

## UN-HABITAT

### **Statement of the meeting of the Advisory Council to the Warsaw Office on regional initiatives and policies and their impact on sustainable urban development and affordable housing**

*Noting* the need for broader participation in the process of strengthening the relations of the European Union with neighbouring countries and considering that initiatives targeting co-ordination and synchronisation of bilateral and multilateral contacts create the basis for wider programmes on the development and implementation of common policies in different sectors, adapted to the aspirations, capacities and priorities of each country.

*Realizing* that these initiatives are intended initially to focus mainly on political foundations for future cooperation, such as stabilization, democracy, security, access to sources of energy and increasing the range and scope of contacts between countries, support for economic integration, good governance and the synchronization of policies in particular spheres, and understanding that the structure of these initiatives should remain open for other activities and that their final shape should depend on political discussions and the use of proposed cooperation mechanisms.

*Recognizing* that such fields of cooperation should be sustainable urban development and affordable housing within the context of environmental policy as they relate to economic, social and spatial policies which should be associated with environmental objectives.

*Recognizing also* that all societies have the right to live in democracy with adequate social, economic and environmental provisions and understanding that this cannot be attained without action by all tiers of government facilitating the creation of suitable infrastructure and affordable housing, new jobs and attractive places of residence, alleviation of poverty and promotion of social inclusion in urban areas.

*Suggests* that one of the key initiatives of the European Union should be to increase the capacities of the Central, Eastern and South-Eastern European countries to face the current and upcoming challenges in the sphere of sustainable urban development.

*Calls* upon UN-HABITAT, in collaboration with members of the Advisory Council, to intensify efforts and activities directed at achieving the incorporation of above mentioned issues into the initiatives of the European Union, as well as to support activities which aim at developing joint understanding among Central, Eastern and South-Eastern European countries on these matters via workshops, conferences and pilot projects, and at enhancing professional capacities in housing, urban economy, urban management and spatial planning, leading to the formulation of implementable capital investment projects.

*Warsaw, 7 September 2009*