Statement on the Quarterly Report on the Financial Status of UN-Habitat

Agenda Item 5

HSP/CPR/53/5
Nairobi, 18 June 2014
Chair, Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to provide you with an update on UN-Habitat’s financial situation. The detailed quarterly financial report has already been sent to you.

First, on behalf of UN-Habitat, I would to express my appreciation for the extremely valuable feedback and the ideas exchanged at the two Finance and Administration sub-committee meetings held on 30 April and 4 June. At these meetings, the Secretariat provided a financial overview of the organization’s income and expenditure and the impact of measures being taken to enhance management of the organization’s resources and align them with strategic objectives.

Turning to the financial status the figures highlighted in green in the presentation indicate areas where we are ahead of financial targets, and those in orange indicate areas where further progress is needed to reach the annual targets. As the Executive Director mentioned, the Secretariat is confident that the US$ 8 million target for contributions towards non-earmarked funds will be achieved with your support.

Excellencies, the Executive Director has already informed of the major initiatives being taken to align the organization to a new business model and with regard to resource mobilization. The achievements of UN-Habitat in a number of
key areas are also recognized in the Secretary-General’s programme performance report for the 2012-2013 biennium, including integration of sustainable urbanization as a priority issue in the final outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development. With regard to management, the Secretary-General’s report achievements made in realigning organizational structures to strategic programmatic areas, establishing policies to ensure a consistent quality approach project portfolio management, and enhancing efficiency and effectiveness of the management of human, financial, administrative, programme and project functions of the organization supported by a project accrual and accountability system.

Distinguished delegates, UN-Habitat continues its efforts to ensure that it stays on course to achieve financial targets for 2014. In terms of new project acquisition, I am pleased to report that, this year, UN-Habitat has already signed new income agreements amounting to over US$ 46 million, and received earmarked income totaling US$57.4 million. In addition, receipts and confirmed pledges for Foundation non-earmarked contributions stand at US$5.6 million, representing 69% of the target for the year. This is positive evidence that resource mobilization efforts are now yielding positive results, and that organization’s project portfolio is expanding in response to sustained demand for UN-Habitat’s services to support sustainable urban development and adequate shelter for all.

On behalf of UN-Habitat, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the pledges made towards both earmarked and non-earmarked activities in the programme of work, including those mentioned by the Executive Director. We are
also extremely grateful for earmarked contributions received since the last CPR meeting from the Governments of Afghanistan, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, Egypt, Germany, Japan, Jordan, Nigeria, South Africa, Sweden, Tanzania, and the United States of America.

Excellencies,

Let me close with a brief update on the implementation of the Umoja Enterprise Resource Planning system. The launch of Umoja for UN Secretariat agencies in Nairobi is postponed to November 2014 to enable two critical modules, Foundation and Extension 1, to be deployed at the same time. Instructor-led training will take place in Nairobi during the months of July to September to ensure that critical administrative and project staff are prepared for the launch. Meanwhile the UN-Habitat continues close dialogue at all levels with the UNON and UN Headquarters Umoja project to ensure that Umoja is configured to meet UN-Habitat’s operational needs. We are also collaborating on the development of an interface between Umoja and UN-Habitat’s Project Accrual Accountability System (PAAS) so that features not provided by Umoja in the short and medium term can continue to be provided by PAAS.

Mr. Chair, Excellencies and distinguished delegates, this concludes my introduction to this agenda item. We appreciate your continued support. Thank you.