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

Global Report on Human Settlements 2007

Note by the secretariat

1. The *Global Report on Human Settlements* is a flagship report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). The 2007 issue of the report, provisionally entitled “Enhancing urban safety and security”, addresses three major dimensions of urban safety and security: crime and violence; security of tenure and forced eviction; and disasters triggered by both natural and technological hazards. The report reviews global conditions and trends in these three areas. It also assesses emerging policy responses, including urban design, planning and governance approaches, capable of enhancing urban safety and security by reducing vulnerability and strengthening resilience, especially among the urban poor. In so doing, the report further suggests possible policy directions for the future.

2. Through its resolution 34/114 of 14 December 1979, the General Assembly mandated UN-Habitat to prepare a global report on human settlements every five years. Reaffirming this commitment, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) requested UN-Habitat “to analyse and monitor major trends in urbanization and the impact of policies for urban and rural settlements...” and “...to track progress in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.”¹

3. The General Assembly further reaffirmed this mandate through its resolution 55/194 of 20 December 2000 (section VI, para. 1), by which it encouraged member States and Habitat Agenda partners “to provide support for the preparation of the *Global Report on Human Settlements* and the *State of the World’s Cities* report on a biennial basis so as to raise awareness of human settlements and to provide information on urban conditions and trends around the world.”

* HSP/GC/21/1.

1 Habitat Agenda, para. 228 (m).

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4. The 2007 report is attached to the present note. It is distributed to the Governing Council in draft form. It will be published in book form in August 2007 and its global dissemination will begin in September 2007.