

**Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Second Bureau of the Asia Pacific  
Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development**

**Date : 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2008**

**Venue : New Delhi, Republic of India**

**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 Vardan Vardanyan  
Minister for Urban Development,  
**Republic of Armenia**

H.E. Ms. Kumari Selja  
Minister for Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation,  
**Republic of India**

HE Ms. (Dr.) Ramalis Subandi Prihandana  
Special Deputy Minister of Ministry of People's Housing,  
**Republic of Indonesia**

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

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

**Special Invitee from UN-HABITAT**

Dr Markandey Rai, Coordinator, Global Parliamentarians  
UN-HABITAT

## **Other Participants:**

### **Islamic Republic of Iran**

H.E Mr. Manouchehr Khajehdalouie,  
Vice Minister, Housing and Urban Development

H.E Mr Seyed Mehdi Nabizadeh  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
New Delhi

Mr Bardia Navaee  
Counsellor,  
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran,  
New Delhi

Mr. Sadegh Sadeghpur  
International Affairs Department

### **The Republic of Armenia**

Mr Vardan Torosyan  
Head of the Department  
Ministry of Urban Development  
The Republic of Armenia

H.E. Dr. Ashot Kocharian  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia  
New Delhi

### **Republic of India**

Ms. Kiran Dhingra,  
Secretary, Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation

Mr Manoj Aggarwal,  
Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation

Mr. KL Dhingra, Chairman and Managing Director,  
Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO)

## **Republic of Indonesia**

Dr. Hadi Soetjahyo  
Deputy Director for Strategy and Policy  
Ministry of Public Works

Mr. Otto Riadi, Counsellor,  
Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, New Delhi

Mr Meugah Suriyan Sanggamara  
Third Secretary (Economic)  
Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, New Delhi

## **Islamic Republic of Pakistan**

H.E. Mr Shahid Malik  
High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan  
New Delhi

Mr Saleem Iqbal,  
Consultant, Ministry of Housing and Works  
Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Mr Sadiq Khan  
First Secretary, High Commission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan  
New Delhi

## **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,  
Deputy Chief,  
Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO),  
New Delhi

## **UN-Habitat**

Ms. Christine Auclair, UN-Habitat

Welcoming the Members and the representatives of the member Countries, **H.E Kumari Selja, Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India** thanked the Chairperson of the Bureau for consenting to have this meeting at New Delhi. Expressing satisfaction on the APMCHUD initiative blossoming into a vibrant mechanism, and increasingly gaining recognition in the sector, she recalled the pronouncement of the Delhi Declaration on the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development as well as the preparation of the Enhanced Framework for sustainable urbanization in the Asia-Pacific, outlining the concern areas and corrective measures, comprehensively in the First Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference was held in New Delhi in December 2006. She further recalled that the Delhi Declaration, adopted at the First Conference had set a firm ground for APMCHUD to emerge as a mechanism for collective cooperation in the field of housing and urban development, in addition to outlining the Institutional framework in the form of the Biennial Ministerial Conference, the Bureau as well as the Secretariat.

Outlining the various initiatives taken when India was the Chair of the APMCHUD till May 2008, H.E Kumari Selja indicated that in line with the decision in the Delhi Declaration, the Government of India extended its support to immediately operationalise the Secretariat by providing the space and manning as well as other logistic support for hosting the Bureau Secretariat and also such other requirements to gain a firm ground, to progress further towards achieving the common objectives of sustainable development of human settlements in the Asia Pacific Region. With the cooperation of the member countries, the Bureau also held intense discussions at Nairobi, Amman and Tehran on various aspects relating to the institutional, collaborative and cooperative initiatives that APMCHUD has to address. H.E Kumari Selja also commended the guidance and assistance extended by the UN-HABITAT in such initiatives by participating in all the Bureau meetings and extending guidance on various issues. With such cooperation, she indicated that the APMCHUD Secretariat was fully activated, which has been able to effectively coordinate the activities of the Bureau. She further added that the Secretariat, in addition to launching an exclusive web-site, in accordance with the decision of the APMCHUD, had also initiated discussions with other stake holders such as World Bank, UNDP, UN-ESCAP, DFID, ADB, KfW, etc for strengthening the institutional and cooperative initiatives.

H.E Kumari Selja recalled the significant support extended by His Excellency Mr Mohammed Saedikia in the organisation of the Second Conference at Tehran which was a major success in not only enlisting participation from the Member countries and also in charting out an Action Plan to move ahead in a focused manner on specific areas towards achieving our objective. H.E specially acknowledged the meticulous planning of the Conference under direct monitoring of His Excellency Mr Mohammed Saieedikia because of which the entire programme went in a smooth, cordial and businesslike manner.

Appreciating the arrangements that have been made for current meeting, H.E Kumari Selja specially thanked the Embassies and Missions of the member countries of the Bureau for their cooperation in the organization of this event. H.E Kumari Selja welcomed the Members and all the representatives to the historic city of New Delhi and wished a pleasant and happy stay in New Delhi.

**The Hon'ble Chairperson of the Bureau, H.E Mohammad Saeedikia, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Islamic Republic of Iran** expressed his gratitude to the Government of India and to H.E. Kumari Selja, Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Republic of India for hosting this 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Bureau in this historic and beautiful city of New Delhi. On behalf of the Bureau members, the Chairperson conveyed his appreciation for the personal interest taken by H.E Kumari Selja for the wonderful hospitality and kind courtesies extended to the Bureau members and for facilitating holding of this meeting in a congenial and pleasant atmosphere. The Chairperson recalled the significant efforts taken by India in shaping the APMCHUD initiative to the level it has reached as of now and towards making it a vibrant and focused initiative for achieving the common objectives of Asia Pacific regions in the field of housing and urban development.

Welcoming the members and participants to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Bureau in New Delhi, he stressed the need for converting the Tehran Declaration and Action Plan into a reality through collective and cohesive efforts. Underlining that the APMCHUD is in a critical juncture to put the vision into reality through collective and cohesive efforts, sought the continued cooperation of all the member countries, as they have always extended, for furthering the collective efforts of APMCHUD towards recognizable results. In this context, he was confident that this meeting would facilitate in firming up actions for putting in place the facilitatory requirements for effective implementation of the Action Plan.

H.E Mohammad Saeedikia, Chairperson further highlighted that this second meeting of the Bureau is being held at an important juncture when the world countries at large are about to meet in Nanjing, China to interact and discuss on urban issues, with particular reference to their harmonious development. The Chairperson opined that this is an opportunity for the APMCHUD to share our views and concerns and also observe and understand the approaches being followed in other Regions as well. The Chairperson shared with the members that the APMCHUD has been given a special privilege to present the views of the Asia Pacific region in the Ministerial Round table at the World Urban Forum meet at Nanjing, China.

H.E Mohammad Saeedikia, Hon'ble Chairperson of the APMCHUD again welcomed the Hon'ble members and the representatives to the Second Meeting of the Bureau and invited the members to share their views before the agenda items are taken up in order.

Thanking the Chairperson, APMCHUD for organisation of the Second meeting of the Bureau, **H.E Mr. Rahmatullah Kakar, Federal Minister of Housing and Works, Islamic Republic of Pakistan** expressed his thanks to the Government of India for hosting the event. H.E conveyed his special appreciation to the H.E Kumari Selja, Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India for the special and personal interest taken in the organisation of the meeting in a wonderful atmosphere.

Underlining that the APMCHUD is a unique forum that addresses the common problems based on shared vision in respect of the urban and rural planning and management, slum upgradation, water supply and sanitation, affordable housing finance with special reference to low income housing and sustainable urbanization, he indicated that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan has constituted a Working Group and has also nominated Experts on the Steering Group constituted to work out modalities for undertaking a feasibility study as outlined in the Action Plan.

The Hon'ble Federal Minister of Housing and Works, Islamic Republic of Pakistan has also shared with the members that the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Pakistan has envisioned a mega Housing Programme for providing 1 million housing for the poorest of the poor, and that towards participating in this major effort, MOUs have been signed with companies from USA, Canada, UK, Malaysia, China, Germany, etc and are also in contact with the Islamic republic of Iran and other countries in this regard. High lighting the importance of the Public-Private-Partnerships for ameliorating the situation, the Hon'ble Member underlined the focus areas as capacity building, slum up gradation initiatives, provision and improvement of basic services such as water supply, promotion of PPP efforts through Joint Ventures and foreign investors, land banking initiatives, promotion latest technologies, and promotion of disaster resistant construction practices through adoption of appropriate construction methods and building codes.

In this context, the Hon'ble member expressed that the Asia pacific Countries can pool their financial and technical expertise based on a joint and collaborative effort, for achieving the objective of harmonious development. H.E Mr. Rahmatullah Kakar, Federal Minister of Housing and Works also indicated that Islamic Republic of Pakistan would participate in the Fourth WUF at Nanjing in November, 2008.

Thanking the Chairperson, APMCHUD for the invitation to participate in the Second meeting of the Bureau, **HE Ms. (Dr.) Ramalis Subandi Prihandana, Special Deputy Minister of Ministry of People's Housing, Republic of Indonesia** expressed her gratitude to Government of India for hosting the event and also for the wonderful arrangements made for the event. Conveying her sincere appreciation of the consistent support extended by the Government of India since birth of the APMCHUD in 2006, HE Special Deputy Minister of Ministry of People's Housing

commended the efforts of the Islamic republic of Iran in the successful conduct of the Second Conference of the APMCHUD at Tehran in May 2008. H.E also requested continued cooperation and support of the member countries and UN-HABITAT in the organisation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference of the APMCHUD in Indonesia.

H.E Ms. (Dr.) Ramalis Subandi Prihandana conveyed to the members that the Republic of Indonesia would present two cases of Best Practices practiced by two Urban Local Bodies in respect of housing and infrastructure development in the World Urban Forum which are very relevant in relation to the Action Plan and that based on the same, bi-lateral cooperation with other countries is also proposed to be undertaken. In addition, she further indicated that a major event is being organised in the latter half of October in Indonesia, with a focus on green buildings and sustainable urbanization, and extended an invitation to the member countries to participate in the same.

**H.E. Mr Vardan Vardanyan, Minister for Urban Development, the Republic of Armenia** thanked the chairperson for organizing the meeting at this important juncture. Expressing his gratitude to the Government of India for hosting the event, he conveyed his special thanks to H.E Kumari Selja for the special efforts made in this regard.

Indicating that Armania is among the growing economies, he highlighted the efforts of the Government of the Republic of Armania for mitigating the effects of devastation due to natural disaster. In addition, he underlined the special programme being implemented by the Government for provision of educational and health institutions in the country.

Expressing Armenia's continued support for all the efforts under the aegis of APMCHUD, H.E. Mr Vardan Vardanyan offered to host the third meeting of the Bureau in Armenia and requested the members to concur the same.

**Dr Markandey Rai**, the representative from **UN-HABITAT** thanked the Government of India for hosting this important event and expressed the appreciation of the UN-HABITAT for extending the invitation for participation for UN-HABITAT as has been done in respect of earlier meetings as well. Conveying the best wishes on behalf of the Executive Director, UN-HABITAT for the success of the meeting, he indicated that the UN-HABITAT attaches a great importance for the APMCHUD as evidenced from the fact that all the Bureau meetings have been represented by the UN-HABITAT. Dr Markandey Rai further expressed his special happiness on participating in this meeting, as it is being held in the place of birth of APMCHUD. Congratulating the APMCHUD on the successful progress since its inception, he underlined that establishment of the APMCHUD mechanism itself has been a historic event, as the path passed through towards achieving this has not been easy to cross. Congratulating the Government of

India and specially H.E Kumari Selja for the significant efforts towards establishment of the APMCHUD mechanism and also for playing a lead role in the pronouncement of the Delhi Declaration as well as formulation of the Advanced Framework for sustainable urbanization in the Asia Pacific Region. Holding of the Bureau meetings at periodic intervals taking up critical issues for giving the APMCHUD a firm ground to grow has been commendable. The meticulous planning and organization of the Second conference of the APMCHUD at Tehran under the direct and personal monitoring of the current Chairperson H.E Mohammad Saeedikia and formulation of the Action Plan are significant steps in the growth of this initiative. He commended the effort by the Permanent Secretariat and the Chief Coordinator Mr S.K. Singh in organizing the successive events successfully making it a vibrant and active Institution. In achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the National Governments have a central role, and for converting these goals into a reality, an active Secretariat is a must. In this process, association of the Permanent Secretariat for experience sharing would be beneficial. With the clear vision portrayed by the APMCHUD and the very active and innovative Secretariat to implement the vision into reality, he expressed that UN-HABITAT has confidence on the progress of the initiative unhindered.

Indicating that agreeing on an Action Plan in Tehran was a major achievement by APMCHUD, and now for implementing the same, the role of the Permanent secretariat is very critical. In this context, he emphasized the need for a comprehensive strengthening of the Permanent Secretariat in New Delhi. Appreciating the efforts made by the Permanent Secretariat in the short span of time, he indicated that the proposal sent by the Secretariat for seeking guidance of the UN-HABITAT has been taken up with utmost importance and the same is under examination by the Experts in the UN-HABITAT. He indicated that the UN-HABITAT would request the Chief Coordinator Mr SK Singh to visit the UN-HABITAT and interact with the Experts with a view to finalise the modalities of formalizing the Institutional set up as well as working out modalities of financial contribution from the member countries.

Underlining the critical role of the Secretariat in achieving the objectives, he urged that strengthening the Permanent Secretariat is an urgent necessity. He opined that efforts on knowledge dissemination, data base maintenance and management, development of indicators specifically for the Asia Pacific region, etc are core activities of the Secretariat and this needs to be pursued immediately towards which strengthening of the Secretariat is an imperative.

Dr Markandey Rai further explained on the forthcoming Fourth World urban Forum event at Nanjing, China and urged the member countries to take advantage of the opportunity to share as well as learn experiences in the field of harmonious development of cities. He highlighted that the programme has the round tables of Ministers, and Parliamentarians and there are a number of dialogues on contemporary themes of relevance in the field of harmonious development of cities at large. There would be a special opportunity for the APMCHUD as well, to share its perception on the



harmonious development of cities in the Asia Pacific Region. There are also opportunities for networking during the event.

Once again thanking the Chairperson for the invitation to the meeting, he assured the continued support of UN-HABITAT in all the activities and initiatives of the APMCHUD.

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

**Item No. 1 : Ratification of the Minutes of the first Meeting of the second Bureau held on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2008 in Tehran & third Meeting of the first Bureau**

The Chief Coordinator indicated that the minutes of the first Meeting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bureau held on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2008 in Tehran and the third Meeting of the 1<sup>st</sup> Bureau were circulated to the members and also the same were posted on the web-site of APMCHUD as well. He further informed that no comments have been received and accordingly placed the same for consideration of ratification.

Recalling that it was specifically decided in Tehran that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bureau meeting may discuss the upcoming World Urban Forum event scheduled at Nanjing, China, the Hon'ble Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, India, Kumari Selja suggested that this aspect may be added. This was agreed to by all the Members.

The Hon'ble Federal Minister of Housing and Works, Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E Mr. Rahmatullah Kakar indicated that the notice given for second meeting at New Delhi was very short and suggested that the meeting intimation should be sent well in advance to enable the members to complete the preparatory requirements comfortably. Agreeing to the need for an advance notice well in advance, HE Kumari Selja, the Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation recalled that as per the decision in the Tehran meeting the member countries were to indicate their willingness to host this meeting. As no indication was received from any Member country and as the meeting was to be convened in the context of the WUF in the First week of November, 2008, in consultation with the Hon'ble Chairperson this meeting has been fixed at New Delhi, and this has been the reason for the short notice for the meeting. Appreciating the gesture of the Government of India in this regard, the Chairperson also expressed happiness on the Republic of Armenia expressing its willingness to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Bureau so much well in advance.

With these two observations the Bureau ratified the minutes included in the agenda.

**Item No. 2 : Action taken report on the decision of the second Bureau in its first Meeting**

The Chief Coordinator of the Bureau presented the various actions taken in respect of the decisions in the first meeting of the second Bureau. The actions related to the decisions regarding convening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the new Bureau, finalization of the agenda for the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Bureau, actions to be taken on the Tehran declaration and the Action Plan for regional cooperation on promoting Sustainable Development among Asia-Pacific countries, soliciting the support and coordination from multi-lateral agencies for the APMCHUD, soliciting the support of the UN-HABITAT for establishment of APMCHUD Secretariat, establishment of sub-regional slum upgrading working groups as per the Action Plan, actions to draw lessons from the valuable experiences of the Islamic republic of Iran and Japan on seismic risk mitigation, establishment of the Asian Disaster Mitigation Centre in Tehran, and follow up on the establishment of APMCHUD's Secretariat at New Delhi.

While on the actions taken on the decision of soliciting support of UN\_HABITAT for establishment of APMCHUD Secretariat, the Chairperson of the APMCHUD H.E Mohammad Saedikia requested the UN-HABITAT to provide its views. Responding to the same, Dr Markandey Rai informed that UN-HABITAT is in receipt of the communication in this regard from the Secretariat of APMCHUD and the same is under study in its Legal Department. On completion of the same, UN-HABITAT would inform its views, suggestions if any to the Secretariat.

On this aspect, the Hon'ble Minister of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India, HE Kumari Selja suggested that a draft structure for the Secretariat of the APMCHUD at New Delhi should be finalized first in consultation with the Chair and the same could be circulated to the members of the Bureau and the same could be discussed in the next meeting of the Bureau. After its ratification or approval by the Bureau, the finalized structure could be forwarded to the UN-HABITAT for its suggestion before formal registration.

This suggestion was agreed by the Bureau and it was decided that the Secretariat would prepare a draft structure in consultation with the Chairperson and the same would be circulated to the members of the Bureau, which would be taken up for consideration in the next meeting of the Bureau.

## **Item No. 2.1 : Action taken report on the decision of the Third Meeting of the First Bureau**

In the Third meeting of the First Bureau, it was decided that the required actions should be taken to ensure a larger participation of member countries in the Second APMCHUD Conference at Tehran. The Chief Coordinator of the Bureau outlined the various actions taken by the Secretariat in consultation and coordination with the Conference Secretariat in Tehran and high lighted that the Conference was well attended with more than 37 countries participated.

Expressing satisfaction on the successful organization and conduct of the Second Conference at Tehran, the Chairperson of the Bureau thanked Mr S.K.Singh, Chief Coordinator of the Bureau and the UN-HABITAT for the excellent cooperation and guidance provided in the successful organization of the event.

Congratulating the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Chairperson for the Impressive organization of the second Conference, and H.E Kumari Selja for organizing the impressive First Conference in December 2006 in New Delhi, H.E. Ms. (Dr.) Ramalis Subandi Prihandana, Special Deputy Minister of Ministry of People's Housing, the Republic of Indonesia hoped and requested that similar assistance, guidance and help would be extended to the Republic of Indonesia in organizing the Third conference in 2010. She indicated that the success of the Conference is the success of the Institution.

On behalf of the APMCHUD Secretariat, H.E Kumari Selja, Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India and on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Chairperson H.E Mr Mohammad Saedikia assured full cooperation for the successful conduct of the Third Conference in Indonesia.

## **Item No. 2.2 : Actions taken by the New Delhi Secretariat subsequent to the Second Conference of APMCHUD held in Tehran**

The Chief Coordinator Mr S.K.Singh explained the gist of various actions taken by the Secretariat subsequent to the Second conference of APMCHUD at Tehran. He indicated that subsequent to the successful organization of the Second conference of APMCHUD at Tehran, which was organised with the kind courtesies of the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran, in line with the decisions taken by the APMCHUD and the Bureau, a number of initiatives have been taken by the Secretariat.

Mr. S.K.Singh indicated that immediately after the Conference, the Secretariat uploaded the Tehran Declaration and the Action Plan evolved by the Second Conference in the web-site of the APMCHUD, for wider dissemination of this important development to all the Members countries of the Asia pacific region. In line with the approval extended

by the Conference, the Secretariat sought the guidance of the UN-HABITAT on the Institutional framework and other modalities for the Permanent Secretariat of APMCHUD. This included aspects relating to the legal framework, the formal registration process, fund contribution mechanism from the member countries, etc.

As envisaged by the APMCHUD for enlisting wider support and cooperation from the various stake-holders in the field of housing and urban development including multi-lateral financing Institutions, Mr. S.K.Singh indicated that the Secretariat initiated actions soliciting support from multilateral funding organizations like ADB, World Bank, UNDP, UN-ESCAP, DFID, KfW, etc. In addition, letters to various inter-governmental bodies like ECO, SAARC, etc. seeking their cooperation and support for APMCHUD were also addressed. As a follow up of the same, meetings with the representatives of these major bodies based at New Delhi were organised, towards sensitizing them of the initiatives of the APMCHUD for sustainable development of human settlements in the Asia-Pacific Region, and specifically in regard to the possible options of cooperation. In this regard, he explained to the members that the President of ADB as well as DFID had deputed special representatives to have an understanding of the potential options for extending their support to APMCHUD. It has been indicated to the Secretariat that they would be placing the issue before their respective Boards for further action in this regard.

The Chief Coordinator further explained that towards facilitating close interaction with the member countries of the Bureau, the Secretariat has constituted a Focal group with representatives from the Embassies and High Commissions of the member Countries of the 2nd Bureau, which has been very effective and active in enabling a significant interaction and facilitation for effective functioning of the Bureau. Indicating that several meetings of the Focal group were held on various aspects and placed on record the significant contribution made by each one of the members of the Focal group. While placing the Secretariat's sincere appreciation of their role, he reiterated that without their cooperation, the smooth operations of the Secretariat would not have been possible at all.

In regard to initiating actions towards implementation of the Action Plan adopted at the Tehran conference, Mr. S.K.Singh, Chief Coordinator of the Bureau outlined the various preparatory actions taken by the secretariat on the decisions arrived at the second APMCHUD conference on the five sub themes. The Secretariat, in line with the identified action points for the slum upgradation has requested the Housing Ministers of the Bureau Member Countries for taking action for establishment of Sub-Regional Slum up gradation Working Groups in each of their respective Sub-regions. Similarly for the sub theme of Urban and Rural Planning & Management, the communications have been issued to the Housing Ministers of the Bureau Member Countries requesting for nomination on the Steering Group to be formulated for taking up Feasibility study on Urban and Rural Planning & Management. Towards the actions for the sub theme on Disaster management, the Governments of Japan and Iran have been requested to

provide information for sharing on Best Practices on Disaster Management for posting on the Web-site for wider dissemination.

The Chief Coordinator expressed that it is indeed a matter of privilege for APMCHUD to have been invited to make a presentation in the Fourth World Urban Forum in the Ministerial Roundtable. He indicated that the Secretariat has requested all the member countries to provide their inputs for the collective intervention to be made at Nanjing by the Hon'ble Chairperson. The Secretariat has prepared a draft paper for consideration of the Chairperson.

The Chief Coordinator indicated that the website of APMCHUD is being constantly updated by the Secretariat, and more contributions from the members would be welcome towards making the site more informative and interesting.

The Chief Coordinator assured that the Secretariat, with the guidance of the Hon'ble Chairperson and the members, would continue to pursue initiatives towards achieving the objective of sustainable human settlements as outlined in the Tehran Action Plan.

The Bureau noted the actions taken by the Secretariat subsequent to the Second Conference of APMCHUD held in Tehran, 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. 3 : The proposed structure for requesting financial support from APMCHUD Member countries**

The Chief Coordinator Mr S.K.Singh presented that as of now, the Government of India is providing the initial support for operationalization of the permanent secretariat at new Delhi and with the proposed manifold activities in regard to implementation of the Action Plan, etc, it is imperative that a significant corpus would need to be established. Accordingly, the item proposes to solicit the contributions of the member countries of APMCHUD.

Agreeing that it would be necessary to firm up this aspect for sustainability in the long run, H.E. Kumari Selja, Hon'ble Minister of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India opined that it would appropriate to defer this item till the process of firming up the structure for the Secretariat is completed, as it would be premature to

propose the financial support before the likely requirement is fully firmed up. As the process of finalizing the structure is on, it would be proper to defer this item till then.

Thanking for the suggestion, the Hon'ble Chairperson agreed that this item could be deferred till the structure is finalised and the fund requirements could be linked to the decision on the structure. H.E sought the opinion of the Hon'ble members in this regard.

Agreeing to the suggestion to defer the item till the structure is firmed up, H.E. Ms. (Dr.) Ramalis Subandi Prihandana, Special Deputy Minister of Ministry of People's Housing, the Republic of Indonesia suggested that it would be required to work out a programme as well as likely benefits to the member countries, which would facilitate the countries to decide on it. H.E also indicated that as each country would have to undergo a process and follow a procedure to gain approval for the contributions and budget it, the item should be dealt with a sense of urgency. Pakistan representative also endorsed the idea of Indonesia.

Agreeing to the suggestion for firming up the structure and also the need for finalizing the fund requirements early as well to put the Secretariat in the action mode, H.E Mr Vardan Vardanyan, Minister for Urban Development, the Republic of Armenia opined that these activities need to be pursued simultaneously so that on finalization of the structure, the fund requirements are firmed up immediately.

Thanking the members for their views, the Chairperson agreed with the overall view of the members that this item could be deferred till the structure and its implications are finalized.

#### **Item No. 4 : Adoption of the Logo for APMCHUD**

The Chief Coordinator Mr. S.K.Singh explained that the first and second conferences of APMCHUD have used logos for the conferences which have been evolved for the events in the absence of an approved logo for APMCHUD. He indicated that APMCHUD would need to have a logo finalized for enabling the same to be printed on stationary and publicity material and other documentation to be brought out by the APMCHUD. In this regard, he indicated that a few alternatives have been worked out keeping the spirit of the logos used during the two conferences, namely the family with a background of the Asia-Pacific region covered by a roof depicting a shelter made up of the indicative continents, thereby imbibing the essence of sustainable housing and urban development in the region. After detailed discussions on alternative samples and the extent these represent and portray the essence of the ideals of the historic APMCHUD

initiative, the Bureau unanimously agreed on the following to be the official logo of the APMCHUD.

It was decided that the approved Logo should be sent to all the members. It was further decided the approved logo would be used for the Third conference of APMCHUD in Indonesia.



In regard to using the connotation, H.E Mr. Rahmatullah Kakar, Federal Minister of Housing and Works, Islamic Republic of Pakistan suggested that this also needs to be firmed up for use uniformly hereafter. In view of the fact that the connotations have gained a significant popularity and acceptance already in view of the two successful conferences it has been agreed to use the connotation '**Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development**' with its abbreviation as **APMCHUD**.

## Item No. 5 : **Proposals for implementation of the Second APMCHUD Action Plan**

The Chief Coordinator indicated the Action Plan for Regional Cooperation on promoting Sustainable urban development among Asia-Pacific Countries approved and adopted in the Second Conference of the APMCHUD at Tehran had identified five major areas for specific actions. This related to urban and rural planning and management, urban slums upgradation, delivery of Millennium Development Goals for water and sanitation, financing sustainable housing – enhancing affordability and quality of low income housing, and development of sustainable urbanization with a focus on natural disasters. He explained that communications have been addressed to all the Bureau member countries to indicate their willingness to identify professionals/experts who could as member of the respect working group/steering group may help in taking the activities further.

In this regard, the Chairperson indicated that it is necessary that actions be initiated by each of the member countries at their country level on the identified themes. The activities of the individual countries could be synchronized through the working groups with the help of the Secretariat in the form of documents at the sub-regional levels, which could then be shared for use among all the countries. Thus, H.E opined that the basic action lie at each country level to initiate at the first instance. H.E Mr Mohammad Saeedikia indicated that the Government of Iran has already constituted five Working groups which have held several round of discussions.

In this regard, Hon'ble Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India, Kumari Selja agreed that the basic action lie with the respective countries. H.E opined that the actions and progress on each of theme need to be synthesized at the sub-regional level through the coordination mechanism under the aegis of the permanent Secretariat and such documents could be circulated for wider dissemination among all the countries.

In the above context, the Chairperson suggested that the member countries may go through the proposal and convey their willingness to contribute through the mechanism of sub-regional Committees on the 5 themes identified. Such participation need not be in person but through exchange of material on experiments and experiences. At appropriate intervals, the team from the Permanent Secretariat may visit the countries and assemble the material for further dissemination. Accordingly, the Chairperson further suggested that the Secretariat may first seek the comments of the Bureau members and bring up the proposal in the next meeting.

Agreeing to the proposal, H.E Kumari Selja suggested that the Bureau members could convey their comments to the Chief Coordinator. H.E felt that the proposal to share the experiences with the Secretariat which would take action to consolidate the same and share with all the countries is a workable one.



In this regard, H.E Ms. (Dr.) Ramalis Subandi Prihandana, Indonesia enquired whether the practices and Institutions quoted in the item for capacity building (page 102) such as Indonesian Capacity Building Network (InaCapNet), Padang, and the PERPAMSI Jakarta are the ones finally recognized by APMCHUD. H.E inquired whether this is to be construed as a proposal or a recognition, as the Government would also like add to the list of Institutions and experiences in the best practices list for further propagation. The Chief Coordinator clarified that the examples quoted are from the documentation of the second conference and are only indicative, and that this is recognition of the effort and not a proposal.

H.E Mr. Rahmatullah Kakar, Federal Minister of Housing and Works, Islamic Republic of Pakistan is in agreement with the approach suggested for progressing further on the Action Plan and indicated that the Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan has already nominated its experts to be on the Steering Committees proposed by the Secretariat.

Concluding the discussions on this item, the Chairperson expressed that urgent actions are required to move further ahead towards implementation of the Action Plan evolved in Tehran. Towards this, the Hon'ble Chairperson requested the members to forward their views, comments and suggestions to the Secretariat, and also their willingness to be on the Working groups/Steering groups. H.E also urged for taking actions on the 5 major themes identified for action at each country level and share the same with the Secretariat for consolidation and sharing with member countries.

The Bureau agreed that subsequent to receipt of the comments from the member countries, this item would be taken up in the next meeting.

**Item No. 6 : Correction of the section under Working group five in the Tehran Action Plan**

The Chief Coordinator Mr S.K.Singh presented the item indicating that the Working group five of the Tehran Action Plan dealt with the 'development of Sustainable urbanization with a focus on Natural Disasters' and the actions proposed included a) undertake feasibility studies for the creation of a disaster loan fund, b) draw lesson from valuable experiences of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan on seismic risk mitigation, c) design and implement training programmes in safe construction methods, d) establish an Asian Disaster Mitigation Centre in Tehran to design modular training courses to be used in the Asia-Pacific region, and e) establish a programme for city twinning to support cities affected by disasters and provide the required support whenever needed.

In this regard, he indicated that the Government of Islamic republic of iran would like certain modifications/corrections.

While discussing on the proposal, Hon'ble Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India, Kumari Selja opined that the Tehran Declaration and the Action Plan having been approved by the APMCHUD, possibly any corrections in their contents also may have to be undertaken only at the APMCHUD level. H.E also indicated that India has a Disaster Mitigation Centre at the central level and its experiences could be shared with the member countries. The Hon'ble Federal Minister, Islamic Republic of Pakistan also indicated that with the recent devastating earthquake in Pakistan, its experience in rehabilitation and disaster mitigation could be shared with member countries.

Thanking the member countries for agreeing to share their experiences in the field of disaster mitigation, the Chairperson deferred the proposal for correction in the Action Plan.

**Item No.7 : Proposal for the effective participation of the regional countries in the Fourth World Urban Forum in Nanjing, China**

The Chief Coordinator presenting the item indicated that the Chairperson of the APMCHUD has been requested by the WUF to share the perceptions and views on the theme of harmonious cities. Accordingly, the Chairperson will be making a statement on behalf of APMCHUD.

The Chairperson indicated that a draft intervention statement has been prepared on behalf of the APMCHUD and members may like to provide comments if any. The draft intervention statement for the WUF was circulated in the meeting.

The Hon'ble Minister, India indicated that India would be represented by a delegation in the World urban Forum at Nanjing. H.E agreeing that it is a good opportunity to present the collective view point of APMCHUD felt that the members may go through the draft intervention document and provide their with in a period of say a week so that the same are incorporated well in advance before the event.

Dr Markandey Rai indicated that WUF is a major event in the urban sector and that there would be participation from similar other Inter-Governmental bodies from Africa and South America and as such is an good opportunity to learn about their structure, action plan etc. Accordingly, Dr Rai suggested that APMCHUD should have a good representation in the event. He underlined that the delegations in addition to Government representation may also comprise all possible stake holders in the urban sector such as private sector, NGOs, etc.

The Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India Kumari Selja assured that India would have a large participation in the event. H.E indicated that a major interaction is proposed to be held shortly with the participating stake holders to evolve unified views for presentation in the WUF.

HE Ms. (Dr.) Ramalis Subandi Prihandana, Special Deputy Minister of Ministry of People's Housing, the republic of Indonesia highlighted that a delegation with representation from central Government as well as a large number of cities would participate in the WUF. H.E indicated that before the WUF, there are major events scheduled in Indonesia in the real estate and Habitat sector, the proceedings of which would form the background for its views in the WUF at Nanjing.

H.E Mr Mohammad Saeedikia indicated that in addition to the Government representation, the delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran would comprise the Heads of the 5 Committees on the focal themes of Action Plan, NGOs, urban local Bodies, etc.

It was decided that the Hon'ble members may forward their comments on the draft intervention document circulated in the meeting by 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2008 so that the same are considered by the Chairperson for incorporation in the document for presentation in the World urban Forum on behalf of the APMCHUD.

**Item No. 8 : Adoption of the time and place of the third meeting of the second Bureau on the sidelines of WUF4 in Nanjing, China**

In view of the expected participation of most of the Bureau member countries in the World Urban Forum in Nanjing during 3-6<sup>th</sup> November, 2008, the possibility of holding a meeting of the Bureau at Nanjing at the sidelines of WUF meet was discussed.

It was agreed that the time available being short, though the members could meet informally depending on the possibility, the efficacy and need for holding a full-fledged Bureau meeting was felt difficult. It was also agreed that there are no proposal that need immediate consideration in such a short time.

In regard to the date for the next meeting of the Bureau in Armenia, it was felt that one opportunity is to hold the same with due regard to the UN-Governing Council meeting scheduled in March/April 2009. It was further decided that the meeting would be scheduled in the month of February 2009 based on the convenience of the host country and other member countries. It was decided that the date will be finalized by the Secretariat well in advance.

**Item No. 9 : Adoption of the structure of the working groups**

The Chief Coordinator indicated that this item has already been discussed as part of item 5 in the agenda already and accordingly no separate discussion has been held.

**Item No. 10: Adoption of the changes to the terms of reference for the secretariat of APMCHUD and the adoption of the description and terms of reference for the rotational secretariat of the Bureau**

In the light of the decision on strengthening of the Permanent Secretariat, it was decided to stipulate that 'All the policy papers received in the Secretariat shall be compiled by the Secretariat and put up to the Chairperson and also to be shared among the Bureau members'.

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

Concluding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bureau meeting of the Bureau of APMCHUD, the Chairperson H.E. Mohammad Saeedikia, Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Development, the Islamic Republic of Iran, conveyed his appreciation and thanks to the Government of India for hosting this meeting and the excellent hospitality and courtesies extended to the members, and also to the Government of Republic of Armenia for indicating its willingness to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Bureau. H.E thanked all the member countries and UN-HABITAT for their participation in the meeting and expressed confidence that with collective will and wisdom, the APMCHUD would reach new heights in achieving its common goals for the well being of the citizens of the Asia-Pacific region at large. H.E assured all possible cooperation to the Republic of Indonesia in the successful organization of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference of APMCHUD as the success of the Conference would bring in prosperity to the Asia Pacific region. He thanked the Chief Coordinator of the Bureau for excellent coordination efforts made in the successful conduct of the meeting.

The Second meeting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bureau ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.