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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**

**Coordination matters: Cooperation with agencies and organizations  
within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations  
outside the United Nations system and non-governmental  
organizations**

**Report of the Executive Director**

*Summary*

The present report covers coordination and cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations since the twentieth session of the Governing Council. The report highlights the most significant instances of such coordination and cooperation during the reporting period and does not undertake to provide an exhaustive list of all activities.

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# **Cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations.**

## **Introduction**

1. The present report reviews cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and organizations and agencies within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations. The report also highlights areas of focus in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and targets 10 and 11 of the Millennium Development Goals.

## **I. Cooperation with organizations and agencies within the United Nations system in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals**

2. During the reporting period UN-Habitat has been actively participating in the inter-agency coordination mechanisms described below.

### **A. Chief Executives Board**

3. The Chief Executives Board is the successor body to the Administrative Committee on Coordination and is supported by two high-level committees – the High-level Committee on Programmes and the High-level Committee on Management. Its main purpose is to further coordination and cooperation on a wide range of substantive and management issues facing United Nations system organizations.

4. In addition to its regular reviews of contemporary political issues and the major concerns facing the United Nations system, on the basis of recommendations from bodies reporting to it, the Chief Executives Board approves policy statements on behalf of the United Nations system as a whole.

### **B. High-level Committee on Programmes**

5. The High-level Committee on Programmes is the principal mechanism for system-wide coordination in the programme area. In addition to providing the forum for inter-agency dialogue in the development and launching of new programme initiatives, the Committee advises the Chief Executives Board on issues of strategic planning, policy and programme development and implementation.

6. The Committee also fosters and supports the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, as well as effective programme implementation at the country level to identify best practices.

### **C. High-level Committee on Management**

7. The High-level Committee on Management, established by the Chief Executives Board, is responsible for ensuring coordination in administrative and management areas across the United Nations system through, first, coherent, efficient and cost-effective management; and, second, identifying, promoting and coordinating management reforms that will improve services, productivity and efficiency. It is currently examining current accountability mechanisms with a view to identifying best practices and providing guidance on increased collaboration with respect to accountability and transparency. The High-level Committee on Management is also responsible for maintaining dialogue with staff representatives on concerns of a system-wide nature and interacts when required with Member States in the Fifth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly.

### **D. United Nations Development Group**

8. The United Nations Development Group is an instrument for United Nations reform, created by the Secretary-General in 1997, to improve the effectiveness of United Nations development at the country level by bringing together the operational agencies working on development. Membership of

the United Nations Development Group has grown to 28, plus five observers, chaired by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

9. The Group develops policies and procedures which allow member agencies to work together to analyse country issues, plan support strategies, implement support programmes, monitor results and advocate change, and which help countries achieve their Millennium Development Goals, such as poverty reduction.

10. The Group incorporates three subsidiary subgroups: the Support Group, the Management Group and the Programme Group. The Support Group is the forum through which all member organizations and observers contribute to preparing the programme of work for the United Nations Development Group and issues for its decisions; it communicates decisions for follow-up action and prepares for the Group's meetings.

11. The Management Group focuses on improving the efficiency of the Resident Coordinator system and joins forces with the Programme Group in working to simplify and harmonize programme procedures, including preparation, approval, execution and financing. It also deals with issues relating to common services and common premises, to be known as "United Nations houses".

12. The Programme Group develops policies, guidelines and procedures to improve the quality and effectiveness of United Nations country team programme collaboration, particularly in achieving the Millennium Declaration Goals.

#### **E. Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs**

13. The Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs aims at enhancing coordination among United Nations agencies in various fields, often with a peacekeeping dimension. A single secretariat in the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) serves the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) – the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance – and the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs, ensuring parallel discussions based on common understanding and effective decision-making. The secretariat has a strategic role in supporting the Emergency Relief Coordinator in his or her capacity as the chair of both committees, and the Assistant Emergency Relief Coordinator in his or her capacity as the chair of the IASC Working Group, to ensure that they function effectively and in a coordinated manner.

#### **F. Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs**

14. The Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs aims to ensure coherence and common approaches among United Nations entities engaged in normative, analytical and technical work in the economic and social field. It works through 11 thematic clusters bringing together programme managers. The clusters all operate within the framework of the internationally agreed development goals.

15. The Executive Committee is designed as an instrument of policy development, decision-making and management and aims to sharpen the contribution that each unit makes to the overall objectives of the United Nations, facilitating greater complementarity and coherence, and thereby also reducing duplication of effort. In that way the Executive Committee identifies and employs ways of pooling resources and services in order to facilitate joint strategic planning and decision-making, maximize programme impact and minimize administrative costs.

#### **G. United Nations Communications Group Working Group on Sport for Development and Peace**

16. The United Nations Communications Group Working Group on Sport for Development and Peace, formed in January 2005 under the leadership of the United Nations New York Office of Sport for Development and Peace, was established with the following aims:

- (a) To promote more systematic and coherent use of sport in development and peace activities;
- (b) To generate greater support in terms of both the priority accorded and the resources allocated to such activities;
- (c) To update an inventory of existing sport for development programmes;

(d) To encourage bodies of the United Nations system to incorporate sport in achieving their Millennium Development Goals; and

(e) To encourage bodies of the United Nations system to make use of sport partnerships as part of their approach to a common development strategy (as exemplified by the common country assessments and United Nations development assistance frameworks) and related tools.

## **H. Inter-Agency Task Force on Gender and Water**

17. The task force was established in February 2003 as an initiative of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and was subsequently endorsed by UN-Water, the United Nations system-wide inter-agency mechanism for follow-up of the water-related decisions reached at the World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002 and the Millennium Development Goals. As an inter-agency mechanism to strengthen gender mainstreaming in the water and sanitation sector, the task force coordinates joint efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals in water and sanitation, with a commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment.

## **I. Framework Team**

18. UN-Habitat has been an active member of the Interdepartmental Framework for Coordination (Framework Team), an internal mechanism for coordinating support in the area of structural, or long-term, prevention, since 2003, after the Framework Team had been reoriented towards early warning and preventive action. Under its current mandate, the team gathers and assesses early warning information for the purpose of early conflict prevention and brings concerned United Nations agencies, departments, offices and programmes together under one umbrella, so that they can be allocated their respective responsibilities in the conflict prevention strategies and measures. Specifically, the team's duties include:

(a) Working with situations that appear to be upstream in the conflict cycle, where the lead time for further deterioration can be expected to be six months or more;

(b) Bringing different United Nations branches into joint review and analysis, together with the United Nations country team, with a view to devising conflict prevention strategies and measures for implementation by the operational branches of the United Nations system.

## **J. UN-Water**

19. UN-Water acts at global, regional and country levels in the following ways:

(a) By building on and adding value to the work and expertise of United Nations agencies and programmes, ensuring coherence and integration among them and serving as a common voice of the United Nations system on water and sanitation;

(b) By facilitating communication and cooperation with external partners; and

(c) By providing timely, policy-relevant information on status and trends of the world's freshwater resources.

UN Water is also responsible for organizing the annual United Nations World Water Day, held on 22 March, and the United Nations International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005–2015.

## **K. UN-Energy**

20. UN-Energy, a new system-wide collaborative mechanism to tackle the energy-related aspects of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, was established to help ensure coherence in the United Nations system's multidisciplinary response to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and to ensure the effective engagement of non-United Nations stakeholders in implementing energy-related decisions of the World Summit. It aims to promote system-wide collaboration in the area of energy, with a coherent and consistent approach and focuses on substantive and collaborative actions both in respect of policy development and implementation in the energy area and in maintaining an overview of major initiatives under way at global, regional subregional and national levels. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, decisions taken by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its ninth session, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, and Agenda 21 itself serve as the basis for action on energy.

## **L. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**

21. In March 2005, a memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and UN-Habitat was signed by the heads of both bodies. The memorandum aims at intensifying collaboration and inter-agency coordination to promote the sustainable urbanization agenda through normative work, research, capacity-building and knowledge management. A joint working group on urban policies and the right to the city was created, with the purpose to advance a rights-based approach towards urban development based on inclusive urban governance. UN-Habitat has collaborated with UNESCO in the documentation of best practices on social sustainability in historic districts. UNESCO continues to be an active member of the steering group of the Global Campaign on Urban Governance, while UN-Habitat actively contributes to the Inter-Agency Committee on the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, which is being coordinated by UNESCO.

22. Partnerships with United Nations agencies include the contribution by UN-Habitat to the compilation of the World Water Development Report, under the auspices of the Water Assessment Programme, a United Nations-wide programme currently hosted by UNESCO.

## **M. United Nations Institute for Training and Research**

23. UN-Habitat and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) are collaborating in such areas as access to basic services and local government training and capacity-building. Following the April 2005 meeting of the steering committee of the Decentralized Cooperation Programme, collaboration between UN-Habitat and the UNITAR network of regional training centres has been intensified, particularly in the area of safer cities and the sharing of training tools and capacity-building approaches for localising the Millennium Development Goals. UNITAR and UN-Habitat jointly organized a meeting on regional governments and local authorities on disaster prevention, risk management and rehabilitation, held in Medan and Lake Toba, Indonesia, in March 2006, in conjunction with the network of regional governments for sustainable development.

24. UN-Habitat is also a member of the steering committee for the UNITAR programme on the development of a strategic framework to support efforts to combat HIV/AIDS through cooperation with local authorities. In addition, UN-Habitat is collaborating with the UNITAR programme on gender equality and local government.

## **N. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

25. UN-Habitat has cooperated closely with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) and undertaken several activities to promote the realization of human rights in general and housing rights in particular. The two organizations have been jointly implementing the United Nations housing rights programme, a component of the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure. Joint activities are under way on the further development of the documentation centre on housing rights and on updating the compilations of national housing rights legislation and selected adjudication on housing rights. Work relating to the formulation of a global mechanism on the monitoring and evaluation of progress in the realization of housing rights through the establishment of a set of housing rights indicators is in progress, in cooperation with and under the guidance of the Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights.

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

26. At its fifth session, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues expressed appreciation for contributions made by UN-Habitat at its the third session and recommended that UN-Habitat, working jointly with UNHCHR, the secretariat of the Permanent Forum and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), organize an expert seminar on urban indigenous peoples and migration and report on the outcome and recommendations of that expert seminar to the Permanent Forum at its sixth session. With support from the Government of Canada, preparations are currently under way to hold such a seminar in February 2007.

**P. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

27. During 2005 and 2006 UN-Habitat supported and cooperated with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in the conduct of a number of expert group meetings on such issues as innovative land tools and urban cadastre (October 2005, Russian Federation), secure tenure: new legal frameworks and tools (December 2005, Thailand) and good governance in land tenure and administration (September 2006, Italy).

**Q. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

28. The engagement of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in the human settlements field has given significant impetus to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and attainment of the relevant targets of the Millennium Development Goals. UN-Habitat attended the Commission's sixty-second session in Jakarta, Indonesia, in April 2006, during which the representative of India announced the convening of the first Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Human Settlements, to be held jointly by UN-Habitat and the Government of India.

**R. United Nations Environment Programme**

29. A comprehensive report, prepared jointly by the executive directors of UN-Habitat and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), on cooperation between the two organizations during the current intercessional period may be found in document HSP/GC/21/2/Add.5.

**S. United Nations Office at Nairobi**

30. The United Nations Office at Nairobi, through its Division of Administrative Services, provides financial, administrative and conference services and other related support to UN-Habitat. The Executive Director of UN-Habitat currently also holds the post of Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, as announced by the Secretary-General in his notification letter of 13 September 2006.

**T. United Nations Development Programme**

31. At the national level, the Sustainable Cities Programme and the Localizing Agenda 21 Programme have collaborated with UNDP country offices in joint programme development and management in such countries as Cuba, Lesotho, Mongolia, Morocco, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. This collaboration has enabled greater coherence and a sharper focus in the development of national urban environmental policies in the countries of operation. The collaboration has also enhanced the rational use of United Nations resources, both human and financial, in urban environmental programmes and projects.

32. The Sustainable Cities Programme and the Localizing Agenda 21 Programme are also working in partnership with the UNDP Public-Private Partnerships for the Urban Environment facility. The main areas of collaboration include the reciprocal exchange of information through networks of partners, and also active participation in global meetings. In addition, the Public-Private Partnerships facility actively participated in the global meeting of Sustainable Cities Programme and Localizing Agenda 21 partners held in Havana, Cuba, in 2005.

33. The Sustainable Cities Programme and the Public-Private Partnerships facility have a joint agreement with the University of the Philippines on improving the delivery of urban environmental services through public-private partnerships in the south-east Asia region and the mainstreaming of the Sustainable Cities Programme and urban environmental planning and management in the Philippines. The agreement is designed to lead to collaborative training courses in public-private partnerships, good practices in integrated sustainable waste management and the strengthening of urban environmental planning and management concepts through capacity-building. The two initiatives have agreed to support at least one city during the next round of applications for so-called "innovative partnerships grants", potentially in Burkina Faso, Lesotho or the United Republic of Tanzania.

## U. International Labour Organization (ILO)

34. Pursuant to the existing memorandum of understanding with ILO to help improve livelihood conditions in human settlements, the Urban Environment Section and the Urban Management Programme have, over the last two years, been collaborating on both the ILO programme on the provision of decent jobs and better services and the ILO Advisory Support, Information Services and Training (ASIST) programme. This collaboration exercise is structured around a series of seminars and training workshops, organized together with the ILO International Training Centre in Turin, Italy. It focuses on tools and good practices in employment creation and improved service delivery in the urban context. These initiatives would be linked to relevant UN-Habitat and ILO projects, ensuring effective knowledge sharing and follow-up after the training.

35. During the reporting period, subregional workshops have been jointly organized in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and New Delhi, India, together with two learning workshops for partners at the ILO International Training Centre. At the national level, ILO is collaborating in developing a training programme in Lesotho and potentially in Zambia. UN-Habitat has also performed a partnership role in ILO meetings related to youth employment and municipal services.

36. During the reporting period, ILO and UN-Habitat completed their jointly implemented capacity-building programme to ensure decent jobs and better services for the urban poor. The programme was aimed at strengthening local capacities in planning and implementing city-wide employment initiatives that would reduce poverty through the creation of decent and sustainable jobs linked to better access to urban infrastructure and services for the poor. In 2005, the third and final subregional workshop under the programme was conducted in Delhi, India, involving four countries and 19 participants. The programme, over its two years of existence, implemented three subregional and three national workshops involving 17 countries and 179 participants.

37. UN-Habitat participated in an inter-agency meeting convened by ILO, which also included the UNDP Public-Private Partnerships for the Urban Environment facility and the United Nations Capital Development Fund, to develop a capacity-building programme on pro-poor public private partnerships, with the aim of contributing to urban poverty reduction and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. In a follow-up to the meeting, ILO, UN-Habitat and the UNDP Public-Private Partnership for the Urban Environment programme implemented a one-week training workshop on elements and entry points for public-private partnerships, including local economic development, at the ILO International Training Centre, in Turin. The workshop brought together about 20 local and national government representatives, public-private partnership practitioners, local government capacity-building experts, programme managers and a private sector representative.

38. Building on the above positive experiences of collaboration, ILO and UN-Habitat have agreed to share information and coordinate their capacity-building activities related to local economic development. ILO has contributed to the recently launched training series on local economic development by UN-Habitat, and played an active role during the inter-agency networking meeting on local economic development convened by UN-Habitat during the third session of the World Urban Forum in Vancouver, Canada, in June 2006. ILO has also participated in a capacity-building strategy workshop held in October 2006 under the UN-Habitat Lake Victoria region water and sanitation initiative. Discussions are currently under way on the specific roles and contributions that ILO could make to the local economic development component of the programme in the 15 participating towns of Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

## V. World Bank and the Cities Alliance

39. Both the Sustainable Cities Programme and the Localizing Agenda 21 Programme have worked together with the Cities Alliance, a global partnership organized by UN-Habitat and the World Bank to achieve the promise of well-managed cities, in particular through the formulation of urban development strategies and increasingly also through slum upgrading projects. UNEP and UN-Habitat are jointly supporting the Cities Alliance environment initiative, aimed at strengthening the environment dimension and demonstrating how environmental management can successfully contribute to city development.

40. The Sustainable Cities Programme supports cities in promoting sustainable urbanization, and the joint process bringing together urban environmental planning and management and the Sustainable Cities Programme has proved to be very successful in supporting local authorities in developing city development strategies and slum upgrading action plans, because it links urban development with urban

environmental issues and involves all relevant stakeholders throughout the whole process. There have been recent experiences of collaboration between the Cities Alliance and the Sustainable Cities Programme and the Localizing Agenda 21 programme in Benin, Egypt and Mongolia and, with the additional involvement of UNEP, in Burkina Faso and Sri Lanka.

#### **W. United Nations Children's Fund**

41. Closer collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)-World Health Organization (WHO) joint monitoring programme has been established and significant advances made on the harmonization of questionnaires to assess the coverage and effectiveness of water and sanitation services, particularly for urban areas.

#### **X. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs**

42. UN-Habitat recently established a partnership with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs on the joint organization of a capacity-building workshop on partnerships for improving the performance of water utilities in the African region in Nairobi, Kenya, from 6 to 8 December 2006. In a letter dated 27 October 2006 and addressed to the UN-Habitat Executive Director, the United Nations Secretary-General recommended UN-Habitat as the best placed agency to promote and coordinate activities related to water operator partnerships at the international level. UN-Habitat also works closely with UN-Water Africa within the framework of the water agenda of the New Partnership for Africa's Development. Strong linkages have also been created with the Department for Economic and Social Affairs on youth and non-governmental organization issues.

## **II. Cooperation between UN-Habitat and intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system**

### **A. African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development**

43. UN-Habitat undertook an important supportive role in the first session of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD). The second session of AMCHUD was held in Nairobi in April 2006 and deliberations focused on the issues of governance, a legal and policy framework for strategic urban planning and management, the issues of tenure, land-use planning and land administration, the financing of sustainable urban development, access to housing and urban infrastructure, community empowerment and local economic development.

### **B. Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development**

44. The first session of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development will be held in New Delhi, India, from 13 to 16 December 2006 and will be hosted by the Indian Government. This conference is being organized pursuant to Governing Council resolutions 19/3 and 20/2 and in response to the perceived need to monitor implementation of the Habitat Agenda and Millennium Development Goals. The conference was also inspired by the success of similar conferences in Latin America and Africa in raising the profile of housing and human settlements issues. The overall theme of the conference is "Vision for sustainable urbanization in Asia and the Pacific by 2020". Under the overall theme there are four sub-themes: first, pro-poor urban governance; second, slum upgrading; third, delivery of the water and sanitation-related Millennium Development Goals; and fourth, financing sustainable urbanization. The session will comprise a high-level segment, to be attended by heads of delegation at the minister level, and an expert group meeting, which will precede the high-level segment and be attended by officials.

### **C. Parliamentarians and UN-Habitat**

45. Global Parliamentarians on Habitat functions as the only international parliamentary group that is committed exclusively to promoting the development of sustainable human settlements. UN-Habitat was represented at the fifth regional forum of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, for the European continent, held in the Hague, Netherlands, on 12 and 13 May 2006.

46. At the third session of the World Urban Forum, in Vancouver, the parliamentarians round table was hosted by Canadian parliamentarians, in collaboration with Global Parliamentarians on Habitat. The round table was held on the theme: "Human settlement legislation developments + 30: good laws



for a better habitat". This session provided parliamentarians an opportunity to take stock of key milestones, successes and challenges in their contribution to human settlements, urban development and affordable housing around the world. Looking to the future, new priorities for supporting urban sustainability were identified at both global and domestic levels and opportunities explored for collaboration on legislative initiatives.

#### **D. African Development Bank**

47. The Water and Sanitation Programme of UN-Habitat has entered into strategic arrangements with the African Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank to leverage resources and promote pro-poor investments in urban areas in Africa and Asia respectively. In March 2006, UN-Habitat and the African Development Bank signed a landmark memorandum of understanding to improve urban water and sanitation in African cities with funding from the Bank to the tune of \$500 million. In Asia, a partnership with the Asian Development Bank has facilitated additional pro-poor investment in water and sanitation in the region amounting to \$125 million (\$100 million in China and \$25 million in the Lao Democratic People's Republic).

### **III. Cooperation between UN-Habitat and Habitat Agenda partners, including non-governmental organizations, 2005–2006**

48. This chapter provides information on collaboration between UN-Habitat and non-governmental organizations outside the United Nations system.

#### **A. Shelter Branch**

49. According to the cooperation agreement between UN-Habitat and the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE), which was further extended in November 2006, UN-Habitat supports COHRE in the publication of its quarterly periodical *Housing and ESC Rights Law*; UN-Habitat has also participated in activities conducted by the Shelter Forum, such as the workshops and meetings on evictions.

50. Several preparatory meetings were held during 2005 and 2006 to develop the Global Land Tool Network, an initiative led by UN-Habitat and global partners, including, among others, COHRE, FAO, the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), the Habitat International Coalition (HIC), the HIC Women and Shelter Network (HIC-WAS), Human Rights Watch, the Huairou Commission, the International Land Coalition, the ILO International Training Centre, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the World Bank. The main objective of the Global Land Tool Network is to facilitate the attainment of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals through improved land management and tenure tools for poverty alleviation and boosting the livelihoods of the poor. The network was officially launched at the third session of the World Urban Forum in Vancouver, on 20 June 2006. A gender mechanism was adopted for the Global Land Tenure Network that serves as a framework of methodologies and strategies for systematically developing gender-sensitive land-management tools designed to promote women's security of tenure.

#### **B. Water and Sanitation Branch**

51. Partnerships have also been established with implementing partners, including non-governmental organizations active in the sector. Notable examples include, among others, the Gender Water Alliance in gender mainstreaming in African cities; Mahila Chetna Manch, Bhopal, India, engaged in gender mainstreaming in India; Ugandan Women's Efforts to Save Children (UWESO), in providing water and sanitation for HIV/AIDS orphan-headed households in Uganda; the Sulabh International Academy of Environmental Sanitation, in sanitation promotion in Asian cities; the Environment and Public Health Organization, in community-based sanitation improvement in Nepal; the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, in municipal governance; the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, in training and capacity-building; the South-East Asian Ministers of Education Organization, in promoting value-based water and sanitation education in south-east Asian Schools; and the Energy and Resources Institute in New Delhi and the Shri G.S. Institute of Technology and Science, in Indore, in training on water demand management.

### **C. Training and Capacity-building Branch**

52. UN-Habitat has formed partnerships with some 60 such institutions in 40 countries, in the conduct of more than 15 major events targeting key national representatives. Attended by more than 500 participants, these events have helped build local government capacity and develop country-specific action plans in the areas of leadership, local economic development, conflict resolution and participatory planning. Two key training products were launched by UN-Habitat. One promotes local economic development and was launched with partner training institutions in Asia and Latin America, the other a revised local elected leadership series launched with partners in Africa, Asia, and eastern Europe. In addition, UN-Habitat has initiated the development of a training manual on participatory budgeting for sub-Saharan Africa, in collaboration with the Centro Internacional de Gestión Urbana (International Urban Management Centre – CIGU), the People’s Urban Economy Team of the organization Environmental Development Action in the Third World (ENDA-ECOPOP) and the Municipal Development Partnership for Eastern and Southern Africa (MDP-ESA), as well as initiating work to develop methodologies for assessing training impact on performance, with a workshop on training impact evaluation and an e-forum on the subject involving 30 partner institutions.

### **D. Partners and Youth Section**

53. The Partners and Youth Section has updated the non-governmental organization database and disseminated information on UN-Habitat and on forthcoming forums, including the third session of the World Urban Forum, to over 2,000 partners listed in the database. The section facilitated the hosting of the World Youth Forum held three days prior to the World Urban Forum and attended by some 400 young people from over 40 countries.

54. The Global Partnership Initiative for Urban Youth Development in Africa is being implemented in a number of African cities, initially in East Africa, following the so-called “one-stop youth centre” model. The one-stop model focuses on providing support to young people living in impoverished communities to enable them to become community leaders and entrepreneurs in the areas of water and sanitation, environment, education, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, poverty, housing, etc., while building their capacity to be self-employed. To date such support has been provided to over 3,000 young people in Nairobi and stakeholder meetings held in Kampala and Dar es Salaam indicate that project centres in those cities will be in operation in 2007. In Kigali the centre will link up with the “We Are the Future” centre. Young people are being brought into the mainstream of UN-Habitat work, with a number of programmes having a strong youth component. Notable among these are the Safer Cities programme and the water, sanitation and infrastructure programmes.

### **E. Cooperation with civil society organizations**

55. Existing cooperation with such organizations as Slum Dwellers International, ENDA, HIC and Grassroots Women Organizing Together in Sisterhood (GROOTS) was further strengthened at the third session of the World Urban Forum in Vancouver. Recommendations by the Habitat International Coalition to UN-Habitat are based on five themes: first, ending forced evictions that violate human rights; second, supporting community-based values and initiatives; third, confronting the negative effects of habitat privatization; fourth, protection, rights and sustainable solutions for displaced people; and, fifth, involving local people in all aspects of post-disaster reconstruction. To be able to respond better to the demands of cities aiming at sustainable urban development, an international meeting of partners was held in Nairobi in September 2006.

56. Working together with the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS), UNEP and UNDP, UN-Habitat co-hosted the 2006 meeting of non-governmental organization focal points within the United Nations system, regional bodies and micro-finance institutions in Nairobi in June 2006. In November 2006, UN-Habitat also facilitated a Kenyan stakeholder meeting for the High level Commission on the Legal Empowerment of the Poor.

### **F. Private sector**

57. On 19 June 2006, during the third session of the World Urban Forum in Vancouver, a round table was held on the issue of business leadership for sustainable urbanization.

58. Since the twentieth session of the Governing Council, the Partners and Youth Section followed up on a letter of intent signed with the German chemicals manufacturing company BASF. This started with the raising of \$500,000 from BASF staff for a tsunami relief project in Sri Lanka. The second major project consists of the joint organization of a hip-hop concert, held in early 2007 under the theme "Messenger of Truth" in combination with celebrations for the Global Compact Day in Germany.

59. The Kenya Government, being fully aware of the pivotal importance of the private sector in housing, has established a committee on housing sector incentives, which receives substantive input from staff-members of the Partners and Youth Section.

## **G. Best Practices Programme**

60. The Best Practices Programme is engaged in continuing cooperation with the United Nations system, government entities, local authorities and civil society organizations. All these sectors are represented in the Best Practices Steering Committee, which guides the Programme. Prominent among these are Dubai Municipality in the United Arab Emirates, the Government of Spain, the cities of Vienna, Medellin and Seville, the Brazilian Institute of Municipal Administration and Caixa Economica Federal do Brasil. Within the United Nations system, the Programme is engaged in dialogue with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on best practices in public administration. The Dubai Municipality continues to fund the Dubai Award for Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment, while the Government of Spain funds the Latin American and Caribbean forum on best practices.

## **H. Urban Environment Section**

### **1. Local governments and national urban institutions:**

61. The Urban Environment Section's global programmes, namely the Sustainable Cities Programme and the Localizing Agenda 21 programme, are currently helping strengthen the environmental planning and management capacity of local authorities and their partners in more than 60 cities around the world. A wide range of stakeholders at all levels from the public, private and academic sectors, and also from non-governmental and community-based organizations, are actively involved through environmental issue-specific groups that are both multisectoral and multi-stakeholder in their scope and membership.

62. To respond better to the growing need to support such stakeholders in urban environmental planning and management at the global, subregional and city levels, both programmes, as a component of their second phase, are systematically conducting capacity-building measures with a wide range of public, private, academic and non-governmental organization partner institutions, with a view to developing expertise in and promoting the implementation of environmental planning and management. For example, at the subregional level in Asia and the Pacific, a number of urban institutions have been involved in regional capacity-building workshops. Over the reporting period, each participating institution developed an action and institutional plan. The Asian institutions involved in the implementation of projects at the national level under the Sustainable Cities Programme include the Sri Lanka Institute of Local Government; the Administrative Centre for China's Agenda 21 (ACCA 21), supporting the national replication process in China; the Thailand Environment Institute; the University of Philippines; the Asian Institute of Management; the All-India Institute of Local Self Government; and Seoul National University, supporting the eco-city network of the Republic of Korea.

63. In addition, both the Sustainable Cities Programme and the Localizing Agenda 21 programme have initiated partnerships with universities and training institutions in a number of countries. Such partnerships have been forged with the Urban Training Institute in Cairo, Egypt, the Copperbelt University in Zambia, the University College of Lands and Architectural Studies in the United Republic of Tanzania, the Federal Technical University of Minna in Nigeria, the African Institute of Urban Management (IAGU) in Senegal, the Institut National d'Aménagement et d'Urbanisme (National Urban Planning Institute – INAU) in Morocco, the Instituto de Planificación Física (Physical Planning Institute) in Cuba and the Foro Ciudades para la Vida (Peru), all of whom are key partners in the Sustainable Cities Programme and Localizing Agenda 21 national replication processes within their own countries.

## **2. International institutions**

64. At the global level, three specialized international institutions have been identified as having the necessary capabilities, experiences and expertise in training, capacity-building and project implementation for environmental planning and management. These three Netherlands-based institutions are: the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS), the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education and the International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC). IHS is taking the lead in conducting wide-ranging capacity-building efforts in urban environmental planning and management with urban institutions at the subregional level, through the train-the-trainers approach. IHE has focused its activities on sustainable urban mobility, which is concerned in particular with non-motorized transportation strategies that are both sustainable and effective for use by the poor. A major sustainable urban mobility initiative is being implemented in Kisumu, Kenya, with local technical support from Practical Action – the former Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG). IRC is developing local capacities to plan and deliver basic urban services in under-served areas through innovative partnerships. Basic urban services-related initiatives are currently being implemented in a number of areas, including Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso, with the support of a local non-governmental organization, the Centre Régional pour l'Eau Potable et l'Assainissement à Faible Coût (Regional Low-Cost Drinking Water and Sanitation Centre – CREPA); and Kotte and Wattala in Greater Colombo, Sri Lanka, through the support of a network of local organizations, such as Practical Action South Asia, the National Engineering Research and Development Centre (NERD), the Sevanatha Urban Resource Centre and the organization Management Resources for Good Governance (MaRGG); in the state of Maharashtra, India, and in Egypt. Collaboration is also being pursued with the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC) in the Netherlands in the area of geographical information systems, to support the development of tools and general and capacity-building in environmental management information systems.

## **3. ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability**

65. ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability (formerly the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) is an international association of local governments and national and regional local government organizations that have made a commitment to sustainable development. UNEP, UN-Habitat and ICLEI signed a tripartite memorandum of understanding in May 2006, which focuses on specific areas of cooperation, including the role of cities in global environmental issues and city-to-city cooperation. Under the tripartite memorandum of understanding, UN-Habitat and ICLEI led a session at the third session of the World Urban Forum in Vancouver on global issues: local capacity and action, and an African cities symposium on climate change at the fourth AfriCities summit in September 2006.

## **4. Major non-governmental organizations**

66. The Urban Environment Section has forged partnerships with such international urban environment organizations as WASTE–Advisers on Urban Environment and Development, a Netherlands-based non-governmental organization working in the field of waste management, and Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung (Capacity Building International – InWEnt), Germany, in local capacity-building and information. The Sustainable Cities Programme and the Localizing Agenda 21 Programme have been collaborating with InWEnt for a number of years. In some cases, such as that of Morocco, these partnerships include country-specific capacity-building support and stipends to officers in participating cities and governments, some of whom are currently taking long-term courses in Germany. This collaboration is very productive and mutually beneficial and is helping to leverage resources.

67. Jointly with UN-Habitat, through its Sustainable Cities Programme, Localizing Agenda 21 programme and Partners Section, InWEnt held a workshop in Nairobi in September 2006 on capacity-building challenges for sustainable and inclusive cities. The workshop was attended by some 50 participants, including a great number of urban experts and managers from cities, governments, and institutions in which Sustainable Cities Programme and Localizing Agenda 21 activities have already been implemented or are currently under way.

68. The Urban Environment Section is also engaged in information and outreach programmes and city-to-city activities with associations of local authorities in such countries as Spain and Italy. In addition, it is cooperating with various international research institutions, such as the Postgraduate Centre for Human Settlements at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium.

69. Finally, in addition to the activities outlined above, UN-Habitat has also been engaged in collaborative ventures of one sort or another with the following multilateral agencies and regional bodies: WHO, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNIFEM, the United Nations Volunteers programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the Caribbean Community, the Inter-American Development Bank, the League of Arab States, the African Union, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Council of Europe, the European Union, the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

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