1. Agenda item 4: Quarterly report on the financial status of UN-Habitat

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the floor. Firstly, I would like to express my appreciation to all Member States and the Secretariat of UN Habitat for their contribution in making the 26th Governing Council Meeting a success. I would also like to thank the Executive Director for his detailed briefing on activities of UN Habitat since the GC meeting.

2. Coming to Agenda Item 4, according to the the financial statement presented by the Secretariat, India is one of the top 10 donors in the core contributions (Regular Budget and Foundation Non-Earmarked Contributions) to UN-Habitat during the period 2011-2016. From its position at number 9 in 2010-11 (USD 0.3 million), India moved to No. 5 position in 2016 (USD 1.6 million).

3. In view of this, it would be in order for the UN-Habitat to strengthen its presence in India so as to address the challenges of urbanization we face in my country by bringing cutting edge practices across the world to India.

4. It is suggested that some of the broad support areas to be provided by UN-Habitat include: increased international profile of Government of India initiatives on housing, poverty alleviation and urban development; support in implementing, coordinating, monitoring, reviewing and follow-up on the New Urban Agenda and SDGs related to housing, human settlements and poverty alleviation; support in formulation of National Urban Housing & Habitat Policy 2017 (which is already being drafted with the help of UN-Habitat India team); support in formulation and implementation of policies at central and state levels; support in developing knowledge resources on mandated areas and reflection of good practices in global articles and reports including providing capacity support; and develop think tanks and networks that will enable Government to address present and future urban predicaments.

5. Further, as a general step, UN HABITAT may also consider additional budgetary provision for activities such as documentation and dissemination of good practices on habitat related projects, skill development and capacity building, as well as increasing its outreach in different countries through suitable strategies.

6. I also take this opportunity to indicate that we look forward to interacting with the Independent Panel of experts when they come to Nairobi on 5-6 July, 2017.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.
2. **Agenda Item 5: Thematic/ Country Activities- Briefing Note on Public space in Asia-Pacific**

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

I would like to commend the Secretariat for the excellent presentation made on UN Habitat’s work on rehabilitation of Public Spaces in the Asia Pacific region. It is such activities of the UN Habitat, which make a tangible difference to the lives of ordinary people in developing countries, which deserve to be showcased to the world.

The focus on Public spaces is very important and has been recognized in both the New Urban Agenda as well as SDG 11. Public spaces are the “Poor Man’s Living Room”, as mentioned in your report. I note from the presentation that activities took place in two Indian cities – Mumbai and Pune – among others and, frankly, until this presentation, I was not aware of the good work being done by UN Habitat there. I plan to recommend to my government to enhance our engagement with UN Habitat so that we can recover and rehabilitate our public spaces in other Indian cities and towns as well.

We look forward to receiving the tool kits and training guides mentioned by the Secretariat.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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