Progress Report on the implementation of Governing Council Resolution 24/6:
Supporting Action for the Creation of Safer Cities

Background
The Governing Council Resolution 24/6 on “Supporting Action for the Creation of Safer Cities” calls upon UN-Habitat to, among other things, continue to strengthen and accelerate the normative and operational activities of the UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme; to advance the development of United Nations System-wide guidelines on Safer Cities and an inter-agency collaborative framework on safer cities; to promote the sharing best practices between cities and local authorities, and, in this regard, the development of an urban safety monitor and the monitoring and measurement of UN-Habitat programmes contributing to crime and violence prevention efforts at the city and local authority level; and to begin a process of consultations for a United Nations System-wide financing mechanism.

Progress in implementation
i) Accelerating effective implementation of the Safer Cities Programme and its associated Global Network on Safer Cities (GNSC)
As recommended in Resolution 24/6, and in support of the work programme 2014 – 15, UN-Habitat has maintained its efforts in supporting cities in the prevention of urban crime and enhancement of urban safety through technical advisories, training and capacity building. Currently, UN-Habitat is finalising a 1.5 million USD country programme agreement with Mexico to provide technical support to 14 cities to develop municipal plans for safety commencing in June 2014. Similarly, the agency is providing technical advisories to Argentina, Chile, South Africa and Kenya towards the consolidation of similar country programme agreements under the framework of the Global Network on Safer Cities.

At the Global level, UN-Habitat is currently advancing the placement of urban safety as a cross-cutting issue through which multi-sectoral interventions could be planned in line with the new urban agenda. As well, UN-Habitat is working closely with sister UN agencies to ensure informed reflections in the post-2015 development agenda on safety as a prerequisite to sustainable development. A key part of the pilot will be to test and refine a measurement framework that can be adopted by other cross-cutting issues. Reporting on cross-cutting issues is not merely about results, but also more importantly the efficacy of the issue in integrating and influencing other thematic areas. Unfortunately this dimension of reporting has largely remained subjective in nature, thereby depriving the cross-cutting issues of a full appreciation of their activities and accomplishment in the eyes of financial and substantive partners. As such, it is proposed to establish indicators and the respective baselines and targets to quantify what a ‘successful’ cross-cutting issue is. The indicators will be reviewed at the end of the one year pilot, refined accordingly, and adopted by other cross-cutting issues. The indicators are as follows:

- #. of joint tools being developed
- # of joint tools being piloted
- # of collaborating units and designated focal points for safer cities
- Amount of financial resources allocated within subprogrammes for safer cities issues.
- Improved awareness and understanding of safer cities issues within the staff body (baseline will be set with an online poll using free polling software).
UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme is also supporting the Global Network on Safer Cities (GNSC). It has established a Partners Consultative Group to enhance structured cooperation and dialogue with international, inter-governmental, and non-governmental organisations in support of its normative and operational activities. In particular, it is leveraging resources through partnerships with these stakeholders to consolidate urban safety tools to support municipal plans for safety through the establishment of Technical Working Groups that are championed by the partners on various safety work streams. These include on the confluence of safety and peacebuilding with the Geneva Peace Building Platform; on safety and smart cities with SAP and related private sector actors; on safer cities promising practices with the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC) Canada, and the European Forum for Urban Safety (EFUS) based in Paris; and on safety and gender with members of the Advisory Group on Gender (AGGI).

**ii) Promoting UN system wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Inter-agency framework on safer cities**

Resolution 24/6 calls upon UN-Habitat to continue its work for the prevention of urban crime and enhancement of urban safety, through implementing the GC Resolution 23/14, and particularly its call for United Nations System-wide guidelines on Safer Cities and an inter-agency collaborative framework on safer cities. UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme continues to engaged in various inter-agency initiatives to explore the complementary relationships on the Guidelines on Safer Cities within each agency’s distinctive mandates. In particular, with UNICEF and UN-Women through a Joint Programming Agreement on Safer Cities for Women and Girls; with UNODA through the Coordinating Mechanism for Action on Small Arms (CASA) – and particularly on their municipal gun free zones guidelines; and with UNODC on the UN Guidelines on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. UN-Habitat is also involved in the development of regional guides on safer cities in Africa building on its guides for Latin America and Asia Pacific.

During the World Urban Forum 7 in Medellin Colombia, an inter-agency and GNSC partners meeting was held which has resulted in the development of an outline of key topics for analysis to inform the formulation of UN system wide guidelines on safer cities. A peer review questionnaire is now being circulated to partners for inputs to the guidelines process.

**iii) Promoting best practices on safer cities solutions**

During the World Urban Forum 7 in Medellin, UN-Habitat together with ICPC and EFUS presented the first set of promising practices on safer cities that have been gathered over the past 18 years since the adoption of the ECOSOC 1995 Guidelines on Urban Crime Prevention. These practices will be further reviewed and refined as part of the preparatory process leading to Habitat III and will present additional information for the development of the UN Guidelines on Safer Cities and its associated urban safety monitor.

In addition, the collation of practices aims to establish city to city learning and exchange processes to access and transfer innovative and appropriate solutions to urban safety problems. UN-Habitat Safer
Cities Programme together with the Capacity Development Unit has established an Urban Safety Hub as part of the Habitat Partners Universities Initiative and the GNSC to promote centres of excellence and regional/national forums for knowledge exchange and learning. The cities of Cape Town (South Africa), Santiago (Chile), Toluca (Mexico) have signed to mobilise resources to establish such facilities in their own cities. In addition, an increasing number of universities (including UCL London, Universidad Alberto Hurtado Chile, UAEM Mexico, Geneva Institute of International Development and University of Cape Town have also enlisted their support to partner with the cities with respect to enhancing analysis, evaluation and dissemination of successful solutions, and important lessons learned at policy, planning and implementation levels, in order to facilitate and encourage their uptake and locally appropriate adaptations through exchange between ‘leading cities’ and ‘take up cities’.

In this respect, UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme is advancing a consultative process with stakeholders on the development of the urban safety monitor to measure the implementation of municipal plans for safety that it has already developed over the past 18 years, which will contribute to systematising these city and local government efforts.

iv) Operationalising the process of consultations for a United Nations System-wide financing mechanism on Safer Cities

In June 2013, the process of consultation on the financing mechanism for safer cities was initiated with local authorities participating at the Metropolis Conference in Johannesburg. During the session, key elements for conducting a feasibility study on the financing mechanisms were identified. In particular, the local authorities supported the outcome of the 1st Steering Committee of Mayors of the Global Network on Safer Cities (GNSC) that the key objective of such a global financing mechanism would be to enable local authorities to have a wider access to resources to support the development and implementation of their citywide crime prevention and urban safety strategies in line with the development of the UN-wide Guidelines on Safer Cities that is expected to be adopted by 2016. At the same time, the proposed financial mechanism should serve to improve a framework for development cooperation to ensure sufficient financing for local governments on safer cities. In this context, the Global Fund for Cities (FMDV) based in Paris have been commissioned to conduct a feasibility study that will identify the possible scenarios for such a financing mechanism to be presented to the 25th session of the Governing Council for its consideration. FMDV will submit their first proposal on the various financial mechanisms to the secretariat in October 2014. It is expected that this proposal will inform the development of operational guidelines that outline the principles, rules and procedures to guide the management of the financing mechanism, including its governance structure, the scope of activities to be supported, eligibility criteria for recipients and implementing partners, recipient contributions, procurement of goods and services, performance and results measurement, and monitoring and Evaluation, among others. The proposal including its operational guidelines will be presented to the 2nd Steering Committee of the GNSC and to the next Metropolis meeting of local authorities scheduled to take place in Bogota and Hyderabad later in the year, ahead of its presentation to the Governing Council for its consideration.

v) Challenges

- Need for greater support to facilitate the relationship with ECOSOC to promote and support an interagency task team to review and present proposals for complementing the 1995 Guidelines for cooperation and technical assistance in the field of crime prevention. Despite keen interest, initiative and support of the UCLG Global Task Force of local authorities and that of sister UN
agencies, this resolution on Safer Cities was not included in the 2014 ECOSOC Integration Segment on Sustainable Urbanisation.

- Demands and spending needs of UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme are increasing, while staffing levels and financial resources remain insufficient. These demands will grow especially as the GNSC takes root ahead of Habitat III in 2016 and could impact on the timely implementation of the programme operations and on external partner relationships.

- The programme is challenged on how to expand the donor base at a time when the effects of the global financial crisis are still being felt. In addition, the agency’s current financial conditions/requirements has the threat to compromise the holistic, integrated and comprehensive urban approach of ‘safer cities’ that the Programme has developed over the past 18 years in favour of financially trendy interventions on safety.

- Poor receptivity to internal learning opportunities for staff to understand and work on the classical safer cities approach due to agency human resource constraints. In this connection, implementing ineffective and uncoordinated approaches to municipal plans for safety while mainstreaming urban safety in the urban development streams is high.

- Lack of political will to articulate the classical safer cities approach in the new urban agenda in favour of sectoral or narrow approaches to the subject matter. At the same time, the lack of good will of branch coordinators and unit leaders to take on additional work load due to cost implications associated with allocation of staff time to attend to new assignments.

vi) Recommendations to the CPR

- Request to assist in the facilitation of peer review questionnaire with capitals on sourcing for current practices of local authorities on urban safety to inform the development of UN Guidelines on Safer Cities by Habitat III 2016.