70th REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

20 SEPTEMBER 2018

Agenda Item 6:
Thematic/Country Presentation
(HSP/CPR/70/6)
1. **Background**

Kenya’s urban population of 27% is growing at a rate of 4.3% per annum and is projected to reach 54% in 2030, indicating that the country’s urban population is significantly on the rise, with the economy not growing at a corresponding rate. This is summarized in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year (period)</th>
<th>Urban population</th>
<th>Annual Economic Growth</th>
<th>Urban population Growth rates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960’s</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980’s</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990’s</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Over the years, while Kenya’s urban population continues to grow, investment in urban infrastructure has remained low, resulting in increased pressure on the existing infrastructure and services. Adequate interventions are required to ensure sustainable urbanization in Kenya’s primary and secondary cities, which collectively generate over 70% of the national GDP.

The **Regional Office for Africa** has the responsibility of coordinating UN-Habitat’s country activities in Sub-Saharan Africa, with the support of all thematic Branches at headquarters in Nairobi, and to supervise UN-Habitat country teams. This presentation shows the work implemented in Kenya since 2010, including the normative and operational results of that work. The presentation also highlights the challenges and opportunities of UN-Habitat’s work in Kenya.

2. **Frameworks**

In developing UN-Habitat projects in Kenya, the following frameworks were considered: the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda; UN-Habitat Strategic Plan (2014-2019); the Kenya Vision 2030; President Uhuru Kenyatta’s Big Four Agenda, focusing on Manufacturing, Food Security, Affordable Housing and Universal Healthcare; the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Kenya (UNDAF 2018-2022); the Habitat Country Programme Document for Kenya (2018-2022); and the various donors’ strategic plans for Kenya.

UN-Habitat’s projects are implemented mostly at the County level, with support from the Council of Governors and the line Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing, Urban Development and Public Works. The Ministries of Land and Physical Planning as well as Devolution and Arid and Semi-Arid Lands are also consulted periodically. Project implementation also takes into consideration the inputs of the Kenya Private Sector Alliance, the Civil Society Urban
Development Platform and the nine (9) Universities that teach Urban Planning and Management.

Kenya has developed a popular version of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and is amongst the first countries that is implementing the NUA at sub-national levels. This Popular Version, together with the Implementing Framework for the New Urban Agenda (2016-2036), was launched by His Excellency the President at the sidelines of the 26th Session of the UN-Habitat Governing Council in May 2017. Kenya has also developed a National Urban Development Policy, with technical input from UN-Habitat. In 2017, a National Spatial Plan was prepared by the Ministry of Physical Planning, with technical support from FAO and Kenya’s United Nations Country Team (UNCT), of which UN-Habitat is a member, and under the country’s United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

In order to support national efforts to achieve sustainable urbanization, UN-Habitat and the Government of Kenya jointly developed the Habitat Country Programme Document (HCPD 2018-2021) as a critical tool for coordinating the implementation of country level activities as well as for mobilizing financial resources for the various activities. The development of the HCPD was funded by the Government of Kenya. It focuses on six priority areas namely:

1. Improved Land Management and Sustainably Planned Human Settlements;
2. Improved Access to Quality Urban Basic Services and Infrastructure;
3. Improved Access to Quality and Affordable Housing and Sustainable Slum Upgrading and Prevention;
4. Innovation in Improving Urban Economy and Finance;
5. Improved Urban Governance and Resilience; and

3. Projects

Since 2010, UN-Habitat has partnered with the Government to implement 30 projects in Kenya with a total value of USD 14,510,725. Out of these, 11 projects worth USD 5,836,384 have since closed and 19 projects worth USD 8,674,341 are ongoing.

Ongoing projects include Planning and Re-Development of Kisumu City’s Lake Front Area to attract investment opportunities and expand the Central Business District towards the lakeshore; Participatory Slum Upgrading in Kilifi county’s Mtwapa settlements to enhance land tenure regularization; Promoting affordable land management systems for informal settlements in Kenya in partnership with Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) as well as capacity building of youth through e-learning and other ICT related methods in Mathare.

Currently, from the Government of Kenya’s funding of USD 600,000 provided in February 2016, UN-Habitat has partnered with Kisii, Kiambu and Homabay Counties to implement projects to

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1 University of Nairobi, Kenyatta University, Jomo Kenyatta University of Science and Technology, Maseno University, Pwani University, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology, Technical University of Kenya, Egerton University and University of Eldoret.
improve Solid Waste Management and Youth Livelihoods; prepare a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan; and develop Markets to Stimulate Local Economic Development, respectively.

The Government of Japan’s contribution of USD 1,800,000 over the last three years has been used to prepare an Integrated Refugee and Host Community Settlement Advisory Plan and implement capacity building initiatives that promote social cohesion and reduces conflicts between refugees and host communities in Kalobeyei, Turkana County.

In 2015, Sweden funded a project through which the 47 first-generation County Governors participated in UN-Habitat’s “Executive Leaders Conference”, whose outcome was a document titled “Paving the Way for Habitat III: Contribution from Kenyan Counties”. Through this project, UN-Habitat built the urban planning capacity of technical officers from 15 towns under the Government-led World Bank-funded Kenya Municipal Programme (KMP).

4. Challenges and Opportunities

One of the key challenges faced while implementing projects in Kenya is the low prioritization of urban development-related activities in county budgetary allocation processes. In this regard, there is a clear need to enhance urban planning capacity at the county level. However, the recent enactment of the Urban Areas and Cities Act (2011 rev 2015) provides an opportunity for effective management of urban areas through establishment of Urban Boards and Town Committees, well-resourced platforms mandated to manage urban areas. Two of World Bank’s initiatives namely the Kenya Urban Support Programme (KUSP), a precursor to the Kenya Municipal Programme (KMP) through which UN-Habitat built capacity of technical officers in towns, and the Kenya Devolution Support Programme (KDSP) are significant opportunities for sustainable urbanization in Kenya’s counties. President Uhuru Kenyatta’s Big Four Agenda is also a key opportunity through which UN-Habitat’s technical expertise on housing and urban development could be showcased through the Mavoko SNP.

Through the HCPD 2018-2021, UN-Habitat is exploring opportunities for supporting coastal cities and the Blue Economy, in partnership with the European Union (EU) Delegation in Kenya. Discussions are ongoing for UN-Habitat to provide diverse technical inputs to the World Bank-funded Kenya Urban Support Programme (KUSP). UN-Habitat is also exploring how it could partner with the private sector to assist Kenya in sustainable urbanization. UN-Habitat’s normative work, specifically, “Sustainable Building Designs for Tropical Climates: Principles and Applications for the Design of Sustainable Buildings in East Africa” is informing designs of the various housing typologies under President Uhuru Kenyatta’s Big Four Affordable Housing Programme. UN-Habitat is actively exploring funding partnerships to implement the HCPD 2018-2022, focusing on the Housing pillar of the Big Four Agenda.