EXTERNAL FACTORS INFLUENCING THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2014-2019

Current Development Trends, Challenges and Opportunities
Demographic Factors: Trends and Challenges

- An urbanized world—more 50% of world population in urban areas
- 5 billion urban dwellers or 60% of world population in urban areas by 2030
- 90% of urban growth in developing countries in the absence of effective urban planning
- Skewed population age structures
  - youth bulge in developing countries
  - ageing & shrinking urban population in developed countries

Demographic Factors: Opportunities

- Capitalize on the positive potentials of urban growth
  - Cities account for about 70% of global GDP through urban productivity, job creation and other economic activities
  - To improve access to urban basic services including housing, water and sanitation
  - To foster access to social and economic opportunities through improved mobility
Environmental Factors: **Trends and Challenges**

- Cities are major contributors to global warming—emitting as much as 70% of human induced green house gases
- Very high vulnerability to climate change related disasters—40% of the world’s population lives less than 100km from the coast
- Cities depend highly on fossil fuels; 95% of transport energy comes from petroleum with implications for low density and sprawling urban forms
- Waste management and sanitation challenges especially in slums

Environmental Factors: **Opportunities**

- Cities are ideal for climate change mitigation due to economies of scale & concentration of enterprises and innovation
- Significant opportunities for urban disaster risk reduction, and rehabilitation through urban planning and governance
- Vast opportunities to reduce fossil fuel dependence through urban planning and design, including for transportation
Economic Factors: Trends and Challenges

- Urbanization taking place in the context of a relatively weakened global economy
- Growth rates are low in many developed countries; effects of the economic recession are still felt
- High rates of unemployment in both developed and developing countries, especially youth unemployment
- Declining financial resources for urban development nationally and from donors

Economic Factors: Opportunities

- Economic growth in developing countries presents a unique opportunity to better manage and plan urbanization, including innovative municipal finance
- Significant opportunities for urban job creation through local economic development
- Urban planning as well as investments in infrastructure and basic services provide key enabling conditions for employment to thrive
Spatial Factors: Trends and Challenges

- 62% of world’s urban population living in small and medium sized cities with less than one million inhabitants
- 9% of global urban population resides in megacities
- Challenges of rapid spatial expansion of cities (metropolitanization, suburbanization or uncontrolled peri-urbanization)
- Informality a dominant characteristic of urban spatial expansion in developing countries

Spatial Factors: Opportunities

- Significant potential to improve urban planning, design & management of small and medium sized cities
- The spatial expansion of cities creates opportunities as urban agglomerations create economies of scale
- Potential to address challenges of informality through planning in advance, at scale for urban expansion & for urban infrastructure & services
Social Factors: Trends and Challenges

- Increasing levels of poverty in urban areas in both developed and developing countries—urbanization of poverty

- Proliferation of slums—33% of urban population in developing countries; highest levels in SSA followed by Asia & LAC

- Increasing levels of inequality in both developed and developing countries

Social Factors: Opportunities

- Opportunities to reduce levels of urban poverty through interventions in the urban economic sector

- Urban planning a key tool for addressing the challenge of slums

- Reduce inequality by promoting social integration and cohesion through urban planning and design
Opportunities for UN-HABITAT

UN-HABITAT can take advantage of the vast opportunities arising from the process of urbanization through interventions in the following areas:

- Urban planning and design
- Urban basic services
- Urban economy
- Housing and slum upgrading
- Urban land, legislation and governance
- Risk reduction and rehabilitation
- Research and capacity development

Thank you for your attention