

**Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the Bureau of Asia Pacific Ministers
Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD)**

Venue : Amman, Jordan
Date : 27-28 October, 2007

Participants :

Honourable Kumari Selja
Chairperson, Bureau of APMCHUD and
Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation
Republic of India

Honourable Husni Abu Ghaida
Minister of Public Works and Housing,
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Honourable Manoucher Kajeh Dalloui
Vice Minister for Housing and Cities
Islamic Republic of Iran

Mr. Dato' Hasnudin Hamzah
Ambassador of Malaysia
Embassy of **Malaysia**
Amman, Jordan

Mr. Kanan Murtuzov
First Secretary, Embassy of **Republic of Azerbaijan**
Amman, Jordan

Mr. Sunil Kumar Singh
Joint Secretary (Housing) Govt. of India and
Chief Coordinator, **Bureau of APMCHUD**

Representatives from UN-HABITAT

Mr. Markandey Rai
Coordinator, Global Parliamentarians
UN-HABITAT, Nairobi

Mr. Ali Shabou
Chief of UN-HABITAT Office in Amman

Country Delegations

India

Mr. R. Dayakar
Ambassador of India

Mr. K L Dhingra
Chairman and Managing Director,
Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO)

Mr. Manoj Aggarwal
PS to Honourable Minister, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation
Government of India

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

Mr. Rajesh Goel
Deputy Chief (Corporate Planning)
Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO)

Iran

Mr. Sadeq Sadegpur
Expert in International Cooperation
Ministry of Housing and Cities, Iran

Jordan

Mr. Shehadah Abu Hdaib
Director General
Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDC), Jordan

Arch. Suleiman Hassanat
Senior Director of Housing Policies, HUDC

Arch. Mai Asfour
Director General Consultant for Foreign Affairs and
International Cooperation, HUDC

At the outset, Chairperson of the Bureau, Kumari Selja, Honourable Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India welcomed the Honourable Members and distinguished participants for the second meeting of the Bureau. The Chairperson, on behalf of the member countries of the Bureau expressed her gratitude to the Honourable Minister for Public Works and Housing, Jordan Mr Husni Abu Ghaida for His Excellency's efforts to host the meeting and for the hospitality and courtesies extended in Jordan. The Chairperson also complemented the Hon'ble Minister for taking up innovative initiatives in the field of housing and urban development in Jordan and specifically mentioned about the recent initiative for creation of Community Development Fund in Jordan for financing community wide services including social facilities and affordable housing. The Chairperson highlighted the need for wider dissemination of such innovative best practices in the region for effective replication.

Highlighting the need for extensive sharing of knowledge and experiences among the member countries, the Chairperson informed that an exclusive website for APMCHUD (www.apmchud.com) has been developed by the Interim Secretariat of the Bureau. This initial version of the web-site attempts to provide information on the APMCHUD activities at large. The chairperson requested all member countries to give their valuable suggestions for improving the web-site in terms of its contents, information base, and presentation mode to make it more useful informative and interactive.

She further indicated that the Interim Secretariat had prepared a draft concept note incorporating an action plan to facilitate a focussed approach towards achieving the ambitious agenda set in the Delhi Declaration, which would be discussed in detail in this meeting.

The Chairperson also congratulated Mr. Hdaib, Director General, HUDC on being conferred the Royal Medal from the His Majesty the King of Jordan, in recognition of his outstanding achievements in the field of housing and urban development in Jordan.

Briefly outlining the major decisions taken in the first meeting of the Bureau held at Nairobi on 15th April, 2007, the Chairperson explained about the actions taken thereon.

After the introductory remarks of the Chairperson, the members joined the Chairperson in formally launching the website of APMCHUD (www.apmchud.com). The Chief Coordinator of the Interim Secretariat of the Bureau, Mr. S.K. Singh demonstrated live, the contents of the website. It was noted that this interactive website, provides complete details on the background of the APMCHUD Conference held at Delhi in December, 2006, constitution of the Bureau of the APMCHUD, details of the various meetings held at Delhi and Nairobi and the relevant documents such as Delhi Declaration of APMCHUD and the Enhanced Framework of Implementation for Sustainable Urbanisation in Asia-Pacific. The site also provides online linkages to various important websites of relevant Institutions such as UN-Habitat, UN-ESCAP, SAARC, ASEAN, Asian Development Bank, Pacific Islands Forum, and ECO. This effort of the Interim Secretariat in developing the web-site was applauded by the members of the Bureau.

The Honourable Vice Minister from Iran, Mr. Monoucher Kajeh Dalloui, in his remarks appreciated the sincere efforts being put by India towards the evolution of APMCHUD as a vibrant mechanism for regional

cooperation in the sector. Explaining the on-going preparatory arrangements for the forthcoming 2nd Conference of APMCHUD tentatively scheduled for May 2008 at Tehran, the Minister solicited extensive guidance and cooperation from the Secretariat of the Bureau. The Minister also thanked Mr Husni Abu Ghaida, Honourable Minister for Public Works and Housing, Jordan and Mr. Shehadah Abu Hdaib, Director General, HUDC, Government of Jordan, for hosting this event in a pleasant environment.

The Director General, HUDC, Mr. Shehadah Abu Hdaib while welcoming the members and participants, briefly explained the initiatives being taken by HUDC as the government's sole agency responsible for housing and urban sectors and highlighted the achievements of HUDC, He indicated that since the establishment of HUDC in 1965, the organisation has provided shelter to more than 42 thousand households all over the country, in addition to the public buildings such as schools, health centres, community buildings, commercial centres, etc. Briefly outlining the Jordan Government's National Housing Strategy and the reforms in the housing sector, he expressed the Government's resolve to jointly work with the members in fulfilling the commitments of the millennium development goals for sustainable development.

The Honourable Minister of Public Works and Housing, Government of Jordan, Mr. Husni Abu Ghaida, in his address welcomed the Honourable Ministers and delegates for the Second Meeting of the Bureau of APMCHUD to Amman, the capital of Jordan. He highlighted the challenges of rapid urbanisation and deteriorating quality of life of the poor, and underlined the critical role of shelter in addressing the socio-economic challenges and expectations. The Hon'ble Minister further elaborated on the various initiatives being taken up by the Government

of Jordan to address these challenges. He informed the Bureau about the new royal grant initiated by His Majesty, King Abdullah the II, for providing housing to about 33,000 households in the next 5 years in an affordable manner. He appreciated the efforts of the Government of India for initiating the Asia Pacific Ministerial Assembly for housing and urban development in 2006 towards addressing the challenges facing the Asia Pacific countries and provide a common understanding among them on housing and urban issues and fostering partnerships between the governments and other stake holders.

After the brief remarks by the Honourable Members, the Chief Coordinator Mr. S.K. Singh, with the permission of the Chair, introduced the agenda items.

Agenda Item No. 1 :

Confirmation of the Minutes of the First Meeting of the Bureau of the Asia Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development held at Nairobi on 15th April, 2007.

The Chief Coordinator, while introducing the agenda items, indicated that the Minutes of the 1st Meeting were circulated to all the members of the Bureau and no comments have been received thereon. The members were requested to offer comments, if any, on the minutes of the first meeting of the Bureau.

The representative from Azerbaijan enquired about the comments, if any, received from China with regard to Item No. 3 of the first meeting. The Chief Coordinator informed that no comments were received from China in this regard and accordingly, action of placing the statement on establishment of APMCHUD and soliciting active participation and

assistance from UN-Habitat, in the 21st Governing Council Meeting of the UN-Habitat at Nairobi was completed.

There being no other comments from the members, **the Bureau ratified the minutes of the 1st meeting of the Bureau** held at Nairobi on 15th April, 2007.

Item No. 2:

Action taken report on the decisions of the Bureau of APMCHUD in its First meeting held at Nairobi on 15th April, 2007.

The Chief Coordinator of the Interim Secretariat explained the various actions to be taken as a follow-up of the decisions in the 1st Meeting of the Bureau held at Nairobi, and outlined the actions taken on each decision.

As part of agenda item No. 1 of the 1st Meeting on the theme of setting up of an Interim Secretariat of the Bureau of APMCHUD, the Bureau had desired that the details of the Interim Secretariat already set up be conveyed to all the Members of the APMCHUD. It was noted that a communication has already been issued by the Hon'ble Chairperson in this regard to all the Member Countries of the APMCHUD, and a copy of the same was also placed with the agenda item for the information of the Bureau.

As part of the agenda item No.2 of the 1st Meeting in regard to identification of modalities of establishing the Secretariat and other organs, the Bureau had decided that the details on the activities, etc of the Permanent Secretariat be considered in the forthcoming Meeting. It was noted that a proposal on the subject has already been incorporated

as a separate agenda item for discussion in this 2nd Meeting of the Bureau.

As part of the agenda item No.3 of the 1st Meeting in regard to soliciting the Asia Pacific Countries and the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT to assist the Bureau in its efforts to establish the Secretariat, the Bureau had decided that the Statement by the Chairperson of the Bureau of APMCHUD on establishment of APMCHUD and soliciting active participation and assistance from UN-Habitat, be tabled in the 21st Governing Council Meeting of the UN-HABITAT after receipt of comments, if any, from the Bureau Members. It was noted that as no comments were received, the Statement was tabled in the 21st Governing Council Meeting of the UN-HABITAT on 19th April, 2007

As part of the agenda item No.4 of the 1st Meeting in regard soliciting the co-operating partners to support APMCHUD efforts in the implementation of the measures outlined in the Delhi Declaration of APMCHUD, the Bureau had decided that the Chairperson may address an appropriate communication to keep the referred Institutions/agencies and other related organizations informed in regard to the formation of the APMCHUD, its Bureau and Secretariat enclosing therewith a copy of the Delhi Declaration. The 2nd meeting of the Bureau noted that a communication as referred has already been sent by the Hon'ble Chairperson and that a copy of the same has also been placed as part of the agenda item for reference of the Hon'ble members of the Bureau.

As part of the agenda item No.5 of the 1st Meeting in regard to establishment of Coordinating Committees for the housing and urban development issues in Asia-Pacific Countries to mainstream the issues of the sector and giving a high prominence to the challenges of sustainable

urbanization, the Bureau had decided that, while each Member country may decide on the appropriate mechanism and composition of the Co-ordination Committee, it may be advisable to constitute the same with the Minister concerned as the Chair. The Bureau further authorized the Chairperson to address an appropriate communication to all the Member Countries of APMCHUD in this regard. The 2nd meeting of the Bureau noted that a communication as referred has already been sent by the Hon'ble Chairperson and that a copy of the same has been placed as part of the agenda item for reference.

As part of the agenda item No.6 of the 1st Meeting in regard to 'any other Item which members may like to take up' it was decided by the Bureau that the next meeting of the Bureau (2nd) be held at New Delhi and the subsequent meetings could be in other countries as may be agreed. In this regard it was indicated that as the Government of Jordan had kindly offered to host the 2nd meeting (current) at Jordan, accordingly, this meeting has been convened at Amman, Jordan.

The Bureau noted the various actions taken on the decisions of the Bureau in its 1st meeting held at Nairobi.

Item No. 3:

Establishment of the Secretariat for the Bureau of APMCHUD and Action Plan for the same

Introducing the agenda item, the Chief Coordinator of the Bureau of APMCHUD indicated that the Bureau in its 1st meeting at Nairobi had decided that the details on the activities, etc of the Permanent Secretariat be considered in the forthcoming Meeting, and accordingly a draft proposal for establishment of the Permanent Secretariat of the Bureau of the Asia Pacific Ministers' Conference on Housing & Urban Development (APMCHUD) has been drawn-up. He further indicated that the proposal covers the mandatory framework of the APMCHUD, its vision and mission, its executive Secretariat including its structure, action plan and source of finance. Outlining the contents, the Chief Coordinator explained that while drafting the details, a significant guidance has been taken from the efforts already made by similar institutions particularly the African Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development, which is already in existence. The details worked out covers the mandatory framework, vision & mission, roles, structure, action plan, and initial support for the functioning of the Secretariat of the APMCHUD.

While explaining in detail the contents of the mandatory framework and the vision and mission of the APMCHUD, the Chief Coordinator indicated that the special focus of these would be, as outlined by the Chairperson in her initial remarks, on sharing of mutual experiences, exposure to best practices for achieving the common objectives, and facilitate each other in promoting sustainable development of human settlements in the Asia Pacific Region.

While commenting on the contents of para 3 on 'Executive Secretariat', the Hon'ble Member from Iran indicated that, in addition to the 13 items outlined in the agenda item indicating the responsibilities of the executive secretariat, he suggested that the executive secretariat should provide necessary available information to the member country where ever the APMCHUD conference is scheduled to happen. The Hon'ble Member further indicated that the executive secretariat could also play a significant role in collation and dissemination of innovative construction methodologies, methods of financing, sources of financing including public-private partnerships and government subsidies with particular reference to extending affordable housing to the low income population.

Appreciating the suggestion by the Hon'ble Member, the Chairperson indicated that the responsibility of the executive secretariat could be expanded as suggested and accordingly **two additional responsibilities** as under could be added:

"14. Collation and dissemination of innovative construction methodologies, methods of financing, sources of financing including public-private partnerships and government subsidies with particular reference to extending affordable housing to the low income population.

15. Provide necessary available information to the member country, where ever the APMCHUD conference is scheduled to happen."

This was agreed to, by the Bureau.

In regard to the Action Plan for the executive secretariat, the Chief Coordinator indicated that the action plan has been detailed in terms of the key objective, the output expected, the activities/project to be undertaken for achieving the same, and the indicator of its achievement.

He further indicated that the time frame for each of the key objective would be finalized after adoption of the proposed action plan by the Bureau.

The action plan was approved by the Bureau.

In regard to the source of finance, the Chief Coordinator indicated that the Interim secretariat of the Bureau is already functional in New Delhi since April 2007, and that the executive secretariat to undertake the functions outlined in the agenda would be initially supported by the Government of India, Ministry of Housing and urban Poverty Alleviation and the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO) with skeletal staff and logistic arrangements.

Elaborating on the issue of sources of finance for the operations of the Executive Secretariat of the Bureau of APMCHUD, the Chairperson indicated that the issue of financial assistance from UN-Habitat has been discussed extensively in the context of the African MCHUD. The Chairperson indicated that the Institutional support, though may be forthcoming, may take a substantial time to firm up, and in this process a considerable time may be lost in operationalising the actions the way the APMCHUD has intended to. In order to immediately get into action mode, it was felt desirable to start with the support from Government of India with nominal support and without the financial support issue hampering the progress of work/initiatives. Accordingly at this stage, this proposal is submitted for Bureau's consideration.

Congratulating the efforts for launching the web-site on APMCHUD, the Ambassador of Malaysia in Jordan, indicated that this effort would go a long way in enhancing more meaningful cooperation in the Asia-Pacific

Region. In regard to the source of finance for operationalising the Executive Secretariat, appreciating the decision of the Government of India to support the running of the Secretariat at this stage, enquired whether any expenditure sharing formula has been finalized for the member countries of APMCHUD in future. The Chairperson indicated that no cost sharing formula has been worked out or considered at this stage, and the emphasis has been to operationalise the Secretariat to take up the activities with minimal expenditure support from the Government of India at this stage, and nevertheless inter-governmental contribution or sharing formulas could be discussed later based on the prevalent methods in this regard.

Explaining further on the web-site, the Chairperson indicated that this initial effort would have to be expanded to make it more dynamic with substantial quantum of information on housing and urban development activities incorporated, including various best practices and innovative schemes, with links established to the web-sites of all the member countries of APMCHUD. It should be a rich one with links provided to the web-sites of all relevant institutions. It should have facility for providing comments and views by members and also have link to the official web-sites of all the member countries and also international and multi-lateral Institutions in the field of housing and urban development. The Chairperson welcomed suggestions and comments from the Member countries for its improvement to make it an effective tool for interaction and information exchange.

The Hon'ble Member from Iran expressed his appreciation of this effort in setting up of a web-site for the APMCHUD and felt this would promote substantial interaction among the member countries. The Hon'ble Member suggested that the web-site should have a data bank in which all the

countries place their programmes, views, visions, plans, etc on the four basic aspects outlined in the Delhi Declaration. The details could include the innovative programmes already/to be launched and make them available to all the countries for information, adoption and adaptation. All the members should be able to periodically update the respective details with the help of the executive secretariat.

The Director General of HUDC, Jordan appreciating the effort in launching the web-site for APMCHUD opined that the success of the effort lies in all the countries placing their development programmes/practices and visions in the field of housing and urban development in the web-site for a larger appreciation. He further suggested that with link to the web-sites of UN-HABITAT, etc the best practices in this field should be accessible to every member country, thus making it truly a global information web-site on housing and urban development.

The representative from Azerbaijan felt that this initiative would contribute in improving mutual awareness on developmental initiatives. He further suggested that each member country may provide a focal point officer to update their information content on a regular basis and send it to the executive secretariat for final updating in the web-site. **The suggestion was agreed to by the Bureau.**

Conveying the congratulatory note of the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT on the substantial progress being exhibited by the APMCHUD in a short time of its establishment, the representative of UN-HABITAT, Nairobi expressed its continued support to APMCHUD in its efforts to achieve sustainable human settlement development in the Asia Pacific Region. Appreciating the effort made in launching a specific web-site for the APMCHUD, he indicated that UN-HABITAT would go through the

same and offer its comments and suggestions if any, for improving its contents and reach. In regard to the immediate efforts needed by the member countries, the UN-Habitat representative highlighted the suggestion for setting up of coordination committees in each country for the housing and urban development sector to gain a focused impact. Reacting to the suggestion on the establishment of the Coordination Committees in each member country, the Chairperson indicated that a communication has been addressed to all the Member countries to give priority to setting up of the Coordination Committee for the sector to mainstream issues of housing and urban development in respective countries for giving a high prominence to the shelter challenges.

The Bureau appreciated the decision of the Government of India to support the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat of the Bureau in Delhi. With the above, **including the additions proposed to the responsibilities of the executive secretariat, the agenda item on establishment of the Secretariat for the Bureau of APMCHUD and the action plan for the same was approved.**

Item No.4:

Any other items with the permission of the Chair:

The chairperson invited the members to suggest any items for discussion that they may desire.

a) **Holding of the 3rd Meeting of the Bureau:** The Chairperson indicated that as of now, the venue for the next meeting i.e the 3rd meeting of the Bureau is being kept as Delhi, unless any offer is received from the member country to host the same. The Chairperson indicated that any Member country willing to host the 3rd meeting may inform about

their offer separately. The Chairperson further suggested that the time available for the 2nd Conference of the APMCHUD to be held in Tehran is very short, and as such, the next meeting (3rd) of the Bureau may focus extensively on the organization of the Conference.

b) **Holding of the 2nd Conference of the APMCHUD in Tehran, Iran:** The Hon'ble member from Iran indicated that, as of now, the Government of Iran has proposed to hold the 2nd Conference during the second half of May 2008, and desired to know the views/comments on the suitability of the same. After deliberations, it was decided that the tentative date indicated would be put in the web-site as part of the minutes as well, so that any member country having any suggestion/comment may offer the same.

The Hon'ble Member from Iran further desired that to effectively organize the 3rd Conference of APMCHUD at Tehran, Iran cooperation from UN-Habitat as well as the Executive Secretariat of APMCHUD would be required, and accordingly, a focal point needs to be identified and designated for intense interaction. In this regard, the Chairperson indicated that UN-HABITAT has organized systems for extending such cooperation and guidance for similar events, and expressed confidence that UN-HABITAT would extend all its help the same way it extended during the organization of the 1st conference of APMCHUD in Delhi in December 2006. In regard to the cooperation from the Bureau's secretariat, the Chairperson assured that the necessary available information would be provided to the organizers.

c) **Holding of a PREPCOM by APMCHUD and UNESCAP before the next World Urban Forum:** The Chief Coordinator indicated that UNESCAP has desired to organize a Prepcom in association with

APMCHUD, before the World Urban Forum scheduled to be held in 2008. After deliberations it was decided that this could be organized at the sidelines of the 3rd Conference of the APMCHUD in Tehran, and accordingly **the Bureau authorized** the Chief Coordinator to coordinate with UN-ESCAP and the Government of Iran in this regard.

d) Holding of a special one-day session on public-private-partnership just prior to the 3rd Conference of APMCHUD in Tehran, Iran: The representative from UN-HABITAT highlighted the Resolution No.21.7 of the 21st UN Governing Council which pertained to 'sustainable public-private partnership incentive for attracting large scale private sector investment in low income housing' and suggested that an exclusive one-day official level meeting of bureaucrats and technocrats could be organized just on the prior day to the commencement of the 3rd Conference of the APMCHUD, which can finalise its recommendations and provide the same to the Conference for its consideration for adoption. The Chairperson suggested that UN-HABITAT may send its suggestion to the Bureau which would be considered by the Government of Iran for incorporation in the finalized programme.

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