Introductory Statement by Dr. Joan Clos
Executive Director

Thematic/Country Presentation

Agenda Item 4

HSP/CPR/53/4
Nairobi, 18 June 2014
Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

The following Thematic Presentation will be delivered by David Evans from the Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation Branch on behalf of the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. This presentation was due to be delivered to the 52nd regular meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on 19 March 2014.

The presentation highlights the importance of UN-Habitat’s work in the humanitarian context in response to disasters and emergencies. The presentation focuses on Asia with a specific example of our interventions in the response to hurricane Yolanda (Haiyan) in Philippines on November 8th 2013, the deadliest storm in recorded Philippine history resulting in over 6,000 people losing their lives and 1.1 million houses damaged and destroyed.

Disasters invariably affect the poorest communities disproportionately, leaving behind devastated and impoverished communities. However, on a more positive note, disasters often create the opportunity for accelerated development to occur, as long as the ‘humanitarian’ interventions are well thought through and developed in partnership with governments and sub-national governance structures (local authorities/municipalities). The presentation will make clear the importance and relevance of UN-Habitat’s link between Humanitarian action, and more sustainable reconstruction that enables people and communities to recover and rebuild their lives.

Thank you.