Introductory Statement by Ms Maimunah Mohd Sharif
Executive Director

Report on the status of implementation of the New Urban Agenda

Nairobi, 6 December 2018

Agenda Item 7
**UN-System Wide Strategy**

As the focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements development in the UN-System, UN-Habitat must strengthen UN-Inter-agency coordination and collaboration in developing a coherent system-wide strategy for sustainable urban development. The Organization must also strategically mobilize multi-stakeholder partnerships for advocacy, implementation, follow up and review of the New Urban Agenda.

The UN Development System Reform plan aims to enhance effectiveness, efficiency and coherence in supporting countries to implement the 2030 Agenda. As a result, UN-Habitat must address the void within the UN system to adequately acknowledge the pace, scale and implications of urbanization. Specifically, the dependence of the 2030 Agenda on the direction of urban development, and the fundamental role played in urban development by local governments and other local actors and call for stronger engagement, integration, and coherence across the UN System, are highlighted in the Secretary-General’s Independent Assessment Panel of UN-Habitat. Over the past 6 months, UN-Habitat has successfully contributed to several actions that have strengthened the UN-system wide strategy on sustainable urbanization.

For instance, on June 6, 2018, the Secretary-General and the UN Senior Management Group endorsed UN-Habitat’s proposal for the key elements of the UN system-wide strategy on urban and UN-Habitat’s leadership in developing the strategy. UN-Habitat is also leading a Task Team of initially 12 UN agencies in preparing a paper on UN system-wide coherence for sustainable urban development.
UN-Collaborative Implementation Framework

UN-Habitat is implementing an action plan for strengthening the UN system-wide approach to sustainable urban development at global, regional, country and local levels based on the UN Collaborative Implementation Framework. The 4 pillars identified to support this process include: (1) Knowledge and Data for Policy Advise and Monitoring; (2) Operational Guidelines and Strategies; (3) Partnerships, Networking and Outreach; and (4) Financing.

Partnerships

As a focal point in the UN system on sustainable urbanization and human settlements, UN-Habitat must also demonstrate its leadership and support for a wide range of partners. Local and regional governments have been identified as strategic partners in mobilizing support for concrete commitments and actions at all levels to facilitate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and urban related SDGs.

In May 2018, UN-Habitat co-organized the Sustainable Cities Dialogue in coordination with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). The dialogue provided the opportunity for local and regional authorities and policy makers to exchange experiences, solutions and challenges on various dimensions of sustainable cities and human settlements. This culminated into the first regional and local governments forum held at the July 2018 High-level Political Forum.

Advocacy

As part of the follow-up and review of progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments particularly Agenda 2030, the High-level Political Forum was held in July 2018 for the annual thematic review of the SDGs on
“transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”. SDG 11 was one of the four SDGs considered for in-depth review.

UN-Habitat also successfully marked the global observance of Urban October through 2 key advocacy platforms: World Habitat Day on 1 October and World Cities Day on 31 October. This year, partners and stakeholders were mobilized around the themes; Municipal Solid Waste Management for World Habitat Day and Building Sustainable and Resilient Cities for World Cities Day.

Thank you for your attention. For further details and clarification, I am pleased to hand-over to Christine Musisi, Director, External Relations Division.