PROPOSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME FOR THE PERIOD 2006-2009

Note by the Executive Director

Background

Because of timetabling exigencies, the present note begins by proposing a procedure for obtaining the necessary inputs from Governments for the preparation of the medium-term plan for the period 2006-2009. The note also presents preliminary ideas on the possible content of the human settlements section of the future medium-term plan.

---

* In its resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, the General Assembly transformed the Commission on Human Settlements into the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly. This session has been designated as the nineteenth instead of the first session of the Governing Council to signify the continuity and relationship between the Governing Council and the Commission on Human Settlements.

** HS/GC/19/1.
A. Proposed delegation of authority to the Committee of Permanent Representatives

1. The Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) is requesting the Governing Council to delegate the responsibility for providing inputs into the human settlements segment of the United Nations medium-term plan for the period 2006-2009 to the UN-HABITAT Committee of Permanent Representatives. There are two main reasons for this request: first, because the nineteenth session of the Governing Council, to be held in May 2003 is too far from 2006 for UN-HABITAT to have sufficiently developed the medium term plan objectives for 2006-2009 and, second, because submission of the proposed medium-term plan to the Governing Council during its twentieth session in 2005 would be too late. By then, the overall medium-term plan of the United Nations would have been submitted to and probably approved by the General Assembly.

2. Accordingly, given these timetabling exigencies, the option which the secretariat favours is for the Committee of Permanent Representatives to provide the inputs for the proposed medium-term plan.

B. Medium-term plan 2006-2009: Preliminary proposal

3. The revised medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 reflects significant changes in the status, structure, role and function of UN-HABITAT, the culmination of a long process of revitalizing the organization. Accordingly, the Programme’s strategy for the period 2006-2009 will be to focus on consolidation of the newly introduced changes and programme priorities. The main mandate of the Programme, as derived from the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), is the provision of adequate shelter for all and the development of sustainable human settlements. The Programme’s overall goal will continue to be the improvement of the living and working environment for all through more effective, participatory and transparent management and development of human settlements, within the overall context of reducing urban poverty and social exclusion.

4. In line with the current medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, the human settlements component of the United Nations medium-term plan for the period 2006-2009 will continue to have as its aim promoting the adoption and implementation by Member States of effective residential tenure systems and shelter development and upgrading policies; the improvement of urban governance and management systems so as to enable local authorities more effectively to meet the rising demand for basic services; the improved monitoring of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda; and enhanced international cooperation in shelter and sustainable human settlements development, including mobilization of financial resources for human settlements development at the national and international levels.

C. Programme structure

5. UN-HABITAT will retain the four existing subprogrammes, namely:

(a) Subprogramme 1. Shelter and sustainable human settlements development;
(b) Subprogramme 2. Monitoring the Habitat Agenda;
(c) Subprogramme 3. Regional and technical cooperation; and
(d) Subprogramme 4. Human settlements financing.
6. Over the period 2006-2009, the four subprogrammes will consolidate the main objectives identified in the revised medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as set out below:

   (a) Subprogramme 1 – Shelter and sustainable human settlements development: The overall objective of the subprogramme is to improve the shelter conditions of the world’s poor and to ensure sustainable human settlements development;

   (b) Subprogramme 2 – Monitoring the Habitat Agenda: The overall objective of the subprogramme is to ensure that the implementation of the Habitat Agenda is effectively monitored and assessed;

   (c) Subprogramme 3 – Regional and technical cooperation: The overall objective of the subprogramme is to strengthen organizational and technical capacity at the national and local levels for the formulation and implementation of policies, strategies and programmes, in line with the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and other Human Settlements in the new Millennium; and

   (d) Subprogramme 4 – Financing human settlements: The overall objective of this suprogramme is to increase funds from the international and domestic sources in support of shelter, related infrastructure development programmes and housing finance institutions and mechanisms, particularly in developing countries.