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Coordination matters:  
Cooperation with agencies and organizations within the  
United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations  
outside the United Nations system and  
non-governmental organizations

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Report of the Executive Director

Summary

The present report covers coordination and cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (United Nations-Habitat) and agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations since the nineteenth session of the Governing Council. The report highlights the most significant instances of such coordination and cooperation during the reporting period.

* HSP/GC/20/1.
I. Introduction

1. Taking into consideration the leadership role of United Nations-Habitat in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, efforts have been made during 2003–2004 to foster extensive cooperation and collaboration with organizations both within and outside the United Nations system, including by harnessing proactive synergies with all stakeholders, to promote a coordinated approach to the implementation process at the global, regional, national and local levels.

2. Accordingly, the present report reviews cooperation with organizations and agencies within the United Nations system, with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and with non-governmental organizations. The report also highlights areas of focus in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

II. Cooperation with organizations and agencies within the United Nations system in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda

A. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

3. UNDP remains a major partner in UN-Habitat country projects. In recent years, UN-Habitat has diversified its partnership with funding agencies but close to 50 per cent of financial resources channelled to UN-Habitat projects still originate from UNDP, and about 70 per cent of the funds for UN-Habitat programmes in over 30 countries in Africa. That fact ensures a continuous and important partnership at the operational level, currently in over 50 countries.

4. UN-Habitat has also traditionally served as catalyst for bilateral financing channelled as third-party cost-sharing to UNDP country programmes. The same function has been performed increasingly to channel funding by national Governments to UNDP cost-sharing. UN-Habitat has, in recent years, increased its support to UNDP country offices and national Governments to assist those Governments in preparing their national human development reports, specifically, the housing and urban development components of those reports.

5. UN-Habitat and UNDP have extended their memorandum of understanding to strengthen their collaboration on a number of issues of common interest related to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and to establish, in selected UNDP country offices, UN-Habitat programme managers to ensure that the concerns and priorities of the human settlements sector are better mainstreamed in national policies and programmes. So far, 30 UN-Habitat programme managers have been posted in developing countries. A first induction seminar for all UN-Habitat programme managers took place in Nairobi from 8 to 12 November 2004. As an example, in Latin America and the Caribbean collaborative activities have been strengthened, mainly at the national level, through the deployment of UN-Habitat programme managers. In countries such as Colombia, Ecuador and Haiti, UNDP is providing complementary support to the activities of the UN-Habitat programme managers and to the development of portfolios of projects on human settlements issues.

B. World Bank Group

6. Collaboration between the World Bank and UN-Habitat has expanded in the period under review. The most important reason for the improved relationship has been the success of the Cities Alliance, which was established by the two institutions in 1999 and has subsequently incorporated many bilateral development agencies, major international associations of local authorities and, more recently, the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The Cities Alliance is co-chaired by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat and the Vice-President for Infrastructure of the World Bank.

7. Through the Cities Alliance, the World Bank and UN-Habitat have undertaken an increasing number of joint operational activities, both bilaterally and, increasingly, with additional partners. Notable areas of collaboration have included activities in various parts of the world, such as Brazil, Egypt, Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Philippines. Also, the World Bank was an active participant in the
second session of the World Urban Forum, which was held in Barcelona, Spain from 13 to 17 September 2004.

8. At the global level, the two organizations have been instrumental in raising the profile of the urban agenda. Through their partnership, the plight of slum dwellers was highlighted by the inclusion, as part of the “Cities without Slums” Millennium Development Goal, of the target (target 11) to improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. The two organizations are now working together in preparation for the comprehensive review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, which is to be carried out by the General Assembly in September 2005.

9. The closer working relationship between the two organizations has been cemented through the secondment from UN-Habitat of a senior manager to the World Bank, to strengthen the capacity of the Cities Alliance secretariat and to expand its urban-upgrading portfolio. The World Bank is also involved in the establishment of the “Slum Upgrading Facility” in follow-up to paragraph 4 of resolution 19/11, adopted by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its nineteenth session.

10. Collaboration has also increased in operational activities in post-conflict countries, such as Afghanistan, which are in need of renewed development assistance, combining UN-Habitat technical and social expertise with World Bank investment.

C. World Health Organization (WHO)

11. UN-Habitat continues to actively collaborate with WHO in the development of the “Healthy Environments for Children” initiative. UN-Habitat participated in a meeting to map out the new 10-year urbanization and health-research framework for the WHO Kobe Centre in Japan. As a result of that meeting, and in response to the new human security challenge posed by the rapid urbanization of poverty and ill health in urban slums, UN-Habitat and WHO have been exploring a framework of cooperation to enhance collaborative activities in the area of health and habitat.

12. UN-Habitat collaborates with WHO to monitor water and sanitation as part of the wider WHO/United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Joint Monitoring Programme. The Safer Cities Programme and the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean have established collaboration with the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), in particular on issues of youth-at-risk, with PAHO being one of the partners in the organization of the Second International Conference on Youth-at-Risk held in October 2004 in Monterrey, Mexico.

D. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

13. The first joint UNESCO–UN-Habitat inter-agency meeting was held in Paris in April 2004 to enhance collaboration in the urban sector. The meeting identified areas of common interest and agreed on joint activities, encompassing normative work, research, capacity-building and knowledge management. UNESCO co-organized the Universal Forum of Cultures in Barcelona and participated very actively in the second World Urban Forum dialogues and networking events. UNESCO continues to be an active member of the steering group of the Global Campaign on Urban Governance. To advance a rights-based approach towards urban development based on inclusive urban governance, an international symposium entitled “The Right to the City” will be organized by UNESCO in March 2005, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) and UN-Habitat. A memorandum of understanding between UNESCO and UN-Habitat is being finalized.

E. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

14. A comprehensive report, prepared jointly by the executive directors of UN-Habitat and UNEP, on cooperation between the two organizations during the current intersessional period may be found in document HSP/GC/20/12.

F. United Nations Office at Nairobi

15. The United Nations Office at Nairobi, through its Division of Administrative Services, provides financial, administrative and conference services and other related support to UN-Habitat.

16. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat continued its collaboration with UNICEF in the area of child-friendly cities. UNICEF also remains a member of the steering group of the Global Campaign on Urban Governance.

H. **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**

17. As the lead agency on population matters within the United Nations system, UNFPA has supported efforts for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. UNFPA has participated at both worldwide and regional levels in the follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, while maintaining its main focus at the country level in the interrelated areas of poverty eradication, advancement and empowerment of women and capacity-building. Populations most in need have been taken as the main target for special support and service provision through balanced settlement planning.

18. United Nations-Habitat continues to cooperate with UNFPA through reciprocal sharing of information, data and experiences in various aspects of the implementation of the plan of action of the International Conference on Population and Development and of the Habitat Agenda. That cooperation is concerned in particular with the issues of urbanization, population and related basic social services.

I. **United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)**

19. UNIFEM, UN-Habitat and UNDP are collaborating in the implementation of joint activities in the Andean region for the incorporation of gender criteria in municipal management. Activities are implemented in coordination with the regional Federation of Women in Municipalities (FEMUM).

J. **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

20. UN-Habitat, through its Urban Economy and Finance Branch, continues to collaborate with FAO in such areas as the urban policy implications of enhancing food security in African cities, in regional consultations relating to food security and in organizing awareness-building workshops and policy seminars on food security and sustainable development.

K. **United Nations Volunteers (UNV)**

21. UN-Habitat has continued its cooperation with the UNV programme through the implementation of joint activities, particularly in the area of disaster management and in support given to the UN-Habitat regional offices for Africa and the Arab States and for Asia and the Pacific. UN-Habitat is collaborating with UNV in Latin America and the Caribbean in the formulation and development of a programme to bring the Millennium Development Goals to the local level. The programme is to be implemented in collaboration with the Regional Federation of Municipalities (FLACMA) and other UN-Habitat global programmes involved in the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly target 11, “by 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers”.

L. **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR)**

22. UN-Habitat has cooperated closely UNHCHR and undertaken several activities to promote the realization of human rights in general and housing rights in particular.

23. UN-Habitat and UNHCHR have jointly been implementing the United Nations Housing Rights Programme in response to mandates given by both the Commission on Human Settlements and the Commission on Human Rights. The United Nations Housing Rights Programme is a component of the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure, and many of its activities are undertaken in cooperation with and in support of the mandates of the special rapporteur on adequate housing.

24. UN-Habitat participated actively in the fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and contributed to its deliberations under the agenda item on economic, social and cultural rights. UN-Habitat contributed to the work of UNHCHR by providing inputs to the preparation of reports on topics relevant to its mandate such as, women’s equal ownership of, access to and control over land and
the equal rights to own property and to adequate housing; and, homelessness. It also actively participated in
the second and third sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

25. UN-Habitat and UNHCHR jointly organized an expert group meeting on housing rights monitoring,
with participation from the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The
Meeting reached agreement on a set of indicators which will eventually be used to measure the progressive
realization of the human right to adequate housing globally. The set includes a total of 15 indicators on
habitability, accessibility to services, affordability of housing, security of tenure, homelessness, slums,
forced evictions, legal framework and institutional policy framework.

M. International Labour Organization (ILO)

26. UN-Habitat is collaborating with ILO in promoting initiatives on local economic development in
Latin America and the Caribbean. Two training workshops were conducted in the region and a proposal is
being formulated for the implementation of a joint regional programme on the subject. UN-Habitat’s
Training and Capacity-building Branch has collaborated with the International Labour Organization (ILO)
in the area of local economic development. ILO has participated in the peer review of the Training and
Capacity-building Branch training series on local economic development. The Training and Capacity-
buidling Branch has participated and presented its training series on local economic development at the
subregional workshops on decent jobs and better services for the urban poor held in Addis Ababa, Lima
and Quito, all organized jointly by ILO and UN-Habitat.

N. Inter-agency secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and
the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction

27. UN-Habitat became a permanent member of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction on
25–26 April 2002. In Latin America, joint activities on the promotion of vulnerability reduction at the
local/municipal level are implemented by the regional offices of the International Strategy for Disaster
Reduction and UN-Habitat. UN-Habitat will be co-organizer of the World Conference on Disaster
Reduction to be held in Kobe, Japan, in January 2005.

O. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

28. The Executive Director led the UN-Habitat delegation to the eleventh session of UNCTAD, which
was held in São Paulo, Brazil from 14 to 18 June 2004. In addition to addressing the Conference, the
Executive Director consulted with delegations, Heads of United Nations organizations participating in the
Conference and civil society. The Executive Director accompanied the Secretary-General on a visit to one
of the favelas. During the Conference, UN-Habitat organized a parallel event on Cities, Engines of
Economic Growth.

P. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

29. UN-Habitat entered into a memorandum of understanding with UNODC in 2003 supporting
increased collaboration to promote urban crime prevention at local level and tool development. Several
meetings have been held and have developed a joint work plan. The work plan includes collaboration on
field projects (under discussion for Afghanistan, Brazil, Kenya and Mexico), knowledge management and
normative work (including the joint organization of the Workshop on Urban Crime Prevention and Youth
to be held at the eleventh United Nations Congress on Criminal Justice and Crime Prevention in 2005).

30. In December 2003, a joint Expert Group Meeting was held in Durban, South Africa to discuss the
development of an Urban Crime Prevention Toolkit. UN-Habitat also sponsored the international meeting
on Urban Youth at Risk in Latin America, held in Monterrey, Mexico in October 2004.

31. UN-Habitat participated actively in the UNODC Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal
Justice in 2004, with a statement on urban crime prevention. A resolution was passed supporting the
increased collaboration between the two organizations.
32. UNODC is also a partner in the recently approved research project on urban safety policies supported by the Geneva International Research Consortium (RUIG), and UN-Habitat is part of the Steering Committee of the South-South Exchange Programme on Good Prevention Practices being carried out by UNODC.

Q. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

33. UN-Habitat worked very closely with the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations regional economic commissions and other agencies and organizations in the preparatory process for the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. UN-Habitat collaborated with the Secretariat in the preparation of the Secretary-General’s report on human settlements and other background documents, including the outline of national reports on human settlements for the twelfth session. It was actively engaged in all regional meetings, made substantive contribution on the thematic cluster of water, sanitation and human settlements, participated in the preparatory meeting for the International Meeting on the 10-year Review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and contributed to the deliberations of the session.

34. UN-Habitat in close cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has begun preparations for the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in collaboration with all Habitat Agenda partners.

R. Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

35. UN-Habitat and UNAIDS signed a Cooperation Framework Agreement in October 2003. The objective of the agreement is to promote the HIV/AIDS response in areas falling under the mandate of UN-Habitat, particularly among central and local governments responsible for urban welfare and urban slum constituencies.

36. During the period, UN-Habitat assisted UNAIDS in preparing the draft United Nations System Strategic Framework on HIV/AIDS (for 2006–2010). UN-Habitat is actively exploring the possibilities of developing a shelter component for an existing local authorities programme.

S. United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

37. In February 2004, UN-Habitat and UNITAR signed a memorandum of understanding with the aim of strengthening their collaboration in the area of local government training and capacity-building. Building on their cooperation during the World Summit on Sustainable Development process, the two United Nations agencies agreed to combine their competence in furthering their efforts to address the capacity-building needs of local authorities. UN-Habitat will participate, and make its training tools available, as and where needed, to the UNITAR network of regional training centres.

T. United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

38. UN-Habitat and the Economic Commission for Africa continued their collaboration during the reporting period. UN-Habitat continues to provide professional advice and secretariat back-up to support the implementation of the action plan of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD). The Economic Commission for Africa is currently supporting the Habitat Agenda by promoting a regional debate on the topic of shelter and urbanization.

U. United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

39. A memorandum of understanding between the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and UN-Habitat has been signed on carrying out joint work in a number of areas, including: publication of a regional state-of-the-cities report on a periodical basis; the development of regional and national urban observatories; follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals; a study on urban poverty in metropolitan areas; and campaign activities. The Economic Commission and UN-Habitat closely collaborate in the provision of technical inputs to the Regional Forum of Sectoral Ministers (MINURVI),
and are presently working on a joint study of the situation of slums in the region, and also on the
development of a regional urban observatory.

V. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

40. UN-Habitat and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific have continued their
collaboration on the management of human settlements development in Asia and the Pacific. Since its
establishment in August 1997, the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific has collaborated
closely with the Economic and Social Commission and the two offices have attended and contributed to
each other’s events and meetings. The UN-Habitat regional office is also a member of many of the
Economic and Social Commission’s agency coordination committees.

41. UN-Habitat, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and UNHCHR jointly
organized a regional dialogue on rights for the Asia and Pacific region, allowing an exchange of
experiences and discussions on lessons learned. This event has since led to the establishment of a
government office on housing rights in Cambodia. The Economic and Social Commission and UN-Habitat
signed a memorandum of understanding on inter-agency cooperation in Bangkok on 26 February 2004.

42. Further, UN-Habitat and the Economic and Social Commission are cooperating on the
implementation of technical cooperation projects in the region, such as “Housing the poor in urban
economies: local government capacity-building in Asia and the Pacific”, and a new project is in

43. The Training and Capacity-building Branch has strengthened its collaboration with the Local
Government Training and Research Institutions (LOGOTRI) network. The LOGOTRI network is
established and supported by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and consists of
20 local government capacity-building institutions based in Asia. UN-Habitat has participated in the annual
regional conference and governing council meetings of LOGOTRI and has collaborated to undertake a
regional training of trainers workshop in Kathmandu using its manuals on “Managing Conflicts and
Differences”.

III. Cooperation between UN-Habitat and intergovernmental organizations
outside the United Nations system

A. Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

44. CARICOM is the intergovernmental interlocutor of UN-Habitat for programmes in the English-
speaking Caribbean. Its secretariat is currently reviewing a regional programme document for settlements
improvement, prepared by UN-Habitat, for which multilateral and bilateral financing is being sought.
CARICOM is also participating actively in the organization of subregional consultations on human
settlements issues.

B. Inter-American Development Bank

45. In December 2002, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat and the President of the Inter-American
Development Bank signed a memorandum of understanding in Washington DC. Under the terms of the
memorandum, the Bank and UN-Habitat will explore areas of collaboration which support the
improvement of housing, urban infrastructure and basic services in Latin America and the Caribbean.
Following consultations in Washington and in the region, the two institutions have undertaken joint
missions to Colombia and Haiti.

C. League of Arab States

46. UN-Habitat participated in the Meeting on Cooperation between the United Nations and the League
of Arab States convened in Cairo during the period 10–12 February 2004. In its final communiqué, the
meeting welcomed the establishment of the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian
People and the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund. The Meeting recommended that the League and the
relevant United Nations organizations, the international financial institutions and the Arab Financial and Development Institutions should provide the necessary support to the Programme to improve the living conditions of the Palestinian people. The Meeting also called on the League to renew its efforts to ensure political and financial support from the relevant Arab specialized ministerial councils and coordinate with Arab financing funds to support the Programme and the Fund.

47. At the invitation of the League of Arab States, UN-Habitat participated in the meeting of Arab financial and development institutions organized in Cairo on 7 September 2004 in the framework of the preparatory activities for the Arab-International Forum on Rehabilitation and Development in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The meeting provided an opportunity to brief participants on the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People and invite the Funds and institutions to contribute to the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund of the Programme.

D. Shelter Afrique

48. UN-Habitat and Shelter Afrique signed a memorandum of understanding in 1987 on information exchange, technical cooperation and expert advice and training. Under that memorandum of understanding, UN-Habitat has been participating in various meetings organized by Shelter Afrique and in sharing information on project activities in African countries.

E. African Union

49. At the invitation of the African Union, UN-Habitat regularly attends the meetings of its Council of Ministers, with the objective of promoting implementation of the Habitat Agenda. In addition to collaboration with the Union, UN-Habitat, along with other United Nations programmes and agencies, is developing strong ties and working relations with the NEPAD action plan and the Economic Commission for Africa and in convening the cluster on environment, population and urbanization. UN-Habitat, the African Union and the Government of South Africa are jointly organizing the first African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development in Durban in early February 2005.

F. African Development Bank

50. The African Development Bank is the main NEPAD partner on infrastructure, including the focal areas of water and sanitation. Efforts are currently under way to promote collaboration between UN-Habitat and the Bank through the development of a joint urban policy.

G. Asian Development Bank

51. On numerous occasions, UN-Habitat staff continue to brief counterparts in the Asian Development Bank on the Global Campaigns on Urban Governance and Secure Tenure and on global and interregional programme activities in the Asia and Pacific region. These efforts resulted in the signing of the joint UN-Habitat/Asian Development Bank agreement on water for Asian cities at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and further discussions are currently being pursued with the Bank’s new regional and sustainable development department to identify further areas for strategic cooperation, particularly the potential role of the Campaigns in promoting essential reforms and monitoring achievements under the Millennium Development Goals.

H. Commonwealth Secretariat

52. UN-Habitat continues its collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat in implementing the Habitat Agenda, particularly in States members of the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth Secretariat brought together ministers of housing from the Commonwealth at the second session of the World Urban Forum, which was held in Barcelona, Spain from 13 to 17 September 2004. This collaboration will be further extended with the development of the youth-related activities of UN-Habitat, with a particular focus on youth employment.

53. UN-Habitat continues to work closely with the Commonwealth Local Government Forum in the country and regional activities conducted under the Campaign for Urban Governance. The Local
Government Forum is a member of the Campaign’s steering committee and is also a partner in the project on strengthening national training institutes in Africa and Asia in local government management and finance, implemented by the Training and Capacity-building Branch.

I. Council of Europe

54. UN-Habitat became a member of the permanent group of experts on housing established by the Council of Europe’s Directorate-General III, on social cohesion. In that context, the Programme continues to participate in all meetings of mutual interest.

J. European Union

55. Following the policy dialogue launched by UN-Habitat with the European Union since the creation of its Liaison Office in 2001 in Brussels, UN-Habitat has been actively engaged with European Union institutions, in particular with the European Parliament and the European Commission, in a process of reinforcing practical cooperation in the implementation of the Habitat Programme and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, with specific focus on urban poverty reduction.

56. At the second World Urban Forum in September 2004 in Barcelona, Spain, the European Commission – Directorate-General for Research – and UN-Habitat launched a joint brochure in three languages on creating a World of Sustainable Cities, marking the beginning of a further stage in the ongoing cooperation between UN-Habitat and the European Commission.

57. Based on the European Commission’s urban development guidelines, UN-Habitat implemented, with the support of the Commission, an urban sector profile study in Somalia, which is being duplicated in 15 African countries through a pilot regional slum upgrading programme and the Water for African Cities Programme, in order to realize the goals of improving the living conditions of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020 and to halve the number of people who lack access to safe water by the year 2015.

58. In line with the above, a joint European Commission–UN-Habitat workshop on the urbanization challenges in Africa was held in Nairobi from 26 to 28 January 2005 in order to launch a policy dialogue with national and local authorities and to identify relevant strategies for improving urban development in Africa.

59. Outside the African region, the European Commission has provided support to UN-Habitat projects in post-conflict countries such as Afghanistan and in the Balkans region.

K. Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP)

60. Since 2001, UN-Habitat, through its Liaison Office in Brussels, has launched an intense policy dialogue with the ACP Secretariat based in Brussels. On 25 October 2004 in Brussels, UN-Habitat and the Secretariat of ACP signed a cooperation agreement aimed at promoting sustainable urbanization and the eradication of poverty in ACP countries.

61. By that agreement, UN-Habitat and the ACP Secretariat decided to cooperate in realizing Target 11 of the Millennium Development Goals – improving the living conditions of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020. The agreement also aims to help the international community to implement the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in June 2001.

L. Organization of the Islamic Conference

62. The Organization of the Islamic Conference continues to collaborate with UN-Habitat in various aspects of follow-up to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in capitals and other cities of the Islamic world. UN-Habitat collaborated with the Organization of Islamic Capitals and Cities (OICC) and with the Municipality of Dubai in organizing the eighth International Scientific Symposium, entitled “Sustainable Urban Management Strategies in the Islamic City.” The symposium was held in April 2004 in Dubai, in
parallel to the OICC tenth General Conference. The UN-Habitat Training and Capacity-building Branch presented a series of training tools at the symposium. A total of 300 participants from 54 cities attended six symposium sessions on participatory urban planning, local leadership and financial management.

IV. Cooperation between UN-Habitat and Habitat Agenda partners, including non-governmental organizations, 2003–2004

63. During the period 2003–2004, cooperation and collaboration with non-governmental organizations and other Habitat Agenda partners continued to grow. The main focus was on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, the UN-Habitat Global Campaigns for Security of Tenure and Urban Governance, global monitoring of urbanization trends and implementation by the global programmes. The Partners and Youth Section has played an important role in enhancing UN-Habitat engagement with its partners.

64. As in the previous period, all divisions and branches of UN-Habitat have had extensive engagement with Habitat Agenda partners in all regions. The information in the following sections provides a non-exhaustive but representative review of the UN-Habitat cooperation with non-governmental organizations and other Habitat Agenda partners over the period 2003–2004.

65. This includes partners’ engagement in the intergovernmental processes and global events of relevance to UN-Habitat, and system-wide engagement of partners in UN-Habitat activities. During 2003–2004, UN-Habitat also focused its cooperation with non-governmental organizations and major umbrella groups and networks. This cooperation resulted in strengthening specific forums of civil society organizations, such as grassroots groups, women’s groups, Youth for Habitat, urban professionals, and researchers and academics. Specifically, community-based organizations based in Kenya for the first time held a national forum before the last Governing Council at which over 500 participants attended.

66. Engagement with other partners such as the private sector still requires further strengthening, although during the reporting period there were some achievements. UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the German chemical company BASF, organized an event at the World Urban Forum. Presentations were made on various perspectives which promote public-private partnerships for sustainable urban development and the right to housing worldwide. Another event was a dialogue on “Urban Services: Getting the private Sector to Work for the Urban Poor”. The purpose of the dialogue was to address the issue of private-sector participation and its role in providing water and sanitation to the urban poor, and whether and how the private sector could be made to be more responsive to the needs of the poor. Participants included National Water and Sewerage Corporation Uganda, Environmental Development Action in the Third World (ENDA), WaterAid, the water ministers of Uganda and South Africa, local authorities from France and Brazil, the Huairou Commission and the World Bank. The signing of an agreement of cooperation with the Global Housing Foundation marked another step in engaging the private sector in upgrading slums.

67. Local authorities have been integrated in the work of UN-Habitat in an extensive way. The formation in May 2004 of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), whose aim is to promote the policies and experiences of local governments in key areas such as poverty reduction, sustainable development and social inclusion was a major milestone. A memorandum of understanding was signed in Barcelona, Spain between UN-Habitat and UCLG on 17 September 2004, during the second World Urban Forum.

A. Building partnerships

68. During the reporting period there have been significant events of intergovernmental and international nature that are highlighted below.

69. The twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (14–30 April 2004), held in New York, which focused on the three thematic areas of water, sanitation and human settlements, contributed to the enhancement of relations between UN-Habitat and its civil-society partner organizations, including youth organizations. Committees were organized with youth groups attending the Commission’s session, including one addressed by the Executive Director with a view to obtaining the views of young people youth on the Commission’s themes and also on the draft strategy for enhancing the engagement of youth in the work of UN-Habitat.
70. The second session of the World Urban Forum (13–17 September 2004), whose theme was “Cities: Crossroads of Cultures; inclusiveness and integration”, was convened in Barcelona, Spain. As the last event in the Universal Forum of Cultures, it was attended by the representatives of over 1,020 civil-society organizations, including non-governmental organizations, which contributed some 25 per cent of the total participants in the event. Apart from the dialogues, which included the dialogue session under the rubric of urban governance on “Involving Civil Society to Improve Local Governance”, over 80 networking events were held. The events were organized either by Habitat Agenda partners or by UN-Habitat in cooperation with partners in order to facilitate a broad-based discussion on a wide range of issues touching on human settlements and urban development.

B. Partners and Youth Section

71. The Partners and Youth Section has collaborated extensively with a number of non-governmental organizations and youth organizations and youth networks. It has updated the non-governmental organization database and disseminated information on the new accreditation procedures to over 2,000 partners listed in the database. The Section facilitated the hosting of a National Forum for Kenya-based civil society organizations in preparation for the second World Urban Forum. In order to provide visibility and focus on youth within the setting of the World Urban Forum, the Section, in partnership with some 10 youth organizations, organized the Global Youth Congress.

72. The Section also facilitated the development of the strategy on enhancing the engagement of youth and youth organizations in the work of UN-Habitat. Wide consultations held between April and September 2004 involved young people, local authorities and civil-society organizations. Over 50 youth organizations participated, including organizations with local, national and regional outreach.

C. Gender Mainstreaming Unit

73. During the reporting period, the Gender Mainstreaming Unit worked in partnership with a number of organizations to implement projects on empowering urban women entrepreneurs through housing development and land rights in East Africa, the promotion and sale of handicrafts produced by East African women at the Universal Forum of Cultures and the organization of networking events at the second World Urban Forum. A total of 10 women’s handicrafts groups in East Africa were assisted to exhibit and sell their handicrafts at the Universal Forum of Cultures, Barcelona, Spain, between 9 May and 27 September 2004. The coordinating organizations at the national level were Uganda Women Entrepreneurs’ Association (UWEAL), Integrated Social Economic Action (ISEA) in the United Republic of Tanzania, and the Kenya Handicrafts Advisory Centre.

74. In the United Republic of Tanzania, the Gender Mainstreaming Unit collaborated with the Tanzania Women’s Land Access Trust (TAWLAT) to implement a project on empowering urban women entrepreneurs through housing development and land rights. In Uganda, a partnership was established with Jinja Municipal Council, Jinja Municipal Council Staff Savings Cooperative Society, Mpumudde Low Income Women’s Group, Women Low Cost Housing Cooperative, Maama Women’s Group, Akright Property Limited and the Ministry of Works, Transport, Communication and Housing for the implementation of the women’s empowerment project. In Kenya, the Gender Mainstreaming Unit and the Urban Economy Branch collaborated with Kayole Jua Kali Association to conduct a baseline survey on the members to establish, among other things, their socio-economic situation, types of business and their level and sources of income.

75. The Gender Mainstreaming Unit and the Urban Governance Branch, in collaboration with the Huairou Commission, organized a networking event in Barcelona on gender mainstreaming urban governance through local-to-local dialogues. This involved bringing together communities, local authorities and relevant Government ministries and non-governmental organizations.

D. Best practices and policies

76. During the period 2003–2004, the Best Practices and Policies Unit continued to reinforce its collaboration with Habitat Agenda partners, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector. Within the Secretariat, the Best Practices and Policies Unit has developed close working relations
with the Millennium Development Goals Campaign and the Department of Public Information on mainstreaming the Millennium Development Goals among youth, using urban music and hip-hop artists as “Messengers of Truth” to help inform and empower disenfranchised urban youth. Three concerts were held during the biennium in collaboration with the private sector, particularly the music industry and the media, to test how the Millennium Development Goals could be conveyed using this means of communication. Similarly, a Global Hip-Hop Summit was organized during the World Urban Form in collaboration with youth groups, relevant non-governmental organizations, musicians and representatives of the music industry. This Summit adopted a Framework Declaration of Principles and Call for Action to serve as the guiding principles for the launch of the “Messengers of Truth” project.

77. Collaboration on the documentation and dissemination of lessons learned from Best Practices continued to expand. New partnership arrangements were formalized with, inter alia, the cities of Bremen, Germany and Medellin, Colombia in launching their new award systems on public-private partnerships and on the scaling-up and transfer of best practice knowledge and expertise. Similarly, new institutions, including the Far East Academy of Economics and Management in Russia and the Prague Institute, joined the Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme.

78. The 2004 Dubai International Award cycle witnessed the submission of 670 best practices from 90 countries in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and Localizing Agenda 21. Most of these initiatives represent partnerships between public and civil-society sectors and bring the total of documented best practices to over 2,000 from more than 150 countries. A total of 10 new in-depth case studies on lessons learned from best practices were developed and disseminated in English, Spanish and Portuguese with the support of Government Housing Bank of Brazil.

E. Training and Capacity-building Branch

79. The key training and capacity-building strategy of UN-Habitat is focused on strengthening governmental and non-governmental training institutions to enable them to implement innovative national training programmes with significant multiplier effects. During the reporting period, partnerships with over 25 national institutions in over 20 countries resulted in the adaptation of training manuals to three language versions, the creation of some 75 master trainers and the preparation of country action plans for local capacity-building on leadership, participatory planning and conflict management. Collaboration with national and regional local government associations has been instrumental in promoting and implementing training activities. National local government associations took part, together with national training institutions, in five subregional training of trainers events and in the development of action plans for local government capacity-building. In Kenya, the national local government association, ALGAK, has been active in the development of a national strategy framework for local government capacity-building in Kenya. UN-Habitat has partnered with the former International Union of Local Authorities (IULA)/CECADEL to adapt, translate into Spanish and field test the training manuals on leadership skills.

F. Shelter Branch

80. The Global Campaign for Secure Tenure has continued to work in partnership with Member States, non-governmental organizations and federations of the urban poor. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat, together with lead non-governmental organizations and their affiliates, launched the Campaign in Brazil, Burkina Faso, Morocco and Senegal. For example, UN-Habitat worked with ENDA in implementing the Campaign in Senegal in May 2004. In addition, UN-Habitat, through the Three Cities Project, is working with federations of slum dwellers, including Slum Dwellers International (SDI), in India, the Philippines and South Africa.

81. The Global Campaign for Secure Tenure is also working closely with communities in the various countries on the issue of forced evictions. The Advisory Group on Forced Evictions, mandated to advise the Executive Director on alternatives to forced evictions, draws its membership from expert groups, central and local government representatives and non-governmental organizations from all over the world, including the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE). UN-Habitat and COHRE are currently undertaking a joint venture to document incidences of forced evictions in selected cities worldwide.

82. During 2003–2004 the Land and Tenure Section supported a number of non-governmental organization initiatives. A workshop on land was held in Kenya with the Commonwealth Association of
Surveyors and Land Economists. In 2004, an expert group meeting on innovative land tools for the Africa
region was organized together with the Federation of International Surveyors. Research by the Section is
carried out in partnership with COHRE (Latin America) and the Albanian Centre for Human Rights. With
regard to women’s land rights, the Section has ongoing partnerships with the Huairou Commission,
COHRE, FAO, UNIFEM, Human Rights Watch, Equality Now, Oxfam, regional and local women’s
lawyers’ organizations and legal aid centres.

83. Through the United Nations Housing Rights Programme, UN-Habitat and the Office of the High
Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) collaborated closely with COHRE. A cooperation agreement
between UN-Habitat and COHRE was signed on 20 May 2004 on undertaking activities related to housing
rights litigation. Among other activities in which COHRE was closely involved with the United Nations
Housing Rights Programme were:

(a) An expert group meeting on housing rights monitoring, held in Geneva from 26 to
28 November 2003, organized jointly by UN-Habitat and UNHCHR, with participation by the
United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The meeting reached
agreement on a set of indicators which will eventually be used to measure the progressive
realization of the human right to adequate housing globally;

(b) A regional dialogue on housing rights, held in Bangkok from 27 to 29 June 2004, organized
jointly by UN-Habitat, UNESCAP and UNHCHR. The event allowed an exchange of experiences
and discussions on lessons learned, and have since led, inter alia, to the establishment of a
Government office on housing rights in Cambodia.

G. Urban Development Branch

84. The Global Campaign on Urban Governance continued to work with the key international partners
which were brought together into a global steering group to provide substantive and strategic guidance to
the Campaign. The group comprises organizations representing cities and their associations, non-
governmental actors and lobby groups, support programmes, research institutions and the media. Eight
meetings of the steering group have taken place so far, three of which were held during the reporting
period: in Nairobi (May 2003), Paris (May 2004), and Barcelona (September 2004). These meetings have
resulted in intensive collaboration resulting in joint products and activities with the Commonwealth Local
Government Forum, the Huairou Commission, Transparency International and UCLG. The Campaign has
continued to work with Habitat Agenda partners, including a wide range of non-governmental
organizations, with the aim of translating governance principles into focused action plans for good urban
governance. Country activities are taking place in Brazil, Burkina Faso, Fiji, Indonesia, Mexico, Morocco,
the Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka and Uganda.

85. The Urban Management Programme has a strategic focus on city consultations and institutional
anchoring. The reporting period saw practical activities in 120 cities, 57 of them in developing countries.
This was achieved through the programmes’ six regional and subregional offices, 19 regional anchor
institutions and over 40 national and local institutions and other networks of community-based
organizations, non-governmental organizations and municipal associations. The goal of institutional
anchoring has been to form networks of Urban Management Programme anchor institutes and assist them
in developing their capability to continue urban management technical assistance.

86. During the reporting period, Urban Management Programme regional offices have handed over
programme operations to the established networks of anchor institutions; the Africa Network of Urban
Management Institutions (ANUMI) in the Africa region, the Urban Resource Network for Asia Pacific
(URNAP) in Asia, the Middle East and North Africa (NENA); the Urban Forum in the Arab States region,
and a consortium of anchor institutions in Latin America and Caribbean.

87. The Urban Environment Section implements two global programmes, the Sustainable Cities
Programme and the Localizing Agenda 21 programme, which assist in strengthening the environmental
planning and management capacity of local authorities and their partners in over 60 cities around the world.
A wide range of actors at all levels from the public, private and academic sectors, together with non-
governmental organizations and community-based organizations are actively involved through
environmental multisectoral/multi-stakeholder issue-specific groups.
88. At the subregional level in Asia and the Pacific, a number of urban institutions have been engaged. These include, at the national level, the Sri Lanka Institute of Local Government, the Administrative Centre for China’s Agenda 21 supporting the national replication process in China, the Thailand Environment Institute, the University of the Philippines and the All India Institute of Local Self Government. The Asian Institute of Management and the Philippines and Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok are providing regional capacity-building and training support. Both programmes are working with universities and training institutions in various other countries, including the Urban Training Institute, Egypt, Copperbelt University, Zambia, the University College of Lands and Architectural Studies, United Republic of Tanzania, the Federal Technical University of Minna, Nigeria, the Institut Africain de Gestion Urbaine, Senegal, the Instituto de Planificación Física, Cuba and the Foro Ciudades para la Vida, Peru.

89. At the global level, three specialized international institutions have been identified as having the necessary capabilities, experiences and expertise in training, capacity-building and project implementation in environmental planning and management. These are the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies, the International Institute for Infrastructure, the International Institute for Infrastructure, Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering (UNESCO-IHE) and the International Water and Sanitation Centre. Basic urban services initiatives are currently being implemented in Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso with support of a local non-governmental organization, the Centre Régional pour l’Eau Potable et l’Assainissement à faible coût (CREPA), and in Kotte and Wattala in Greater Colombo, Sri Lanka with the support of a network of local organizations including the Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG), the National Housing Development Agency and Sevanatha – Urban Resource Centre.

H. Water, Sanitation and Infrastructure Branch

90. UN-Habitat and Green Cross International signed a cooperation agreement in September 2004 aimed at developing an ethical and legal framework for mobilizing support for water and sanitation from policy-makers. Under the agreement, the parties have agreed to collaborate in the implementation of activities promoting a rights-based approach to water management in human settlements. The collaboration will take place in cities covered by the UN-Habitat Water for African and Asian Cities programme.

91. UN-Habitat, together with the International Rainwater Harvesting Association (IRHA) and City Foundation, a non-governmental organization based in India, has developed a manual on urban rainwater harvesting. The manual will be published in the Blue Drop Series. A peer review of the draft manual was undertaken involving networking partners of IRHA in Africa, Asia and Latin America. A seminar reviewing the document was held at an international rainwater harvesting encounter in Maharashtra, India, in October 2004. The manual will be pilot tested in selected demonstration projects in Asia and Africa jointly with the Rainwater Harvesting Network for Southern and Eastern Africa (SEARNET).

92. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) campaigns are being organized by UN-Habitat with the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) based in Geneva. The WASH campaign in Nairobi was launched in May 2002 during the first World Urban Forum. The first WASH campaign in Latin America was launched in Brazil during the World Habitat Day observance on 6 October 2003. UN-Habitat also actively participated in the “Global WASH Forum”, which took place from 29 November to 3 December 2004 in Dakar.

93. As part of the training and capacity-building component of its Water for African Cities Programme, UN-Habitat is working closely with the International Institute for Infrastructure, Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering (UNESCO-IHE), the Network for Water and Sanitation International (NETWAS) and the Centre de formation continue (CEFOC) on a training programme, specifically for African professionals, in the area of integrated urban water management, with particular emphasis on water demand management and water quality management.

94. To implement the community component of its values-based water, sanitation and hygiene education programme in Kenya, UN-Habitat is cooperating with six non-governmental organizations, the Kenya Freedom from Hunger Council, the Intermediate Technology Development Group-East Africa (ITDG-EA), Maji na Ufanisi, EarthCare Africa, the St. John’s Community Centre and Africa Water Network.
In close consultation with the Governments of the three East African countries, UN-Habitat has initiated the Lake Victoria Region Water and Sanitation Initiative. Through the initiative, UN-Habitat, with support from the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund, seeks to build partnerships with local service providers, community-based organizations and non-governmental organizations to initiate water and sanitation infrastructure rehabilitation and promote community-led water and sanitation initiatives.

I. Urban Economy and Finance Branch

The United Nations Habitat Professionals’ Forum, the International Federation for Housing and Planning and the International Federation of Surveyors are very strong partners of UN-Habitat. Over the past two years since the nineteenth Governing Council Session, they have collaborated with UN-Habitat in a number of activities and events geared towards the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

At the recently concluded second World Urban Forum in Barcelona, Spain, together with UN-Habitat itself the UN-Habitat Professionals’ Forum co-sponsored and collaborated on a very successful network event, “The Challenges of City Financing”, on 15 September 2004.

Together with UN-Habitat, the International Federation of Surveyors co-sponsored and collaborated on the Inter-Regional Conference on Urban–Rural Linkages, held in Nairobi from 1 to 4 October 2004. Earlier, and the second Regional Conference, held in Marrakech, Morocco from 2 to 5 December 2003 under the theme of the “Urban–Rural Inter-relationship for Sustainable Development”. UN-Habitat collaborated actively with the Federation and co-sponsored that regional conference also.

The International Federation for Housing and Planning carried forward the Habitat Agenda themes in two successive annual world congresses, “Cities and Markets” at its forty-seventh Annual World Congress, held in Vienna from 5 to 8 October 2003, and “Urban Governance and Change” at its forty-eight Annual World Congress, held in Oslo from 5 to 9 September 2004.

J. Regional offices

The Regional Office for Africa has been implementing its good governance and local leadership training programme in Somalia through building the capacity of national non-governmental organizations which in turn were empowered to undertake training of local authorities and other non-governmental organizations. The Somalia project has also been collaborating with international non-governmental organizations.

The Regional office for Africa has also developed a partnership with ENDA for launching the Global Campaigns in Senegal and for implementing the local leadership programme in Burkina Faso and Senegal. A letter of agreement has been signed with the Institut Africain de Gestion Urbaine as an anchor institution for the implementation of various projects such as Localizing Agenda 21 in Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal.

The office has also developed a partnership with CREPA in Burkina Faso within the context of the sustainable city programme aimed at improving the urban environment and access to basic services (water and sanitation) in the economic capital, Bobo-Dioulasso.

The Regional Office for Africa has worked closely with the Municipal Development Partnership in supporting municipal development, decentralization and good local governance in Africa. It supported both financially and substantively the organization of the Africities 3 conference held in Yaoundé in December 2003. It has also partnered with the Municipal Development Partnership in implementing a Cities Alliance project in three cities in Burkina Faso (Banfora, Bobo-Dioulasso and Ouahigouya).

Although the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific has extensive cooperation with civil society partners in the region for technical cooperation projects as well as in campaign activities, its collaboration with both international and national non-governmental organizations in Afghanistan is worth special attention. Regional and international networks which have collaborated with the regional office are: the Asian Institute of Technology, the Asian Disaster Reduction Centre, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, the Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres (SPARC), the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights, the Regional Network of Local Authorities for Management of Human Settlements (CITYNET),
the East Asian Regional Organization for Planners and Housing, Slum Dwellers International, Kokkyonaki Kodomotachi (KnK), the Network of Local Government Training and Research Institutes in Asia and the Pacific (LOGOTRI) and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum. The regional office for Asia and the Pacific has also worked closely with a number of national non-governmental organizations, community and academic institutions in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Japan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste.

105. The Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean continued strengthening its cooperation with non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations in the region, bringing them into the mainstream of its activities. Representatives of regional associations of non-governmental organizations such as the Habitat International Coalition – Latin America (HIC-LA) and the Continental Front of Community Organizations (FCOC) are members of the Action Committed for the UN-Habitat Global Campaigns in the region. Four non-governmental organizations, Al Ágora, the Centro de la Vivienda y Estudios Urbanos (CENVI), the Fundación Hábitat Colombia and the Instituto Brasileiro de Administração Municipal (IBAM), are the regional Nodes of the Ibero-American Forum of Best Practices, supported by the Government of Spain and UN-Habitat. The non-governmental organizations acting as anchoring institutions of the Urban Management Programme in the region, Agora XXI, the Centro Operacional de Vivienda y Poblamiento (COPEVI), Fedevivienda and IPES, are in transition towards taking the lead in the implementation of Urban Management Programme successor activities.

106. Cooperation with HIC-LA is ongoing in the development of a regional study on the social production of habitat. This activity is supported by NOVIB-Oxfam and international non-governmental organizations active in the sector. Coordination work is implemented with ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability and new opportunities for cooperation are sought. As part of the work of the Regional Office on urban observatories and Localizing Agenda 21, active collaborative activities are being carried out with non-governmental organizations in Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Peru. The Regional Office has also collaborated on a regular basis with the Inter-American Housing Union and national confederations of the construction industry and the housing sector.

107. The Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean has also been working with major women’s non-governmental organization networks and coalitions in the implementation of the two Global Campaigns on Urban Governance and Secure Tenure. It has worked with the Federation of Women in Municipal Authorities (FEMUM).

108. Municipalities are presently the Regional Office’s main operational partners in the implementation of technical cooperation activities, particularly in Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador.