
Statement

By

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Executive Director

Agenda Item 7
56th Regular Meeting of the CPR: 8 April 2015
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Mr. Chair,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,


2. This is the first progress report since we started implementing the strategy that was approved by the 24th session of the Governing Council.

3. As you know, the strategy will be implemented through the current and next two biennial work programme and budgets. The 2014 Annual Report, therefore, also reflects the progress made towards implementation of the 2014-2015 work programme.

4. The report has been structured into six chapters. It first contains an executive summary, followed by a detailed analysis of the progress and achievements made in executive direction and management, each of the seven thematic areas and on the cross cutting issues.

5. Assessment of progress and achievements in the Programme Division and Office of Management is presented, followed by a brief update on Habitat III, and on the Post-2015 processes.

6. I wish to acknowledge the inputs provided by the CPR Sub-Committee on Policy and Programme of Work during the two sessions held on 13th February and 18th March, which were incorporated and helped to enrich the report.

Your Excellencies,

7. The report before you presents detailed analytical information on progress towards achievement of the results and expected accomplishments for each of the focus areas at global, regional and country levels. The status of financial resources are also provided, specifying what was planned, allocated and utilized by each focus area and offices in 2014.
8. Throughout the report, you will notice that we acknowledge that the results are achieved with the contributions of UN-Habitat’s partners.

9. One of the new features in our annual progress reporting is the inclusion on progress made in the Executive Direction and Management, Programme Division and the Office of Management – in addition to the focus areas.

10. We also now report on progress in cross cutting issues under each expected accomplishment. We have also presented a few examples of areas where UN-Habitat is excelling and areas where improvement is needed in our overall performance.

11. An annex provides detailed information on all projects under implementation in 2014 by region, country, project title, value, donors, implementing partners and duration. We have also included a link to a short video showing the impact of our work on the ground.

12. While we recognize that this year’s report is somewhat longer than previous ones, I am sure you will also appreciate that it provides a much more comprehensive and results based picture of the programmatic performance of our organization, also including management aspects.

**Distinguished delegates,**

13. This first report on the implementation of the 2014-2019 strategic plan reflects how UN-Habitat has spearheaded a new strategic approach to sustainable urbanization in 2014.

14. We have made significant progress in our efforts to become a more specialized programme of the United Nations in the area of sustainable urbanization, addressing good urban development practice in all types of human settlements worldwide, including small villages, market towns and large cities and metropolis.

15. The proposal for a stand-alone sustainable development goal on cities and human settlements issues in the post-2015 development agenda is an indication of the growing recognition of the role of sustainable urbanisation in sustainable development, both within and outside the United Nations.
16. The strategic plan 2014-2019 set a new direction for UN-Habitat’s approach to urbanization, through more systemic, integrated and transformative solutions that places emphasis on urban legislation; urban planning and design; and urban economy and municipal finance.

17. I am pleased to report that we are making good progress in demonstrating the application of this approach through the normative tools developed and pilot projects with partner local authorities and national Governments. For example, through the Achieving Sustainable Urban Development (ASUD) programme piloted in several countries, encouraging results are emerging. Some of you have witnessed this first-hand during the field visits to Mozambique and Rwanda.

18. Significant investment and development is also directed to the sub-programme on urban basic services, which is the fourth focus area. Large numbers of urban dwellers in developing countries still lack access to adequate basic services.

19. The report highlights the progress being made and resources being catalysed through strategic partnerships for improving access to water and sanitation, drainage, reliable waste management services, sustainable public transport and urban energy.

20. UN-Habitat continues to work in the other three focus areas of the strategic plan, building on its past success: housing and slum upgrading; risk reduction and rehabilitation; and research and capacity development.

21. Progress made in these thematic areas is evident from programmes such as the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme, which has catalysed action and investment in slum improvement and prevention in 35 countries and over 150 cities across African, Caribbean and Pacific States.

22. There is growing recognition and demand for UN-Habitat’s contribution in the disaster and risk reduction especially in integrating durable and sustainable resilience-building and recovery in human settlements.

23. Achievements in UN-Habitat’s work in research and capacity building are reflected in a number of areas including flagship reports and the growing level of participation in the City Prosperity Initiative.

24. In all the seven focus areas, UN-Habitat’s efforts are directed at clearly defined strategic issues and actions that assist local and national
government to put in place more effective policies, strategies, plans, systems and programmes to meet the needs of the urban populations, particularly the poor.

25. UN-Habitat has made significant progress in the development of relevant and effective normative tools to support the implementation of the strategy. These include the pro-poor land tools, a national urban policy diagnostic framework, the City Prosperity Initiative, the Urban Planning and Design Lab and the law database UrbanLex, among others.

Your Excellencies,

26. With regards to the overall management of the Programme, the institutional and programmatic reforms we completed in 2013 have greatly enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness in implementation of the strategic plan.

27. A major achievement has been the complete alignment of the organization’s structure with its substantive work. Monitoring and reporting have been significantly streamlined, and accountability and transparency enhanced.

28. The new matrix approach ensures greater efficiency and close integration between the normative and operational work of UN-Habitat, which is implemented through multi-dimensional projects.

29. In addition to the foundation laid through these internal reforms, UN-Habitat is adopting two transformational new UN-Secretariat-wide systems. In January 2014, UN-Habitat shifted to the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). This supports greater accountability and transparency, and enables the organization to report its financial performance using publicly recognized standards.

30. We also made very large efforts in our preparations for the deployment of the Umoja Enterprise Resource Planning system, scheduled for roll-out this June.

31. You will find more detailed assessment of the progress and achievements in these aspects in the chapters on the Programme Division and Office of Management.
Your Excellencies,

32. We consider our overall performance in 2014 in implementing our strategic plan to be satisfactory. You will note that we delivered 34% of our planned outputs for the 2014-2015 work programme, and that 23% were under implementation. For 2014 alone, this is equivalent to 67% outputs completed.

33. The progress on achievement of targets have been graphically presented in the report using traffic lights and shows overall satisfactory performance. 84% of the indicators were on track to being achieved by the end of 2015. 12% were slightly behind schedule and only 4% may not be met.

34. The overall expenditure in 2014 amounted to USD 223.6 million, representing a rate of utilization of the allocated resources of 86%.

Your Excellencies,

35. While we are satisfied with the solid foundation laid during the first year of implementation of our six year strategy, we have also identified areas that require improvement. We will focus on strengthening our performance in these areas.

36. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous contributions that is making it possible to implement our new strategy. You partnership is of great importance, especially in ensuring that much needed flexible resources are also available moving forward.

37. Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, that is the end my introductory statement.

38. We would now like to show you a short video clip representing the voices of beneficiaries from one of the field projects to illustrate some of the results achieved on the ground.

39. My colleagues and I will be happy to answer any questions that you might have. Thank you for your attention.