

UN-HABITAT

Statement of the Advisory Council to the Warsaw Office on the programming of UN-HABITAT activities in the countries of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe

Recalling the Warsaw Declaration of 2007 adopted at the UN-HABITAT Advisory Council held in Warsaw in February 2007 which prioritized housing and urban planning policy development as focus areas for the activities of UN-HABITAT in our countries.

Noting UN-HABITAT's global efforts at raising on the international stage the urgency and importance of challenges facing urban development through normative efforts, global initiatives including the World Urban Forum, State of World Cities Report and International Guidelines on Decentralization and strengthening of local authorities and on Access to Basic Services.

Recognizing the importance of regional sharing of experience and information on housing and urban development and the significance of the need to increase capacity in member states with regard to the ability to formulate and execute projects in the field of housing and urban development.

Welcoming UN-HABITAT's existing regional initiatives such as the Global Land Tool Network Conference on land and property taxation and the Regional Capacity Strengthening Programme related to the Vienna Declaration on Informal Settlements.

Recommend UN-HABITAT to produce a report on the State of Central, East and South-East European Cities, a periodical Bulletin informing on normative, information and project activities of UN-HABITAT and use the extensive decentralization and local government development experience gained in the countries of the new member states of the European Union in programming its activities with regard to work on decentralization and public service delivery.

Recommend also that UN-HABITAT intensify efforts at identifying opportunities for formulating projects in the area of Eastern Europe while continuing expanding the scope and reach of its project activities in South-East Europe, especially through participation in the Territorial Cooperation Programme of South-East Europe and Central Europe and urban development initiatives within the framework of the EU Structural Funds.

Call upon all co-operating partners, including other UN agencies, development banks and the European Commission, to support the efforts of UN-HABITAT in the implementation of the measures outlined in this statement.

Warsaw, 7 September 2009