

ECOSOC

**Note to Mr. Nambiar**

Draft Report of the Secretary-General to ECOSOC 2010  
on Coordinated Implementation of the Habitat Agenda

1. The draft report of the Secretary-General to ECOSOC 2010 on *Coordinated Implementation of the Habitat Agenda*, has been submitted by UN-HABITAT for clearance.
2. Following revisions in consultation with UN-HABITAT, ODSG recommends the approval of the attached report as submitted.

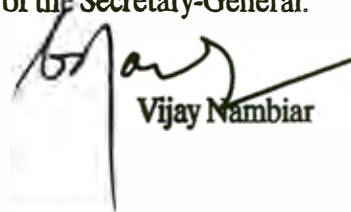
Thank you.



Parfait Onanga-Anyanga  
10 May 2010

**! URGENT**

10-04479

  
Vijay Nambiar

## Coordinated Implementation of the Habitat Agenda

### Draft Report of the Secretary-General

#### Summary

The present report highlights some of the strategic actions that UN-Habitat has undertaken to become a catalyst in the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda. This has entailed a shift towards enabling, empowering and entrusting existing and new partners to partake in decision making, priority setting and implementation.

This approach was used to establish and launch of the World Urban Campaign which spearheads UN-Habitat's efforts to work closely with Habitat Agenda Partners to elevate the importance accorded to sustainable urbanisation in public policy and in public and private investment. Inspired by the World Urban Forum, the World Urban Campaign is coordinated by UN-Habitat but wholly owned by Habitat Agenda Partners. In the space of less than a year, over 55 partners representing networks of major stakeholder groups, UN agencies and the business sector agreed on a set of goals and principles and priority actions to be completed in time for the launch the Campaign at the 5th session of the World Urban Forum.

Other highlights of the reporting period include: landmark decisions by the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of the Governing Council for UN-Habitat including a proposal for the General Assembly to consider the convening, in 2016, a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III); World Habitat Day celebrations in Washington DC; the coming of age of the World Urban Forum; and progress in forging innovative finance options for affordable housing.

The report concludes with two recommendations that are based on the growing recognition that sustainable urbanisation is key to sustainable development in a rapidly urbanizing world.

## **I. Introduction**

The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph (c) of Economic and Social Council decision 2009/238.

## **II. Decisions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)**

A key decision by the twenty-second session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat was its recommendation to the General Assembly to consider convening, in 2016, a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III).

Two major arguments underscore the rationale of this recommendation. The first is the changing nature of social, economic and environmental challenges caused by rapid urbanisation. On the social front, whereas poverty has heretofore been considered largely as a rural phenomenon, one of the major consequences of the demographic shift to cities is the urbanisation of poverty and deprivation. Similarly, on the economic front, the ability of nations to engage in robust economic development and to provide sustainable livelihoods and reduce poverty depends increasingly on two factors, namely, how well cities are managed, and how sectoral policies for health, education, welfare, safety, housing and basic services are brought to bear within an integrated and spatially coherent urban development framework.

The second argument lies in the increasingly critical role and contribution of cities to environmental sustainability at all levels, including the global level. With just over half of the world's population living in cities, urban areas already consume 80 percent of global energy, generate an equal proportion of all waste and contribute directly to more than 60 percent of green house gas emissions. This argument led to another important resolution of the Governing Council on "Cities and climate change". It acknowledged that cities are major contributors as well as primary victims of climate change and recognised the important role and contribution of cities in devising and implementing climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

The Governing Council further recognized that both the short-term impact of the global financial crisis and the medium to longer term impacts of climate change on cities are likely to have **substantial** consequences for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. It noted that the one of the consequences of the financial crisis is the reduced capacity of local authorities to extend and provide basic services and that the urban poor, especially women, are particularly vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change on housing and basic infrastructure and services.

Similar concerns were reflected in other resolutions adopted by the Governing Council on, inter alia, affordable housing finance, strengthening the development of urban young people, and guidelines on access to basic services for all. A common thread throughout these resolutions is the need for new policies, new strategies and new partnerships at the national and local levels to ensure more sustainable urbanisation, as well as changes in the focus and priorities of international cooperation.

This was notably the case with resolution 22/8 requesting UN-Habitat to develop, in coordination with the Habitat Agenda partners, training instruments to assist interested

Governments to adapt the guidelines on access to basic services to their national context, and to prepare a global assessment report. Representatives of Member States, UN Agencies and stakeholders met during the 5th session of the World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro to review the complementarity of the guidelines with those on decentralization and to **engage** in a consultative process for the global assessment report.

The guidelines on access to basic services for all was incorporated in the list of tools for the implementation of the Social Protection Floor initiative of the CEB to promote the social floor agenda in country activities and to stimulate inter agency collaboration through normative and operational country support activities.

### **III. Responses at the global level**

#### ***World Habitat Day***

The global observance of the World Habitat Day was celebrated in Washington D.C. in October 2009. It was a seven days of affiliated events organized by non-State actors in what became "World Habitat Week". This event marked a major milestone in terms of elevating the importance and visibility accorded to the Habitat Agenda and, indeed, to sustainable urbanisation, by a country of the Global North. In his video message, the US President acknowledged that no country could meet all the challenges of sustainable urbanisation alone and stressed the necessity to work with the United Nations to meet the needs of the present while securing the future.

#### ***World Urban Forum***

The coming of age of the World Urban Forum was, without a **doubt**, the highlight of the reporting period. Over 10,600 people from 150 countries representing all major groups congregated in Rio de Janeiro for its fifth session. Heads of government, including the Presidents of Brazil and Uganda, the Prime Minister of Haiti and the Vice Presidents of the Philippines and Spain opened the Forum.

In a trend that first emerged at its Fourth session in Nanjing, China, Heads of State and their ministers, parliamentarians and mayors, youth and women, professionals and slum dwellers, the media and the private sector engaged with one another in a true meeting of minds and in extensive dialogue and exchange to learn from each other's experience in forging a more sustainable urban future.

The open and often frank debate on the main theme, *Bridging the Urban Divide*, produced a fresh range of ideas, policy options and promising practices in the realization of the ideals and principles enshrined in the Habitat Agenda. High on the agenda was climate change, with the huge impacts of disasters on cities, and reducing the unsustainable footprint of cities.

"Bridging the urban divide" proved to be both timely and pertinent to the concerns of citizens and decision makers from the north and the south. Citizenship and the "right to the city" emerged as recurrent themes in what appeared to be a growing consensus and concern for more equitable and inclusive development.

Indeed, the non-legislative format of the Forum re-affirmed the event as a unique vehicle for international exchange and cooperation at every level and, in particular, across social and economic divides. Government ministers from many countries met with representatives of

civil society to engage in frank and open discussions on the problems of a rapidly urbanizing world. These discussions provided unparalleled opportunities to discuss new policies, innovative strategies, cutting edge business models and emerging modalities of cooperation including North-South, South-South and city-to-city cooperation. The Urban Youth Assembly and Gender Equality Action Assembly held for two days before the Opening of the Forum. They now form an integral part of the World Urban Forum in compliance with Governing Council Resolutions 22/4 and 22/7 respectively.

The Government of Bahrain offered to host the sixth session of the World Urban Forum in 2012.

### ***World Urban Campaign***

A highlight of the Forum was the launch of the World Urban Campaign designed to elevate the drive by UN-Habitat and its partners for better, smarter, greener and more equitable cities to a new level. It was launched by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat in what underscores one of the main objectives of the Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan of UN-Habitat – that of forging effective partnerships between and with the public, private and civil society sectors to enable UN-Habitat to fulfill a truly catalytic role.

In the months preceding the launch of the World Urban Campaign, a steering committee of major partners and groups was established on the basis of shared ownership and common vision and mission. More than 50 partners representing global and thematic networks of cities, professionals, civil society and the private sector committed themselves to the free exchange of knowledge, expertise and experience in support of sustainable urbanisation. In addition, five UN agencies (ILO, WHO, UPU, ISDR ITU) are playing an active role in the Campaign by associating their respective campaigns on decent work and livelihoods, on smart cities, and healthy cities, on addressing the world and an address for everyone and on resilient cities to the World Urban Campaign.

Representatives of national and local governments, grassroots organisations, professionals, trade unions, the media, the business community and women signed a compact in support of the World Urban Campaign to work together as one in elevating the importance accorded to sustainable urbanisation in public policy and public and private investment.

A key activity of the World Urban Campaign is its 100 Cities Initiative which builds on the concept of best practices but focuses on the sharing, exchange and transfer of lessons learned from experience. The initiative will include a 100 Cities Summit to take place one year after the 5<sup>th</sup> session of the World Urban Forum, in Alicante, Spain.

By virtue of its membership which includes all of the key stakeholders participating in the World Urban Forum, the World Urban Campaign is also poised to serve as an informal inter-sessional mechanism whereby partners can capitalize on the wealth of the actionable ideas generated at the Forum, and also help partners better prepare for future sessions of the Forum.

### ***Shanghai World Expo***

The Shanghai World Expo which lasts from May to October 2010 is without a doubt the single biggest contribution to the mainstreaming of the Habitat Agenda and of the sustainable urban development agenda in recent history. UN-Habitat assumed its leadership role in

coordinating the participation, presence and inputs of all interested UN agencies, programmes and funds for the UN Pavilion at the Shanghai Expo.

Under the banner of Better City Better Life, the entire Expo and the UN pavilion is dedicated to ideas, experiences, innovations, tools, technologies, know how and forms of expression that portray a positive vision of an urbanizing world – one of the key objectives of the World Urban Campaign. The Expo is expected to attract 70 million visitors, many of whom will be very interested in the UN pavilion and what the UN is doing

### ***Global parliamentarians***

The Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (GPH) organized a number of regional and global conferences and events to sensitize the parliamentarians on their role as law makers in adopting relevant laws and policies to promote the pro-poor housing and slum upgrading, including access to basic services.

The GPH organized a three day conference on Sustainable Urbanization in Rio de Janeiro just before the WUF. The focus of the conference was on climate change, urban rural linkages and the participation of population in city life. The deliberations were summarized in the form of a Declaration of Rio.

During the WUF, a round table meeting of parliamentarians was organized by GPH on Climate Change and Human Settlements. Panelists representing all major regions of the world took stock of policies and legislation that are being implemented in their respective countries with the aim to mitigate the impact of climate change on human settlements.

The Global Parliamentarians on Habitat further highlighted their support for the World Urban Campaign and signed a compact to this effect.



### *Associations of Local Authorities*

Collaboration with associations of local authorities was also consolidated during the reporting period. In February 2009, UN-HABITAT jointly convened a meeting of mayors of African capitals and major cities. The meeting addressed the challenges facing such cities which are bearing the brunt of the rapid urbanisation.

Support to the global observatory on local democracy continued with UN-HABITAT providing financial and technical inputs. Members of UCLG participated in several technical forums organised by UN-HABITAT, and technical backstopping was provided to the summit of African local authorities held in Marrakesh, Morocco in December 2009. Similarly, a joint initiative is being executed with the Commonwealth Local Government Forum involving the provision of technical support to local authorities in Southern Africa to monitor progress in improving systems of local governance.

The three global associations of local authorities played an active role in the World Urban Campaign. United Cities and Local Government, Metropolis, and ICLEI are members of the World Urban Campaign Steering Committee and are working collaboratively with each other and with other networks and entities from the private, professional and civil society sectors to elevate the importance of sustainable urbanisation in public policy.

### *Habitat Professionals Forum (HPF)*

The Habitat Professionals Forum, and its constituent members including the International Union of Architects (UIA), the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP), played a very active role in the preparatory phase of the launch of the World Urban Campaign. The combined membership of the HPF is estimated in the tens of thousands of people who, for the most part, play a significant role in shaping our cities and communities and in advising local decision makers.

## **IV. Responses at the regional level**

### *Regional Ministerial Conferences*

Standing conferences of Ministers of Housing and Urban Development in various regions have also continued to serve as effective vehicles for exchange of experiences on implementing the urban agenda. These conferences are also promoting a shared concern of urgent global issues such as urban sustainability and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In July 2009, the XVIII Assembly of Ministers and lead authorities of housing and urban development in Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI), convened in Montego Bay, Jamaica. Among other agenda items, the forum addressed the issues of decent housing and universal access to basic urban services as critical elements to the well-being of urban populations and as key strategies for urban poverty reduction. The Final Declaration highlighted the decline of available resources for housing and urban development as a consequence of the current economic crisis. In recognition of the growing and debilitating impacts of climate change and natural disasters on the region, the meeting also recommended the preparation of natural disaster risk and vulnerability maps as collective measures for disaster prevention and mitigation. The Assembly also supported the preparation by UN-Habitat of the first regional report on the State of Latin American and Caribbean cities.

In the African region, consultations were held with the Secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development on launching the Monitoring and Review Framework and Tool in support of the human settlements related Millennium Development Goals. At the same time, the Government of Mali has expressed an interest to host the next Ministerial meeting.

The Asia-Pacific Ministerial conference on Housing and Urban Development has been following up on its Action Plan adopted at its second meeting held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran. Arrangements are being finalized for convening the third meeting to be hosted by the Government of Indonesia, in Solo, in June 2010. This conference will address the theme of Empowering Communities for Sustainable Urbanization and aims to develop a knowledge hub on sustainable human settlement development in the Asia-Pacific region.

In collaboration with the African Ministerial Conference on Water, UN-Habitat participated in the preparation of the African regional position paper on water and sanitation and the organisation of the Africa Day session at the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul, during which the document was launched. Support was also extended to the preparatory process and the organisation of the 2nd Africa Water Week under the auspices of AMCOW in Johannesburg in November 2009.

### ***Regional Development Banks***

Partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB) under the Water for African Cities Programme resulted in critical pre-investment capacity enhancement for the Zanzibar and Harar water and sanitation authorities. In Kenya, UN-HABITAT's pre-investment capacity-building activities helped to fast track approval of a US\$ 71.15 million loan provided by AfDB. In Mali, demonstration of appropriate sanitation facilities in Niono to complement a US\$ 15.72 million AfDB project has yielded positive results.

Under the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Initiative, a project formulation study, funded by the African Water Facility, to scale up the programme to another 15 towns in five Countries is nearing completion. A total funding package of over US\$ 150 million is envisaged with the African Development Bank in financing follow-up investments. A new partnership with the European Investment Bank is laying the groundwork for increasing investment flows to the larger cities around Lake Victoria.

In Asia, UN-Habitat's continued to provide technical assistance under a US\$ 10 million grant fund to enable local authorities to access up to US\$ 1 billion in ADB follow-up investment. The joint annual consultation meeting held in Manila in February 2010 identified new opportunities for collaboration in projects and knowledge management.

Arrangements have been put into place with the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) under the Water and Sanitation Programme for the Latin American and the Caribbean Cities. In Bolivia, UN-HABITAT initiated first steps in 2009 towards a proposed IADB Water Peri-Urban Project in the cities of La Paz, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz and Tarija. Similar collaborative projects are being developed in Colombia and El-Salvador.



## V. Responses at the interagency level

### *Armed Violence Prevention Programme*

The Armed Violence Prevention Programme was signed in 2009 with UNICEF, UNDP/BCPR, UNODC, UNODA, WHO and UN-HABITAT for reducing threats related to arms availability and violence. This is a proactive partnership of UN-HABITAT with several important UN organizations, for common objectives. In this line, a common workshop was also held in Nairobi in December 2009 with UNDESA and UNODA on Armed Violence and Youth in Africa. Collaboration was maintained with UNDESA, UNDP Oslo Governance, as well as other partners in the development of measurement tools for measuring and promoting urban social cohesion.

As part of a Global Network for Safer Cities, A **Youth-led** Platform and a Police Platform for Urban Development (PPUD) initiated integration of Youth and Police in urban development activities, and in particular, urban safety. The Police Platform was launched in Barcelona, Spain in November 2009. Agreement has been reached with the Swedish National Police Board, Institute of Public Safety of Catalonia, Montreal Police, Nigeria Police, UNODC and UNITAR on an annual joint work plan for the platform.

### *Cities and climate change*

The Cities and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI), launched in 2009, works with a wide range of external partners to produce measurable results. Coordination begins with local partners in undertaking activities in the initial four CCCI pilot cities/countries: Kampala, Uganda, Maputo Mozambique, Sorsogon City, the Philippines, and Esmeraldas Ecuador. In Kampala UN-Habitat has teamed with Makerere University to carry out a city climate change assessment, as well as to formulate and begin implementing a climate change action plan. Similar arrangements are being established with local partners in several cities in Africa and Asia that have recently joined the initiative.

In partnership with Local Government Denmark (LGDK), UN-Habitat maintains a Climate Action Map. This Map now features a number of case studies on city-level climate change experiences.

CCCI has also partnered with ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability to prepare a capacity-building tool on cities and carbon finance, and with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) to formulate a tool on developing local climate change plans. CCCI also joined forces with the World Bank, UNEP and the Cities Alliance to address Cities and Climate Change. This collaboration contributes to a more **coordinated** and focused response on issues facing cities, particularly in developing countries. The collaborating agencies released a common standard for measuring city greenhouse gases for public comment at the fifth session of the World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro in March 2010. Other products envisaged through this collaboration include an online catalogue to facilitate access to available studies and research related to cities and climate change, and a common urban risk assessment methodology.

Finally, CCCI is exploring a new form of collaborative implementation with the Netherlands-based infrastructure and environment firm ARCADIS. ARCADIS recently signed a

memorandum of understanding with UN-Habitat as a corporate sponsor of the World Urban Campaign, by which their staff will provide a significant level of pro bono work in coming years in support of UN-Habitat development initiatives.

### **The Global Land Tool Network (GLTN)**

The Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) is an initiative led by UN-Habitat and global partners aiming at the development of land tools, land policy and land reforms that can strengthen security of land rights for the poor amongst other things. The Network is already comprised of 42 regional and international partners that include multilateral and bilateral organizations such as World Bank, FAO, Swedish SIDA, GTZ and others, members of international civil society, professional associations and research and training institutions like FIG-International Federation of Surveyors, ILC-International Land Coalition, COHRE, Hakijamii, the Huairou Commission and Shack Dwellers International amongst others.

During the reporting period, GLTN partners developed a Gender Evaluation Criteria that has been piloted in three different countries (Nepal, Brazil and Ghana). This was the highlight of this reporting period. The preliminary results were presented during the fifth session of the World Urban Forum demonstrating the success of this tool in assessing the gender sensitiveness of public policies towards land rights.

### ***Human settlements and crises***

UN-Habitat continues to support activities in countries both prone to, and recovering from human-made and natural disasters. Support to projects in Kosovo, Mexico, Colombia, Nepal, Pakistan, southern Sudan and Darfur, Uganda, Mozambique, Madagascar and the Democratic Republic of Congo have shown how a human settlements perspective can strengthen the transition between relief and development.

UN-Habitat continued to support the Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and other partners in their Global Campaign "Making Cities Resilient" collaborating with UN-Habitat's "World Urban Campaign" as well as provision of coordination in the development of normative products assisting partner cities in risk reduction and urban resilience programming.

Through partner consultations UN-Habitat strengthened the application of the guiding principles on Sustainable Relief and Reconstruction by partners including the Huairou Commission, GROOTS, the IFRC, and ISDR among others.

Within the framework of ECHA and the IASC, UN-Habitat is increasingly collaborating with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNDP, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Organisation for Migration to support recovery efforts of countries in crisis.

New partnerships have also emerged with non-governmental organisations including Emergency Architects, the Oxfam family, the Norwegian Refugee Council, and the private sector. A major focus has been integrating a human settlements perspective into the earliest stages of emergency relief to ensure that key decisions regarding land use, environmental

issues, housing, infrastructure and livelihoods can be taken to facilitate transition to early recovery and reconstruction.

UN-Habitat and IFRC continue to address emergency shelter needs of populations affected by natural disasters with UN-Habitat providing technical expertise to make the coordination role of IFRC more effective. This partnership has been effectively implemented recently in Indonesia, Philippines, Myanmar, Mozambique and Haiti.

As the Inter-Agency Standing Committee focal point for housing, land and property, UN-Habitat continues to lead a group of 10 agencies to strengthen the housing, land and property response in emergencies. UN-Habitat and UNHCR have cooperated directly on addressing land-related issues to complex emergency resolution and mitigation in DRC, and Darfur, Sudan. Technical support in resolving land and property rights following disasters and conflict is ongoing in Southern Sudan, Nepal, Colombia, and most recently with the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region.

These and other lessons have enabled UN-Habitat to continue to engage UNDP, FAO, UNICEF and UNHCR in joint programming. They have led to collaborative arrangements with UNHCR and the IFRC in the Emergency shelter cluster, and with UNDP, FAO and ILO in the early recovery cluster, to produce a range of shelter and housing, land and property assessment tools, methodologies, guidelines and training materials in support of more effective response to settlements in crisis in post-conflict and post-disaster situations.

#### ***International Labour Organisation (ILO)/ UN Joint Crisis Initiative***

UN-HABITAT participated in the preparation of the UN system-wide Plan of Action on the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017). The plan is prepared under the theme "Full employment and Decent Work for all". The plan of action consists of awareness raising, capacity building, best practices and integration of decent work towards poverty eradication into national and international policies and programmes.

ILO has actively participated at the fifth session of the World Urban Forum. It implemented a training event on slum upgrading with a focus on livelihood strategies and also a networking event on decent jobs, which was jointly organized with the Building Wood Workers International (BWI). Both ILO and BWI have been active members of the Steering Committee of the World Urban Campaign, and BWI signed a compact in support of the World Urban Campaign at its launch during the World Urban Forum.

#### ***UNESCO/Decade on Education for Sustainable Development***

UN-HABITAT and UNEP jointly hosted the annual meeting of the Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) of the United Nations Decade on Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD) in September 2009 in Nairobi. UNESCO, as the secretariat for UNDESD briefed participating agencies on the outcome of the Bonn conference where the strategies for promoting the DESD during the second half of the decade were discussed. The IAC members identified areas for collaboration and opportunities for joint activities and events, including CSD 18, and resolved to enhance information exchange and coherence. The meeting was preceded by a one-day symposium on the theme of Climate Change Education and Sustainable Cities.

### ***United Nations Housing Rights Programme***

The United Nations Housing Rights Programme (UNHRP), an initiative jointly implemented by UN-Habitat and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights launched Fact Sheet No.21 on the Right to Adequate Housing in different languages during the Fifth Session of the World Urban Forum.

The documentation of national and international housing rights legislation was updated in the on-line Housing Rights Documentation Centre. As part of UN-Habitat's strategic plan, focus area "Land and Housing", a new six-year programme entitled "Adequate Housing for All" enabled UN-HABITAT together with its partners such as SDI-Shack Dwellers International, HIC-Habitat International Coalition, COHRE-Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions, ACHR-Asian Coalition of Housing Rights and others to undertake the first steps towards the implementation of a global eviction monitoring database.

### ***United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues***

Migration and urbanisation are increasingly affecting the lives of many indigenous peoples. Cities can generate and intensify social exclusion of indigenous peoples and other marginalized groups. Indigenous women and youth are usually the worst affected by discrimination in such cases. Many of the indigenous persons living in urban areas are among the most impoverished. UN-HABITAT continued to work towards improving living conditions of indigenous peoples as part of its contribution to the five main objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People..

UN-HABITAT co-chaired with UNEP the Inter-Agency Support Group on indigenous Issues and submitted the report of the Group to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its Ninth Session in New-York in April 2010. It also contributed to the joint IASG paper on Development with Culture and Identity from an urban angle and stressed the challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples in urban areas.

A new United Nations Housing Rights Programme (UNHRP) report entitled 'Urban Indigenous Peoples and Migration: A review of Policies, Programmes and Practices' was officially launched at the roundtable on 'Indigenous Peoples, Sustainable Urban Development with Culture and Identity' during the 5th session of the World Urban Forum.

### ***UN-Water***

UN-HABITAT chairs the UN-Water Task Force on Wastewater Management whose members include UNEP, UNSGAB, FAO, UNDESA, UNDP, WHO and UNFCCC, among others. The Task Force is responsible for highlighting issues surrounding wastewater management, increasing awareness by governments and strengthening UN-System collaboration on activities related to wastewater management. As part of the 2010 work programme of the Task Force, UN-HABITAT and UNEP launched a Rapid Assessment Report entitled "Sick Water: The Central Role of Wastewater Management in Sustainable Development" during the global celebrations of the 2010 World Water Day in Nairobi, Kenya.



### ***World Health Organisation and UNAIDS***

Relations with WHO were sustained through joint efforts in promoting the urban health agenda. As a follow-up to the Report of the Commission on the Social Determinant of Health, of which the UN-HABITAT Executive Director was a member, the two agencies agreed to work on a joint global report on urbanisation and health. Through a process of sharing information and data, as well as the convening of expert group meetings, the report is now in the final stage of completion and the plan is to release it in June 2010. At the same time, WHO has devoted the World Health Day of this year- 7 April 2010- to the theme of 'Urban Health Matters'. It has planned to have a series of campaign event to promote urban health throughout the year.

As part of the joint effort to promote the urban health agenda, *International Conference on Urban Health* was held in Nairobi, Kenya, in October 2009. This was the first time the meeting, which was attended by over a thousand participants, was held outside Europe or North America.

Relationship with UNAIDS has been further solidified with the signing of a Letter of Agreement with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV (UNAIDS) in March 2010. The goal of the collaboration is to conduct a research study that will compile a more robust body of evidence and pool of information in a focused form available to support better targeted programming around urban slum settlements and HIV. The collaboration will also seek to enhance partnerships between urban slum and HIV actors to foster a more effective response to the HIV epidemic in urban slums.

The planned activities include the production of a Joint Working Paper on HIV in Urban Squatter Settlements and a meeting of experts of urban slum issues and HIV/AIDS convened in Nairobi, Kenya, to provide input for the Joint Working Paper to validate the Working Paper and to galvanise future partnerships around the issue. During the just concluded UN-HABITAT World Urban Forum V held in Rio de Janeiro in March 2010, a Networking Session on "Exploring the Interface of HIV in Urban Squatter Settlements" was held.

### ***World Bank Group and Cities Alliance***

Partnership with the Cities Alliance continued through joint efforts in raising awareness on urban challenges and on advocacy and policy issues. On-going implementation of the joint UN-HABITAT and Cities Alliance Work Plan for 2008-2010 aims at furthering the collaboration between the two organisations while improving coordination.

In parallel, the Medium Term Strategy of the Cities Alliance is currently in its implementation phase. Regular discussions, particularly the annual bilateral consultations, have provided a good opportunity to review the role of UN-HABITAT in implementing the Medium Term Strategy within the context of the Medium Term Strategic and Institutional Plan of UN-HABITAT.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cities Alliance has also invited its partners take part in an important reflection on the role and direction of the Cities Alliance after the first decade of an organization. While these discussions continue with an active participation of UN-HABITAT - as one of the co-funders of the Cities Alliance - it has also become evident that the two entities have a solid basis to seek synergies and strengthen collaboration in the urban arena.



## **UN System Coordination Mechanisms**

In order to promote a more effective coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda, UN-HABITAT continued its collaboration with the UN system on policy and programme coordination including policy coherence, institutional arrangements and programme implementation at the country level. It has also participated and contributed to the inter-agency coordination mechanisms including the Chief Executive Board (CEB), the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs (ECHA), Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs (EC-ESA), the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) and its various support and working groups.

## **VI. Emerging responses with the private sector**

Working relationships with the private sector marked a new shift in 2009 with very large efforts to integrate the private sector in policy and advocacy activities, as well as direct co-investment in the delivery of social and affordable housing and infrastructure. This is result of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan that has placed the private sector as a prominent partner of its strategy, moving beyond the realm of corporate social responsibility to look at core business practices for sustainable urbanization.

### ***Experimental reimbursable seeding operations (ERSO)***

Since April 2009, UN-Habitat has continued to develop its catalytic role in facilitating cooperation between domestic banks, local authorities and urban poor organizations to mobilize and package domestic capital, public investment and community savings for tangible slum upgrading activities.

The experimental reimbursable seeding operations (ERSO) revolving loan programme is working with local banks, microfinance institutions and international financial institutions in Palestine, Tanzania, Uganda, Nicaragua, Nepal and Laos. A local finance facility approach underway in Ghana, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Tanzania offers credit enhancements and technical support to communities and domestic financial institutions to stimulate private investment in housing and basic services to underserved populations. Both approaches are actively developing innovative models showing how financing for affordable housing can be undertaken by combining the efforts of the private sector, microfinance and community financing arrangements.

Active international finance institution and private sector partners include the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Middle East Investment Initiative, the World Bank, the Palestine Investment Fund, CHF International, HSBC Bank, Azania Bank in Tanzania, DFCU Bank in Uganda, the LAO Development Bank, the Capital Markets Authority in Palestine, Bank of Palestine, Cairo Amman Bank and a range of domestic banks in Ghana, Indonesia and Sri Lanka that are providing loans to projects being developed through the Local Finance Facilities.

The revolving loan fund is emerging as an effective tool to reach underserved populations from the 30th down to the 85th income percentiles and is highly complementary to the Local Finance Facility approach, which reaches populations from the 70th income percentile to the bottom of the income pyramid.

Current transactions under the experimental reimbursable seeding operations revolving loan programme will result in the construction of new affordable housing units in Palestine, the creation of serviced plots in Tanzania, new and upgraded homes for the poor in Uganda, secondary lending for housing microfinance loans through microfinance institutions in Nicaragua, credit extension to save-and-build credit cooperatives in Nepal and the creation of a mortgage market in Laos. Projects being developed through partnerships and with technical assistance and credit enhancement from the local finance facilities are well positioned to reach over 10,000 households by 2014. More importantly, however, lessons learned are helping inform policies and strategies that have the potential of benefiting millions of urban poor who currently do not have access to formal credit facilities.

### ***Habitat Business Forum***

UN-Habitat advocacy work intensified in particular with the launch of the Habitat Business Forum, the first international Forum on better cities dedicated to the private sector. It was launched in July 2009 under the theme, "Innovative Cities – Show-Casing and Debating Urban Challenges and Solutions". It provides a new platform to debate urban challenges and solutions and present best practices and innovation for sustainable cities.

UN-Habitat also organized the First Habitat Business Award in order to recognize and publicize outstanding private sector achievements contributing to sustainable urbanization. The Award was presented during the Habitat Business Forum to five global companies for their outstanding achievements seeking to create and sustain responsible business practices that foster economical, environmental and social wellbeing in cities.

UN-Habitat also strengthened its ties with the private sector by establishing substantive working relations with companies through peer learning working groups to review business models and governance issues. The groups addressed in particular the themes of 'Business at the Bottom of the Pyramid for Urban Sustainability' and 'Good Urban Governance: Towards an Effective Private Sector Engagement' and issued key recommendations towards improved business practices for better cities that were presented at the Fifth session of the World Urban Forum.

UN-Habitat successfully mobilized a number of private sector partners in the World Urban Campaign sharing a common objective to promote sustainable urbanisation in all spheres of public policy and public and private investment. These companies are committed to availing their expertise in communications and outreach, knowledge management and tools and methods to support strategic initiatives designed to better inform policy dialogue and development.

### ***Service providers***

Operational projects in the area of water and sanitation, including monitoring mechanisms for Millennium Development Goals in partner countries are being implemented with private sector firms such as Google.org, Coca Cola, BASF Corporation and Lane Xang Minerals Limited.

The Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA) entered into an agreement with the Abu Dhabi Water and Electricity Authority (ADWEA) through which ADWEA will

contribute one million dollars annually to the Alliance operational budget, for three years, and will host GWOPA's Representative Office to the Arab Countries in Abu Dhabi.

## **VII. Mainstreaming gender and empowering youth and civil society**

### ***Gender Equality Action Plan (2008-2013)***

UN-HABITAT's Gender Equality Action Plan (2008-2013) ensures that gender perspectives are fully integrated all of the organisation's work. It recognizes that partnerships and participatory processes are central to attaining progress towards gender equality within the context of rapid urbanization and widening inequalities in cities. UN-HABITAT hosted three partner consultations in the drafting and development of the Gender Equality Action Plan. The Governing Council approved the Plan in April 2009 during its 22nd session.

In December, UN-HABITAT and the UN Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality launched a web feature on Gender Equality and Sustainable Urbanization. The feature is a compilation of research and information from a wide variety on UN sources.

During the fifth World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro, government ministers, councillors, mayors, urban planners, architects, researchers, campaigners, gender experts and representatives of women's networks and non-governmental organizations met in the Gender Equality Action Assembly to track progress and challenges in the implementation of the Gender Equality Action Plan.

In June 2009, UN-HABITAT and the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding focusing on the new Global Programme on Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls, which includes partnerships between local women's groups and local governments on improving women's safety and security in cities.

UN-HABITAT is working with Women Land Access Trusts in Burundi, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda to enable women entrepreneurs, mostly working in the informal sector, to obtain financing to buy their own homes and gain ownership to land. Other partners in this work include governments which have donated land, private construction companies and financial institutions.

### ***Empowerment of Global Civil Society***

To determine how best to go about partnering with the Habitat Agenda Partners, UN-HABITAT drafted a Partnership Strategy that was submitted to Habitat Agenda Partners for their inputs and consideration. This strategy requires a shift in how UN-HABITAT interacts with its civil society partners and calls for partners to be more involved in decision making.

To this end, in 2009 UN-HABITAT successfully involved a greater number of civil society partners by launching a Discussion Series that is held thrice yearly. It brings together UN-HABITAT's Nairobi-based and international civil society partners to discuss topics they have chosen. Topics have included Social Justice and the Right to the City and the Role of Civil Society in Achieving Sustainable Urbanization. This is a unique initiative as it puts partners in charge of topic selection and leading the discussion.

Following the same theme, UN-HABITAT's civil society discussions at the 2010 World Urban Forum were led by the partners. A well attended civil society roundtable discussed the Right to the City and Social Justice. Further, a coalition of Latin American civil society organizations organized and led discussions at a special session during the World Urban Forum entitled Latin American Consultation. This was a new initiative that will be repeated at subsequent sessions of the World Urban Forum to provide civil society organizations the opportunity to present issues that most affect them.

### ***Youth***

Youth as Habitat Agenda partners actively participated in the formulation of sustainable urbanization policy. A number of activities have been undertaken within the context of the Medium Term Strategy and Institutional Plan (MTSIP) focusing specifically on Advocacy, Monitoring and Partnerships. Key steps to facilitate participation of youth have been undertaken through the World Urban Youth Assembly and at UN-Habitat Governing Council.

In response to calls from young people's organizations and subsequent endorsement from the Governing Council a Youth Report entitled "State of the Urban Youth 2010/2011; leveling the playing Field: Inequality of Youth Opportunity" was launched at the World Urban Youth Forum in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in March 2010. UN-Habitat partnered with 12 youth organizations to facilitate participation of over 500 youth to exchange and share good practices and policies.

The Youth Advisory Board representing youth from Africa, Asia, Latin America, North America and Asia Pacific continued to engage in decision making processes with regards to the implementation of the Youth Fund. Its representatives also participated in the Steering Committee meetings of the World Urban Campaign. At the municipal level UN-Habitat has partnered with city municipalities such as Kampala Uganda, Kigali Rwanda, Dar-es-Salaam Tanzania, Freetown Sierra Leon Nairobi Kenya to strengthen the capacity of local authorities to effectively engage youth and their councils to undertake youth development programmes.

To date, UN-Habitat has partnered with and given 67 grants to youth beneficiaries from Asia, Africa and Latin America. The fund has created an enabling environment for pro poor investment in youth in developing country cities with particular focus on employment.

### **VIII. Flagship Reports**

#### ***State of the World's Cities 2010/2011***

The State of the World's Cities 2010/2011 titled: Bridging the Urban Divide highlights the unprecedented challenges associated with urbanization which confront the world's cities today. These challenges include: grinding poverty, environmental degradation, income inequalities, historical socio-economic inequalities, marginalization and various forms of social and political exclusion.

The report noted that between the year 2000 and 2010, a total 227 million people in the developing world have been lifted out of slum conditions. Collectively, governments have exceeded the Millennium Target by at least 2.2 times. However, this achievement is not uniformly distributed across regions. Success is highly skewed towards the more advanced developing countries, while poorer countries have not done as well. For this reason, there is



no room for complacency, because in the course of the same years the number of slum dwellers increased by six million every year. Based on these trends it is expected that the world's slum population will reach 889 million by 2020, if no corrective action is taken.

The report identifies five policy steps for integrating the poor and marginalized into mainstream urban life. These are: (i) assessing the past and measuring progress; (ii) establishing new, more effective institutions, or strengthening existing ones as needed; (iii) building new linkages and alliances among various tiers of government; (iv) developing a sustained, comprehensive vision to promote inclusiveness; and (v) ensuring an equitable redistribution of opportunities.

### ***Regional reports***

During its 21st session in 2007, the Governing Council mandated UN-HABITAT to start preparing state of the region's cities report series to probe deeper into the specificities of issues and megatrends identified at the global level. As a result, the UN-HABITAT regional offices for Africa, Asia, Latin America and Caribbean, and more recently also the regional office for East European States, embarked on preparations for these regional reports.

The Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States launched the first State of the African Cities 2008 at the 4th World Urban Forum in Nanjing, China, in 2008 and it is now preparing a 2010 version to be launched at the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD), scheduled for October 2010.

The Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean launched its first State of the Latin American and Caribbean Cities report during the 5th World Urban Forum, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in March 2010. The Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific is expected to launch a first State of the Asian and Pacific Cities at the Shanghai World Expo on World Habitat Day 2010.

The first State of the European Cities in Transition report is scheduled for launching during the first quarter of 2011, while preparations are under way for a first State of the Arab Cities report, due for launching at the 6th World Urban Forum in Bahrain.

### ***Global Report on Human Settlements 2009***

The Global Report on Human Settlements 2009, titled Planning Sustainable Cities, assessed the effectiveness of current urban planning systems in both developing and developed countries. It identified a number of broad policy directions that must be promoted: (i) governments should increasingly take on a more central development role in cities; (ii) reformed urban planning systems must fully and unequivocally address the current and emerging urban challenges, including climate change, rapid urbanization and poverty, shrinking cities, ageing, multicultural composition of cities, informality and safety; (iii) countries should formulate national urban policies in order to address urban challenges and prospects more systematically; and (iv) capacity to enforce urban planning regulations, which is seriously lacking in many developing countries, should be given very high priority and should be developed on the basis of realistic standards.

The report further suggested that, in order to integrate the green and brown agendas in cities, urban local authorities should implement a comprehensive set of green policies and strategies encompassing urban design, energy, infrastructure, transport, waste and slums.



Finally, with respect to planning, spatial structure of cities and provision of infrastructure, the report suggested that strategic spatial plans linked to accessibility and public transport as well as other types of infrastructure should be used to promote more compact forms of urban expansion. As part of this, urban local authorities should formulate infrastructure plans as key elements of strategic spatial plans. Regional governance structures should also be put in place to manage urban growth that spreads across administrative and jurisdictional boundaries, which is increasingly the case in all regions of the world.

In preparing these and other reports, UN-HABITAT worked with many partners, especially urban researchers and professional institutions from all regions of the world. These included 56 authors from 48 institutions and 49 international expert advisers from 40 institutions. Several partner universities and professional institutions also launched the report on behalf of UN-HABITAT, including in Canada, Chile, India, Lebanon and South Africa. The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI, UK) and the American Planning Association (APA, USA) made particularly important contributions during the launching of the report.

## **IX. Recommendations**

For historic reasons the international and national debate on sustainable development has been divided between two tracks, namely the environmental protection or so-called “green agenda” and the human settlements or so-called “brown agenda”. The accelerating demographic shift to cities has made sustainable urbanisation synonymous with sustainable development. In a rapidly urbanizing world, social, economic and environmental issues can no longer be addressed independently of the spatial context in which they evolve. This spatial context is the city or the urban conurbation where irreversible changes are taking place in the way we use land, energy, water and other natural resources.

The convergence between these two agendas argues for major changes in the public policy, resource allocation and decision making. It argues for new approaches to development. The conventional social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development need to factor in local considerations and contexts including issues of culture, local government and governance and technology.

**For the above reasons and others it is recommended that a third United Nations Conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) be convened in 2016 as indicated in the resolutions of the Governing Council (22/1) and the A/RES/64/207. Such a conference would provide the necessary opportunity for the international community to define the new paradigms, new policy frameworks, and new mechanisms for international cooperation that are required to guide sustainable development in an urbanizing world.**

**It is also recommended that member States participate actively in the World Urban Campaign by organizing national habitat committees, if they do not already exist, and by taking advantage of World Habitat Day celebrations each year to mobilize a wide range of stakeholders to celebrate success stories and explore new policy options to meet current and future challenges associated with rapid urbanisation. As World Habitat Day 2010 will coincide with the timing of the high-level segment of the Shanghai World Expo, it is recommended that member States and the UN family use this opportunity to renew their commitments to the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda.**