendations of the high-level independent panel established by the Secretary-General to assess and enhance effectiveness of UN-Habitat after the adoption of the New Urban Agenda. Several representatives said that the results and conclusions of the high-level meeting were a good start for the reform of UN-Habitat and would help member States to improve the effectiveness of the Programme.

12. Noting that his term would end on 31 December 2017, the Executive Director said that he was committed to ensuring the smoothest and most efficient, transparent and participatory transition possible in order to facilitate the strengthening of UN-Habitat and ensure the success of the ninth session of the World Urban Forum, to be held in February 2018

13. The secretariat reported that revenue for the quarter ending 30 June 2017 had totalled \$72.5 million, of which \$11.6 million were related to core funds and \$60.9 million related to earmarked funds. The total expenditures for the period amounted to \$75.6 million, comprising \$14.8 million for core expenses and \$60.8 million for earmarked expenses. The reserves of the Foundation general purpose fund had been depleted further.

14. The representative of the secretariat briefed the Committee on UN-Habitat work on national urban policies, with a particular focus on Latin America and the Caribbean. In response to the growing recognition of national urban policies as a tool for advancing wider social, economic and environmental goals, the portfolio of UN-Habitat on the issue had grown, with around 30 countries receiving support, 7 of which were in the Latin American and Caribbean region. UN-Habitat was working with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to develop a regional action plan that would include national urban policies as a key feature, and with the Ministers and Highest Authorities of Housing and Urban Development in the region, known as MINURVI, to promote national urban policies in the region.

15. In collaboration with partners, UN-Habitat had produced a report entitled "The global state of national urban policy", which outlined the state of national urban policy globally, and had also created a "Global database on national urban policies."

16. The Committee took note of the report of the work of the subcommittees.

17. The Committee endorsed the nominations presented by the group of African States to the working group on programme and budget.

C. 67th regular meeting, 14 December 2017

18. At the 67th meeting, the Executive Director reported that member States had concluded their negotiations on a draft resolution on the strengthening of UN-Habitat, which would be extremely important for the Programme's future, to be considered by the General Assembly at the end of 2017. The Executive Director said the draft resolution had tasked the Chair of the Committee with establishing an open-ended Working Group with the responsibility of discussing by 30 June 2018 ways in which UN-Habitat might be strengthened, and he expressed the hope that such discussions would lead to consensus.

19. The Executive Director provided closing remarks to the Committee, outlining his views on the situation of UN-Habitat, which he said also constituted his handover notes to the Secretary-General of the United Nations following his seven-year tenure as Executive Director. Key messages included that, thanks to the work of UN-Habitat, urbanization had gained a prominent position in the international arena, not only in relation to sustainability and development, but also in relation to peace and security, migration, climate change, resilience and other major challenges that faced all countries; that UN-Habitat had managed to increase its portfolio and its country presence worldwide while reducing its administrative and general costs, thereby adapting to the observed tendency of member States to move away from non-earmarked contributions toward earmarked contributions and bilateral cooperation; and that UN-Habitat had undertaken a process of reform that included two parts - professional reform and administrative reform - and was continuing. The professional reform had focused on specializing in and driving the Programme's substantive activities towards the fundamentals of urbanization, namely, urban planning, urban legislation and urban finance, while the administrative reform had sought to increase the Programme's productivity in order to diminish administrative costs and allow the allocation of more resources to substantive programmes and deliverables for member States, cities and other stakeholders. The administrative reform had achieved a 40 per cent reduction of core budget costs, including by reducing the number of staff in Nairobi from 330 to 210, while expanding the portfolio and increasing the overall productivity of UN-Habitat.

20. On the financial situation of UN-Habitat, the Executive Director said that the annual budget of UN-Habitat was balanced and amounted to approximately \$210 million, of which \$30 million were core budget funds. UN-Habitat continued to experience difficulties with regard to the core budget, which had continued to decline since 2010. The core budget deficit had grown from \$2 million in 2010 to \$5 million in 2017. UN-Habitat had financed the core budget deficit through its three reserves, which according to the last audited figures represented over \$22.8 million, meaning that the Programme would be able to continue to rely on such reserves for some time to finance small core budget deficits. The Executive Director highlighted a number of his recommendations for the future of UN-Habitat. He expressed his deep appreciation to his management team and the entire staff of UN-Habitat, both at headquarters and in the field, and he urged member States to consider carefully over the following months ways in which the Programme could be strengthened, taking into account the considerable reform efforts already undertaken and how much more could be achieved with additional support.

21. The Deputy Executive Director briefed the Committee on the contribution by UN-Habitat to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, focusing on UN-Habitat work with partners to support member States at the country, regional and global levels in their efforts to build resilience; prevent, minimize the effects of and respond to humanitarian crises; and safely overcome such crises through sustainable development approaches. In that regard UN-Habitat work in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic were highlighted.

22. The representative of the secretariat briefed the Committee on the status of preparations for the ninth session of the World Urban Forum, to be held in Malaysia in February 2018, stressing its importance given that it would be the first such session after the adoption of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The preparations were being undertaken in collaboration with the Government of Malaysia, which had contributed \$7 million and had provided urbanization expertise. The representative of Malaysia stressed that preparations were progressing well, and his Government was committed to ensuring the success of the session.

23. The Committee took note of the report on the work of the working group on programme and budget, whose content, including recommendations, was outlined by the chair of the working group.

24. The Committee discussed the actions required by Governing Council resolutions which included actions related to the status of implementation of the New Urban Agenda; the review and approval of the revised strategic plan for 2014–2019 (Governing Council resolution 26/3); and the review of the draft stakeholder engagement policy (Governing Council resolution 26/7). The

Committee decided to adopt the revised draft strategic plan for 2014–2019, and to request the secretariat to submit the draft stakeholder engagement policy to the Committee for its consideration.

25. The Committee endorsed the establishment by the Chair of the proposed open-ended working group established pursuant to paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 72/226 to examine options for strengthening member States' oversight of UN-Habitat and consider the appropriateness of financial rules and regulations and of personnel, procurement and budgetary matters and requested that the open-ended working group begin its work promptly in January 2018.

26. At that meeting, the Committee elected the following new members of its Bureau for the biennium 2018–2019, after nominations by the regional groups following the customary rotation of nominations:

Chair:	Mr. Fernando Estellita Lins de Salvo Coimbra (Brazil)
Vice-chairs:	Ms. Agrina Mussa (Malawi)
	Mr. Dragan Županjevac (Serbia)
Rapporteur:	Ms. Lori Dando (United States)

27. The Committee took note of the report on the work of the working group on programme and budget.

IV. Summary of the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in 2018

A. 68th regular meeting, 21 March 2018

28. At its 68th meeting, following an election to fill a vacant position on the Bureau, Mr. Kwon Young-Dae, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea, was elected as vice-chair of the Bureau for the biennium 2018–2019.

29. Committee members welcomed the new Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Ms. Maimunah Mohammed Sharif, who provided an overview of her first two months in office and her plans for the Programme. She reported on her extensive meetings and discussions with UN-Habitat staff, member States, United Nations colleagues and other partners, including in the margins of the ninth session of the World Urban Forum, held in Kuala Lumpur in February 2018, which, she said, had helped her to understand the challenges facing the Programme and the opportunities available to it. She said that she had laid out the principles under which she would work, including mutual trust, good governance, competency, accountability, transparency, efficiency, inclusivity, teamwork and collaboration. She said that she planned to share with member States a document setting out a common vision and mission for UN-Habitat produced on the basis of consultations. The document would need to reflect a balance between UN-Habitat operational and normative and could portray the view that UN-Habitat had great potential as a centre of knowledge, expertise and excellence in working with member States, cities and partners both within and outside the United Nations system to build quality human settlements in which people could live, work and play. She noted that it was necessary for member States to support the Programme both financially and politically in order to realize such potential and enable UN-Habitat to deliver effectively on its mandate and that, in addition, UN-Habitat needed to strategically revise its internal management systems, including its standard operating procedures in order to win back the confidence of staff, member States and donors.

30. The Chair reported on progress in the work of the open-ended working group established pursuant to paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 72/266. He said that a convergence paper had been presented to the group and additional meetings of the group would be held to work towards developing a single set of recommendations for consideration by the Committee at its next regular meeting.

31. On the financial status of UN-Habitat, the Executive Director highlighted the financial challenges facing UN-Habitat, which she believed were serious, highlighting the fact that contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation general purpose fund used by UN-Habitat to receive non-earmarked contributions to finance its core work, had been declining for the last 10 years and that a 2017 deficit of some \$5 million in the fund had forced UN-Habitat to use overhead account resources to finance its headquarters and regional offices, its core normative work and to end the year 2017 with the mandated minimum reserve in the fund.

32. The Executive Director presented the highlights of the ninth session of the World Urban Forum, stressing that, with over 23,000 participants, it had been the best-attended session of the Forum to date and had confirmed its status as the world's premier conference on cities and sustainable urban

development. The theme of the ninth session, “Cities 2030, cities for all: implementing the New Urban Agenda”, had prompted fruitful debate. The main outcome was the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Cities 2030, which aimed to localize and scale up the implementation of the New Urban Agenda as a means to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

33. The secretariat also presented to the Committee the results of UN-Habitat work in selected countries in Africa, namely Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Rwanda. The Committee took note of the report on the work of the subcommittees.

B. 69th regular meeting, 21 June 2018

34. At its 69th meeting, the Executive Director reported to the Committee on her continued extensive consultations with UN-Habitat staff, United Nations colleagues, representatives of member States and other partners in Nairobi and beyond in order to build partnerships, reassert the role of UN-Habitat in dealing with urbanization and human settlements, and seek input on how the Programme could be reformed to better support member States in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals. From the feedback received from external and internal stakeholders, UN-Habitat had identified seven reform priorities: (a) defining a clear, shared vision for UN-Habitat to promote a values-driven working culture; (b) delivering impacts at scale that improved people’s lives; (c) securing predictable financial resources by regaining the trust of member States; (d) collaborating effectively with United Nations and other partners; (e) improving systems and processes to achieve efficiency, transparency and accountability; (f) creating a safe and productive workplace where staff thrived; and (g) ensuring that leadership empowered staff to collectively drive change and achieve excellence. The priorities were summarized in a document entitled “Guiding framework on UN-Habitat’s change process: changing to increase impact”, and the secretariat had developed options for a new vision and mission for UN-Habitat and specific actions to be implemented by specific dates whose implementation by the responsible staff members was being closely monitored.

35. The Executive Director said that urbanization was, and should be seen as, a tool to address challenges such as migration, disaster risk reduction, climate change, gender equality, human rights, development and humanitarian crises. She stated that she had given a presentation on a paper on the relevance of UN-Habitat to tackling urban and human settlements issues to the UN Senior Management Group chaired by the Secretary-General, which the Group had endorsed. She said that the collective challenge for the secretariat and member States was to demonstrate the relevance of the normative and operational work of UN-Habitat in addressing such challenges in the field.

36. The Executive Director said it was critical that member States provide financial stability to the Programme by tackling its current deficit of \$5 million. Stressing that during her recent missions, finance ministers in Europe had emphasized the importance of finalizing the governance reform of UN-Habitat to ensure proper member State oversight of and attract funding for the Programme. She emphasized her commitment to the reform of UN-Habitat and urged the Committee to play its part in enabling the reform process to be finalized as soon as possible.

37. The Chair drew attention to a document entitled “Report on work of the Open-Ended Working Group” (HSP/CPR/69/5), containing the final findings and recommendations of the open-ended working group established pursuant to paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 72/266. He said the report reflected a careful and balanced compromise agreed upon by the open-ended working group at its eighth meeting, held on 18 June 2018, following an extensive process that had included eight meetings held between February and June 2018, and the establishment of a group of friends of the Chair that had met three times between 6 and 18 June 2018. Summarizing the findings and recommendations set out in the report, he said that he intended to forward it to the General Assembly for consideration at its seventy-third session.

38. An independent evaluator presented to the Committee the impacts of the UN-Habitat country programmes in Afghanistan and Sri Lanka.

39. The representative of the secretariat also updated the Committee on the quadrennial report on the status of implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The final version of the report of the Secretary-General on progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda was to be presented by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council in July 2018.

40. The Committee took note of the report of the work of the subcommittees.

C. 70th regular meeting, 20 September 2018

41. At its 70th meeting, the Executive Director provided an update on the internal reform of UN-Habitat, the strategic planning process and the reform of the United Nations development system. On internal reforms, achievements included the identification of agents for change from within UN-Habitat, the holding of regular town hall meetings with staff and the launch of a monthly Executive Director video series to keep staff informed of the reform measures taken by management. In addition, a resource mobilization strategy had been finalized; an audit to assess and make recommendations for improving the financial and management situation of UN-Habitat launched; and internal austerity measures related to human resources, travel and office space had also been launched. As part of its resource mobilization efforts, the secretariat planned to hold strategic funding dialogues in Asia, the Middle East and Africa with the aim of attracting increased member State voluntary contributions to UN-Habitat. The Executive Director assured the Committee that the strategic plan for the period 2020–2025 would be developed in close consultation with member States and would seek to align the work of UN-Habitat with common goals and strategies in support of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 11 (make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable) and the New Urban Agenda.

42. With regard to the reform of the United Nations development system, the secretariat had developed a road map with specific actions to be undertaken by UN-Habitat in the reform areas, namely, a new generation of United Nations country teams; the reinvigoration of the role of the resident coordinator system; a revamping of the regional approach; strategic direction, oversight and accountability for system-wide results; and funding. The implementation of the road map would enable UN-Habitat to engage with other entities of the United Nations system, and it was closely linked with the Programme's ongoing work in coordinating the development of a United Nations system-wide strategy for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/226.

43. The Executive Director invited members to participate in the 2018 "Urban October" celebrations through a series of activities being organized by the secretariat that would include the celebrations of World Habitat Day on the theme of Municipal Solid Waste Management on 1 October 2018 at the United Nations Office at Nairobi and of World Cities Day on 31 October in Liverpool, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

44. The secretariat briefed the Committee on the activities of UN-Habitat in Kenya since 2010, showing that UN-Habitat had implemented 30 projects in Kenya, which together represented an investment of \$14.5 million.

45. The Committee also discussed the preparations for the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council, including the proposed theme and a possible change of date of the session. The Committee requested the subcommittee to discuss the selection of the special theme and the dates of the session. The Committee requested the secretariat to make the necessary arrangements to facilitate subcommittee discussions on the draft strategic plan for the period 2020–2025, the draft stakeholder engagement policy and the United Nations system-wide guidelines on safer cities for further consideration by the Committee at its 71st meeting.

D. 71st regular meeting, 6 December 2018

46. At its 71st meeting, the Committee approved the proposed calendar of regular meetings for 2019 and recommended a possible change of date of its 72nd meeting, to be held in March 2019.

47. The Executive Director provided updates on (a) the vision, mission and priorities of UN-Habitat; (b) the Programme's financial status; (c) the status of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda; (d) the preparations for the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council, including its theme; (e) the draft strategic plan for the period 2020–2025; (f) the draft work programme and budget for 2020; and (g) recent missions undertaken by her and her deputy. She reported that as part of "Urban October", a month of activities, events and discussions on urban sustainability, UN-Habitat had celebrated World Habitat Day and World Cities Day, which together had featured over 350 events in more than 107 cities in over 60 countries. World Habitat Day with its global observance held in Nairobi and more than 700 people in attendance had focused on the issue of municipal solid waste management, while World Cities Day, with its global observance held in Liverpool and over 200 people in attendance, had focused the discussion of the day on the sub-theme of building sustainable and resilient cities. Urban October activities had raised global public awareness about the mandate and key role of UN-Habitat in building a sustainable world, including through 168 editorials and more than 48.8 million views of articles mentioning UN-Habitat. During the Urban

October celebrations, UN-Habitat had also significantly raised global public awareness around key issues in the New Urban Agenda

48. The Executive Director mentioned the endorsement by the Second Committee of the General Assembly of a draft resolution that embraced the recommendations of the open-ended working group established pursuant to paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 72/226 on the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations conferences on human settlements and on housing and sustainable urban development and the strengthening of UN-Habitat, as key milestone towards strengthening UN-Habitat. If adopted, the resolution would establish a new governance structure for UN-Habitat that would potentially increase its visibility and its ability to fulfil its vision of providing a better quality of life for all the citizens of an urbanizing world.

49. With regard to the financial status of UN-Habitat, non-earmarked contributions to UN-Habitat in 2018 had increased by about 28 per cent from about \$2.7 million at the end of 2017, but as at 6 December 2018, only about \$3.5 million core contributions had been received for 2018, out of the \$13 million approved in 2017, and a core fund deficit of \$3.9 million was expected by the end of 2018.

50. On the status of implementation of the New Urban Agenda, in its capacity as United Nations focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements, UN-Habitat was working with 12 United Nations entities to develop a United Nations system-wide strategy for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimensions of the 2030 Agenda.

51. The outcomes of recent missions by the Executive Director had included the mobilization of a contribution of \$1.2 million from the Government of Malaysia, an initial investment of \$250,000 from the municipality of Penang, Malaysia, and the signing of a memorandum of understanding with Mexico's Institute of the National Housing Fund for Workers to continue collaborating on the implementation of the UN-Habitat city prosperity index until 2030.

52. With regard to preparations for the next session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, the Committee requested the subcommittee on policy and programme to further discuss the draft annual work programme and budget for 2020; the draft stakeholder engagement policy; the draft United Nations system-wide guidelines on safer cities; and any draft resolutions to be considered by the governing body. The Committee endorsed the theme and sub-theme of the upcoming session of the governing body of UN-Habitat as "Innovation for better quality of life in cities and communities" and "Accelerated implementation of the New Urban Agenda towards localized achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals", respectively. The Committee also endorsed the draft strategic plan for the period 2020–2025 for consideration and possible approval by the governing body at its forthcoming session.

53. The Committee took note of the report on the work of its subcommittees as well as the report of the working group on programme and budget.

V. Subcommittees of the Committee of Permanent Representatives 2017–2019

54. The following subcommittees were established by the Bureau of the Committee on 21 January 2014, following the approval of the proposed new working methods at the 51st meeting of the Committee, held on 4 December 2013:

A. Subcommittee I on finance and administration

55. The subcommittee was tasked with:

- (a) Considering the budgetary, financial and administrative issues of UN-Habitat;
- (b) Engaging with member States in meeting the challenge of building a financially secure and operationally effective Programme;
- (c) Dealing with any other matters referred to it by the Committee, including the provision of guidance and support to the secretariat in relation to resource mobilization.

B. Subcommittee II on policy and programme

56. The subcommittee was tasked with:

- (a) Reviewing progress in the implementation of the strategic plan for 2014–2019 and reviewing the plan;
- (b) Reviewing the strategic framework for 2018–2019;

- (c) Reviewing the programme of work, including the status of implementation of resolutions of the Governing Council and discussions on the seven subprogrammes of UN-Habitat;
- (d) Preparing for sessions of the Governing Council, meetings of regional ministerial conferences, and sessions of the World Urban Forum;
- (e) Considering sustainable development issues, including the post-2015 development agenda – the 2030 Agenda – the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) New Urban Agenda.

VII. Working group on programme and budget

57. On 12 June 2015, the Committee held its 57th regular meeting, at which it formally established the working group on programme and budget in accordance with Governing Council resolution 25/7 on UN-Habitat governance reform. The Committee also endorsed the list of regional representatives to the working group, consisting of 15 member States, with 3 member States representing each of the 5 regional groupings as follows:

African States: Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa

Asia-Pacific States: China, Iraq, Japan

Eastern European States: Hungary, Poland, Romania

Latin American and Caribbean States: Argentina, Brazil, Mexico

Western European and other States: Germany, Norway, United States

58. In line with resolution 26/1, in which the Governing Council extended the mandate of the working group on programme and budget, the Committee, at its 65th and 66th meetings, held on 29 June 2017 and 27 September 2017 respectively, endorsed the list of regional representatives to the working group, consisting of 15 member States, for the period 2017–2019 as follows:

African States: Egypt, Uganda, Zimbabwe

Asia-Pacific States: China, Iraq, Japan

Eastern European States: Hungary, Poland, Romania

Latin American and Caribbean States: Argentina, Brazil, Mexico

Western European and other States: Germany, France, United States

59. The working group adopted a rotating chairship among the regional groupings as follows:

<i>Period</i>	<i>Group Chair</i>
July–December 2015	Western European and other States: United States
January–June 2016	African States: South Africa/Kenya
July–December 2016	Asia-Pacific States: Iraq
January–December 2017	Eastern European States: Romania
January–December 2018	Latin American and Caribbean States: Brazil

60. Participation in the meetings of the working group has been, and continues to be, open to all member States.

VI. Resolutions prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives

61. The draft resolutions prepared by the Committee for the consideration of the Habitat Assembly at its first session are set out in document HSP/HA/1/3/Add.1.