Introductory Statement by Dr. Joan Clos
Executive Director

Thematic / Country Presentation

Agenda Item 8

HSP/CPR/55/8
Nairobi, 3 December 2014
Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Following up on the previous meetings sessions of this high-level committee, where a thematic country presentation has been added to the agenda item on the country activities report we shall focus today on Colombia, a country with a lot of opportunities but great challenges as well. The objective of the thematic presentation is to highlight our progress at the national level and document cases of good practices in different regions of the world where we have been present.

First – let me this opportunity to present my gratitude to the Government of Colombia for hosting the last session of the World Urban Forum in Medellin, and congratulate them for a very successful global event. With some of the promising urban profiles of the Latin American region, e.g. Bogota, Colombia however still faces huge urban challenges characterised by the: (i) urban socio-economic segregation, (ii) congestion in cities and high costs transportation between cities, (iii) lack of complementarity among cities, (iv) lack of specialisation in big cities (regarding panamerican and global markets) and in midium size citites (regarding national markets), (v) weakness of multi-level and territorial coordination etc..

In view of the above challenges among many more to be addressed during the presentation, UN-Habitat has been supporting the Government and other stakeholders within the framework of its three legged approach to develop and implement policies in the sectors of housing, basic services, community participation, strengthening local institutions targeting cities such as Bogota, Medellin, Santa Marta, and Tunja.

Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you well know, our “three-legged approach” seeks to integrate the legal/political, urban design and financial modelling approaches in a coherent manner, both in place and in time in order to maxime the results of our public policy interventions.

Let me now invite you to devote some minutes of precious time to the following Colombia presentation, which should provide you with more details and clear picture of our work in one of the most fascinating countries of the LAC region.

Thank you very much for your attention.