



BANGLADESH

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Statement

by

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on

Agenda Item 53 : Implementation of the outcome of the Second UN Conference on Human Settlement (Habitat-II) and of the 25th Special Session of the General Assembly

at

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Second Committee

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Thank you Madam Chair.

I also would like to thank the Secretariat for its brief report.

Madam Chair,

As all are aware, the pace of urbanization is rapidly growing worldwide. As a result, economic, social and political pressures of urban poverty, especially in developing countries, are causing further expansion of slums. They cause serious overcrowding, uncertain employment and lead to the lack of basic services, including water and sanitation. The increasing urban population is placing tremendous pressure on existing land, housing and infrastructure all around this globe, especially in developing countries.

Therefore, sustainable urbanization is one of the most pressing challenges for the global community today. The world urban population is increasing at an alarming rate for 70 million per year. *The State of the World's Cities Report 2006/2007* of the UN-Habitat anticipates that by 2007, more people will live in cities than in rural areas for the first time in human history. The slum population will at a rate of 27 million people per year during the period 2000-2020. The absence of adequate infrastructure, such as roads and water supply and communication facilities in many small and intermediate cities leads to a lower quality of life for their inhabitants.

Madam Chair,

The strategic Framework of UN-Habitat for 2006-2007 was set out with the overall growth of improving the living and working environment for all concerned by means of more effective participatory and transparent management system. The Millennium Declaration had provided the key responsibility for achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020. However, according to the *State of the World's Cities Report 2006/2007* of the UN-Habitat has furnished evidence of several emerging trends that will have a profound effect in the implementation of the Habitat agenda, the MDGs, in the attainment of targets 10 and 11 of Goal 7, and relevant paragraph of 2005 World Summit Outcome. UN-Habitat Global Urban Observatory (GUO) and Technical Cooperation Projects are positively contributing to government initiatives in sustainable urban development policy.

Madam Chair,

Bangladesh is always committed to the implementation of the Habitat agenda for providing sustainable human settlements and adequate shelter in urban areas. A National preparatory committee with more systematic and multi-sector dimension is now in operation. The Government with the assistance of UNCHS and funding from UNDP has undertaken a programme titled "Local Partnerships for Urban Poverty Alleviation". This programme is assisting the poor population to acquire a "secure place of live" with opportunities of "places of work". Besides, an Urban Observatory Committee is also active in Bangladesh.

Our commitment to UN-HABITAT.