



**Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on
Housing and Urban Development**

**Minutes of the Third meeting
of the Sixth Bureau of APMCHUD**

held on
May 28, 2019
at
Nairobi, Kenya

**Minutes of the Third meeting of the Sixth Bureau of the Asia Pacific
Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD)**

28th May 2019

Venue: Director General's Board Room, UNON, Nairobi, Kenya

The Third Meeting of the Sixth Bureau of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) was held on 28th May, 2019 on the sidelines of United Nation Habitat Assembly (UNHA), Nairobi, Kenya.

A list of participants is at **Annexure 'A'**.

Chief Coordinator Mr. Shiv Das Meena, welcomed the members of the Bureau and the representative of the UN-Habitat for the third meeting of the Sixth Bureau of APMCHUD and thanked UN-Habitat for facilitating the conduct of the meeting. Chief Coordinator informed that Mr. Hardeep S Puri, Hon'ble Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs, India and Hon'ble Chairman of the Bureau was unable to attend the meeting due to general elections in India. He added that Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and Republic of Nauru could not participate in the meeting due to exigencies and submitted that they have conveyed their best wishes for the success of the meeting. Thereafter, he requested H.E. Istabraq Alshouk, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Construction, Housing and Municipalities and Public Works, Republic of Iraq to chair the meeting.

Chairing the meeting, H.E Istabraq Alshouk thanked the members for their participation and on behalf of all the members of the Sixth Bureau, conveyed sincere thanks and appreciation to UN-Habitat for its consistent support and facilitating the meeting on sidelines of the first session of the UN Habitat Assembly.

The Chairperson underscored importance of New Urban Agenda and said that the nations of Asia Pacific region have a significant role to play in the successful implementation of New Urban Agenda. Hon'ble Chairperson explained that the 2030 Agenda has set a broad and ambitious agenda for global action on sustainable development. To achieve the scale and ambition of the Sustainable Development Goals, innovation will be a key driver. Hon'ble Chairperson stressed the need for innovation to provide solutions to the multitude of challenges posed by rapid urbanization. These solutions need to be citizen centred, scalable, replicable and fit for adaptation to a variety of specific urban environments. Hon'ble Chairperson further added that modern cities must be inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Hon'ble Chairperson also reiterated that the goal of the forum of APMCHUD is to regularly share experiences, good practices, innovative approaches to challenges in the fields of urban development, with a view towards ensuring sustainability, equity and inclusiveness.

The Chairperson requested the member countries to provide their initial remarks.

Subsequent to the Statement by the Chair, Dr. Dhabia Farouk, Republic of Iraq delivered initial remarks. Dr. Dhabia Farouk, Republic of Iraq, shared information about the crucial phase of rebuilding and strengthening ongoing in Iraq. She informed that Iraq is drawing its vision for sustainable development 2030 with the principles of growth, empowerment, justice and equity, good governance, consensus, diversified economy, national and international partnership, community peace, and environmental sustainability taking front and center. The statement affirmed that the principles and activities of UN Habitat and APMCHUD support the vision of the plans and programmes being undertaken in Iraq.

In the initial remarks by India, the progress achieved since the 6th APMCHUD, an important milestone in preparing concrete actions to implement the NUA, was highlighted. The statement shared that Government of India has put in place a framework for the implementation of SDGs at a national level through the key policy making body in India, the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), which provides overall coordination and leadership for SDGs. The statement especially highlighted growing challenges faced by urban India, but more importantly emphasized the innovative measures in development policy and practice. These include drafting a National Urban Policy Framework, creating a Global Housing Technology challenge, approving procedures for housing and construction projects in a simplified and streamlined manner, drafting model guidelines for development & regulation of retirement homes and implementing innovative financing instruments. India concluded by expressing sincere appreciation to UN-HABITAT for organization the third meeting of the Sixth Bureau.

Mr. Kyung Sup Lee, presented the statement on behalf of the Republic of Korea.

With the above initial remarks by the Hon'ble members, and with the permission of the Chair, the agenda items were taken up in sequence.

Item No. 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Sixth Bureau of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 8th February, 2018.

The Chief Coordinator indicated that the second meeting of the Sixth Bureau of APMCHUD was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 8th February, 2018 and a copy of the minutes of the meeting was circulated to the Hon'ble Members of the Bureau, and also posted on the website of APMCHUD

(www.apmchud.com). A copy of the minutes was also placed at Annexure 'A', as part of the meeting agenda.

The Bureau considered the above and confirmed the Minutes.

Item No. 2: Report on activities by the five Working Groups-reports/Information by respective Lead Member countries.

Chief Coordinator stated that there are five Working Groups (WG) and their Lead countries are as under:

- WG1 led by the Republic of India working on the theme of Urban and Rural Planning and Management;
- WG2 led by the Islamic Republic of Iran working on the theme of Urban Upgrading;
- WG3 led by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka working on the theme of Basic Services including Energy and Mobility for Integrated and Inclusive Development;
- WG4 led by the Republic of Korea working on the theme of Financing Sustainable Housing and Urban Development;
- WG5 led by the Republic of Indonesia working on the theme of Urban Development with a focus on Natural, Man-made and Climate- induced Disasters.

The Chief Coordinator requested the Lead countries to share the plan of action/information on various activities taken up/ proposed under each Working Group.

WG1 led by the Republic of India, working on the theme of Urban and Rural Planning and Management, updated the Bureau members on activities undertaken by WG1. The Bureau registered its appreciation for the various

initiatives being taken by India in the field of and Rural Planning and Management under the aegis of the working group 1.

Presenting its plan of action, Mr. Suneet Mehta, Deputy Secretary, International Cooperation & AMRUT expressed gratitude to APMCHUD for permitting India to act as the lead country for the Working Group1 on Urban and Rural Planning & Management. As part of the working group initiatives subsequent to the Second meeting of the Bureau on 8th February 2018, the activities taken up include the formulation of a National Urban Policy Framework 2018, development of the first SDG India Index, and publication of the 3rd Edition of the Vulnerability Atlas. Mr Mehta further indicated that India has been taking various policy, programme and research initiatives to reorient the urban planning process, linking it with the regional planning approach for a symbiotic balanced regional development. He shared information about some of the research studies that have been undertaken, these include research on important themes like innovative models of land assembly for planned urbanization smart growth and transit-oriented development smart data and inclusive cities.

Mr. Mehta also shared the objectives and salient features of the important Missions of the Indian Government that are designed to ensure quality living not only in urban areas but also in rural areas as well. The programmes cover various aspects of developing sustainable human settlements, such as Housing for All Mission for rural and urban areas, Clean India Mission- with particular emphasis on behaviour change, Smart Cities Mission for developing 100 smart cities, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), National Rurban Mission (NRuM), National Urban Livelihood Mission(NULM), National Rural Livelihood Mission(NRLM), Heritage City Development and Augmentation Mission (HRIDAY), Mission Antyodaya, etc. The progress of these Missions has been very encouraging and are on target to fulfill their respective objectives within identified timelines.

The Bureau registered its appreciation for India's initiatives under the Working Group I and for sharing the documents with members.

The Lead countries for other WGs requested to send their respective reports to APMCHUD Secretariat. The Chair allowed the Bureau members from Iran, Republic of Korea and Indonesia to send their respective reports to the APMCHUD Secretariat by email.

Item No. 3: Organizational Issues- Resource base for APMCHUD –Status and way forward

The Chief Coordinator reiterated the commitment made by the members in the form of the Amman Declaration, which stated that the member nations: “Agree in principle to contribute a sum of US\$10,000 per member state annually to the budget of APMCHUD. However, member states are encouraged to contribute higher amounts.” He requested the member countries to pay their contributions to the APMCHUD corpus fund and communicate their commitment in this regard to the Secretariat. The Bureau decided that the Secretariat may continue to pursue the member countries for their contribution.

The Bureau was also informed of the current status of funds received and committed by the member countries. In addition to the initial contribution of USD 50,000, India's annual contribution amounting to USD 10,000 has been received for 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19. Republic of Iraq and Republic of Korea have transmitted an amount of USD 10,000 in 2017. Further, the Secretariat has received a request from Republic of Korea for invoice for payment of annual financial contribution of 2019. The invoice with essential account details of the APMCHUD have been communicated to the Republic of Korea by the APMCHUD Secretariat.

The Chair requested the member countries to pay the due amount of contribution to the Secretariat and communicate their commitment in this regard.

Item No. 4: Using the APMCHUD web-site for knowledge exchange and sharing information

During the Third meeting of the Fifth Bureau held at Surabaya on 26th July, 2016, it was requested that information on policies/ programmes/ innovative approaches/ best practices in the field of housing and urban development including conferences/ seminars organized by the member countries of Asia Pacific Region may be posted on the APMCHUD website to make it more useful for the member countries. The Chief Coordinator urged the members to use the APMCHUD website for knowledge exchange and sharing information and informed that the Secretariat would communicate with the member States for essential information.

Item No. 5: 1st Session of UN-Habitat Assembly -Statement by APMCHUD

Chief Coordinator mentioned that the First Assembly of UN-Habitat with the theme "Innovation for Better Quality of Life in Cities and Communities" with the relevant sub-theme of "Accelerated Implementation of the New Urban Agenda towards the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals" is being held in Nairobi

Chief Coordinator stated that a statement on behalf of the APMCHUD should be presented at the 1st Session of UNHA highlighting APMCHUD's vision to encourage innovation for better quality of life in cities and communities and share initiatives for accelerating the implementation of the New Urban Agenda towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. He added that a draft has been prepared for consideration of the Bureau members. He also requested the Chair to deliver the statement.

The Bureau members conveyed their concurrence to present the draft statement at UN-Habitat Assembly. However, the Chair stated that he is travelling back to Iraq the next day and requested Chief Coordinator to deliver the statement on behalf of APMCHUD.

The statement which was made by Chief Coordinator on 28th May 2019 during the first General Assembly of the UNHABITAT is at Annexure 'B'.

Item No. 6: Preparations for the Seventh APMCHUD- Status and way forward

During the Sixth APMCHUD Conference at New Delhi, Islamic Republic of Iran had graciously offered to host the next APMCHUD Conference in Tehran, which was thankfully accepted by APMCHUD. During the First and Second meetings of the Sixth Bureau, Islamic Republic of Iran had made presentations on the status of preparations and shared a tentative overall work plan for successful organization of the 7th APMCHUD. The theme for the conference was identified as "New Urban Agenda: Inclusive and Sustainable Regeneration".

The Chair requested Mr. Ahmad Ghalandari, First Secretary of Permanent Mission of Islamic Republic of Iran to brief about the status and way forward regarding hosting the 7th APMCHUD meeting. Mr. Ghalandari requested for two months' time to convey its final position about hosting the meeting.

The Chair accepted the request and it was decided that Islamic Republic of Iran will convey the final position about its intention to host the 7th APMCHUD Conference to the Secretariat within a period of 2 months.

Item No. 7: Any other item with the permission of the Chair

On the issue of holding the next meeting of the 6th Bureau, the UN-Habitat Secretariat suggested that the Bureau may consider holding of the next meeting on the sidelines of Asia-Pacific Urban Forum (APUF) in Penang, Malaysia on 15-17 October 2019. The Bureau members agreed to do so. Chief Coordinator suggested that UN Habitat Secretariat may convey the details including invitation to members so that APMCHUD Secretariat can coordinate the logistics of the meeting (date, time, venue of the meeting) and confirm the meeting details to the Bureau members.

The Chairperson thanked all the members for their views and vision expressed during the meeting. He urged all members nations to encourage creative learning partnerships across cities, international organizations, corporate partners, and academia to further innovation, envision alternative futures, and build better and more liveable cities.

There being no other items for discussion, the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Annexure 'A'

**Third meeting of the Sixth Bureau of the
Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development
(APMCHUD)**

Date: 28th May 2019 (8 am-10 am)

Venue: Director General's Board Room, UNON, Nairobi, Kenya

Hon'ble Members of Delegations and Distinguished Participants

Heads of Delegations

Republic of Iraq

Mr. Istabraq Alshouk

Deputy Minister

Ministry of Construction, Housing and Municipalities and Public Works

Chair

Republic of India

Mr. Shiv Das

Meena

Chief Coordinator of APMCHUD &
Additional Secretary, Ministry of Housing and
Urban Affairs

Islamic Republic of Iran

Mr. Ahmad Ghalandari

Republic of Korea

Mr. Sung Man Kang

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Eng. Hassan Abdeen

Acting Director General,
Housing and Urban Development Corporation

UN-HABITAT

Atsushi Koresawa

Director, UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Fukuoka, Japan

Members of delegations and distinguished Participants

Republic of Iraq

Dr. Dhabyah F. Ibraheem
Ministry of Construction, Housing, Municipalities, and Public Works
National Habitat Committee

Dr. Muhammed Sayed

Mr. Saadullah Hassan

Republic of Korea

Mr. Kyung Sup Lee
Korea Housing and Urban Guarantee Corporation

Republic of India

Mr. Suneet Mehta
Deputy Secretary International Cooperation & AMRUT
Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

Mr. Rajesh Swamy
Dy High Commissioner,
High Commission of India, Nairobi

UN-HABITAT

Mr. Bruno Dercon
Senior Human Settlements Officer
UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Fukuoka, Japan

**First Session of UN-Habitat Assembly
27-31 May, 2019**

**Statement on behalf of the Hon'ble Chairperson of APMCHUD
delivered by
Mr. Shiv Das Meena, Additional Secretary, Government of India
(Nairobi - 28 May, 2019)**

**APMCHUD's Views, Vision and Perspectives on
"Innovation for Better Quality of Life in Cities and Communities"**

Mr Chair, Excellencies, distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen!

On behalf of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD), I would like to thank the UN-Habitat for this opportunity to share the Views, Vision and Perspectives of APMCHUD on the central theme of "Innovation for Better Quality of Life in Cities and Communities". At the outset, I congratulate UN-HABITAT for undertaking this structural reform and organizing this first Habitat Assembly. APMCHUD reaffirms its commitment to work with UN-Habitat and looks forward to the continued support and guidance of UN-Habitat to APMCHUD, for addressing the emerging challenges of urbanization in a sustainable manner.

Since its establishment in 2006, the APMCHUD, as an inter-governmental consultative mechanism, has emerged as one among the most vibrant regional forums in the field of housing and urban development. The collective vision, we have evolved through various Declarations from 2006 to 2016, has guided us – the Asia Pacific countries, in sharing our experiences and addressing various challenges in the field of housing and urban development through exchange of information and knowledge sharing. To pursue the realization of the goals and objectives of APMCHUD, as set forth in these declarations, the APMCHUD has 5

specific focus areas managed by 5 Working Groups, broadly covering: urban and rural planning and management; urban upgrading; basic services including energy and mobility for integrated and inclusive development; financing sustainable housing and urban development; and urban development with a focus on natural, man-made and climate-induced disasters.

The sixth APMCHUD was the first major regional meeting of ministers of housing and urban development since the conclusion of Habitat III and the endorsement of the New Urban Agenda. While we reaffirm our commitment to the goals in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, especially Goal 11 - to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, necessitate innovations and newer approaches methods. We are also fully aware that this Goal cannot be achieved with a 'business as usual approach'. The theme of this assembly "Innovation for Better Quality of Life in Cities and Communities" rightly calls attention to the fact that the speed, scale and complexity of urbanization demands new approaches and strategies and innovative thinking for solutions that can play an important role to ensure a faster transition towards a better future.

The Asia-Pacific region, which is home to over 60% of the world's population today, is going through a bright era of economic growth and an unprecedented level of urbanization in the recent years. The countries of Asia Pacific region would be key in taking the SDGs and New Urban Agenda forward, by successfully implementing the agenda for sustainable housing and urban development. We also recognize that while SDGs are global, the concerned provincial and local governments would need to institutionalize the SDG framework in their policy design and implementation strategy. Capacities would need to be developed, along with effective monitoring system ensuring long term impact. It is in this context that we call upon UN-Habitat to help and engage with the national, sub-national and local government levels in Asia Pacific countries

towards bringing in local solutions to national challenges, based on global experiences.

We, the countries of the Asia Pacific, look forward to deliberations during this first UN-Habitat Assembly that would also guide us in our efforts.

Thank you!