



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

annual
GA/64th
UN-Habitat

30 November 2009

Dear Mr. President,


I would like to thank you for your letter of 28 October 2009, in which you bring to my attention a letter from Mr. Clifford Warmington, Minister of State of the Ministry of Water and Housing Governance of Jamaica and President of the Twenty-second Session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-HABITAT), concerning the need to undertake a review of the current administration arrangements at UN-HABITAT, including its relationship with the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON).

I should like to assure you, Mr. President, that the administrative arrangements at UN-HABITAT, including the relationship with UNON, are issues regulated by the administrative regulations and bulletins issued over the years by the Secretary-General. They have been issued, updated, amended and, if need be, replaced without resorting to a resolution of the General Assembly.

I share the concerns of the UN-HABITAT Governing Council in ensuring that UNON better serves UN-HABITAT as well as the United Nations Environment Programme. As Secretary-General, I am willing to continuously review current administrative arrangements in the Organization, including UNON, in order to enhance efficiency and effectiveness.

While once again thanking you for bringing this matter to my attention, I should appreciate if the assurance I have provided to you, Mr. President, could also be communicated to the President of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.


BAN Ki-moon

His Excellency
Dr. Ali Abdussalam Treki
President of the General Assembly
New York

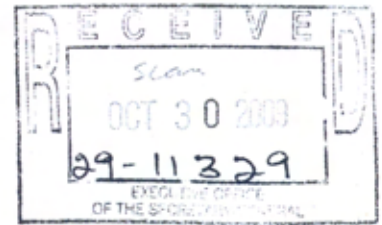
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THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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cc PG

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28 October 2009

Excellency,

I have the honour to attach herewith the letter dated 5 October 2009, addressed to me by His Excellency Mr. Clifford Warmington, Minister of State, Ministry of Water and Housing Government of Jamaica and President of the Twenty-second Session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), concerning the need to undertake a review of the current administrative arrangements at the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including its relationship with the United Nations Office at Nairobi.

Furthermore, I met today with His Excellency Mr. Clifford Warmington, who stressed the necessity to resolve this issue through adopting a resolution from the General Assembly. I have informed him that such matters need to be brought to the attention of the Secretary General, and that I will inform you accordingly.

Please accept, Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

Dr. Ali Abdussalam Treki

His Excellency,
Mr. Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary-General
United Nations



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

Programme de Nations Unies pour les établissements humains
Programa de las Naciones Unidas para los Asentamientos Humanos
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF UN-HABITAT

2009 October 05

Excellency

I have the honor to congratulate you upon assuming this highest Office and to re-transmit herewith the decision of the Twenty-second session of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT on the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNOV) for your appropriate action.

As per my memo of 11th May, 2009 (attached for your easy reference), I had promptly transmitted the matter to your predecessor who advised that he was about to leave office, and that he would refer the matter to his successor. This note is a follow up to that agreement.

In that regard, I have requested the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT to provide necessary background information that you might require on the issue that was discussed by Member States at great length by the Governing Council, that finally reached a conclusion it falls under your jurisdiction and that of the Fifth Committee and should be so referred.

Please accept, Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Clifford Warmington".

Clifford Warmington
Minister of State
Ministry of Water and Housing
Government of Jamaica, and
President

Twenty-second Session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
(UN-HABITAT)

His Excellency
Dr. Ali Abdussalam Tressi
President of the General Assembly
United Nations Conference Building
Room C-204
New York, NY10017

Enclosures

UN HABITAT

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Programme des Nations Unies pour les établissements humains - Programa de las Naciones Unidas para los Asentamientos Humanos

New York Office

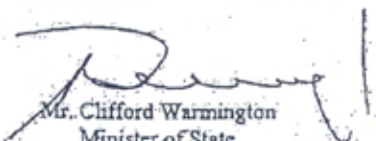
Room DC2-0943, United Nations—New York, N.Y. 10017. Telephone: (212) 963-4200—Fax: (212) 963-6721; E-mail: HabitatNY@un.org

Tuesday, 12 May 2009

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the decision of the Twenty-second session of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT on the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) for your appropriate action.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Mr. Clifford Warmington
Minister of State
Ministry of Water and Housing
Government of Jamaica, and
President

Twenty-second session of the Governing Council
of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
(UN-HABITAT)

His Excellency

Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann

President

Sixty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly

cc: His Excellency

Mr. Gábor Bródl

Chairman of the Bureau of the Fifth Committee

Sixty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly

Enclosure

UN-HABITAT Headquarters

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**DRAFT RESOLUTION
ON
EFFECTIVENESS OF ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AT THE
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT NAIROBI (UNON)**

Submitted by Uganda

Recalling GA Resolution 56/206 which transformed the Commission on Human Settlements and its secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), including the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, into the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

Reminded of Resolution 20/19 of the 20th session of the Governing Council for UN-HABITAT requesting the Executive Director, in consultation with the Secretary General of the United Nations to invite the Office of Internal Oversight Services to undertake a review of the current administrative arrangements at the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including its relationship with the United Nations Office at Nairobi, to enable it to function more effectively and more efficiently as a full United Nations programme;

Gravely concerned about the negative public perception on recent changes in the Director General of UNON position as displayed by widespread media attention, protests from the Nairobi Staff Union, slum dwellers and the Central Organisation of Trade Unions in Kenya (COTU) that has condemned the decision in the strongest possible terms with negative image on the UN;

Noting with apprehension the protest staged by women from civil society at the Opening Ceremony of the 22nd session of the Governing Council against a decision of the Secretary-General to replace a female Director General with a male counterpart which, in the absence of clear justification, they claimed as unacceptable gender based discrimination;

Mindful of the need to strengthen the Nairobi duty station as the only UN headquarters based in Africa and the developing world and to put in place an administrative structure that is neutral and capable of efficient delivery of common services to all programmes operating from the duty station in accordance to their needs;

Convinced that the current practice of appointing a Director General from any of the Under Secretary Generals who are also Executive Directors of the programmes based at the duty station (UNEP and UN-HABITAT) has proved ineffective in offering sufficient direction in the management of the duty station leading to defects in the administration as shown in adverse OIOS Audit reports that have been discussed by the media and dented the image of the duty station and the UN in general;

1. Calls upon the Joint Inspection Unit, as a matter of urgency, to undertake an investigation into the circumstances that led into the current changes in the Director Generalship and to recommend measures that need to be taken to rectify the situation;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen the Nairobi duty station by appointing an independent Director General either through a redeployment or earmarked resources from Member States in a position to do so, thereby enabling the Executive Heads of UNEP or UN-HABITAT to focus on their respective programmes;

3. *Calls upon* Member States in a position to do so to support the Secretary-General in his efforts to implement this resolution;

4. *Invites* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its 64th session on the implementation of this resolution in light of the gravity of the situation.

Statement of the President of the Governing Council

"Effectiveness of the Administrative Arrangements at
The United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON)"

Distinguished members of the Governing Council,

At the outset of the Governing Council, I received a document from the Government of Uganda that raised several issues about problems associated with the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON).

I took note of the sentiments and believe it is important to recognize the concerns expressed in the document. However, after consultation with several member states, I concluded that the concerns would be appropriately addressed by the General Assembly.

In light of this I would like to call upon member states to support efforts during the 64th session of the General Assembly to improve the Nairobi duty station so that UNON can serve UN-Habitat in the most efficient way possible.