

**Agenda Item for discussions in the Session on
APMCHUD Organizational Matters**

**1030 hrs – 1200 hrs
November 03, 2014**



**The 5th Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on
Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD)**

**Seoul, Republic of Korea
03-05 November, 2014**

Agenda Item : APMCHUD Organizational Matters : Resource base for APMCHUD – Proposal for Contribution by Member Countries

1. Background

1.1 The need for strengthening the Permanent Secretariat of APMCHUD to enable it to undertake multifarious activities in line with the objectives of APMCHUD and as envisaged in various Declarations, Action/Implementation plans evolved by APMCHUD during its Conferences, has been one of the concerns of the APMCHUD and the four Bureaus constituted by APMCHUD so far. While the effort towards evolving a mechanism to appropriately strengthen and support the Secretariat continued from the Solo Conference held during 22-24th June, 2010 at Solo, Republic of Indonesia, the 4th Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development held during 10-12, December 2012 at Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan had considered a special item on the issue of strengthening the permanent secretariat of APMCHUD at New Delhi, Republic of India with core personnel and the possible funding mechanism to support the Secretariat and its activities.

1.2 The proposal considered the possibility of contribution by member countries for APMCHUD. The salient features of the item considered by APMCHUD at its 4th Conference was as given below:

- a) Agenda theme: Proposal for consideration of contribution by member countries for APMCHUD
- b) The Solo Conference had worked out an initial manpower pattern for the Secretariat including their levels as per UN Staffing pattern, to comprise a Chief Coordinator (Level D1), two technical experts (of Level P4), one Finance Clerk (of Level 3), and Clerk-Typist(level 3).
- c) The agenda had contained the tentative financial requirements for supporting the initial staffing pattern manpower as approved in the Solo Conference, as well as for undertaking initial and preparatory actions in line with the Solo Implementation Plan. Based on the latest salary structure for UN (as of December 2012), the annual expenditure on manpower was worked out to be about US\$ 350,000 for the above positions. Further, it is estimated that about US\$ 80,000 would be needed as office expenses for the Secretariat.

It was also proposed to create a lump-sum corpus of US\$ 250,000 for supporting studies and pilot projects as per APMCHUD action plan and undertaking initial and preparatory actions pursuant to the Solo Implementation Plan with annual provision.

- d) Covering the expenses on initial manpower as proposed for the Secretariat, office expenses, and contribution to corpus, US\$ 686,408 was assessed to be the total requirement, and it was proposed that the average contribution from the member countries could be US\$ 10,000. It was also indicated that additionally, the cost of the premises of the Secretariat may cost about US\$ 35,000 per annum for the furnished space, which is currently supported by the Government of India.
- e) The Agenda had also highlighted the financing mechanisms of some of the other intergovernmental bodies such as G77, AMCHUD and MINURVI covering the provisions made by them to meet the financial requirements.
 - i) MINURVI had traditionally two distinct secretariats, one political for policy and advocacy issues assigned to the chair from time to time and other a technical Secretariat run operated by ECLAC (Economic Commission for Latin American Countries) with support of UN-Habitat. The professional staff was drawn from both the organizations and was based at Santiago de Chile. Later both the secretariats were merged and were assigned to the chair, and accordingly formal support of ECLAC ended, which however continued to provide technical assistance. As such the costs are met by the hosting countries and other organisations providing technical professional and related help.
 - ii) G-77 has its secretariat in UN HQs at New York and has a compact staff positions. The members are expected to contribute a minimum of US\$ 5000 annually and richer countries able to afford more are expected to contribute significantly higher. Apart from the same the G-77 has created a The Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (PGTF) which is a fund established for the purpose of supporting activities in economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (ECDC/TCDC) of critical importance to developing countries members of the Group of 77, in order to achieve national or collective self-reliance, to provide seed money for (i) financing pre-investment/feasibility studies/reports prepared by professional consultancy organizations in developing countries members of the Group of 77; and (ii) facilitating the implementation of projects. The fund is envisaged to be of US\$ 10 Million and so far US\$ 1.5 Million has been contributed by various countries.

- iii) The African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD), established in 2005 is having its activities very similar to APMCHUD. The secretariat so far has been hosted by the Government of South Africa and its initiatives are supported through African Union, which has passed a resolution urging support to the AMCHUD. It also has an additional advantage of having the UN-Habitat HQs in Kenya for having access to logistical and technical support. In its recent conference at Bamako, Mali in November 2010, it has requested the UN-Habitat to host its secretariat in the interim period till they take a final decision on the location of the permanent secretariat. They have also resolved to contribute a sum of US\$ 10,000 annually by every member state.

- f) In regard to the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing & Urban Development (APMCHUD), it was indicated that India has been catering to all the requirements of the Secretariat, ever since it was established in April, 2007. The Government of India has provided a large space in India Habitat Centre complete with all logistic facilities, where one of the meetings of the Bureau was also held in October 2008. It has also provided the services of its senior officials in manning the secretariat. The Chief Coordinator has been nominated by the Government of India at the level of Joint Secretary supported by two senior officials of HUDCO. The Travel and other expenses incurred for the activities of the secretariat have been met by the Government of India. The website of APMCHUD has been developed and maintained by the secretariat.

- g) The agenda had further indicated that the issue of contribution by the member countries was discussed in various meetings of the Bureau and it was agreed that the issue of contributions by the member countries would ideally need to be considered at the level of APMCHUD. Accordingly, the item has been brought up for consideration in the 4th main Conference of APMCHUD.

- h) The agenda concluded that in line with the above, the proposal pertaining to the total expenditure for the operation of the Permanent Secretariat of the Bureau, the contribution to the corpus for supporting and undertaking initial and preparatory actions pursuant to the Solo Implementation Plan, and the pattern of contribution by the member countries, was being placed for consideration of the APMCHUD.

2. Decision of the 4th APMCHUD Conference at Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

2.1 The above agenda item was considered by the 4th APMCHUD Conference at Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan as part of 'APMCHUD Organizational Matters – Proposal for Consideration of Contribution by member Countries for APMCHUD'. The Conference in its Amman Declaration resolved that

'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. Agreeable member states may start contributing to the budget. For other member states, however, it may be discussed further in the next APMCHUD conference in the Republic of Korea in 2014'.

3. Current Status of contribution by member countries of APMCHUD

3.1 Subsequent to the 4th Conference of the APMCHUD, the status of receipt of the annual contribution from member countries was reviewed by the 4th Bureau in its 3 meetings held on 14th April, 2013 (1st meeting), 8th April, 2014 (2nd meeting), 4th August, 2014 (3rd meeting), and it was noted that contribution has not been received from any member country so far.

3.2 In accordance with the decision of the 4th APMCHUD Conference held at Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on this subject, this item on Resource for APMCHUD – proposal for contribution by member countries, is placed for discussion in this 5th APMCHUD conference.

The APMCHUD may consider.