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**Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
(UN-Habitat), including coordination matters**

**Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme:
progress report of the Executive Director**

Addendum

**Joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations
Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Environment
Programme**

Activities in the field of the urban environment

Summary

Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) has increased in 2005 and 2006. In the spirit of the United Nations reform process, the two programmes are in the process of developing a strategic policy framework for long-term cooperation. As a first step, the Urban Environment Unit of UNEP and the Urban Environment Section of UN-Habitat are creating a joint work plan in order to strengthen synergies and provide a more comprehensive menu of services to their clients. The elements of the joint work programme consist of the provision to cities of technical assistance and tools on environmental planning and management and urban environmental issues (air pollution, transport, energy, climate change, ecosystem services, water and sanitation); promotion of linkages between local environmental agendas and global environmental issues; provision of technical support and capacity-building to local and national governments on global environmental challenges; and support to local governments on environmental assessments and other matters. As a next step all divisions of the two programmes will be invited to contribute to the joint strategic policy framework with the aim of mainstreaming urban environmental considerations into the work of both programmes. The institutionalized body for cooperation, the Joint Operation and Coordination Group, is well established and meets once a month. UNEP and UN-Habitat have broken new ground by starting to work on linkages between the local and global environment. In this context a joint memorandum of understanding with ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability was signed that provides for the implementation of activities in the field of climate change and biodiversity. UN-Habitat is also supporting UNEP in an initiative to improve the environmental dimension of Cities Alliance projects which began in late 2005. Cooperation has been consolidated in other areas of work. For example, urban environmental assessments were undertaken within the GEO Cities initiative in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Africa. In the field of tools and publications, an urban air quality tool book in an interactive CD-Rom format was jointly launched at the third World Urban Forum.

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I. Introduction

1. The present progress report on cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for the period 2005 to 2006 has been prepared jointly by the executive directors of the two programmes in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolutions 40/199 of 17 December 1985 and 53/242 of 28 July 1999; United Nations Commission on Human Settlements resolutions 15/8 of 1 May 1995, UN-Habitat Governing Council resolution 19/4 of 7 February 2003; and UNEP Governing Council decisions 18/15 of 26 May 1995 and 22/2 of 7 February 2003. The report comprises five main chapters: chapter II summarizes objectives and institutional aspects of cooperation; chapter III reviews joint activities; chapter IV describes regional cooperation; chapter V discusses the results of cooperation and chapter VI outlines future opportunities for cooperation.

II. Cooperation between UNEP and UN-Habitat

2. The world is approaching an urban era in which a majority of its population will live in cities. Urbanization will be one of the main drivers of environmental change and will have a major impact on our global environment while at the same time cities will depend on the environment for their upkeep and survival. Local and global aspects of environmental management are more and more interlinked such that, for example, measures to improve air quality and provide clean water not only significantly enhance the health of urban residents, but have more far-reaching effects. Environmentally sensitive policies at the city level help preserve the ecosystems that cities depend on and have an impact on the global environment. It is their understanding of this interrelationship that long ago led UN-Habitat and UNEP to cooperate with one another. The objectives of this cooperation are to mainstream the urban perspective and environmental management into national and global policy making and to highlight the linkages between the global and local aspects of environmental problems.

3. By joining forces, UNEP and UN-Habitat have combined expertise in different areas to assist local and national governments better to plan and to manage the environment at the local and national levels. By making their complementary mandates and comparative strengths interact more efficiently, the two programmes are coordinating activities and offering a greater range of services. In this way, UNEP concentrates on mainstreaming urban environmental concerns at the global and national levels, while UN-Habitat promotes sustainable urban planning and management at the local and national levels. Internally, an important task is to mainstream the urban environmental perspective into both agencies' work. The cooperation contributes to meeting Millennium Development Goal 7 on environmental sustainability and to implementing the Habitat Agenda and the UNEP Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building.

4. During the past two years, UNEP has increased its commitment and capacity in the field of urban environment. In March 2005, a new post was created in UNEP with the aim, among other things, of promoting interagency coordination between UNEP and UN-Habitat. In September 2005, an Urban Environment Unit was established within the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation. UN-Habitat has also increased its commitment, particularly with respect to capacity and activities in the areas of water and sanitation and transport and energy. Additional staff has been assigned in UN-Habitat, enabling increased cooperation with UNEP in those areas.

5. Since 2004, UNEP and UN-Habitat have facilitated and maintained the Joint Operation and Coordination Group to provide an institutional mechanism between the two agencies for promoting and coordinating joint activities and publications in the field of urban environment. The Group, which comprises the staff of the urban environment units and is co-chaired by their respective branch chiefs, meets once a month.

III. Joint activities

A. Assessment

6. The Global Environment Outlook (GEO) approach developed by UNEP is increasingly used for regional, national and local environmental assessments. Localizing the GEO is one way of paying more attention to managing ecosystems as an integral part of urban planning. UNEP and UN-Habitat have been supporting GEO processes in cities. More than 15 cities in Latin America and the Caribbean have or are undertaking GEO assessments (see chapter IV of the present report). In 2005, UNEP and UN-Habitat jointly selected three African cities (Lusaka, Nairobi and Dakar) to undertake GEO processes, the aim of which is to analyse the state of the local environment and the impact of urban development on the environment. Lusaka and Nairobi have submitted draft reports, while Dakar is expected to begin the process soon. To guide cities in this exercise, the GEO for Cities manual, already used in several cities in Latin America, was customized for use in Africa with support from UN-Habitat. The manual will be revised based on the experience of the GEO processes in the three cities. The regional offices of UNEP and UN-Habitat in Asia have produced a GEO for Cities manual for Asia and the Pacific and are in the process of selecting pilot cities.

B. Policy development

7. Cooperation between UNEP and UN-Habitat on environmental aspects of urban policies, planning and management started in 1996 when the two agencies established a partnership through the Sustainable Cities Programme. The Programme assists cities to integrate environmental issues into their urban planning and development. It uses the environmental planning and management approach to build capacity among local authorities and their local stakeholders. Environmental issues and actions are identified and prioritized through a broad-based participatory decision-making process. The long-term goal of the Programme is to promote sustainable environmental governance at the local and national levels. It is currently supporting more than 60 city-level initiatives in more than 20 countries in all regions of the world.

8. A global meeting of partners of the Sustainable Cities Programme and UN-Habitat's Localizing Agenda 21 Programme took place in Havana, Cuba, in June 2005. The meeting was attended by more than 200 participants including local authority representatives, urban practitioners, central and federal Government representatives, urban institutions and representatives of donor agencies. Participants discussed how the environmental planning and management approach and the experiences derived from it could be mainstreamed at the local, national and global levels. They recommended that more capacity-building and networking among cities take place to assist cities in mainstreaming the approach and concluded that better donor coordination and national commitment, as well as more effective and better funded demonstration projects, would help in that endeavour. Various sessions were jointly organized by UNEP and UN-Habitat, increasing the focus on environmental issues.

9. UNEP played an important role in promoting the environmental pillar of sustainable urban development at the third UN-Habitat World Urban Forum, which took place in Vancouver, Canada, from 19 to 23 June 2006. UN-Habitat and UNEP organized one of six dialogue sessions that took place during the forum, entitled "Energy and Transport: Local Action, Global Impact". City representatives and practitioners speaking at the session agreed that better living conditions and development could only be achieved through environmental planning and management. They called for participatory planning and innovative policies such as non-motorized transport solutions, congestion charges and co-location of business and residential areas.

10. UN-Habitat and UNEP are also cooperating through several United Nations inter-agency bodies such as UN-Water, UN-Energy and the United Nations Environment Management Group. A number of significant collective efforts have been made through several Environment Management Group forums to make the Group a more effective system-wide mechanism for cooperation in the areas of environment and human settlements and to revive commitment.

11. UNEP and UN-Habitat have launched an initiative to link local environmental issues to global environmental agendas. The aim of this local-global linkages initiative is to link local issues such as water and sanitation, air pollution, sustainable energy and natural resources use, etc., with global topics such as climate change, ecosystem services and coastal pollution. The initiative strives to identify

“win-win” solutions that address environmental challenges at the local level and at the same time respond to global concerns.

12. The two programmes have produced a trio of brochures on the role of cities and biodiversity, climate change and coastal pollution. The brochures highlight how cities contribute to global challenges, how they can contribute to a solution, what type of support they can get, and how they can influence global policies.

13. As one next step, the two programmes are joining efforts on two campaigns focusing on biodiversity and climate change. During the third World Urban Forum UN-Habitat organized a networking event entitled “The Global Footprint of Cities”, which explored the linkages between the global environmental issues of climate change and biodiversity and local concerns and actions. In September 2006, UNEP organized an African regional workshop entitled “Cities, Ecosystems and Biodiversity” in cooperation with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Task Force on Cities and Protected Areas, the Kenya Wildlife Service and the Government of Brazil. The workshop participants considered examples of how urban inhabitants, especially the poor, could benefit from protected areas, biodiversity conservation and services from ecosystems such as wetlands, watersheds, and forests. They also developed recommendations for cities as managers of ecosystems.

14. ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) is an international association of local governments and national and regional local government organizations that have made a commitment to sustainable development. In May 2006, UNEP, UN-Habitat and ICLEI signed a tripartite memorandum of understanding that focuses on specific areas of cooperation, including the role of cities in global environmental issues and city-to-city cooperation. Under the memorandum, UNEP and ICLEI organized an African Cities Symposium on Climate Change at the fourth AfriCities Summit, in September 2006. Although developing country cities, especially in Africa, contribute little to climate change they are strongly impacted by the effects of climate change. The outcome document from this meeting served as a basis for a statement from local authorities to the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its twelfth meeting, in November 2006.

15. UNEP and UN-Habitat are both members of the Cities Alliance, a global coalition of cities and their development partners committed to scaling up successful approaches to poverty reduction, and are cooperating closely in the Alliance’s Consultative Group and through joint Alliance projects. In 2002, an independent evaluation of the Alliance found that the environment tended to be neglected in its projects. In response, UNEP joined the Cities Alliance and launched the Cities Alliance Environment Initiative with UN-Habitat support in November 2005. The aim of the initiative is to strengthen the environment in the Cities Alliance by demonstrating how environmental management can successfully contribute to urban development. UNEP and the Cities Alliance secretariat commissioned a global study from ICLEI which identifies best practices, case studies and methodologies to make a case for how environmental considerations can be successfully included into city strategic planning and management and municipal budgets. UN-Habitat and UNEP are working together on several Cities Alliance projects: a slum upgrading and city development strategy in Dakar, Senegal, where UNEP is coordinating an environmental assessment, and similar projects in Cotonou, Benin, and Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso and Al-Fayhaa, Lebanon.

16. UN-Habitat and UNEP jointly publish the biannual newsletter Urban Environment, which is distributed to the network of cities and partner institutions of the Sustainable Cities Programme and the Localizing Agenda 21 Programme, regional offices and other interested parties. Four editions of the newsletter have appeared during the reporting period to coincide with meetings such as the AfriCities Summit and meetings of the UNEP and UN-Habitat Governing Councils and of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. A flyer on joint cooperation for achieving sustainable urban development was produced in 2005 (joint publications are available at www.unhabitat.org and www.unep.org).

C. Implementation

17. UN-Habitat and UNEP are active at different levels according to their different mandates and comparative advantages. While UN-Habitat implements projects at the local and national levels, UNEP mainly supports normative work to link local and global environmental concerns.

18. In 2004 the Sustainable Cities Programme started two initiatives to assist cities in their efforts to improve basic urban services and sustainable urban mobility. Basic urban services projects were implemented in Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso, in two municipalities in Sri Lanka, in Alexandria,

Egypt, and in Maharashtra State in India. Kisumu, in Kenya, is one city where the Sustainable Cities Programme has started a sustainable urban mobility demonstration project. In close consultation with the city council and various local stakeholders the programme decided to improve the traffic situation by constructing bicycle and pedestrian ways and implementing special by-laws to regulate the bicycle taxi business. A second sustainable urban mobility demonstration project will start soon in an African country. Basic urban services and sustainable urban mobility demonstration projects have attracted the interest of the national Governments where they are being undertaken and there are indications that they will be replicated in other cities. Collaboration between UNEP and UN-Habitat regional offices and partners could further strengthen the outcomes of these projects by assisting in the mobilization of resources and anchoring the process in a national institution.

19. UNEP and UN-Habitat have developed an urban air quality tool book on CD-rom designed to help local authorities in building capacity to develop and implement activities to reduce air pollution. The tool book was launched at the third World Urban Forum and a training session on air quality management was held. Regional and sub-regional training sessions will follow.

20. The UNEP Sustainable Buildings and Construction Initiative is working to promote sustainable buildings and construction, with a primary focus on climate change issues and economic incentives. It is working with UN-Habitat's Disaster Management Branch on a pilot project to develop a sustainable reconstruction manual. Discussions have also been initiated on collaboration for developing global guidelines for sustainable settlements reconstruction in post-crisis environments. The two programmes are also seeking to increase operational collaboration at the country level, particularly in South Sudan where UNEP and UN-Habitat are currently sharing an office.

IV. Regional overview

A. Africa

21. Africa is the region where UNEP and UN-Habitat have worked together most intensively. Cooperation has ranged from activities in the field of transport, industrial pollution and climate change and within policy frameworks such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

22. UN-Habitat, in cooperation with the UNEP Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination, is implementing a sustainable transport programme targeting mainly East Africa. The overall objective of this programme is to disseminate widely the benefits of the bus rapid transit and non-motorized transport in Kenya and around Africa more generally, by facilitating the development and implementation of three inter-related demonstration Sustainable Transport projects. These are the development of a bus rapid transit and non-motorized transport system in Nairobi, a non-motorized transport system in Kisumu and a similar system in a third demonstration city to be selected later. The project also aims to create the needed awareness and understanding among policy-makers, decision-makers and stakeholders at the national and local levels that establishing non-motorized transport is important for achieving comprehensive, sustainable, and cost-effective urban mobility.

23. The UNEP Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination and the Disaster Management Programme of UN-Habitat have jointly developed a regional climate change adaptation project for several African small island developing States. The objective of the project is to reduce the vulnerability of urban coastal zones to the impacts of climate change.

24. UNEP and UN-Habitat are working together with the United Nations Development Programme to provide technical and financial assistance in addressing the environmental problems associated with the current location of the industrial zone in Kigali, Rwanda. Activities have been conducted under three components: industrial environmental support service; urban development and settlement; and institutional and policy regimes. Activities conducted during the reporting period include training of experts on cleaner production assessment and the improvement of the option generation process; assistance to nine industries on cleaner production and support for a strategy to create a small and medium-size enterprises park.

25. Within the Nairobi River Basin Programme, UNEP, UNDP, UN-Habitat, the Kenya Government, the City Council of Nairobi and members of the private sector and civil society became partners and stakeholders in the initiative during formulation of phase III of the Programme. The objective of phase III is to rehabilitate, restore and manage the Nairobi River Basin and its ecosystem in order to provide improved livelihoods, especially for the poor, enhanced biodiversity, and a sustainable

supply of water for domestic, industrial, recreational and emergency uses. Among the activities accomplished during the reporting period is the completion of three community-based solid waste management projects; the planting of 6 hectares of denuded areas of Karura Forest with 6,000 indigenous trees as part of a re-forestation programme; data collection on the water quality of the Nairobi River Basin and socio-economic human settlement patterns and infrastructure, which has been incorporated into an environmental management information system; the development of an information and communications strategy for public awareness; the incorporation of 35 private sector partners into the Nairobi River rehabilitation and restoration process; the launch of the Nairobi Dam Trust and the Nairobi River Basin Programme Steering Group, chaired by the Kenya Government, to ensure a gradual transfer of responsibility in the management of the Nairobi River Basin at the conclusion of the Programme.

26. UN-Habitat and UNEP collaborated during the fourth AfriCities Summit, held in Nairobi in September 2006, which brought together mayors from Africa and other stakeholders. UN-Habitat and UNEP jointly organized a thematic session on Millennium Development Goal 7, “ensuring environmental sustainability.” This included preparation of a background paper, coordination of presentations and a summary of the recommendations agreed by the meeting participants. Delegates stressed that without actions by cities and local governments, goal 7 would not be met. They said that decentralization of authority, policy development and financial resources were essential to allow local governments to address challenges posed by slums, water and sanitation. Delegates also underlined that, despite constraints, local governments could and should act immediately.

27. UNEP and UN-Habitat are collaborating through three clusters established under the aegis of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development inter-agency clusters: Cluster 1: Infrastructure Development, in which there are sub-clusters on water and sanitation and on energy; Cluster 4: Environment, Population & Urbanization; and Cluster 7: Advocacy and Communication on greater cohesion in support of the Partnership. Both UNEP and UN-Habitat made inputs to an initiative to enhance cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union Commission. In the development of a plan of inter-agency cooperation through UN-Water/Africa in the context of the International Decade for Action, Water for Life, the two organizations have promoted joint programming to tackle domestic sources (sewage, waste, etc.) of surface and groundwater pollution and provided practical support to the African Ministers’ Council on Water.

B. Latin America and the Caribbean

28. The urban environment strategy for Latin America and the Caribbean jointly developed by the regional offices of UNEP and UN-Habitat has provided a solid support framework that has strengthened the GEO Cities project’s reach and relevance in the Latin America and Caribbean region. The strategy includes collaborative activities between the UNEP GEO Cities programme and the Sustainable Cities Programme and the Localizing Agenda 21 programmes of UN-Habitat. Based on UN-Habitat’s expertise in installing local urban observatories, which help local governments develop and apply policy-oriented urban indicators, statistics and other urban information and the urban environmental information contained in the GEO Cities reports, an innovative component of the Urban Environment Strategy was recently set in motion that will link the GEO Cities processes to the local urban observatories. Ciudad de Playa del Carmen, Mexico, is the first city where it will be implemented. In the past two years, GEO Cities reports have been finalized in 12 cities (Brazil: Ponta Porã, Marabá; Cuba: Santa Clara, Cienfuegos, Holguin; Peru: Arequipa, Lima, Callao, Chiclayo; Ecuador: Loja, Esmeralda; Costa Rica: greater metropolitan area of Costa Rica) and are ongoing in four cities (Brazil: Beberibe and Piranhas; Colombia: Cartagena and Buenaventura).

C. Asia and the Pacific

29. UN-Habitat is a member of a regional expert group on eco-housing whose establishment was initiated by the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. Draft generic design guidelines for eco-houses and communities were prepared by the expert group and discussed with national level stakeholders in national workshops held in the Maldives, Sri Lanka and Indonesia in May 2005. The eco-housing guidelines for the tropical regions of Asia have been published. In addition to those guidelines, the UNEP eco-housing project includes training programmes for architects and several demonstration projects, including in towns and villages affected by the Tsunami disaster (e.g., in Sri Lanka, Maldives, Indonesia). One demonstration project of a two-storied eco-building is being carried out in Bhutan at the request of the Government.

V. Key results of UNEP/UN-Habitat cooperation

A. Initiative to strengthen cooperation

30. The most significant indication of increased cooperation between UNEP and UN-Habitat during the reporting period is the launching of an initiative to strengthen cooperation between UNEP and UN-Habitat. A mid-term review of the Sustainable Cities Programme and the Localizing Agenda 21 Programme was conducted between November 2005 and February 2006. The reviewers, who supported the idea of such an initiative, recommended in their final report that, among other things, more emphasis should be given to normative functions in order to scale up to the national level and institutionalize the programmes' positive experiences. The reviewers suggested that this could be achieved through, among other things, a more intensive relationship and increased cooperation between UN-Habitat and UNEP, bringing in all relevant units of both institutions. The poverty-environment nexus, localizing the Millennium Development Goals and global issues such as climate change and coastal area pollution were proposed as areas for increased cooperation.

31. Following the mid-term review the two agencies developed a concept paper which outlined principles for strengthened cooperation and suggested linking activities at the local, national and global levels. Three options to increase cooperation were presented at a joint senior management group meeting which took place in May 2006. The group decided that the urban environment units of the two programmes should embark on a joint programming exercise and then develop a joint framework for organization-wide long-term cooperation.

32. A meeting with representatives of a number of donor countries was also held in Nairobi in May 2006. The representatives welcomed the initiative to strengthen cooperation between UNEP and UN-Habitat and suggested key elements which they thought needed to be developed further. Their suggestions included a governance structure building on the Joint Operation and Coordination Group, a cost-benefit analysis and a stakeholder management and communications strategy. They recommended that the initiative be developed as a partnership in the context of ongoing United Nations reform. Cooperation should be increased step by step, starting from the two urban environment units. The focus of work should be on the national level.

33. As a first step and based on the above developments, the two urban environment units of UNEP and UN-Habitat are in the process of developing a strategic policy framework for cooperation for 2008-2013 and a joint work programme for the remainder of the current biennium (2006-2007). This will enable the two units to offer a more coordinated menu of services to a bigger range of partners. These services consist of the provision to cities of technical assistance and tools on environmental planning and management and urban environmental issues (air pollution, transport, energy, water and sanitation); promotion of linkages between local environmental agendas and global environmental issues; technical support and capacity-building to local and national governments on global environmental challenges; support to local governments on environmental assessments; and others.

B. Key results of joint activities

34. Other results of cooperation during 2005 and 2006 are discussed in the following paragraphs.

35. Internally, the institutional coordination mechanism -- the Joint Operation and Coordination Group -- has leveraged cooperation on GEO Cities in Africa and the tripartite memorandum of understanding with ICLEI and has improved joint communication and outreach. All communication material on urban environment was developed jointly through the Joint Operation and Coordination Group, allowing UNEP and UN-Habitat to speak with one voice to the outside world. By expanding outreach to its respective networks, UNEP was able to reach more readers at the city level, while UN-Habitat reached more readers in the environmental community at all levels.

36. The two agencies have also visibly improved cooperation vis-à-vis their clients at the local and national levels. This became evident at the global meeting of partners of the Sustainable Cities Programme and the Localizing Agenda 21 programme, where participants acknowledged the active involvement of UNEP in the urban sector and requested that UN-Habitat and UNEP undertake joint missions at the country and city levels. The number of Cities Alliance projects with an environmental dimension and co-sponsored by different UNEP divisions increased from 1 to 10 in 2005-2006. Many of these are carried out or have been developed jointly with UN-Habitat. As a result, UNEP and UN-Habitat are cooperating with partners such as the World Bank, the Japanese Bank for International

Cooperation, the United States Agency for International Development and others in all regions. Direct interventions in cities have led to environmental improvements on the ground. One example of what can be achieved through targeted inter-agency coordination is the project that was carried out in the industrial zone of Kigali, Rwanda, by UNEP, UN-Habitat and UNDP, which resulted in significant economic savings and environmental improvements such as efficient water use, energy efficiency improvement and material and chemical spillage control for businesses implementing cleaner production measures. Plans are in place to relocate buildings and operations to a new site to allow the restoration of the existing industrial zone. In another example, the Government of Bhutan is working towards applying eco-housing standards to all new government structures, following training developed by UNEP with support from UN-Habitat.

37. At the global level, by working together in international meetings (World Environment Day 2005, the third World Urban Forum, the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum) and other urban or environment forums (e.g., the global meeting of Sustainable Cities Programme and Localizing Agenda 21 partners, Cities Alliance meetings, the fourth AfriCities Summit and sessions of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment) UNEP and UN-Habitat have increased the focus on the environment by organizing flagship events which have drawn a large number of participants (the thematic session on Millennium Development Goal 7, for example, saw the participation of more than 500 delegates) and resulted in concrete results and recommendations.

VI. Future cooperation

38. The second step in developing the Strategic Policy Framework for Joint Cooperation between UNEP and UN-Habitat will involve all divisions of both programmes and build on the joint work programme of the urban environment units. The Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building has considerably strengthened the UNEP mandate to work at the national level, thereby providing further opportunities to work with UN-Habitat. Activities will be designed to support decision-making for sustainable urban planning and management in cities; to involve cities in environmental policy development at the national and global levels; to promote city-to-city cooperation; and to establish linkages between local environmental issues with national, regional and global environmental challenges.

39. In designing their activities, the two programmes will seek to continue to concentrate on their respective core mandates to avoid overlaps and maximize complementarity. UNEP will work on environmental challenges with cities in the field of climate change, energy, air quality, ecosystems management, poverty and the environment and on localizing multilateral environment agreements. UN-Habitat will work to enhance capacities for sustainable urban development and to improve urban governance and basic urban services. Jointly the two programmes will thereby contribute to meeting targets 9, 10 and 11 under Millennium Development Goal 7.*

40. The local-global linkages initiative and associated campaigns are going to be strengthened. As part of the tripartite memorandum of understanding with ICLEI a network of cities interested in biodiversity is being established and a publication with case studies on cities and ecosystems will be produced. The secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity has asked UNEP and UN-Habitat to join an inter-agency task force on cities and biodiversity. At present several initiatives are being considered to increase the work of UNEP, ICLEI and UN-Habitat in the area of cities and climate change.

41. Water and sanitation are specific areas where joint activities will be developed further. UNEP and UN-Habitat still need to explore how best to take the guidelines on municipal wastewater management which were developed in 2004 by the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, UN-Habitat, the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council and the World Health Organization to the city level, for example through the activities of the Water for African Cities and the Water for Asian Cities programmes and the Sustainable Cities Programme.

42. Other concrete activities to begin in 2007 include expanding the GEO Cities initiatives in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America; pilot projects in Asia and the Pacific and Africa on multilateral environmental agreements and the role of communities, which aim to promote the active

* The targets under Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals are: target 9: integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources; target 10: halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water; target 11: by 2020 to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.

engagement of communities in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements; a three-year intensive course on sustainable communities, which UN-Habitat and UNEP are developing with the Helsinki University of Technology and which will begin in August 2007; technical support on sustainable urbanization in Chinese cities in the areas of wastewater treatment, cleaner production, water demand management and integrated solid waste management; the provision of technical support and expertise to the Islamic, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO); membership on a task force on sustainable cities within the 10 Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production (the so-called Marrakech Process) and joint projects in the field of sustainable public procurement (focus on national Governments and local authorities) and sustainable buildings and construction.
