

Mr/Mrs Chair, honoured delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

As you all know, Sweden views the work of UN-Habitat as highly relevant. Fully in support of what has been said in the EU statement, please let me highlight two of the areas where UN-Habitat is well suited to make a difference in an urbanizing world: Affordable housing for all and the need of improving slum conditions through innovative financing, and a sustainable urban development that mitigates climate change.

Every third city inhabitant in the world lacks adequate shelter that is affordable. We need to change the existing systems and structures that keep people exposed to one alternative only- the informal housing market.

There is a need of better functioning local financial markets, primarily for saving and investment, in developing countries. To succeed in this, we regard these four operational measures as necessary to fulfil the objective:

- Contribute to ongoing efforts, primarily by the international financial institutions, to promote a generally stable and favourable investment climate and effective national regulations governing the financial sector
- Support the development of financial services and local securities markets, including microcredits, and support the development of the financial infrastructure, inter alia via the international financial institutions
- Analyse and take account of the conclusions and recommendations of the independent international

Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor, and pursue relevant issues in international forums

- Support knowledge enhancement in the field of land surveying and land and property registration.

We need to bridge the gap between land administration and financial markets. A gap that is sustained through two major factors: By the substantial and widespread corruption practices, and by the Lack of transparent, validated and disseminated information. The essential elements of a just and sustainable provision of adequate shelter, are embedded in coordination with land, infrastructure, legal, and financial systems

Tackling the threat of dangerous climate change is one of the most demanding tasks that the global society stands before today. This is a task where developing and developed countries share a common but differentiated burden.

Cities in developing countries are often the most vulnerable to flooding, hurricanes, landslides, drought and other effects of climate change. And the increasing proportion of slum dwellers in these cities are typically the ones that will be most affected.

To summarize:

To break down the barriers of economic exclusion, there is a need of promoting fuller economic participation and greater market access, and at contributing to the creation of conditions conducive to economic growth and the establishment of national and international trade rules.

A basic prerequisite for establishing strong and lasting links between land administration and the financial sector is to have a well-functioning register and registration process. Stable land policies will encourage investment in the maintenance and upgrading of newly privatized land or property in countries in transition, and in general. Well-functioning, legally protected, land registration registers enables secure mortgage loans or other financial solutions.

Combating climate change must be made an integral part of urban development. The urban poor are often the ones that risk being affected the most by uncontrolled climate change. At the same time, cities can be both engines for economic growth and constitute energy efficient settlements. An integrated approach to urban development, comprehensive urban planning, of good urban governance, and correct economic incentives and legislation are all crucial ingredients to a sustainable urban development.

Thank you for your attention!

