

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the fourteen Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on Agenda item 21: Implementation of the Outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (~~Habitat III~~) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (~~UN-Habitat~~).

The delegations of CARICOM align themselves with the statement made by ~~Ambassador Mourad Benmehdi~~ of Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

CARICOM thanks the Secretary-General for the reports contained in documents A/67/263 and also comments contained in document A/67/316 regarding Coordinated Implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

CARICOM wishes to express its appreciation to the Under Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Dr. Joan Clos for the presentation made this morning. CARICOM further welcomes the appointment of Dr. Clos, as the Secretary General for Habitat III and we are confident that Dr. Clos will deliver the necessary structures needed to further implement an effective United Nations Human Settlement Programme.

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM is aware that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) plays an inimitable role in the Sustainable Development platform. This is the fundamental reason why CARICOM fully supported last year's General Assembly resolutions 66/207, in which member states decided to convene a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III).

Sustainable human settlements and adequate shelter should be a concern for all countries regardless of size or locale. However, Mr. Chair, developing countries in particular faces insurmountable challenges given the linkages between population growth and the upsurge of slums, the increase of poverty and the lack of access to basic essentials such as water and sanitation.

Against this backdrop and taking note of resolution 66/207 whereby member states will consider before the end of this year the scope, modalities, format and organization of Habitat III in the most resourceful and proficient way. CARICOM therefore encourages the UN Secretary-General to take all appropriate steps in fully supporting the preparatory process of the conference including through executing all financial and other related conference support services. In addition, CARICOM further encourages the Secretary-

General of the conference to ensure active participation from member states particularly developing countries and other relevant stakeholders in the regional and international preparatory process including the conference.

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM applauds the efforts by UN-Habitat in sensitizing the international community on the impact of rapid urbanization including the growth of mega-cities and urban sprawl in a sustainable manner. However more needs to be done in order to change consumption patterns and lifestyles, particularly with regard to land-use and urban sprawl, this is crucial in the creation of sustainable human settlements. The promotion of sustainable patterns of consumption and production, according to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and taking into account the economic and social needs of developing countries, is critical to the implementation of the UN-Habitat agenda.

The implementation and fulfillment of the internationally-agreed goals on the provision of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development, as well as slum eradication, requires a comprehensive and integrated approach which is supported by policies which are nationally-owned and nationally led and targeted to achieving full

and productive employment and decent work for all; access to safe water and sanitation; poverty eradication; the provision of modern, affordable energy services; waste collection and disposal. Additionally, in addressing the challenges facing human settlements, CARICOM believes that building adequate capacity at regional levels should also take priority. This can be achieved in part through the sharing of experiences, common regional policy formulation and implementation within the context of the Habitat Agenda and the MDGs.

Mr. Chairman,

The recently concluded United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development saw the importance of sustainable human settlement. The outcome document incorporated environmental responsibilities, social awareness and economical vitality as important tools in sustainable urbanization; these three pillars are essential in achieving sustainable societies. The outcome document further elaborated on the need for amplifying the UN Habitat Agenda by including all relevant UN bodies and stakeholders in coordinating and implementing key provisions to urban development and human settlements.

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM thus calls upon our development partners to provide UN-HABITAT the financial and technical support required in order to address the growing demands for assistance at both national and regional levels. UN-Habitat plays an important role towards achieving sustainable development. Unfortunately the resources dispensed to the Programme are disproportionate to its many tasks. We remain concerned at the imbalance in the levels of core and non-core funding. We have consistently argued for greater predictability and reliability of funding for operational activities of the UN in general, and we reiterate this argument in particular for UN habitat. The continued unpredictability of funding of the Programme creates an imbalance between earmarked and non-earmarked contributions, as well as dependency on a small number of donors, this lessens the ability of the Programme to function as Member States require, and hampers the effective and efficient implementation of the UN Habitat Agenda according to the national priorities of developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion CARICOM wishes to underscore the importance of UN Habitat and the UN Habitat Agenda. The fourteen member states of CARICOM further encourages UN Habitat to continue to focus on the most important areas including effective advocacy, monitoring and partnerships; participatory planning, management and governance; the

continued promotion of pro-poor land and housing; the execution of environmentally sound basic urban infrastructure and services; a strengthened human settlements finance systems; and also excellence in management risk but in particular disaster management.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.