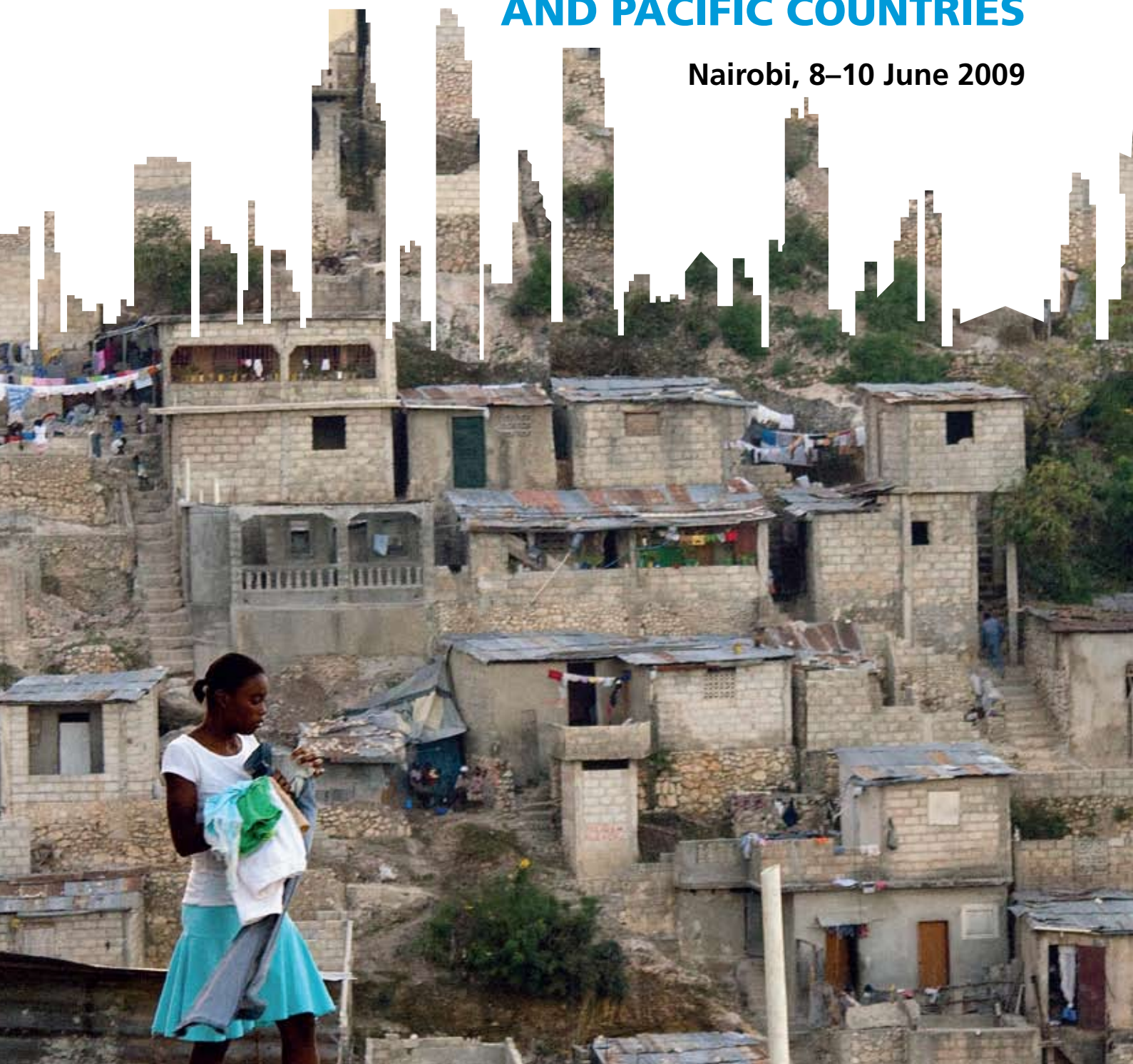


REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL
TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE

URBANIZATION CHALLENGES AND POVERTY REDUCTION IN AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC COUNTRIES

Nairobi, 8–10 June 2009



Report of the international tripartite conference on urbanization challenges and poverty reduction in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries

First published in Nairobi in 2009 by UN-HABITAT (HSP/EC/ACP.1/9).

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Cover design : Andrew Ondoo/UN-HABITAT

Acknowledgements:

Report Coordinator: Alain Grimard

Design and Layout: Andrew Ondoo

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UN HABITAT





Foreword



The first high-level conference joining the ACP Group of States, the European Commission (EC), and UN-HABITAT, was a resounding success that marked an important step on the ladder to cities without slums, affordable housing and better health for the urban poor.

As we move forward, we must always bear the people in mind, especially those living in poverty, in slums or other insecure places trying to eke out a living under conditions that threaten their safety, their health, their education prospects, their hopes for the future. And ours.

As I said before, and I reiterate here, we can never fail them, and this is why our latest regional and global initiative for change at the local level, our Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme is so important for all ACP countries. It is a crucial step towards reducing the vulnerability of people and the planet.

I would like on behalf of UN-HABITAT to extend my sincere thanks to the Secretariat of the ACP, and to the European Commission for their valued and important support as we battle to attain the Millennium Development Goals for global poverty reduction, and as we try to seal the deal on climate change in Copenhagen in December.

We must continue to work together for cities without slums, cities that no longer pollute the air and waters on which we are so dependent. To us at UN-HABITAT that has always meant smarter cities – cities that are cleaner, greener more sustainable and more equitable.

I wish also here to say a special word of thanks to the Secretary-General of the ACP Group of States, Sir John Kaputin, who has always believed in the mandate and capacity of UN-HABITAT, and to our EC colleagues who provided rich and useful contribution to UN-HABITAT flagship activities.

Here it is my great honour to present a record of the very important ideas discussed, and to suggest how we can move forward on the many problems of urban poverty, the economic crisis and the growing threats that affect our cities in this first truly urban century of our human existence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Anna K. Tibaijuka". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Anna K. Tibaijuka
Executive Director, UN-HABITAT

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I. Declaration

NAIROBI DECLARATION ON URBANIZATION CHALLENGES AND POVERTY REDUCTION IN AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES

I. BACKGROUND

1. Currently, 2 billion people live in urban areas in the developing world. The rapid urban growth in these States suggests that the problems associated with slum-dwelling, such as access to adequate and safe water and sanitation, sufficient and secure living areas, affect primarily those who are already the most vulnerable. Furthermore, more than 70 percent of many African, Caribbean and Pacific States' urban populations live in slums or informal settlements, with this share set to increase unless substantial, determined and sustained interventions are made.
2. In January 2005, participants in a joint European Commission/United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) regional workshop on urbanization challenges in Africa reviewed urban challenges and the potential benefits of urbanization in Africa. In agreement with the European Commission, UN-HABITAT, other representatives and the 16 African states participating in the workshop agreed to develop appropriate programmes to tackle urban challenges in all African countries and to continue to exchange views and share good practices with other partner countries.
3. The international tripartite conference on urbanization challenges and poverty reduction in African, Caribbean and Pacific States held in Nairobi from 8 to 10 June 2009 marked a significant step in the policy dialogue towards enhanced international cooperation between UN-HABITAT, the European Commission and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and their institutions in addressing urbanization challenges, especially considering that, since 2007, for the first time in history, more than half of the world's population lives in urban areas.
4. In this context, it is with great satisfaction that participants noted the good cooperation between UN-HABITAT, the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, which led to the organization of the current meeting.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

5. The objective was to deepen and elaborate further the conclusions adopted during the joint regional workshop in 2005 and the continuing Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme. It sought to involve all African, Caribbean and Pacific States in a policy dialogue on sustainable urban development, addressing urban poverty challenges and enabling representatives and their partners to exchange views on the following thematic areas:
 - (a) Basic urban infrastructure and services provision;
 - (b) Pro-poor land and affordable housing interventions;
 - (c) Urban governance and planning policies;
 - (d) Human settlements finance strategies;
 - (e) Local economic development enhancement.

III. OUTCOME OF THE MEETING

6. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), the European Commission and the APC Group reaffirmed the growing evidence that the locus of poverty was being increasingly felt in urban areas in African, Caribbean and Pacific States and that the role of local and national authorities in tackling the policy dimensions of this trend within their development programmes was essential. They emphasized that inequitable distribution of resources and anti-poor policies had exacerbated urban poverty, impeding the sustainability of many African, Caribbean and Pacific cities and affecting their social and economic viability. They acknowledged that many African, Caribbean and Pacific States have improved their policies on affordable housing and access to basic urban infrastructure and other human settlement services with generally good impacts on their urban populations, but that those efforts remained insufficient vis-à-vis the magnitudes of the urban challenges.
7. African, Caribbean and Pacific representatives affirmed that the planet was being threatened and affected by immense disasters and systemic shocks such as armed conflict, energy, water and food shortages, poverty and insecurity, climate change and financial and economic crises, which induced domestic and international urban migrations while directly affecting the lives of urban populations.
8. Participants underlined that in many countries slum growth and the extreme poverty accompanying rapid urbanization and affecting cities and towns reflected failures in urban planning, governance and political will. These were all factors underlying poorly managed urban growth and lack of appropriate strategies, including the insufficient allocation of financial resources to urban development. Participants also reaffirmed that slum proliferation and urban poverty in African, Caribbean and Pacific States and other developing countries constituted a warning signal of a wider urban crisis that could soon force world leaders to rethink current models of urban development. Participants emphasized that the urban growth taking place in developing countries and particularly in African, Caribbean and Pacific States expressed aspirations of benefiting from urban opportunities and improving their living conditions.
9. Participants emphasized that new approaches and solutions to local problems, including social inclusion, security and safety, have been tested in many African, Caribbean and Pacific States. They recommended that mechanisms for sharing urban best practices, in addition to emerging sustainable solutions should be expanded to newly emerging urban problems in African, Caribbean and Pacific cities and towns. Participants further agreed that slums and informal settlements, in spite of their shortcomings, needed to be more positively viewed as what they termed “settlements of hope”, through international cooperation within the framework of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly targets 10 and 11 of Goal 7.
10. Participants were briefed on the existing Cooperation Framework Agreement between UN-HABITAT and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group Secretariat, signed in 2004, and noted with interest the new Slum Upgrading Programme in 30 African, Caribbean and Pacific States financed through the intra-African, Caribbean and the Pacific funds of the ninth European Development Fund as one of the specific actions of that cooperation agreement.

DECLARATION ON URBANIZATION CHALLENGES AND POVERTY REDUCTION IN AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES

We, the representatives of the 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific States, the European Union and European Commission, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and other organizations participating in the International Tripartite Conference on Urbanization Challenges and Poverty Reduction in African, Caribbean and Pacific States,

Reaffirming our strong commitment to the promotion of sustainable urban development in African, Caribbean and Pacific States;

Underlining that new and additional action must be taken to address substantially and efficiently urbanization in African, Caribbean and Pacific States as acknowledged during the current conference;

Noting with satisfaction the good cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the European Union institutions in promoting sustainable urban development;

Recognizing the importance of the housing and construction sector as an engine of social and economic development, particularly in the context of the current financial and social crises;

Emphasizing the importance of including the urban sector and social housing in the priorities outlined in poverty reduction strategy papers, in the national, regional and intra-African, Caribbean and Pacific indicative programmes within the context of the Cotonou Agreement between members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and the European Union and its Member States and other relevant development cooperation agreements;

1. *Confirm* our strong political will to develop efficient institutional frameworks and mechanisms leading to integrated strategies for sustainable urban development in African, Caribbean and Pacific States;
2. *Commit ourselves* to developing and implementing appropriate urban planning policies and instruments and actively mobilizing funds to support slum prevention and upgrading initiatives, in addition to basic infrastructure development in African, Caribbean and Pacific States in line with the Habitat Agenda and other agreed international development goals;
3. *Also commit ourselves* to promoting, consolidating and disseminating innovative African, Caribbean and Pacific tools and practices with proven added value and beneficial impact on sustainable urban development, including local economic development;
4. *Further commit ourselves* to increasing our participation in the exchange of best practices in the framework of South-South cooperation, including regional and triangular cooperation;
5. *Commit ourselves* to increasing our partnership and cooperation with all stakeholders, including local authorities, non-State actors and other Habitat Agenda partners, with a view to promoting sustainable urbanization, including slum prevention and slum upgrading;

6. *Also commit ourselves* to supporting a continuous dialogue to enhance the cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, European Commission and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States with a view to developing joint programmes and initiatives on sustainable urban development and urban poverty reduction in African, Caribbean and Pacific States;
7. *Recommend* that urban development initiatives should be reviewed and that the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme should be extended to all interested African, Caribbean and Pacific States during the mid-term review of the tenth European Development Fund in 2010;
8. *Strongly call upon* national Governments, regional and continental institutions and the international community to include and emphasize urban and housing issues in the overall development agenda and invite all partners to contribute substantially to those efforts by establishing predictable and flexible financial mechanisms and providing resources to reduce urban poverty and address global challenges such as climate change, migration, energy scarcity, water and food shortages, insecurity and financial crises to ensure sustainable urban development in the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States;
9. *Call upon* the international community to support a global approach to improving knowledge and understanding of urban challenges for better integrating urban development into national, regional and international cooperation programmes;
10. *Request* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the European Commission and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States to give special consideration to the needs of small island developing States and least-developed States, particularly in facing the increasing challenges of climate change;
11. *Request* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to develop partnerships with other development partners and to coordinate international actions on sustainable urban development;
12. *Call upon* the international community and other Habitat Agenda partners to continue and increase their support to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to enable the implementation of its global mandate and increase cooperation with the European Commission and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States;
13. *Request* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the European Commission and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States Secretariat to disseminate widely the outcome of the current conference and ensure adequate follow-up at the global, regional and national levels.

II. Introduction

1. The international tripartite conference on urbanization challenges and poverty reduction in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries was held at the headquarters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) in Nairobi from 8 to 10 June 2009.
2. The meeting was opened at 10.40 a.m. on Monday, 8 June 2009 by Mr. Alioune Badiane, Chief, UN-HABITAT Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States. Opening statements were made by Mr. Raul Mateus Paula, Head of Unit, EuropeAid Cooperation Office, European Commission; Mr. Andrew Bradley, Assistant Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States on behalf of Sir John Kaputin, Secretary General; Ms. Hana Klučarová, Embassy of the Czech Republic in Kenya, on behalf of the European Union; Ms. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT; and Mr. Soita Shitanda, Minister of Housing of Kenya.
3. Mr. Paula stressed that, as urbanization was recognized as an irreversible phenomenon, the focus of the international community had shifted to its management. Rapid global urban population growth over previous decades, in large part a result of the spectacular increase in the numbers of people living in cities in developing nations, had dramatically increased urban poverty and led to the marginalization and exclusion of vast numbers of urban-dwellers. He expressed the European Commission's commitment to supporting continuing work to meet the challenges of urbanization. He said, the Commission was ready to consider with its partners, proposals for projects in African, Caribbean and Pacific nations. He emphasized the need for those countries to submit their proposals in line with priorities set by national Governments to ensure national ownership of projects.
4. Mr. Bradley thanked the Executive Director and her staff for the excellent work that they had undertaken over many years to ensure that critical urban issues affecting the poorest communities were taken into account at the international level. The African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, he said, had embarked on the tripartite agreement that brought together development funds from Europe, political commitment and strategic planning from the group's member States and the technical know-how of UN-HABITAT in a unique collaboration to bring the plight of the millions of urban poor to the forefront of the development agenda. In closing, he invited representatives to discuss the risks of the financial crisis and to use their collective expertise to elaborate substantive, innovative and far reaching conclusions and recommendations for submission to ministers.
5. Ms. Klučarová, noting that sustainable development was a deep-seated value of the European Union, underlined the importance of sustained economic growth, stability and international cooperation for human settlements development. The European Union assisted its partners to confront challenges with specific priorities through jointly agreed action plans and continued to be a major source of development aid for projects related to trade, agriculture, environment, security, migration, the social dimension of globalization, employment and international scientific cooperation. The European Union's relationship with major African countries was being developed in the framework of strategic partnerships and close cooperation with various partners to ensure increased effectiveness of external aid.

6. The Executive Director, Ms. Anna Tibaijuka, underlined the importance of the cooperation agreement signed between UN-HABITAT and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States on the promotion of sustainable urbanization and the eradication of poverty, and expressed the hope that the discussions at the tripartite conference would focus on the issues covered by that agreement. She referred to the need to take stock of the progress of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme and also of the urban profiles currently being carried out in many countries. She pointed out that, in the light of scientific research that showed that 1 in 3 people in the developing world lived in slums or unplanned urban settlements, it was time for urgent action to be taken, urging representatives to bear in mind the human cost of inaction. She outlined the cooperation activities undertaken by UN-HABITAT in many African, Caribbean and Pacific nations, emphasizing that they were designed in cooperation with the ministries represented at the current meeting and implemented with a wide range of partners with a view to connecting global, national and local perspectives in the quest for sustainable, cleaner and more inclusive cities without slums.
7. Mr. Shitanda said that the aim of the current meeting was to harmonize participants' contributions to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, especially those pertaining to slum upgrading and poverty reduction, describing the current meeting as a forum to exchange experiences, methodologies and recommendations to facilitate sustainable urban growth. He pointed out that the Government of Kenya was implementing a long-term development policy, based on economic, political and social pillars, aimed at providing citizens with a clean and secure environment by 2030. He described how the Kenyan Ministry of Housing had established technology centres in all provinces and encouraged the use of locally available materials so as to reduce building costs. In closing, he expressed the hope that representatives would devise viable ways in which to improve the sustainability of human settlements.



III. Attendance

8. The meeting was attended by representatives from the following countries: Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Eritrea, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Haiti, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
9. Representatives from the following intergovernmental organizations also attended the meeting: European Commission, Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, United Nations Environment Programme, West African Economic and Monetary Union.
10. Representatives of the following city and local authority associations attended the meeting: Brazzaville, Dakar, Harare, Treichville, Communes et villes et unies du Cameroun, Union des Villes et Communes de Côte d'Ivoire.
11. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following organizations: Amnesty International, Arch Forum Ltd, Association for the Promotion of Cooperative Stores for Production, Cooperazione Internazionale, Dialogue on Shelter for the Homeless in Zimbabwe Trust, Encadrement des Constructions Sociales et Aménagement des Terrains du Burundi, Enda Tiers-Monde, Global Village Energy Partnership, HABITAT International Coalition, Mazingira Institute, Pamoja Trust, Selling and Supplying in Burundi, Social Security and Housing Finance (Gambia), Société Immobilière Publique du Burundi, Swedish International Development Agency, University of the West Indies.
12. A full list of participants can be found in document HSP/EC/ACP.1/INF/1.

IV. Introductory presentations

A. URBANIZATION CHALLENGES IN AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES

13. Mr. Daniel Biau, Director, Regional and Technical Cooperation Division, UN-HABITAT, gave a presentation on urban challenges in African, Caribbean and Pacific States. While urban growth rates in those nations were in decline, they remained extremely high, with more than half of the population residing in medium-sized cities. In addition to its work at the operational level, UN-HABITAT undertook important normative activities; the agency had established guidelines of universal value, including the international guidelines on decentralization and on access to basic services, which were intended for use and adaptation by all countries to their national contexts. He described approaches to urbanization from the 1970s to date from master plans to urban poverty reduction, none of which, he said, should be disregarded. In closing, he described six key current challenges: making land available and affordable; planning and managing urban development for economic efficiency and social equity; developing environmental infrastructure and promoting basic services for all; stimulating housing and municipal finance; linking spatial and economic development policy and programmes for job creation; and improving institutional coordination and synergies at all levels.

B. SLUM UPGRADING AND SLUM PREVENTION INITIATIVES

14. Mr. Claudio Acioly, UN-HABITAT, gave a presentation outlining the challenges and experiences involved in the process of slum upgrading. Underlining the importance of a dual approach involving prevention on the one hand and upgrading on the other, he stressed the need for an increase in technological capacity to facilitate the provision of housing, and advocated the adoption of policies that confronted the issue of access to services. That urban and slum growth rates were practically identical, he said, reflected a lack of planning in urbanization. He outlined the changes in approach to the entire issue that had developed over the years and maintained that one of the most fundamental was the move away from a project-based approach to a programme-based approach. Pointing out that the poor generally lacked access to property finance, he stressed the importance of interacting with civil society and non-governmental organizations to find alternative ways to provide the necessary resources and security of tenure.

C. PRESENTATION ON THE PARTICIPATORY SLUM UPGRADING PROGRAMME IN AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES

15. Mr. Andrew Bradley, Assistant Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, drew attention to the importance of the term “participatory” with regard to slum upgrading processes, saying that it implied a need for inclusiveness, coordination, coherence and consistency. He stressed that the current meeting should be seized as an opportunity to exchange experiences and best practices. Pointing out that coordination was often lacking at the donor or country levels, he urged representatives to remain in touch with their national authorizing offices to ensure the coordination of efforts and pooling of resources that was so essential to progress.
16. In his presentation, Mr. Mateus Paula, Head of Unit, EuropeAid, European Commission, stressed the importance of the urban dimension in European development policy. He pointed out that while urbanization was a global and irreversible phenomenon, it was important to focus on its positive aspects. In that regard he stressed the need to reinforce the territorial dimension by introducing institutional reforms, supporting local government management and continuing with efforts to combat poverty.
17. Mr. Alain Grimard, UN-HABITAT Programme Manager of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme in African, Caribbean and Pacific States, said that the genesis of that Programme had been the 2002 European Commission draft consultative guidelines for sustainable urban development, which focused on good governance and good urban management and had never, in fact, been published. The six main objectives of the Programme, under way in 30 nations in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, were to assist local stakeholders to respond to urban development challenges; to raise the profile of urban development challenges at the national, regional and global levels; to strengthen existing urban development initiatives; to agree upon urban implementation response plans and design action plans; to identify bottlenecks and implementation gaps; and to raise resources for prioritized urban capacity and investment projects. Two main components constituted the structure of the Programme: urban profiling at the local and national levels; and regional policy development, capacity-building and slum upgrading action plans.

V. Regional presentations

A. INTRODUCTION

18. The session was chaired by Mr. John Hogan, UN-HABITAT Training and Capacity-building Branch. Mr. Mateus Paula, Head of Unit, EuropeAid, gave a presentation that highlighted the contribution of the European Commission to infrastructure projects in Africa, which, he said, amounted to €7.7 billion since 1996. Emphasizing that the European Commission viewed infrastructure projects as central development priorities, he stressed the leverage potential of funds from the European Development Fund, which had enabled developing countries to raise substantial additional sums to fund projects in such areas as roads, water and information and communications technology. He noted that the European Commission's commitment to projects supporting Africa's infrastructure and attempts to tackle climate change remained constant, with funds committed in the 2008–2013 plan. He further stressed the European Commission's involvement with the World Bank, the Cities Alliance and others, and drew attention to the European Commission's commitment to involvement in programming on both national and regional bases.
19. Subsequently, the plenary session was split into three separate sessions, divided by region, in order to discuss issues specific to each region.

B. ENGLISH-SPEAKING AFRICA: INVESTMENT IN BASIC URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE

20. The session was chaired by Mr. Muchadeyi Masunda, Mayor of Harare, who introduced the panelists. The presenters were Mr. Graham Alabaster, Programme Manager, UN-HABITAT Water Sanitation and Infrastructure Branch, and Mr. James Mutero, national expert. The facilitator was Mr. John Hogan, UN-HABITAT.
21. Mr. Alabaster gave a presentation highlighting the challenges facing Africa in providing basic infrastructure and services, which were particularly relevant to the issue of slum upgrading. He noted that, in Africa, the Millennium Development Goals pertaining to water and sanitation were unlikely to be met without considerably more effort, the main reasons being the lack of prioritization of basic infrastructure by political leaders and insufficient investment, the lack of capacity to generate revenue effectively and the lack of attention paid to operation and maintenance. Furthermore, there were important lessons to be learned from progress made in countries in which decentralized infrastructure management at the local level was implemented. Smaller urban centres suffered more than capital cities from the lack of investment and capacity, and would see large population growth in the next decade, posing a challenge to infrastructures. Solid waste management was also an area of neglect compared with water and sanitation, and climate change adaptation and mitigation issues would affect all those areas. Expertise existed in the region, together with good models and opportunities; regional assistance was one way to help failing countries to get back on track and attain the Millennium Development Goals.

22. In his presentation, Mr. Mutero used case study examples from Kenya from his work on urban profiling for UN-HABITAT and the World Bank to illustrate general issues of relevance, particularly the power relations between local and central governments and the investment framework within which local authorities were operating. Notwithstanding the political rhetoric on decentralization, financial flows to the local level had been found to be declining in Kenya and without resources, local authorities were unable to deliver basic urban services. They also suffered from weak management capacity, lack of accountability to constituents and a lack of clear frameworks for private-public partnerships and regulation. Capital expenditure by local authorities was low compared with recurrent expenditure and their ability to leverage more resources for infrastructure remained limited, with few resources available for areas such as solid waste management and operation and maintenance. He highlighted the need for official recognition and correct regulation of small-scale private service providers, who played an important role in water, electricity and transport provision, for example, and for housing microfinancing possibilities for slum-dwellers.
23. In the ensuing discussion a number of points were raised and representatives shared experiences from their own countries. On the question of capacity in local governments, one representative felt that it was a common perception propagated by central Governments resistant to decentralization and that local authorities had the ability to do much more. Another said that the paucity of ideas and lack of development were the issue for local authorities rather than any lack of resources, and a number of representatives mentioned the inability of local authorities to generate funding internally and use it effectively, for example by contracting road construction to the private sector. One representative said that there were solutions to the complex problem of malfunctioning of local governments but that in his country they were hampered by too much interference from the central Government. Post-conflict countries faced particular problems in rebuilding capacities and local governments required initial capital and equipment to begin functioning again.
24. One representative said that lip service was paid to the question of decentralization in Africa but leaders failed to match their intentions with actions, which posed problems for local authorities and municipalities. Others spoke of progress made in their countries on decentralization.
25. One representative said that the entire issue of infrastructure should be reviewed in the light of population numbers. It was necessary to consider new investment, but also provision for maintaining current investment and for capital replacement. Infrastructure and maintenance costs had to be factored into new housing development. One representative said that, while considering the challenges of urban development and slums, cities should also be considered as engines of economic growth and opportunities for mobilizing the skilled population and business communities. Another said that service delivery should be seen as a profitable business and that creative thinking was required to package programmes and projects to ensure costs were recovered in full.
26. A number of representatives said that the scope of local authority responsibilities depended on countries' constitutions and they called for local governments to be included therein. Tariff setting by central Governments, inability to collect revenue and lack of compliance with local rate payments were also raised by a number of representatives. One mentioned the difficulty of obtaining guarantees and the need for cost recovery schemes.

27. Another representative stressed the need to consider local economic development and transforming the informal sector and involving it in delivery of basic services. The entire issue of social infrastructure should also be considered and recreational facilities created to tackle the build-up of suppressed violence and frustration.
28. Several representatives raised the issue of solid waste management, one noting that it was a grey area lacking clear policies or regulation.
29. One representative sought to remove doubts among the investment community regarding his country's political situation. He said that an inclusive Government had been established, urging potential investors to come forward given that immediate financing was needed in the water, sanitation and sewerage sectors.
30. Responding to the comments made, Mr. Alabaster welcomed the calls for basic infrastructure provision to be seen as a business opportunity, particularly in the example of solid waste management. He expressed optimism that minimal investment in existing infrastructure facilities and their maintenance could bring those up to acceptable levels of service provision, for example by halting water wastage from leaks; it was UN-HABITAT policy to improve existing infrastructure before making new investments, he said. He advocated promotion of investment for infrastructure projects and speeding up project preparation; housing and infrastructure also needed to be more closely linked.
31. Mr. Mutero supported the need for decentralization to be entrenched in constitutions together with the necessary fiscal transfer to local authorities. It was clear that local authorities often lacked the expertise to design imaginative ways of raising resources and engaging with the donor sector, and there was a need for capacity-building; with better management they could be more self-sufficient. The need to review the parameters for ensuring service operations and cost recovery and for tariff setting that would cater for the lower end of the income scale posed challenges. Guarantees for microfinancing could be provided through intermediaries to facilitate small loans to individuals, and an education process on microfinance delivery was needed.

C. FRENCH-SPEAKING AFRICA: LABOUR MOBILITY

32. The session was chaired by Mr. Khalifa Sall, Mayor of Dakar, who introduced the panelists. The presenters were Mr. Alioune Badiane, Chief of UN-HABITAT Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States, and Mr. Mansour Tall, UN-HABITAT. The facilitator was Ms. Michèle Devys, European Commission.
33. The Chair introduced the session, noting that migration was a perennial issue that affected all countries in various ways and forms, such as domestic migration, in the form of, for example, urban drift, and international migration, with emigration to other African nations and to Europe.
34. Mr. Tall introduced the issue of urbanization and labour mobility, pointing out that the two aspects were intrinsically linked, given that urbanization had become an irreversible process. Action was therefore required to anticipate its further development, putting in place policies, strategies and partnerships with which to address the problems that it posed, lest chaos ensued. He described some of the challenges faced, such as urban poverty, exclusion and crime, before going on to highlight the direct relationship between domestic and international migration, stressing the key role of remittances in financing. He noted the possibility of key partnerships led by UN-HABITAT with other stakeholders with a view to taking advantage of all opportunities offered and

stressed the roles played by the diaspora, South-South cooperation and bilateral labour agreements, among others.

35. Mr. Badiane outlined some of the most significant issues facing representatives. He asked how labour mobility could be integrated into urban development strategies, integrated into political guidance for subregional bodies, incorporated into local-level policies to make them effective and with an enhanced economic impact and how it could be used to deal with the essential components of urban poverty, such as access to housing and employment.
36. In the ensuing discussion, most of the representatives who spoke gave examples of successful initiatives, policies and ideas launched in their own countries and stressed some of the problems that they faced, such as domestic strife or climatic conditions, which further exacerbated migratory issues. Clashes with traditional tribal forms of governance were also mentioned. One representative noted that migration had changed the face of his nation, with land becoming available, farming methods changing and the economy developing. Domestic migration was discussed in detail, given that urban sprawl and the concentration of populations in such areas posed burdens on the services available there. One representative cautioned against laying too much emphasis on urban development, arguing that rural areas should also be developed and raised to the same standard as their urban counterparts.
37. Many representatives stressed the importance of considering mobility in the context of land use planning, which would give relevant policies greater coherence and sustainability. Such a vision would enhance the readiness of towns and cities to deal with surges in populations, particularly in view of events that had previously rocked the African continent, such as civil wars and social conflicts. It would, of course, require genuine political will and good governance.
38. A need was expressed to take into account all forms of mobility, including inter-urban mobility. One representative drew attention to the problems posed by significant delays as a result of major traffic congestion and also the difficulty of crossing large cities by foot in the absence of suitable transportation networks. He also noted that immigrants often gathered in peri-urban areas, behaviour that engendered additional needs to be met.
39. The role of the diaspora was stressed by several representatives, who highlighted the positive role of remittances in boosting the economy of the recipient country, given that such financial in-flows were often channelled into the purchasing of housing or into other significant investments. Families remaining in the country of origin who received the remittances were often able to break the bonds of poverty using such transfers, as they accorded them greater purchasing power in the domestic market.
40. One representative highlighted some of the problems linked to migration, such as drug trafficking, people trafficking, illegal immigration and sub-standard working conditions for people involved in such areas. Another representative noted the importance of having immigrant communities organized and able to operate in the formal economy, given the additional revenue that that would entail for the State, for example, through taxation. It was not a question of establishing ghettos, he stressed, but rather of ensuring a suitable system and framework for those communities.

41. The representative of a subregional economic integration organization set out some of the work that the organization had undertaken and drew attention to its priority areas for action: balanced urbanization, transport and telecommunications, responsibility for development, the living environment and institutional actions. He stressed that urban development should be considered in all its facets and that the myth and mystique of cities should be dispelled, meaning that rural populations would be less inclined to migrate to urban towns and cities.
42. In conclusion, the Chair noted that Africans had always been nomadic people who knew no borders, meaning that such artificially-created borders seen in the modern world posed a problem in terms of the general conception of migration. He highlighted the problems caused by globalization and pointed out that, while Europe turned to more restrictive migratory policies, the very nature of Africa was extremely different. He urged all representatives to consider the matter in detail and look at possible ways to foster cooperation and collaboration between nations.

D. CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES: CITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

43. The Chair, Ms. Maraia Ubitau, Director, Department of Town and Country Planning, Fiji, opened the session and introduced the panelists. The presenters were Mr. Raf Tuts, Chief, UN-HABITAT Urban Environment Division, and Mr. Asad Mohammed, Faculty of Engineering, University of the West Indies. The facilitator was Ms. Aya Kasasa, Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States.
44. Mr. Tuts summarized the challenges posed by climate change for poor countries, noting the huge monetary losses and hazards of rising sea levels and temperatures and risks to life and livelihoods that those entailed. He described responses in terms of adaptation and mitigation, but pointed out that climate change also brought opportunities in terms of new business models, and green jobs and energy that would help global economic recovery. Summarizing UN-HABITAT key activities in the realm of climate change, he drew attention to the Cities and Climate Change Initiative, which aimed to help cities to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change, in addition to providing assessment, policy dialogue within and outside the United Nations, developing tools for urban planning, supporting cities and encouraging networking. He noted that climate change and urbanization were closely related and that investment in slum upgrading could also be seen as climate change mitigation, while stressing that private sector involvement and coordination between stakeholders was vital.
45. In his presentation, Mr. Mohammed noted the need to make climate change discussions at the local level more strategic and less reactive. He described the difference in focus at the municipal and national or global levels in matters of urban planning and management, stressing the need for a focus on implementation. He likened many spheres of government in the area of urban planning and climate change in the Caribbean region to an inverted pyramid, with each international protocol on climate change placing additional strains on to an already weak and under-resourced base. He expressed concern that new requirements in construction aimed at mitigating climate change meant that the needs of the poor in housing and construction were no longer being discussed at the national or municipal levels. Urging increased awareness on the crisis facing Caribbean nations, he called for open discussion of the issue of relocation rather than mitigation, where appropriate.
46. The Chair invited the representative of Kiribati to outline the effects of climate change

on his country. He described the declining availability of freshwater, rising sea levels and increasing incidents of extreme weather. Other representatives expressed the need for a full assessment of climate change to enhance understanding and ensure correct allocation of resources, followed by a framework that would encourage coordination and integration of interventions.

47. Representatives expressed concern about weaknesses in Governments that meant that some environmental and planning regulations were disregarded, and called for a more effective implementation of existing legislation in that regard to protect investments, livelihoods and valuable coastal ecosystems. There were further calls for advice on how to deal with rising sea levels, unpredictable weather and means of obtaining financial compensation from those chiefly responsible for climate change and the risks facing low-lying island States. Some representatives said that there was insufficient awareness of such risks among the population in many island States and called for education, advocacy, long-term planning and resource mobilization.
48. In closing, the Chair shared information on climate change opportunities, such as the extraction of methane and carbon trading that was planned by Fiji, and urged all representatives to work to ensure that the challenges of climate change were addressed.

VI. Theme presentations

A. INTRODUCTION

49. Introductory remarks were delivered by Mr. Eduardo Sorribes-Manzana, European Commission; Ms. Inga Bjork-Klevby, Deputy Executive Director of UN-HABITAT; and Mr. Andrew Bradley, Assistant Secretary-General of the Africa Caribbean and Pacific Group of States.
50. Mr. Sorribes-Manzana emphasized the increasing importance of urbanization and its challenges at the international level; an increase in the number of both mega-cities and secondary cities was expected in the coming decades accompanied by an increase in urban poverty incidence. The European Commission would continue to work with UN-HABITAT and European Union member States on raising the profile of urbanization and on future interventions. He expressed the hope that representatives would reach a shared position on human development and solutions and areas for future cooperation. He identified three main areas of concern, namely the rising demand for infrastructure services resulting from urban development and the challenge of expanding those quickly enough; the degradation of the human environment resulting from growing cities that was giving rise to health problems, water pollution and pressure on resource bases; urban management and governance that called for the full commitment of all stakeholders, particularly at the local level, and decentralization accompanied by the transfer of human and financial resources. Additional resources were needed to cope with more ambitious urbanization and appropriate policies to ensure the correct use of scarce resources and service delivery. The time was right to pay increased attention to the urban sector and the European Commission would continue to work with its partners and African, Caribbean and Pacific States. He noted, however, that ownership was key to all interventions funded by the European Commission, meaning that countries had to request such interventions.
51. The Deputy Executive Director, Ms. Bjork-Klevby, welcomed the increased European Commission attention paid to the urban sector. She reviewed the major conclusions from the previous day's group discussions on investment in basic urban infrastructure, labour mobility and cities and climate change. She expressed the hope that representatives would continue to discuss the way forward.
52. Mr. Bradley looked to the wider concept of development and how urbanization issues could be integrated into the development of States and regions. He highlighted two main challenges that had to be tackled collectively in the coming years: climate change and migration, which were closely linked to urbanization issues. He called for a new development model to replace the model that had been in place for more than 30 years, which focused on physical infrastructures and capacity-building. A holistic approach was the only way forward and had to involve all elements and structures of governance, including local authorities, non-State stakeholders, civil society, donors and public-private partnerships. Policy coherence and consistency was essential to attaining the Millennium Development Goals.

B. PRO-POOR LAND AND HOUSING

53. The session was chaired by Mr. Léon-Paul Toé, Minister of Housing and Urban Development of Burkina Faso, and facilitated by Mr. Alioune Badiane, Chief of UN-HABITAT Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States. The presentation was provided by Mr. Mohamed El-Sioufi, Head of UN-HABITAT Shelter Branch.
54. Mr. El-Sioufi gave a presentation on pro-poor land and housing, beginning by clarifying the definition of slums. He noted that a paradigm shift was needed in the approach to housing, tackling not only the needs of the poor but also affordable housing for all to avoid pro-poor housing projects being appropriated by higher-income levels of society. The challenges included the increased demand for housing, exorbitantly high land prices and scarcity of available land, poor tax collection and insufficient investment in basic infrastructure, limited municipal autonomy and low local capacity to deal with the problems. The responses of UN-HABITAT focused on advocacy, policy advice, programmes and capacity-building: promoting land rights and diversified affordable housing opportunities; supporting stakeholders in delivery of housing and promoting alternatives to forced evictions where those were necessary; developing tools for the implementation of pro-poor land policies; promoting an integrated approach to housing policy, land tenure, environment and planning, infrastructure, local economic development, governance, gender and young people, security; and supporting capacity-building with the help of the quick guides for policy makers on urbanization that were being developed by UN-HABITAT. In conclusion, he said that concerted efforts were required by all stakeholders at the local, national and regional levels and, to that end, UN-HABITAT was creating national committees, or urban forums, to consider housing issues with the involvement of all stakeholders.

C. BASIC URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

55. The session was chaired by Mr. Eduardo Sorribes-Manzana, European Commission, and facilitated by Mr. Bert Diphooorn, Chief, UN-HABITAT Water, Sanitation and Infrastructure Branch. The presentation was provided by Mr. Graham Alabaster, Programme Manager, UN-HABITAT Water and Sanitation.
56. Mr. Alabaster gave a presentation on basic urban infrastructure and services, emphasizing the importance of understanding the difference in the needs of the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions. Africa was falling well behind in attaining the Millennium Development Goals pertaining to water and sanitation, while the Caribbean was generally on track but nevertheless struggling to cope with the impact of urbanization and population growth on service provision. In the Pacific island States, there were significant differences among countries, affording scope for intra-regional support and development. He outlined two key responses to the challenges in providing basic infrastructure: the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund Strategic Plan under UN-HABITAT that provided an overall framework and supported activities in water and sanitation to deliver sustainable services for the poor, to ensure synergies between built and natural environments, to monitor the Millennium Development Goals and to integrate infrastructure and housing; and, second, a combination of normative and operational activities with regional programmes implemented with the regional development banks, such as the Lake Victoria and Mekong initiatives. He then identified some key aspects of activities at the local, national and regional and international levels and the roles of central Governments, local authorities, civil society and the international community.

57. In the ensuing discussion, one representative proposed that, given the high land prices, priority should be accorded to planning for optimizing land use and therefore also infrastructure. Another representative advocated the provision of serviced pieces of land to individuals for building affordable housing appropriate to them. One representative noted the importance of roads and energy as basic services in addition to water and sanitation. Another drew attention to the problem in his country of polluted aquifers in slum areas, such as those located in swamps. Other representatives sought clarification of the definition of affordable housing, shelter and basic service infrastructure.
58. In response, Mr. Alabaster emphasized viewing the importance of infrastructure as the entry point for slum upgrading, which was a politically sensitive decision, and of engaging communities in planning infrastructure and shelter. Basic services were always a top priority for low-income residents but those did not necessarily have to be capital-intensive. The role of utilities could not be underestimated and offered opportunities for partnerships, for example with water providers to support local authority service provision. Where infrastructure was used as the entry point, the situation on the ground determined the settlement plan and due consideration had to be taken of existent settlements. He recommended consideration of the work being carried out in the Kibera slum in Nairobi to illustrate the linkage between infrastructure and the slum upgrading concept. He also recommended the use of available UN HABITAT expertise, for example as pertaining to aquifers.

D. URBAN GOVERNANCE AND PLANNING

59. The session was chaired by Ms. Michèle Devys, European Commission, and facilitated by Mr. Lars Reutersward, Director, UN-HABITAT Global Division. The presentation was provided by Mr. Mohamed Halfani, Chief, UN-HABITAT Urban Governance Section and Mr. Jossy Materu, Chief, UN-HABITAT Urban Design and Planning Services Unit.
60. Introducing the session, Mr. Reutersward stressed the crucial importance of governance to the management of cities and towns; there was much experience to be shared to enable improved performance of urban areas and to prepare them for continued growth. He invited representatives to join the sustainable urban development network established by UN-HABITAT.
61. Mr. Halfani gave a presentation on lessons learned from global experience in governance and planning for slum upgrading in African, Caribbean and Pacific States, which focused on the systemic dimensions of slum upgrading and prevention and the processes that had facilitated successful interventions. He said that slums and urban poverty were not a manifestation of population explosion, demographic change or a dynamic of globalization, but rather resulted from distortions in systems of governance and planning. He described the six variables for success in slum upgrading or prevention that had emanated from a UN-HABITAT and Cities Alliance study in 44 countries worldwide: political awareness and government commitment; policy reforms and institutional strengthening with targeted investments; capacity-building for effective policy implementation; monitoring and evaluation systems for the improvement of policy and programme implementation through lessons learned; scaling up through a replicating approach, expansion of partnerships and funding mechanisms, and building consensus among participants; and embedding of the safety and security dimension from the earliest stages of planning.

62. Mr. Materu presented a case study of a UN-HABITAT urban planning initiative in the Lake Victoria region, which he described as an extremely special ecological region that supported some 25 million people whose lives depended on the lake's resources. As a consequence of rapid urbanization, he said, around half of the population lived in densely populated, unplanned settlements with no or almost non-existent infrastructure. None of the secondary towns had had up-to-date spatial plans in place to guide development and planning regimes employed had been modelled on the master planning approach, which had been discredited globally. In describing interventions in the region, he underlined the particular importance of involving communities in slum upgrading; through awareness raising on the merits of slum upgrading as well as public examination of geographic information systems mapping, in order to ensure that communities were satisfied with boundary demarcations and endorsement of slum upgrading plans by communities. In conclusion, he said that UN-HABITAT would continue to work through its experimental reimbursable seeding operations and Slum Upgrading Facility with a focus on mobilizing domestic capital from local communities and financial institutions in developing countries with security of tenure tackled through the organization's global land tool network.
63. In the ensuing discussion, one representative highlighted the scourge of corruption that existed in African, Caribbean and Pacific States. He stressed the importance of improving relationships between government institutions and urban stakeholders, including the private sector and of ensuring that communication and good management had a greater impact at the local level.
64. Another representative sought clarification on the practical aspects of regularization of informal settlements and another asked whether UN-HABITAT was planning to replicate its interventions undertaken in the Lake Victoria region. A third sought clarification on the modalities of application for assistance from the European Commission and other entities.
65. One representative said that, in many countries where slum upgrading had been undertaken, the ultimate goal of improving people's standard of living had not been achieved as poor people tended to sell the upgraded land and move to alternative informal settlements. She asked whether solutions or policies had been developed to address that problem. Other issues raised by individual representatives included the difficulties in applying urban planning to specific areas owing to cost inhibitions and the importance of gathering information on the nature and characteristics of slums for optimal interventions.
66. In response to questions raised, Mr. Materu suggested that informal settlements should be regularized through initial recognition of the settlement and provision of tenure rights followed by a participatory and consensus-building exercise to consider the best means of introducing facilities with due respect for cultural issues and existing infrastructure. Planning should be coupled with finance and an adequate legal framework.
67. Mr. Halfani reiterated the importance of participation and engaging key stakeholders in urban governance and planning, even in initiatives driven by central Governments. He stressed the need to ensure that slum upgrading interventions should not be stand-alone projects, but part of a systemic approach.

68. Mr. Reutersward said that UN-HABITAT was keen to see the multiplication of the Lake Victoria initiative and interested in development tools and models to assist in that regard.
69. The Chair said that countries interested in gaining access to assistance and support from the European Commission should contact national coordinators through the Commission's delegations.

E. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS FINANCE

70. The session was chaired by Mr. Francois Albert Amichia, Mayor of Treichville in Ivory Coast, and facilitated by Mr. Naison Mutizwa-Mangiza, Chief, Policy Analysis Branch, UN-HABITAT. The presentation was provided by Mr. Christian Schlosser, UN-HABITAT Human Settlements Financing Division.
71. Introducing the session, the Chair highlighted the enormity of the problem of rapid urbanization and the paradoxical situation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States where affordable housing was inadequate and existing housing was adequate but not affordable for the majority.
72. In his presentation, Mr. Schlosser stressed that slums were an indication of lack of affordable housing and the huge investment needs caused by steady population growth and lack of sufficient funding to provide decent options at affordable prices. The estimated investment need for affordable housing in Africa was of the order of \$500 billion on the basis of five people per household and a unit price of \$10,000. The current financial crisis and climate change constituted global challenges in addition to domestic challenges such as investment deficits caused by inadequate policy frameworks, insufficient revenues to local governments and financial institutions that did not provide financial products for low-income housing. He described innovative models of financing being undertaken in African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the UN-HABITAT strategy and activities to improve access to affordable housing and infrastructure in partner countries, including the three-year pilot Slum Upgrading Facility, which provided grants, and the new experimental reimbursing seeding operations, which provided loans at low-interest rates for low-income housing. Financing was a necessary component, but not the only ingredient in the provision of affordable housing; upgrading and residential infrastructure should, he said, be set within wider policy initiatives at the national and local levels.
73. Concluding the session, Mr. Mutizwa-Mangiza pointed to the need for local authorities and local governments to recognize fully incremental building of housing by creating relevant microfinance institutions and to recognize the contribution of the urban poor to their own housing. In addition, it was necessary to encourage rental housing development, to put in place broader policies on land, housing and job creation and to mobilize domestic resources of various types.

F. LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN CITIES

74. The session was chaired by Mr. Frank A. Krah from Liberia and facilitated by Mr. Alioune Badiane, Chief of UN-HABITAT Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States. The presentation was provided by Mr. Gulelat Kebede, Chief, UN-HABITAT Training and Capacity Building Branch.
75. Introducing the session, the Chair said that, while cities represented engines of economic growth and important centres for education, finance, culture and science, they were places of exclusion, deprivation and marginalization in which inequalities and disparities in living standards and conditions were rife. He highlighted key issues for local economic development in African, Caribbean and Pacific States, including weak decentralization to support urban governance, management and planning; high unemployment; lack of recognition of the informal sector; limited access to financial resources owing to stringent market requirements; and inappropriate municipal authority regulations that inhibited entrepreneurship.
76. Mr. Kebede said that the three key messages of his presentation were that economic growth and development were integral to slum upgrading; that local economic development as a complementary approach was an important tool; and that local economic development was best achieved by strategic thinking, practical short-term actions and working at various levels. He noted that the challenges faced in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries were rapid urbanization without sufficient economic growth; unemployment, particularly among young people; and weak municipal and financial capacity to deliver services. He outlined key principles of local economic development practice, including strategic planning, a territorial approach, local ownership, the forming of partnerships and integrated government actions. In addition, he said, it required hard and soft interventions in a conducive local business environment across sectors and with the engagement of all stakeholders. UN-HABITAT was promoting a strategic approach that encouraged the development of localities, workforces, business enterprises and community livelihoods. He stressed the importance of building on existing programmes with interventions by various stakeholders at various levels. Local economic development was best achieved, he said, through settlement-specific interventions supported by city wide strategies.
77. In the ensuing discussion, issues raised by individual representatives included the importance of cross-cutting issues, such as environmental management, gender and HIV/AIDS in local economic development; the need to focus on resolving petty conflicts that often arose as a consequence of improving incomes; the importance of attributing specific and appropriate roles to various stakeholders and defining the linkages between them; the need to replace the derogatory use of the word “informal” in relation to sectors and settlements, among others; and the need to include the informal sector in the formal economy.
78. Mr. Kebede described five organizing principles of local economic development: the configuration of stakeholders in the local economy; involving stakeholders in collaborative relationships; considering differing national contexts; and institutions and policy competence. He suggested that due consideration should be given to the questions of how to move unregistered companies into the formal sector and how to ensure the adoption of better production techniques.

G. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MINISTERIAL ROUND TABLES

79. The session was coordinated by the chairs of the previous sessions and facilitated by Mr. Daniel Biau, Director, UN-HABITAT Regional and Technical Cooperation Division.

1. DRAFTING COMMITTEE

80. The facilitator invited discussion on the presentations described in the preceding sections of the present report. Several representatives highlighted the need for strategies to help the poor gain access to housing finance in the absence of regular income. Additionally, there is a tendency in many countries for the poor to sell allocated land and settle in lower profile areas; owing to their inability to afford housing construction and their desire to take financial windfall advantage of rising land values. Representatives suggested government intervention in the form of subsidies; to reduce profits made by lending institutions and to make finance more affordable. The particular problems of the rural poor in the face of rising land and building costs and falling commodity prices were also raised, together with a desire for a definition of the concept of “the poor”. Some representatives noted that problems with access to housing and finance were not only the preserve of the poor, but that the middle classes also required help.
81. Panelists responded with various commonly accepted definitions of levels of poverty, describing the characteristics of each in terms of living conditions and access to finance from the formal sector. The panelists noted that the private rental sector and microcredit often received scant policy attention and encouragement from African, Caribbean and Pacific Governments, and that housing must be addressed in harmony with wider economic development.
82. Several representatives stressed the importance of infrastructure being in place before any major housing construction began, noting the need for a coordinated approach as part of good urban planning since cities were continuing to grow even as mapping and infrastructure planning were under way, placing strain on land and limited government resources. It was suggested that decentralization and devolved powers at the local level would help to generate speedy decisions appropriate to each municipality in terms of urban development and housing decisions.
83. The facilitator responded that the international community was supportive of a coordinated approach to infrastructure and housing, stressing the need for more land to accommodate growing cities, and the necessity of slum and land policies. Other panelists stressed the complexity of the multiple problems in the arena of adequate shelter, noting the main objective of the current meeting was to raise stakeholders’ awareness so that they could define problems in countries and seek appropriate solutions, building networks to share experiences and to mobilize Governments and beneficiaries.
84. One representative expressed the fear that upgrading informal settlements might encourage rural-urban migration and urged increased service provision in rural areas. Panelists responded that the quest for employment meant such migration was unlikely to diminish and urged the sharing of best practices.

85. Another representative summarized her country's experience of regularizing unplanned settlements, mapping them and providing some security of tenure for residents. Noting the importance of planning and infrastructure, she described the means by which displaced people were compensated and resettled using seed capital provided by the Government and the existence of a revolving fund that loaned money to municipalities for surveys and aimed to increase access to finance for the poor.
86. Subsequently, the facilitator invited the panelists to recommend topics for discussion during the ministerial segment of the conference.
87. One representative requested consideration to be given to the special needs of the island States that formed part of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group, especially with regard to recognizing and accepting cultural differences. Another proposed that more importance should be attached to the role of local authorities, that there should be a more efficient local taxation system and that greater financial resources should be transferred to districts and outlying areas.
88. One representative proposed the establishment of consultation forums to integrate the topic into the development debate as a whole. She also urged support for microfinance and credit systems, called for the urban development issue to be correlated with that of migration and climate change and suggested that the seventh Millennium Development Goal and its target 11 should be redefined, as it had already been attained.
89. Another representative called for positive action to address all the concerns. A third proposed that employment policies should be formulated that were gender-sensitive and focused on incorporating young people into the employment market. He called for incentives to be put in place that would encourage businesses to be set up in depressed areas and encourage regional investment.
90. One representative proposed that the entire issue of land legislation, especially urban land legislation, should be reviewed with the aim of improving access by poor people to land and housing. He stressed that housing policy should deal with the concerns of all social categories and not simply the very poor.
91. Another representative suggested that the regularization of the informal sector would promote economic growth and said that there was a need for disaggregated statistics to be used in city-level planning; an area in which UN-HABITAT should be pro-active.
92. One representative proposed that there should be provisions in government budgets for shelter; that Governments should make policy pronouncements on land administration and the supply of land for housing; and that a fiscal environment conducive to affordable housing should be created, for example by cutting rates to make financing affordable.

2. TECHNICAL SESSION

93. The technical session was chaired by Mr. Alioune Badiane, Chief, UN-HABITAT Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States. The panelists were Mr. John Hogan, UN-HABITAT; Mr. Mohamed El-Sioufi, Head, UN-HABITAT Shelter Branch; and Mr. Alain Grimard, UN-HABITAT Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme Manager.
94. Mr. Grimard, in his presentation, said that the budget for the three-year Programme was €5.4 million, which would be allocated to 30 countries in the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group and would be used for urban profiling, regional policy development, capacity-building and slum upgrading. He outlined the course of the process from its inception, beginning with the introduction and establishment of a country-level project, the use of the rapid urban profiling methodology and finally the implementation of the Programme.
95. In his presentation, Mr. Hogan summarized the approach to training in the Programme, stressing that the highly nationalized approach to building teams in individual countries was aimed at maximizing the effectiveness and sustainability of the programme through enhanced continuity, understanding, linkages and dialogue. He identified key issues as under-investment, institutional myopia and a lack of information and benchmarking and recommended engaging political and technical expertise, skills and competencies to enable implementation.
96. Mr. El-Sioufi gave a presentation on the various phases of the Programme, pointing out that the relevant activities and progress of the projects had to be reviewed, and implementation modalities and financing examined. The projects being carried out in each individual country were at various stages. He outlined the activities to be carried out throughout the phases and highlighted the central role played by UN-HABITAT in promoting and supporting the Programme.
97. Representatives raised queries relating to the chairmanship of national councils, to the scope of the Programme and to the compulsory inclusion of security as it related to cities in the Programme. Panelists responded that individual countries enjoyed discretion on chairmanship, with the aim being to make the Programme process as participatory as possible, that the Programme extended beyond the membership of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, and the need to tailor key criteria to the local and national environment. One representative noted that her country had found the rapid urban profiling methodology an extremely useful tool and was deploying it in several cities.
98. One representative suggested the abolition of the use of the word “slum”, arguing that it was a degrading description and should be replaced with the word “settlement”. However, the General Assembly agreed to keep this term for it reflects the reality of the urban poor.
99. One representative asked for emphasis to be placed on the need to de-politicize service delivery and to take into account capacity constraints with regard to elected officials and civil servants from local and central governments. Another recognized the valuable contribution made by the European Commission and other international partners but pointed to the need for national Governments to make their own contributions to the process of improving the conditions of slum-dwellers.
100. A third representative raised concern about urban planning tools, and in particular the urban profiles. Another called for more transparency in the allocation of funds for the

Programme and said that the current project in his country was suffering from a lack of funding. He stressed that the resources available should be shared equally with all the participating countries.

101. In response, panelists said that it was not the intention to dissolve or to recreate committees but rather to enlarge the partnership by involving as many stakeholders as possible. He urged representatives to share the burden of project implementation with civil society and non-governmental organizations. In phase two of the Programme, there would be a review of current activities and that new priorities would then be agreed upon. Regarding the commitment of national Governments, the importance of their involvement in the implementation process was stressed.

VII. Ministerial session

102. Representatives convened in the form of a ministerial session on Wednesday, 10 June 2009.

A. OPENING SESSION

103. The session was opened at 10.20 a.m. by the Chair, Mr. Clifford Warmington, Minister of State, Water and Housing of Jamaica, and President of the twenty-second session of the UN-HABITAT Governing Council. Opening statements were delivered by Mr. Achim Steiner, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme; Ms. Hana Klučarová, Embassy of the Czech Republic in Kenya; Mr. Lluís Riera Figueras, Director, DG Development and Relation with ACP Policy, European Commission; Sir John Kaputin, Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States; Ms. Anna Tibaijuka, the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT; and Mr. Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, Vice President of Kenya.
104. In his statement, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme said that Nairobi was increasingly being recognized as a centre of United Nations activity and a global hub for science and policy-making. Noting the increasingly urbanized nature of the current world, he stressed the urgency and complexity of challenges facing Governments and urban planners as they endeavoured to meet the needs of growing urban populations in the context of poverty reduction, sustainability and climate change. Urging focus on how structural changes in human geography were affected by climate change, he stressed the need for new ideas and bolder initiatives that would include the poor, with the goal of achieving human well-being at a lower environmental cost.
105. In her statement, Ms. Klučarová said that the tripartite cooperation between the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, the European Commission and UN-HABITAT was in itself a strong political message. Summarizing the history of development cooperation between the European Union and African, Caribbean and Pacific States, she welcomed the extension of partnerships with civil society, the introduction of a political element to the development framework and other benefits brought about by the 2000 Cotonou Agreement. Stressing that the challenges of urbanization were long-term in nature, she urged countries to learn from Europe's earlier urban planning experiences, noting that issues of poverty and housing could not be treated in isolation in an increasingly linked world.
106. Mr. Figueras, in his statement, said that the current meeting provided a platform to enable the identification of future priorities. He drew attention to the worldwide growth in population, which was accompanied by a dramatic increase in the numbers living in poverty, many of them in African countries. Adumbrating the challenges posed by rapid urbanization to sustainable development, he said that it was extremely important to take into consideration the territorial impacts of development policy. He reflected that urban poverty was not solely a consequence of demographic movement, but had numerous causes, including failed policies, corruption, a lack of strategic vision and a lack of political will. He emphasized the need to recognize the role of local and regional authorities in tackling urban issues and said that it was important

to ensure better governance so that they could be enabled to make progress in those areas. In that regard, he recalled that regional and local authorities were in a better position than the relatively distant central Governments and donors to give flexible and pragmatic responses to the challenges. Recognizing that the world was in the throes of an economic crisis, he said that the European Commission was prepared to deliver what he termed a “safety net” at the urban level and would mobilize financial resources to safeguard expenditure in the areas of health and education. Looking to the future, he said that the eventual financial upturn would take place in urban agglomerations, meaning that it was extremely important to recognize their economic potential.

107. In his statement, Sir John Kaputin referred to the unique character of the cooperation reflected at the current meeting by the funding from the European Commission, the political commitment and strategy planning from African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the technical know-how and capacity of UN-HABITAT. That cooperation, he said, formed the basis for the implementation of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme in African, Caribbean and Pacific States. He reaffirmed his statement to the fourth session of the World Urban Forum, calling upon leaders to develop policies and strategic programmes to enable cities to contribute to economic and social development. Observing that the current meeting was taking place against a backdrop of global recession, he emphasized that the worst impacts of the financial crisis were felt by the very poor, among them 1 billion slum-dwellers of the developing world. He pledged that the Group’s Secretariat would ensure that the decisions taken at the current meeting would be followed by action that would involve the active participation of all stakeholders.
108. The Chair, in his statement, noted that the aim of the current meeting was to harmonize the contributions of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, the European Commission and UN-HABITAT partners towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals, and particularly those pertaining to urban poverty reduction and slum prevention and upgrading. Noting the theme of the twenty-second session of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT had been “promoting affordable housing finance systems in an urbanizing world in the face of the global financial crisis and climate change”, he said that African, Caribbean and Pacific States were likely to experience increasing rates of rural-urban migration in the future, and that the international community was facing an unprecedented set of challenges on a number of fronts. Commending the resolutions that emerged from the Governing Council session, he encouraged the continuing cooperation of the three organizing bodies in their urgent and complex task.
109. The Executive Director of UN-HABITAT emphasized the importance of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme as a vital step towards reducing the vulnerability of people and the planet. She called upon national Governments and heads of State to establish frameworks for private investment and to enhance their project development capacity to mobilize financing for affordable housing and basic infrastructure. She pointed out that success in managing slum growth required sound urban management that was clear, concise and innovative in approach. In view of the complexity of the land and housing issue, she suggested that a coordination body should be set up, comprising all the key stakeholders in the urban sector. She stressed that, as the provision of basic services was the starting point for slum upgrading, it was important to strengthen linkages between local authorities and utilities for the provision of water supply and sanitation. She concluded by urging representatives to use World HABITAT Day (5 October) as an opportunity to take stock of the state of their cities and towns.

110. Mr. Musyoka, in his statement, expressed the belief that shelter was a basic human right. Referring to the rate and irreversible nature of urbanization, he portrayed it as an indicator of economic growth that simultaneously threw into relief social inequalities. Describing slums as a visible indicator of national Governments' failure to serve their people, he urged issues of urban planning to be viewed as intrinsic to and a crucial element of the wider development agenda.

B. REVIEW OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE FIRST TWO DAYS

111. Mr. Paul Taylor, Chief, UN-HABITAT Office of the Executive Director, summarized the outcomes of the first two days of the meeting, including the European Commission's concerns regarding infrastructure and urban expansion, degradation of the human environment and the need for decentralization and increased autonomy for urban governing bodies. He stressed the importance of national ownership of urbanization plans and policies, noting that other partners would provide help if so requested. He further noted the need to integrate urban planning into wider development plans in the context of climate change, financing challenges, governance, infrastructure and migration, and urged new thinking on involving the private sector.

C. MINISTERIAL THEMATIC ROUND TABLES

112. This session was divided into a series of round-table discussions, in which panelists discussed the main issues before questions were posed from the floor.

ROUND TABLE 1: LAND AND HOUSING

113. The round table was facilitated by Mr. Alioune Badiane, Chief, UN-HABITAT Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States; and Mr. Mohamed El-Sioufi, Head, UN-HABITAT's Shelter Branch, who introduced issues related to the existence and nature of national policies on land and housing and implementation, together with related constraints, coordination and best practice.
114. The representative of Togo said that his country's national housing strategy was under development and included local building materials and finance in its scope. The representative of Uganda explained that his country's housing policy was being reviewed to ensure that it took into consideration new challenges and would take a holistic approach towards creating an enabling environment, job creation, land access and shelter. He noted that his country's land policy was also being reviewed to correct persistent historical injustices pertaining to land.
115. The representative of Mali hailed the current meeting as a framework to consolidate views on land and housing management. The housing policy in her country had become reality in 1995 and was at the stage of being evaluated with the support of UN-HABITAT. In recent years the focus had been on the provision of low-cost housing and programmes were under way to increase the number of dwellings available. On land policy, she accepted that there were some difficulties concerning the implementation of customary law and common land law, but that a grass-roots approach was being taken to eliminate the problems, involving local, regional and national meetings.
116. The representative of Chad said that legislation was being passed that very day in his country to implement a national housing policy. A land policy was also in place to enable financing for housing and land. As to slum upgrading, pilot projects were

under way in some districts, which, it was hoped, eventually would be replicated on a wider basis. Other pilot projects in unplanned settlements had been launched with the support of UN-HABITAT. In addition to the common challenges faced by the countries represented, his country had to cope with the additional problem of desertification. Efforts in that regard focused on afforestation programmes designed to re-establish the balance of the ecosystem. He urged other countries in the same zone to initiate similar programmes.

117. The representative of Suriname pointed out that 90 percent of the surface area of his country was covered by rainforests, posing significant challenges for the provision of public housing. Both the Government and the private sector were acting on urbanization by providing low-income and middle income shelter programmes. As a corollary, they also invested in community development projects such as day-care centres for low-income families. He urged representatives to cooperate in efforts to reduce poverty in all their countries.
118. One representative posed questions relating to access to private and public land, private sector participation and issues concerning building materials. Panelists responded by explaining models of land ownership and transfer arrangements prevailing in various countries, and one representative reported that the involvement of the private sector in constructing social housing had enabled the Government to exceed its building targets. It was acknowledged that suitable local building materials posed a problem in some countries.
119. Another representative sought clarification as to which income bracket was being targeted in the provision of housing; the cost range of houses; which transfer mechanisms were used for payment schemes and the interest rates charged on the recovery of funds. In response, one panellist said that in his country public and private individuals were in a position to purchase houses and that the Government provided the financial modalities to all sectors of the community.
120. Another panellist responded said that in her country a commission was entrusted to deal with the allocation of houses. In the field of social housing construction, government policy was to provide a subsidy of 50 percent, with an interest-free loan spread over 25 years. Such a scheme did not, however, provide genuine benefits to those at the lowest end of the financial spectrum, she acknowledged.
121. One panelist recognized that in his country no social housing policy had yet been implemented. He pointed out, however, that the land belonged to the communities and not to the State. Another panelist suggested that the private sector did not engage in the provision of social housing in most countries because it was not profitable for them. He added, however, that in cases in which the private sector worked in tandem with the State, the interests of the poor could be met.

ROUND TABLE 2: BASIC URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

122. The round table was chaired by Mr. Alioune Badiane, Chief, UN-HABITAT Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States; and the facilitator was Mr. Bert Diphooorn, Chief, UN-HABITAT Water, Sanitation and Infrastructure Branch. Mr. Diphooorn said that it was generally agreed that investments in basic infrastructure for slums was a key entry point to slum upgrading. He sought clarification from panelists on the institutional and governance frameworks for utilities in their countries and he requested them to consider the role of utilities in reaching internationally agreed targets.

123. The representative of Burundi noted that 70 percent of his country's population lived under the poverty threshold and 30 percent of those lacked access to basic services. The country had entered post-conflict reconstruction following a period of war during which its infrastructure had been almost entirely demolished. It was both under-urbanized and poorly urbanized with 75 percent of its urban population resident in Bujumbura; it was important, therefore, to develop other urban areas. He described initiatives being undertaken by his ministry with the support of donors and he said that a number of successful activities had been undertaken in the fields of health and education with the support of local communities in 2008 driven by the national policy of free primary schooling and free health care for children aged under 5; some 50 health centres and 150 schools had been constructed with materials donated by local communities and government support. The country had a significant energy deficit, which, he said, posed a major handicap for industrial development. The Government was undertaking urgent activities to remedy that situation and was considering new and renewable energies.
124. The representative of the Central African Republic said that existing infrastructure in his country was extremely dilapidated largely because urban planning in his country had not been reviewed since independence more than 40 years earlier owing to lack of resources. He described donor-supported initiatives under way in his country, where, he said, Bangui was mushrooming and the urban population was sprawling without any appropriate planning. He appealed to the international community to assist his landlocked country to provide basic infrastructure and services to its population.
125. The representative of Ghana described the situation in his country where, of the 18.9 million total population, 43.8 percent lived in urban areas. He said that a budget of \$30 million was dedicated to the provision and maintenance of water supply and sanitation; urban water coverage was currently 56 percent. The main challenges for urban areas were the general inability to manage solid and liquid waste; periodic flooding; lack of stormwater and roadside drainage; crowded unhygienic markets; domestic outdoor pollution and others. City authorities were devoting 65 to 70 percent of their revenue to sanitation activities, which remained extremely unsatisfactory, with indiscriminate waste disposal and uncollected waste in urban areas owing to lack of capacity. He stressed the importance of engaging private sector participation in that regard. In conclusion, he said that Ghana had a stable, democratic Government and that the business sector was thriving; he called upon the European Commission, UN-HABITAT and other stakeholders to support the Government in attaining its goals.
126. The representative of Mozambique described the situation of urban residents in his country where income inequalities in urban areas meant that many urban-dwellers were disadvantaged compared to their rural counterparts. He noted that all land in Mozambique was the property of the State, but that since 1997 individuals had been accorded land rights on the basis of historic occupation; that process, which incorporated customary law, had, he said, been widely admired as a valuable example of land reform in Africa. Basic services were out of reach for most of the population: the road network was poorly maintained, basic coverage for solid waste collection stood at 30 percent for Maputo residents while coverage for urban water supply was 55 percent. The total State budget for Maputo was \$5 per capita or one third of the average for sub-Saharan African countries and one fiftieth of the average for Asian and Latin American countries. A legal framework introduced in 1998 allowed for the participation of the private sector in the provision of water supply in some cities, which had brought about positive results.

127. The representative of Zimbabwe stressed that his country had not benefited from any international support for basic infrastructure and services since 1995 when cooperation partners had withdrawn on political grounds. Since then, the population had expanded rapidly, stretching the existing infrastructure to breaking point. He outlined challenges in his country: while water was available, the chemicals required to render it fit for human consumption were not; the electricity supply was erratic and sanitation was barely existent owing to the lack of safe water; existing structures erected to accommodate people who were subject to slum demolitions were not serviced and utilities were generally in short supply. He appealed to donors to put his country's political history behind them and look to securing its future, including through the provision of assistance for the recapitalization of its national institutions to develop infrastructure and housing units.
128. Summarizing the discussions, Mr. Diphhoorn said that, although the panelists came from countries in various stages of development, recurrent themes had included the need for maintenance, investments and installations and to remove national institutional barriers. He pointed to the importance of forums such as the African Ministers' Conference on Water in making use of collectivity to ensure that important issues were brought to the attention of the international community and he suggested that ministers responsible for urban development might discuss the matter with ministers of water.

ROUND TABLE 3: URBAN GOVERNANCE AND PLANNING

129. The chair of the round table was Mr. Alioune Badiane, Chief, UN-HABITAT Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States; and the facilitator was Mr. Lars Reutersward, Director, UN-HABITAT Global Division. Mr. Reutersward pointed out the need for the full commitment of Governments to a systemic approach to urban governance and planning and to a revival of urban planning. He requested panelists to provide examples of successful government strategies to improve the lives of city-dwellers and of successful activities to tackle safety and decentralization. In addition, he requested them to consider how to prepare for the unprecedented population growth that was expected by 2050.
130. The representative of Togo said that the drafting of decentralization policies had begun in 1998 and their implementation was imminent. Mechanisms were being drawn up with the United Nations Development Programme for the provision of the necessary human skills and financial assistance, which would be followed by implementation by local authorities. In Togo, he said, insecurity was a temporal, diffuse phenomenon. The Government was working to create an enabling environment to reduce rural-urban migration and contain urban sprawl. He underlined the importance of partnerships; his ministry was working with others on the basis of the priority areas set out in the national poverty reduction strategy paper.

131. The representative of Uganda described the historical context in his country where three types of settlements remained from colonial times: well-planned and well-facilitated areas previously inhabited by Europeans; similarly well-designed areas for Africans of what he termed “a higher social class”, but on smaller parcels of land; and large areas of unplanned settlements for the majority of the population. He said that, in the post-colonial period, the Town and Country Planning Act, imported to Uganda from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and applied to gazetted councils, had remained in force and unplanned settlements had spread unchecked. That spread, combined with a period of considerable political instability, had left the country in disorder and physical planning had not been prioritized owing to the myriad other challenges. Among the problems faced by physical planners was the land tenure system, according to which land belonged to individuals and the Government had scant resources for compensation; human and financial resources constraints; and weaknesses in legislation. New legislation was being drafted to replace the existing planning act, which was revolutionary in two ways: first, it would consider the whole country as a planning area, second, it would introduce the concept of metropolitan planning whereby major towns would be planned for conjunction with surrounding areas beyond their geographic and political boundaries. He called upon the European Commission to cooperate with the Government to ensure better development of cities in the country.
132. Mr. Reutersward expressed the commitment of UN-HABITAT to implementing the guidelines on decentralization and pointed to the need for national and metropolitan planning, capacity-building for local authorities and good governance as a tool to ensure better future urban development. In concluding, he highlighted the partnership between UN-HABITAT and Makerere University with the objective of strengthening planning in Uganda.

ROUND TABLE 4: HUMAN SETTLEMENTS FINANCE

133. The chair of the round table was Mr. Alioune Badiane, Chief, UN-HABITAT Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States; and the facilitator was Mr. Naison Mutizwa-Mangiza, Chief, UN-HABITAT Policy Analysis Branch. Mr. Mutizwa-Mangiza challenged representatives to consider a number of questions relating to issues tackled at the current meeting: whether their countries had policies for improving the mobilization of resources for investment in low-income housing; recognition of the need for social housing and appropriate financial mechanisms; land and property rights of the poor and the issue of forced evictions; policies and strategies to encourage rental housing development and small-scale developers, and livelihood opportunities for the poor.
134. The representative of the Central African Republic described the high increase in population in his country, in particular urban growth, according to a national survey undertaken in 2003. Urban growth had been accompanied by haphazard construction but, now that the country had a national housing document in place, it was seeking new financing therefor. The Government required assistance to tackle the post-conflict problems that it faced, he stressed.

135. The representative of Cameroon outlined his Government's responses to the challenges of rapid urban growth, including increased budget resources, assistance in the form of credits and subsidies to communities to set up social projects and various stimuli for housing construction. The Government was working with investors and financiers to provide funding for social housing with reduced interest rates. Progress had been made and policies and structures were in place but the needs were enormous. Assistance was being sought from external partners for setting up basic services and he welcomed funding received from the European Commission.
136. Concluding, Mr. Mutizwa-Mangiza said that both examples were consistent with the discussions of the previous two days, with both countries facing rapid urbanization and immense challenges related thereto. It was clear, he said, that interesting efforts were being made in both the public and private sectors to mobilize resources. He drew attention to efforts by UN-HABITAT in the area of financing for low-income housing through the experimental reimbursable seeding operations and the Slum Upgrading Facility.

ROUND TABLE 5: LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN CITIES

137. The chair of the round table was Mr. Alioune Badiane, Chief, UN-HABITAT) Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States; and the facilitator was Mr. Gulelat Kebede, Chief, UN-HABITAT's Training and Capacity Building Branch. Mr. Kebede emphasized that economic growth and development were crucial in slum upgrading. Access to skills and jobs could transform the life of localities and job creation should be a central objective, targeting young people and the working poor in particular. A programmatic approach was needed, given the scale and complexity of unemployment in cities. He called for consideration of the role that national Governments could play, how public-private partnerships could be stimulated and made more pro-poor in nature and the role of the informal sector.
138. The representative of the Central African Republic outlined the process of decentralization in his country in a post-conflict environment. The atmosphere was conducive to economic activity and the Government was implementing programmes sponsored by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. The institutional framework existed but was yet to give full effect to decentralization to all six regions owing to a lack of resources for implementation. The country was also working with UN-HABITAT on profiling to produce studies for investments to put before donors; the reports reviewed a full range of thematic areas, including land tenure, local economic development, access to basic services, governance, health, energy and capacity-building to assist the country with town planning and development.
139. The representative of Eritrea spoke of his country's policy of self-reliance and its application in dealing with slum settlements. Slum-dwellers were being moved from cities to new small towns where it was easier to build the necessary infrastructure and develop social facilities; the process was expensive and required preparation such as constructing small dams for irrigation, preparing land and building living areas. The system nevertheless improved the economic capacity of the population, he said, and went hand-in-hand with the policy of food security.

140. The representative of Namibia said that the basis for local economic development in Namibia was the new public policy framework that focused on engaging various stakeholders, especially from the private sector, in addition to the central Government. Local economic development could not be divorced from the overall macroeconomic framework of the country and the Government's approach was informed by the draft local economic development policy framework, which recognized the distinctions between cities and small towns that had differing capacities in, for example, tax collection, human resources, and economic strengths such as tourism and access to harbours. The Government was endeavouring to strengthen positive elements in tax collection and capacity-building to create common ground for economic take-off.
141. The representative of Cape Verde said that his Government had based its ambitions to transform the post-independence country on education, with major investments in schools and educating students abroad, who returned with management skills in line with the ambitions and challenges. The country had little land but had used its air and sea assets by developing airports and ports, creating employment and putting tourism at the centre of its activities. Cape Verde had succeeded in attracting investment and had benefited from assistance from the European Commission and from its own diaspora; it was no longer considered a least-developed country. Unemployment, poverty and urban congestion remained challenges but the Government had clear objectives and a legal framework for planning was in place, so that the country had credibility with its partners and the diaspora.
142. Concluding, Mr. Kebede welcomed the enlightening insights provided, which had demonstrated that institutional frameworks were key to local economic development alongside the integration of local economic development with multi-thematic urban policy. It was important to recognize differing territorial needs and financial frameworks, to provide public investment to enable localities to exploit private investment and connections with the diaspora, and to strengthen capacity building.

VIII. Adoption of declaration

143. Representatives adopted the Nairobi Declaration on Urbanization Challenges and Poverty Reduction in African, Caribbean and Pacific States as set out on Page 4.

IX. Other matters

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF MR. EL HADJ OMAR BONGO ONDIMBA, PRESIDENT OF GABON

144. On the morning of Tuesday, 9 June 2009, at the invitation of the Chair, representatives observed a minute of silence to pay tribute to the memory of Mr. El Hadj Omar Bongo Ondimba, President of Gabon.

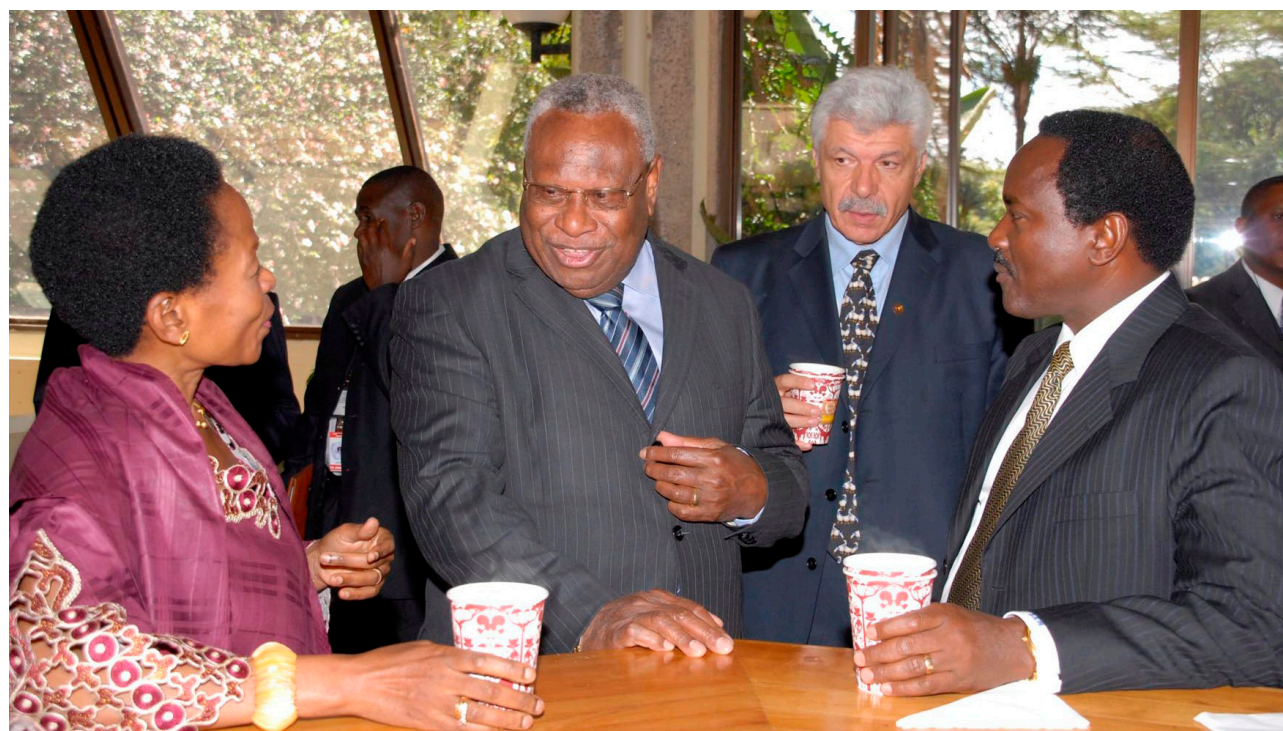
X. Closure of the meeting

145. All participants agreed to follow up the outcomes of this international tripartite conference on the challenges of urbanization and poverty reduction in the African, Caribbean and Pacific States. They also agreed to commit their governments and institutions at the local, national and global level to address various matters raised at the conference.
146. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.05 p.m. on Wednesday, 10 June 2009.

INTERNATIONAL TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE ON URBANIZATION CHALLENGES AND POVERTY REDUCTION IN ACP COUNTRIES

United Nations, Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya. 8-10 June 2009

DAY 1 8 June Conference Room 1		DAY 2 9 June Conference Room 1		DAY 3 10 June Conference Room 1	
Starting at 8h00	Registration	9h00-10h30	Theme Presentations Introduction by Mr. Eduardo Sorribes-Manzana, European Commission; Ms. Inga Björk-Kleby, Deputy Executive Director, UN-HABITAT; Mr. Andrew Bradley, Asst. Secretary General, ACP	9h00-10h00	Ministerial Session
9h00-10h00	ACP Technical Coordination Meeting			10h00-13h00	Opening Session
10h00-10h30	Coffee break				Chair: Mr. Clifford Everald Warrington, Minister of State, Water and Housing, Jamaica, President of the 22nd UN-HABITAT Governing Council Facilitator: Ms. Mariam Yunusa, UN-HABITAT
10h30-11h00	Welcoming addresses (Facilitator: Mr. Aloune Badiane, UN-HABITAT)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP and Director General of UNON, Ms. Hana Klucarová, EU Presidency Representative Mr. Luis Riera Figueras, Representative European Commission Sir John Kaputin, Secretary General of the ACP Group of States Ms. Anna Tibajuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT Mr. Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, Vice-President of the Republic of Kenya
	Urbanization Challenges in ACP Countries Presenter: Mr. Daniel Biau, UN-HABITAT	10h30 - 10h45	Coffee break		Review of the outcomes of the first two days Presenter: Mr. Paul Taylor, UN-HABITAT
11h00-13h00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slum Upgrading and Prevention Initiatives Presenter: Mr. Claudio Acioy, UN-HABITAT Presentation of Participative Slum Upgrading Programme in ACP countries Presenters: Mr. Andrew Bradley, ACP Mr. Raul Mateus Paula, EuropeAid Mr. Alain Grimard, UN-HABITAT Discussion (Facilitator: Mr. Daniel Biau, UN-HABITAT) 	10h45-12h30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme Presentations (cont.) 3) Urban Governance and Planning Chair: Ms. Michèle Devys, European Commission Presenter: Mr. Mohamed Halfani, UN-HABITAT; Mr. Jossy Wateru, UN-HABITAT Facilitator: Mr. Lars Reuterswärd, UN-HABITAT 4) Human Settlements Finance Chair: Mr. François Albert Amichia, Mayor of Treichville, Ivory Coast Presenter: Mr. Christian Schlosser, UN-HABITAT Facilitator: Mr. Naison Mutizwa-Mangiza, UN-HABITAT 5) Local Economic Development in the Cities Chair: Mr. Frank A. Krah, national expert, Liberia Presenter: Mr. Gulelat Kebede, UN-HABITAT Facilitator: Mr. Aloune Badiane, UN-HABITAT 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministerial Thematic Roundtables (RT) Chair: Mr. Aloune Badiane, UN-HABITAT RT 1: Land & Housing Facilitator: Mr. Mohamed El-Soufi, UN-HABITAT RT 2: Basic Urban Infrastructure and Services Facilitator: Mr. Bert Diphooom, UN-HABITAT
13h00-14h00	Lunch break	12h30-14h00	Lunch break	13h00-14h30	Lunch / Press Conference
14h00-17h30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Presentations Introduction by Mr. Raul Mateus Paula, EuropeAid & Mr. John Hogan, UN-HABITAT English-Speaking Africa (Investment in Basic Urban Infrastructure in Cities) Room 1 Chairman: Mr. Mudiadeyi Masunda, Mayor of Harare Presenters: Mr. Graham Alabaster, UN-HABITAT & Mr. James Mutero, UN-HABITAT (Facilitator: Mr. John Hogan, UN-HABITAT) French-Speaking Africa (Labour Mobility) Room 9 Chairman: Mr. Khalifa Sali, Mayor of Dakar Presenters: Mr. Aloune Badiane, UN-HABITAT & Mr. Mansour Talli, UN-HABITAT (Facilitator: Ms. Michèle Devys, European Commission) Caribbean and Pacific Countries (Cities and Climate Change) Room 10 Chairman: Ms. Maria Ubitau, Ministry, Fiji Presenters: Mr. Raf Tuts, UN-HABITAT & Mr. Asad Mohammed, University of West Indies, Trinidad & Tobago (Facilitator: Aya Kasasa, ACP Group of States) 	14h00-15h30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6) Overall Discussion: Recommendations for the Ministerial Round Tables Chair: Chairs of Theme Presentations Facilitator: Mr. Daniel Biau, UN-HABITAT 	14h30-17h00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministerial Thematic Roundtables (cont.) RT 3: Urban Governance & Planning Facilitator: Mr. Lars Reuterswärd, UN-HABITAT RT 4: Human Settlements Finance Facilitator: Mr. Naison Mutizwa-Mangiza, UN-HABITAT RT 5: Local Economic Development in the Cities Facilitator: Mr. Gulelat Kebede, UN-HABITAT
	Urban Profiling Action Planning	15h30-17h30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical Session on the PSUP (Room 1) Chair: Mr. Aloune Badiane, UN-HABITAT Facilitator: Mr. Daniel Biau, UN-HABITAT; ACP Group of States, European Commission and UN-HABITAT Representatives Declaration & Workplan for the Ministerial Round Tables 	17h00-17h30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of Declaration and Workplan Closing Session
18h00	Cocktail				







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