14 March 2012

Excellency,

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) has the honour to share with you the minutes (attached) of the first meeting of the Advisory Board of the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People (SHSPPP) which took place on the 8th of February in New York.

I would like to express my gratitude to the President of the General Assembly and the Palestinian Observer Mission for their support given. I also wish to thank the 21 Member States and the European Union who attended the meeting. As the first meeting was exceptionally open to all interested Member States, these minutes are being distributed to a wider group in view of further sharing the information.

As was mentioned during the meeting, the Advisory Board was created in response to UN-Habitat’s Governing Council Resolution GC23/2, comprising representatives to the United Nations of contributing Member States. It was agreed that the next meeting will only be open for Member States supporting our work, either through financial contributions or through south-south cooperation. We remain committed to pursue a geographically balanced representation.

I would like to call upon Member States and others, to confirm their interest to become part of the Advisory Board before the 31st of May 2012. As mentioned during the meeting all offers of support will be considered. This will allow us sufficient time to further discuss the Terms of Reference with those Member States and to organize the second Advisory Board during or following the High Level Segment of the next General Assembly in New York later this year.

UN-Habitat wishes to take this opportunity to express its gratitude to the Governments of Belgium, France and Saudi Arabia and the European Commission, for their support already expressed, and hopes that other Member States interested, will be able to...
join, as to enable UN-Habitat to play its critical role in supporting the Palestinian Authority and communities, while contributing to stability and peace in the region.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Joan Clos  
Under-Secretary General  
and Executive Director

Annexes:  
– Minutes of the first Advisory Board Meeting  
– List of attendees  
– Presentation given by UN-Habitat  
– Updated draft Terms of Reference of the Advisory Board  
   *(Further more detailed information is available upon request)*