MANDATE OF UN-HABITAT

CPR Familiarization Workshop
UN-Habitat Mandate

- Urbanisation has for long been addressed reactively, focusing on the negative consequences when not well-planned and managed (poverty, pollution, sprawl, segregation).

- As a human-made construct, urbanization can contribute to sustainable development. The NUA empowers leaders to utilize it as an accelerator to achieving sustainable development. “The battle for sustainability will be won or lost in cities”.

- Urbanization is also an enabler to a smooth transition from crisis to peaceful development.

- UN-Habitat’s unique vantage point is to connect the global to national and local levels.
UN-Habitat was made a focal point in the UN-System, supporting countries to implement the NUA as a catalyst for the 2030 Agenda; at global, regional and local level.
What we do

1. Knowledge, evidence-based data to guide strategic thinking and policy advice
2. Integrated operational work
3. Convenor of partnerships
4. Advocacy, outreach and sharing
1. Knowledge

UN-Habitat is a focal point in the UN System on monitoring and reporting:

- Leadership and co-leadership on many of the SDG indicators (23 percent of all SDGs indicators have a local or urban component)
- Quadrennial Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the NUA
- Synthesis Report on the Implementation of the SDG 11 and also input into other areas.
2. Integrated operational work

- We have a range of diverse projects, largely focused on integrated programming for sustainable urbanization, both in development and crisis.
- We already coordinate with sister agencies to give an integrated package of policy and technical advice to implement the NUA, using a people-centered approach.
- UN-Habitat currently provides operational/technical assistance support to 95 countries.
- Geographic distribution and other details of our operational work will be elaborated upon more in the next session.
What we do
3/4. Convenor of Partnerships, Advocacy Outreach and Sharing

- WUF grew from a participation of 1200 people in Nairobi in 2002 to 23,000 people at WUF 9 in Kuala Lumpur in 2018.

- The World Urban Campaign is another powerful global advocacy and partnership platform to promote dialogue, sharing, and learning.

- World Cities Day and World Habitat Day.

- Coordinating policy.
Financing Sustainable Urbanisation

- We need to shift towards a focus of financing Sustainable Urbanization at scale and explore further catalysing of funds, blending mechanisms and empowerment of endogenous resources at country and city-level.

- It is against this background that the creation of the Implementation Facility for Sustainable Urban Development (IFSUD) was a major milestone. IFSUD is already recognized as part of the Urban Window of the UN system-wide Joint SDG Fund.

- We now need to now pilot out the approach and showcase implementation on the ground.
Where are we today

- We are only beginning of our mobilization and coordination of the knowledge and operational programme support within the UN-system, to support Member States in achieving sustainable development.

- We are in the early stages of rolling out our work on the financing of sustainable urbanization and the ED has opened the WUF as a platform for better coordination, knowledge sharing and partnership.

- In Conclusion:
  - In terms of the 4 areas, we have the fundamentals and great potential, tools and knowledge, but as of now limited impact given the pressing needs. We need to strengthen UN-Habitat, build its capacity for knowledge, partnerships, to play the catalytic role assigned to us.

  - We highly appreciate the support by Member States in political and resource mobilization, using the current internal and external reform processes to strengthen the Agency within the wider concert the UN-system, including the World Bank.