

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the Second Bureau of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development

Date : 29th March, 2009

Venue: Nairobi, Kenya

Participants :

Members

H.E Mr. Mohammad Saeedikia,
Minister for Housing and Urban Development,
Islamic Republic of Iran &
Chairperson of the APMCHUD

In Chair

H.E. Mr. Mohammad Yusuf Asy'ari
Minister for Public Housing
Republic of Indonesia

H.E Mr. Rahamatullah Kakar,
Federal Minister of Housing and Works
Islamic Republic of Pakistan

H.E. Mr Gevorgjan Karlen
Deputy Minister for Urban Development
Republic of Armenia

H.E. Dr. Ketan Shukla
Dy. High Commissioner of India at Nairobi
Republic of India

Mr. S.K. Singh, Chief Coordinator of the Bureau &
Joint Secretary (Housing), Ministry of Housing &
Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India

Special Invitees

Dr Markandey Rai, Coordinator
Global Parliamentarians UN-HABITAT

Ms Karin Andersson, Associate expert
Sustainable Urban Development Unit,
Environment & development Division, UN-ESCAP

Other Participants:

Islamic Republic of Iran

1. HE Mr Abolfazl Mousavi, Vice Minister, Ministry of Housing & Urban Development
2. HE Mr Seyed Ali Sharifi Sadati,
Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Nairobi
3. Mr Babaei Mahmoud
Director General for International Economic Affairs & Specialised Agencies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
4. Mr Alireza Esmaeil Zadeh
Deputy Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran in Nairobi
5. Mr Mohammad Zareian
Deputy Permanent Representative in UNEP and UN-HABITAT
6. Ms Amani Shaeareh, Ministry of Housing & Urban Development
7. Ms Mersedeh Amini Jadid, Ministry of Housing & Urban Development
8. Mr Sadegh Sadeghpour, Ministry of Housing & Urban Development
9. Ms Nader Jafari, Ministry of Housing & Urban Development

The Republic of Armenia

1. Ms Tatiana Khabarova
Assistant to the Dy Minister for Urban Development

Republic of India

Mrs. Anita Shukla,
High Commission of India in Nairobi

Republic of Indonesia

1. HE Mr Budi Bowdeksono
Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia in Nairobi
2. HE Ms. Ismanto Poespowikoro
Assistant Minister, Ministry of Public Works & Indonesia
3. Mr Jokowi, Dolo,
Worshipful Mayor of Solo
4. Mr Rhenaloy Abubakar
Head of Bureau Affair of Ministry of Housing
5. Mr Hadi Sucahyoho
Head of Sub-Directorate of Policy and Strategy
Ministry of Public Works
6. Mrs Ramalig Subandi
Expert, Ministry of Housing

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

1. HE Mr. Iftikhar Arain
High Commissioner of Pakistan at Nairobi

Secretariat of the Bureau of APMCHUD

Dr. P Jayapal,
Executive Director (Urban & Regional Planning),
Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO), New Delhi

Mr. Rajesh Goel,
Chief (Projects),
Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO), New Delhi

At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairperson extended a warm welcome to all the members of the Bureau as well as representatives of UN-HABITAT and UN-ESCAP for the meeting. On behalf of the Bureau and on his personal behalf, the Chairperson placed on record the appreciation for the efforts made by the Government of the Republic of Armenia for the meeting of the Bureau originally scheduled at Yeravan, Armenia in February 2009, which however had to be rescheduled to be held at Nairobi, in conjunction with the 22nd Governing Council meeting of the UN-HABITAT. The

Chairperson specifically thanked H.E. Mr. Vardan Vardanyan , the Hon'ble Minister for Urban Development, Republic of Armenia for his significant personal efforts. He expressed that the Bureau eagerly looks forward for its next meeting in Armenia.

The Chairperson briefed the Bureau on the participation of APMCHUD in the Fourth World Urban Forum at Nanjing, China in November 2008, where in APMCHUD was provided with a specific role to present its view on behalf of the countries in the Asia-Pacific region in the High level ministerial round table. He indicated that the initiatives of APMCHUD were appropriately highlighted and the commonness in the objectives of APMCHUD and the WUF was stressed. He expressed his happiness that the initiatives of the APMCHUD were very well appreciated by the participants.

The Chairperson also expressed his gratitude to all the member countries and other stakeholders like UN-HABITAT and UN-ESCAP for their unstinted support in the process, because of which the APMCHUD has now evolved into a forum of repute and international recognition.

The Chairperson highlighted that for APMCHUD to effectively continue its major role in the sector, the Secretariat needs to be strengthened and a corpus of funds needs to be established to facilitate taking up various initiatives envisaged in the Tehran and the Delhi Declarations. He appreciated the various efforts of the Secretariat towards constitution of the respective Working Groups for effectively taking up actions as envisaged in the Tehran Action Plan. He further reiterated that as outlined in the Tehran Action Plan, the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran would coordinate actions relating to the Working Group on Slum Upgradation.

Urging the need to move forward faster, he expressed hope that with the continued cooperation of all the members, the APMCHUD would have a larger positive impact in furthering its initiatives towards promoting sustainable housing and urban development in the Asia Pacific Region.

He invited the Hon'ble members to provide their initial remarks before the agenda items are taken up.

Thanking the Hon'ble Chairperson, HE Mr Mohammad Yusuf Asy'ari, Hon'ble Minister for Public Housing, Republic of Indonesia indicated that preparations for the APMCHUD III were progressing well and the Government has decided to hold this important event at Solo, which is a historic and culturally important destination in Indonesia. He indicated that Solo has all the required facilities to host such an event and extended invitation to all the members of APMCHUD for their participation. He also indicated that the Government of Indonesia would showcase the host city of Solo for the APMCHUD III at a special reception on 1st April, 2009 as part of the 22nd Governing council of the UN-HABITAT in Nairobi, in which all the participants of the GC-22 meeting would be invited to participate.

The Hon'ble Federal Minister for Housing and Works, Islamic Republic of Pakistan HE Mr Rahamatulla Kakar thanked the Chairperson for the various initiatives being taken up under the aegis of APMCHUD. He desired that the meetings need to be fixed well in advance to enable comfortable participation of the members and the agenda papers should be circulated well in advance to the members. Indicating that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan has already nominated members for the working group on Slums Upgrading, expressed his support for all the initiatives of APMCHUD.

Thanking the Chairperson for the remarks on the efforts of the Armenian Government for hosting the meeting which was to be rescheduled to be held in conjunction with the Governing Council meeting of the UN-HABITAT, the Hon'ble Deputy Minister of Urban Development, the Republic of Armenia HE Mr Gerorgjan Karlen, indicated that the Government of Armenia would be happy to host the next meeting and looking forward to the same. Once again thanking the Chairperson, he assured the continued support in all the activities and initiatives of the APMCHUD.

H.E. Dr. Ketan Shukla, Dy. High Commissioner of India at Nairobi, thanked the Chairperson and indicated that this meeting is being held at a critical juncture when the APMCHUD initiative has already set its action plan and need to move forward towards formalizing the methods for implementation of the same. He indicated that the Secretariat needs to be strengthened to enable undertaking multifarious activities as envisaged in the Delhi Declaration and the Tehran Declaration.

Dr Markandey Rai, Coordinator, Global Parliamentarians and the representative of UN-HABITAT expressed his gratitude to the Chairperson for the invitation. He indicated that UN-HABITAT is indeed happy on the significant progress being made by the APMCHUD in various areas and reiterated its commitment to support APMCHUD. He agreed with the Chairman's remarks on the importance of the strengthening of the Secretariat of the APMCHUD early for progressing forward.

Ms Karin Andersson, Associate expert, Sustainable Urban Development Unit, Environment & Development Division, UN-ESCAP thanked the Hon'ble Chairperson for the special invitation extended to UN-ESCAP and expressed the willingness of UN-ESCAP to collaborate with APMCHUD in areas of common concern.

After the brief remarks by the members, the agenda items were taken up for discussion.

Item No. 1: Ratification of the Minutes of the Second Meeting of the 2nd Bureau of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development

The Chief Coordinator informed that the minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the 2nd Bureau held on 13th October, 2008 in New Delhi, as approved by the Chairperson, have been circulated to the members and were posted on the web-site of APMCHUD (www.apmchud.com) as well. He further indicated that so far the Secretariat has not received any comments and accordingly placed the same for consideration of ratification.

HE Mr Iftikhar Arain, High Commissioner of Pakistan in Nairobi urged the need to regularize the system so that the agenda and minutes reach the members on time. It was indicated that the documents for the members are sent to through the respective Embassies/High Commissions in New Delhi and also posted on web-site of APMCHUD and sent through e-mail to the members. It was further decided that the Secretariat would also cross-check on the receipt of the papers sent.

With the above, the Bureau ratified the minutes included in the agenda.

Item No. 2 : Action taken report on the decision of the 2nd Meeting of the Bureau held at New Delhi, India

The Chief Coordinator of the Bureau presented the various actions taken in respect of the decisions in the 2nd meeting of the second Bureau.

In regard to preparation of a draft structure for the Permanent Secretariat, it was noted that a separate item has been included in the agenda. It was also noted that the logo approved for the APMCHUD has been forwarded to all the Members and the same has been posted in the web-site of APMCHUD. The Bureau further noted that in regard to the comments sought from the members on the draft intervention document, response was received from the Hon'ble Minister from Indonesia, and the Hon'ble Chairperson had addressed the WUF IV on the views of APMCHUD which was well appreciated.

The Bureau noted that in the 2nd meeting of the Bureau held at New Delhi it was decided that the next meeting would be held at Armenia on the invitation of the Government of Armenia and the meeting was also scheduled on 23-24 February, 2009. The Bureau also noted that this meeting was rescheduled to be held at Nairobi on 29th March, 2009 in conjunction with the 22nd Governing Council meeting of the UN-HABITAT scheduled to be held from 30th March to 3rd April, 2009. While nothing the same, the Bureau expressed its sincere appreciation of the efforts made by the Government of Armenia and

unanimously expressed its gratitude to the Government of Armenia and the Hon'ble Minister HE Vardan Vardanyan for the same. While expressing gratitude to the Government of Armenia, the Hon'ble Minister for Public Housing, Government of Indonesia placed a request to the Bureau that in view of the proposed 3rd Conference of APMCHUD in 2010 in Indonesia and the need to review the preparations as well as finalizing the various arrangements for the conference, the 4th meeting of the Bureau of APMCHUD be scheduled in Indonesia and that the next meeting thereafter could be held in Armenia. The Chairman requested the view of the Government of Armenia in this regard. Thanking the Bureau for its appreciation to the Government of Armenia, HE Gerorgjan Karlen, Deputy Minister for Urban Development, Government of Armenia appreciated the concern of the Government of Indonesia to hold the next meeting of the Bureau in Indonesia so that the preparatory arrangements for the 3rd Conference is reviewed well in advance, agreed to the proposition that the next (4th meeting) meeting of the Bureau could be scheduled in Indonesia and the following meeting thereafter be held in Armenia. All the members of the Bureau appreciated the goodwill gesture of the Government of Armenia and thanked HE Gerorgjan Karlen for the same. It was decided that the Secretariat would interact with the Government of Indonesia to finalise the exact date(s) for the meeting in Indonesia in consultation with the Chairperson of APMCHUD.

Item No. 3 : Other Actions taken by the Secretariat subsequent to the 2nd meeting of the Bureau

The Bureau noted the various actions taken by the Secretariat subsequent to the Second Meeting of APMCHUD held in New Delhi, and registered its appreciation of the consistent efforts being made by the Secretariat under the guidance of the Chairperson, towards maintaining and continuing the momentum of growth.

Item No. 4 : Report on the participation in WUF4, Nanjing, China

The Hon'ble Chairperson briefed the members on the participation of APMCHUD in the WUF-IV at Nanjing, China. He also indicated that the views of APMCHUD, presented as intervention in the event, were well appreciated. The Hon'ble Minister from Indonesia also highlighted the significant participation by Government of Indonesia in the event.

The Chairperson thanked the members for their participation in the WUF-IV and highlighted the recognition the APMCHUD got for expressing its

collective view on the challenges faced by the Asia Pacific Countries at large in the housing and urban development sector. It was decided that APMCHUD should continue such efforts in various fora in future as well.

Item No. 5 : **Permanent Secretariat – Formal Registration process**

Item No. 6 : **Permanent Secretariat – Formal Registration process – Proposed Structure of the Permanent Secretariat**

Item No.7 : **Proposed Structure for requesting financial Support from APMCHUD Member Countries**

The items 5, 6 and 7 were taken up together.

The Chairperson indicated with the adoption of the Tehran Declaration and also the ‘Action Plan for Regional Cooperation on Promoting Sustainable Urban Development among Asia Pacific Countries’, it is necessary to undertake various activities in a focused manner. Thanking the Government of India for the necessary support provided for the Secretariat in New Delhi, he emphasized that the Secretariat needs to be strengthened to effectively undertake the activities envisaged. The Chairperson pointed out that actions needs to be initiated in the five major key areas identified in the Action Plan namely, Urban and Rural Planning and Management, Urban Slums Upgrading, Delivery of Millennium Development Goals for water and Sanitation, Financing Sustainable Housing – Enhancing affordability and Quality of Low Income Housing, and Sustainable Urbanization. The Chairperson desired the Chief Coordinator to elaborate on the items.

The Chief Coordinator indicated that the three items primarily relate to the strengthening of the Secretariat. He indicated that the item No.5 related to the formal registration process of the Secretariat. He indicated that this is an urgent necessity as international and multilateral Institutions would like to deal with only formal institutions and as such to move forward with the various initiatives, completion of the formal registration process of the Secretariat is an urgent necessity. He indicated that the item has three resolutions for consideration of the Bureau relating to authorizing the Chief Coordinator to take necessary actions for the registration of the Secretariat, adoption of the MoU on the establishment of the Secretariat and to authorize the Chief Coordinator to open a bank account for APMCHUD and operate the same within the approved budget by the Bureau. In regard to the MoU, he indicated that the same has been finalized based on SAARC and ECO Institutional models, and has been suitably modified as per the requirement of the APMCHUD. He further indicated that it inter-alia specifies the role of the

secretariat, its structure, appointment of various personnel and their powers, salaries and also the funding and budget.

While elaborating on the item 6, he indicated that the requirements of personnel at various levels has been made based on the five focus areas identified in the action plan and along with the requirement of support staff identified, the requirement of funds for the personnel in the secretariat based on the UN system of staff costs has been estimated.

Similarly he elaborated on the item No.7 on 'proposed structure for requesting financial support from APMCHUD member countries'. He indicated that firstly the UN model has been studied in which the various countries have been allocated percentage of contributions. From the same, the contributions for the Asia Pacific Countries alone were quantified and proportionately reapportioned among the Asia Pacific countries.

He further indicated that this item was deferred in the 2nd meeting, and has been accordingly incorporated for consideration in this meeting (3rd) of the Bureau.

Adding further, the Chairperson indicated that in the above what has been finalized and fixed is the location of the secretariat at New Delhi, and he would like to view the entire exercise in terms of the need to finalise the structure, role or terms of reference for the Secretariat and the method of funding the cost of the secretariat.

H.E. Mohammad Yusuf Asy'ari, Minister for Public Housing, Republic of Indonesia appreciated the concern for formalizing the Institutional arrangement in full early so that the activities are initiated earliest. Appreciating the initial efforts made in this regard by the Secretariat in making a draft proposal, he opined that a further clarity on the role and benefits to various participating countries need to be thought of.

H.E Mr. Rahamatullah Kakar, Federal Minister of Housing and Works, Islamic Republic of Pakistan indicated that while he is in agreement with the urgent need to strengthen the Secretariat, there is a need to deliberate in detail on this aspect. HE Mr. Iftikhar Arain, High Commissioner of Pakistan at Nairobi felt that the basic activities that would be handled by the secretariat need to be firmed up. He opined that the proposed structure in terms of number of and level of personnel may be on the higher side for the Bureau secretariat. He also opined that items of this nature may have to be considered and decided at the level of the APMCHUD and not by the Bureau. He strongly felt that initially the Secretariat should be a focused and compact with primarily undertaking coordinating activities

with only a few technical personnel which may be considered for expansion at a later stage in relation to expansion of the Secretariat's activity levels.

H.E. Mr Gevorgjan Karlen, Deputy Minister for Urban Development, Republic of Armenia agreed with the need to urgently strengthen the Secretariat. However, he desired that more time and consultation is required on this critical aspect.

H.E. Dr. Ketan Shukla, Dy. High Commissioner of India at Nairobi emphasized the need to have a strong Secretariat to effectively deliver the results in line with the anticipations in the Tehran Declaration. He suggested that urgent actions are needed and these aspects need urgent and careful consideration.

The Chairperson thanked all the Members for their valuable views and inputs on these critical issues. He agreed with the views of the members and reiterated that the aspects to be considered primarily relate to the activities to be undertaken by the Secretariat, the structure of the Secretariat and contributions to be made by the participating members.

His Excellency, the Chairperson indicated that the permanent secretariat should be smaller in size, but efficiently run with relatively lower cost. Its TOR generally should include data gathering and information dissemination, setting an information and documents database, creating progressive communication among Member Countries and doing follow-up activities on the decisions and approvals made in conferences and bureau meetings. The permanent secretariat is recommended to prepare its new proposal based on the abovementioned issues and send it to the Bureau Members as soon as possible. The proposal will be discussed and prepared for the final approval during the Fourth Bureau Meeting held in Jakarta, Indonesia to be raised in the Third APMCHUD.

Item No. 8 : Suggestions for organization of a Regional Conference on Slum Development in Mumbai

The Hon'ble Vice Minister for Housing & Urban Development, the Islamic Republic of Iran HE Abolfazl Mousavi indicated that it is time to move further in line with the action plan strategies outlined in the Tehran Declaration of APMCHUD. Towards the same, it would be a good opportunity to organize a regional workshop for sharing of experiences and best practices in the field of slum development. In this regard, the Hon'ble Minister indicated that a proposal has already been formulated for holding such an event in Mumbai, India and a brief proposal has also been circulated in the meeting. The Hon'ble Minister desired to know the views of the Members.

Appreciating the initiative of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Hon'ble Minister from Indonesia indicated that the schedule of such event may need to be finalized keeping in view the proposed dates of the APMCHUD III conference in Indonesia, so that there is an adequate time gap between the events to facilitate a wider participation from all the member countries.

The Hon'ble Federal Minister for Housing & Works, Islamic Republic of Pakistan HE Rahamatulla Kakar appreciated the timely initiative and felt APMCHUD should initiate further such activities.

The Chairperson agreed with the suggestion of Indonesia that the dates be kept accordingly, though the Regional Workshop is expected to be on a relatively limited scale, and that actions towards the same be initiated.

It was decided that the secretariat would interact with the Government of Iran to finalise the date(s) for the event keeping in view the points discussed.

Item No. 9 :Proposal of UN-ESCAP for one-day 'Asia-Pacific Urban Forum 2010' during the 3rd APMCHUD in Indonesia.

The Chief Coordinator briefed the Bureau on the proposal of UN-ESCAP to hold the Asia Pacific Urban Forum in conjunction with the APMCHUD III at Indonesia in 2010.

The Chairperson indicated that this is a very positive development and requested the representative from UN-ESCAP to share the details of the proposal with the members.

The details of the proposals were presented by Ms Karin Andersson, Associate expert, Sustainable Urban Development Unit, Environment & development Division, UN-ESCAP. Ms Andersson indicated that UN-ESCAP has been holding the Asia Pacific Urban Forum focusing on the critical issues faced by the region in the sector. Highlighting that four such events have been held so far, and that such events have focused on evolving approaches and action plans towards effectively addressing the critical issues in the region. In this regard, she suggested that initiatives could be synergized through a collective effort, and the proposal of the UN-ESCAP is for organizing the next Asia Pacific Urban Forum at Indonesia along with the APMCHUD III. This is felt more appropriate as, such a collective effort would involve, broadly, similar profile of participants. Ms Andersson also felt that the organization of the Asia Pacific Urban Forum could either be in the form of a one-day event preceding the Ministerial Conference or could be merged with the

Conference on thematic basis. She indicated that UN-ESCAP would be happy to incorporate the views and suggestions on the various mode and method of organisation of the event.

Appreciating the gesture of UN-ESCAP, the Hon'ble Minister from Indonesia indicated that the proposal is welcome and the details need to be further worked out for an effective partnership.

HE Mr Iftikhar Arain, High Commissioner of Pakistan in Nairobi welcomed the proposal and opined that in view of the World Urban Forum in Rio-de-Janeiro in March 2010, timing of the events merit a serious consideration.

Appreciating the initiative of UN-ESCAP, Dr Markandey Rai, Coordinator, Global Parliamentarians, UN-HABITAT indicated that UN-HABITAT is the designated agency in the UN system for urban issues and accordingly felt that the UN-ESCAP may route the proposal for holding the proposed Asia Pacific Urban Forum event through UN-HABITAT. He further indicated that the territorial jurisdiction of UN-ESCAP does not cover the entire APMCHUD member countries. Further Dr Markandey Rai suggested that the timing need to be in line with the upcoming WUF-V at Rio-de-Janeiro in March 2010 so that its outcome could form input for the WUF-V. He advised that the UN-ESCAP may get in touch with the Fukuoka Office of UN-HABITAT in this regard.

Appreciating the gesture of the UN-ESCAP on the offer to host the event in collaboration with APMCHUD, the Chairperson recommended that a joint meeting should be held among UN-ESCAP, UN-HABITAT and the Government of Indonesia to discuss the suggestion in a way not to have a negative effect on the Third APMCHUD.

Item No.10: Follow-up activities in respect of the Regional Working Group for Urban Slums Upgrading

The Hon'ble Vice Minister for Housing & Urban Development, the Islamic Republic of Iran HE Abolfazl Mousavi briefed the Bureau regarding constitution of the Regional Working Group for Urban Slums Upgrading in line with the Action Plan by the Islamic Republic of Iran. He highlighted that it was further required for member countries to nominate representatives on the Regional Working Groups. In view of the Regional Working Group for Urban Slums Upgrading having been constituted, the Chairperson requested the members to nominate their National Committee's representatives on the Regional Working Group. The members countries were requested to forward the nominations to the Secretariat of APMCHUD and also to the Islamic Republic of Iran at the earliest, so that the activities are initiated by this Regional Working Group.

Item No. 11: Any other item with the permission of the Chair.

A presentation on Solo, the host city of APMCHUD III was made by the Worshipful Mayor of Solo, Mr Jokowi. The Members were appreciative of the efforts being made by the Government of Indonesia as well as the Solo City Council for the successful organization of the event. H.E. Mohammad Yusuf Asy'ari, Minister for Public Housing, Republic of Indonesia extended an invitation to all the Hon'ble Members and participants in the meeting to attend the APMCHUD III at Solo, Indonesia.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.