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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

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

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

* 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.

** HSP/GC/19/1.
Introduction

1. Taking into consideration the leadership role of UN-Habitat in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, efforts have been made to foster extensive cooperation and collaboration with organizations both within and without 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, 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.

I. COOPERATION WITH ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HABITAT AGENDA

A. United Nations Development Programme

3. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) remains a major partner in UN-HABITAT field projects. Although, in recent years, UN-HABITAT has diversified its portfolio and cluster of funding agencies, more than 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. This ensures a continuous and important partnership at the field level, currently in more than 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 to UNDP cost-sharing by national Governments. In addition, UNDP continues to be one of the main partners of the Global Urban Management Programme implemented by UN-HABITAT. UN-HABITAT has, in recent years, increased its support to UNDP country offices and national Governments for the preparation of their national human development reports, specifically, the housing and urban development components.

5. On 30 September 2002, UN-HABITAT and UNDP signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen their collaboration on a number of programme issues of common interest related to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and to establish in selected UNDP country offices the function of UN-HABITAT programme managers, to ensure that the concerns and priorities of the human settlements sector were better streamlined in national policies and programmes.

B. World Bank Group

6. Collaboration between the World Bank and UN-HABITAT has consistently and systematically improved in the period under review. The most important reason for this improved relationship has been the creation and success of the Cities Alliance, which was established by the two institutions in 1999 and has subsequently incorporated many bilateral development agencies, the four major international associations of local authorities and, more recently, the Asian Development Bank. The Cities Alliance is co-chaired by the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT and the Vice-President 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 different parts of the world such as Brazil, Nigeria, the Philippines and Viet Nam. The World Bank was an active participant in the inaugural session of the World Urban Forum.
8. At the global level, the two organizations have been instrumental in raising the profile of the urban agenda. Through this partnership, the plight of slum dwellers was highlighted by the inclusion, as part of the “cities without slums” millennium development goal, of the target to improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020. This target was instrumental in contributing to the decision of the United Nations General Assembly to upgrade UN-HABITAT and has also been used by countries like Norway to articulate a cooperation policy aimed at reducing urban poverty.

9. This closer working relationship 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.

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

11. In December 2002, the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT and the President of the World Bank Group held consultations in Washington DC and agreed to strengthen their Cities Alliance partnership and develop additional forms of cooperation. These include the acceleration and broadening of collaboration in the water and sanitation sector and the establishment of links with the International Finance Corporation on the mobilization of private sector resources for financing housing for the urban poor. UN-HABITAT and the World Bank Group also agreed to establish greater cooperation at the country level, with a focus on macro-economic planning and on poverty reduction strategy papers.

C. World Health Organization

12. UN-HABITAT joined the World Health Organization (WHO) and other United Nations agencies in launching the “healthy environments for children” initiative during the World Summit on Sustainable Development. UN-HABITAT is actively collaborating with WHO in the development of this global movement.

D. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

13. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is collaborating with UN-HABITAT through activities of the global campaign on urban governance. The UNESCO Management of Social Transformation programme is a member of the steering group of the global campaign on urban governance. In the framework of its activities on youth at risk, UN-HABITAT has initiated discussions with the Management of Social Transformation programme and, in particular, its project on “growing up in cities”, with a view to achieving closer collaboration on issues of common interest. Other areas of collaboration include joint activities on the protection of cultural heritage under the localizing Agenda 21 programme in Essaouira, Morocco, and the promotion of the UN-HABITAT best practices database.

E. United Nations Environment Programme

14. A comprehensive report, prepared jointly by the executive directors of UN-HABITAT and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), on cooperation between the two organizations during this inter-sessional period may be found in document HSP/GC/19/11.
F. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

15. UN-HABITAT has collaborated with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the assessment of human settlements and environmental conditions in refugee camps, as part of the programme on achieving sustainable environmental management practices in refugee-affected areas. Collaboration at the national level has involved training and capacity-building activities in the field of conflict resolution for refugee camp management, conducted in Kenya. Collaboration was also conducted in the area of regularizing housing and property rights in post-conflict situations, thus facilitating the resettlement of refugees and internally displaced persons, in Kosovo. Cooperation has also taken place in other field activities where both agencies are active, such as Afghanistan, Iraq and Somalia. Discussions are under way to develop joint programmes in Africa for the design of tools to mitigate the impact of refugee settlements on the environment.

G. United Nations Office at Nairobi

16. 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.

H. United Nations Children’s Fund

17. During the reporting period, UN-HABITAT continued its collaboration with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in the area of child-friendly cities. As a member of the steering committee of the secretariat on child-friendly cities, UN-HABITAT, through its Executive Director, participated actively in a side event on child-friendly cities at the Children’s Summit, held in New York from 8 to 10 May 2002. UNICEF also remains a member of the steering group of the campaign on urban governance.

I. United Nations Population Fund

18. As the lead agency on population matters within the United Nations system, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has supported collective efforts for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. UNFPA has participated at both worldwide and regional levels in the follow-up to the Habitat II Conference, 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.

19. The Programme continues to cooperate with UNFPA through mutual 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. This cooperation is concerned in particular with the issues of urbanization, population and related basic social services.

J. United Nations Development Fund for Women

20. In Latin America, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) is supporting the third regional competition, run by UN-HABITAT, on the subject of women-friendly municipalities. Other joint activities are planned for 2003 within the framework of the urban governance campaign and the secure tenure campaign.

21. The UN-HABITAT Gender Policy Unit has been actively involved in the gender donors’ round table coordinated by the UNIFEM office in Nairobi. The round table promotes inter-agency dialogue on gender mainstreaming and women’s empowerment. A wide range of issues have been discussed over the course of 2002. These include violence against women and HIV/AIDS – in particular, the role of women in caring of HIV/AIDS patients and orphans.
K. United Nations University

22. The Programme continues to cooperate with the United Nations University by exchanging published research literature on such issues as urbanization, sustainable development and other topics on the UN-HABITAT agenda.

L. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

23. UN-HABITAT, through its Urban Economy and Finance Branch, collaborated with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in organizing a workshop on the urban policy implications of enhancing food security in African cities, held from 27 to 31 May 2002. It also collaborated with FAO in hosting the regional consultation for countries of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) on food security in the Horn of Africa, held in Nairobi from 2 to 4 July 2001.

24. In addition, the Programme continues to collaborate with FAO in organizing awareness-building workshops and policy seminars on food security and sustainable development. UN-HABITAT also participated at the highest level in the World Food Summit, hosted by FAO in Rome from 10 to 13 June 2002. The Programme’s views on the subject were presented to the Summit by the Executive Director.

M. United Nations Volunteers

25. UN-HABITAT has continued its cooperation with the United Nations Volunteers 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. The programme has deployed volunteers to the UN-HABITAT Disaster Post-Conflict and Safety Section, to assist in the development and formulation of technical support programmes. This cooperation has led to the further deployment of United Nations volunteers in countries where both agencies are active in programme implementation. The UN-HABITAT urban safety project being conducted in Dar-es-Salaam, has a volunteer from the programme. There is also collaboration between UN-HABITAT and the United Nations Volunteers programme on the urban safety project being conducted in Madagascar.

N. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

26. UN-HABITAT has cooperated closely with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and undertaken several activities to promote the realization of human rights in general and housing rights in particular.

27. Thus, in April 2002, UN-HABITAT and OHCHR jointly launched the United Nations Housing Rights Programme in response to mandates given by both the Commission on Human Settlements and the Commission on Human Rights. In June 2002, the two organizations signed a memorandum of intent, setting out priorities for the first phase of the Programme. The United Nations Housing Rights Programme is a major component of implementation 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.

28. UN-HABITAT participated actively in the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights and contributed to the deliberations under the agenda item on economic, social and cultural rights. UN-HABITAT and OHCHR jointly organized several consultations and parallel events on housing rights with stakeholder groups, including civil society organizations, during the first session of the World Urban Forum and other activities relevant to housing rights, such as the first session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.
29. UN-HABITAT contributed to the work of OHCHR by providing inputs to the preparation of reports on topics relevant to its mandate, including the concept and practice of affirmative action and women’s equal ownership of, access to and control over land and the equal rights to own property and to adequate housing. It also actively participated in the World Conference against Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the first session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Follow-up actions on the outcomes of these meetings are currently in progress.

O. Economic Commission for Africa

30. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has supported the implementation of the Habitat Agenda by sending a delegation to the first session of the World Urban Forum in Nairobi in April/May 2002. ECA also provides professional advice and secretariat back-up for several technical task forces set up to implement the action plan of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD). ECA is currently supporting the Habitat Agenda by promoting debate on the topic of shelter and urbanization, with a view to creating a cluster in the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and NEPAD.

P. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

31. An agreement, to be specified in a memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and UN-HABITAT, has been reached with ECLAC to carry out joint work in a number of areas, including: publication of a regional state of human settlements 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.

Q. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

32. UN-HABITAT has requested the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA) to implement the global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance at the regional level in the Arab States. The two bodies are in the process of formalizing an agreement along these lines and their comparative advantages will be strategically combined in this partnership, drawing on the resulting synergies to ensure maximum effectiveness. The two bodies are preparing a conference relevant to resolution 18/12 of the Commission on Human Settlements, on illegal Israeli human settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories.

R. Economic Commission for Europe

33. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Committee on Human Settlements, at its sixty-second session, held in September 2001, decided to follow up on the Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Human Settlements Development in the Twenty-first Century, through its 2001-2004 work programme, including by placing focus on facilitating social cohesion and security through urban development; country profiles on the housing sector; improvement of urban environment performance; land registration and land markets; development of human settlements statistics; and major trends in human settlements development.

34. UN-HABITAT was represented at the second session of the Working Party on Land Administration of the ECE Committee on Human Settlements, held in Geneva on 19 and 20 November 2001. One of the main outcomes was an agreement to strengthen the role of the Eastern and Central European best practices database managed by the city of Vienna in coordination with the global habitat best practices programme.

35. At the sixty-third session of the ECE Committee on Human Settlements, held from 16 to 18 September 2002, the session reviewed the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the ECE strategy for a sustainable quality of life in human settlements in the twenty-first century, issued in 2001, and contained in ECE document ECE/HBP/120, and undertook a thorough discussion on the theme of social or
affordable housing – a new challenge for the ECE countries. The publication *Guidelines on Condominium Ownership of Housing for Countries in Transition* was introduced and a working group to prepare guidelines on housing finance systems for countries with economies in transition was established. A regional conference on the issue will be convened in 2003 by the Council of Europe Development Bank, together with the World Bank in cooperation with UN-HABITAT.

S. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

36. UN-HABITAT and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) 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, in Fukuoka, Japan, has collaborated closely with ESCAP 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 ESCAP agency coordination committees.

37. ESCAP currently chairs the action group of the UN-HABITAT Asia-Pacific urban governance campaign, convening regular meetings to coordinate and strengthen the implementation of urban governance activities in the region. The Commission has also convened a number of regional conferences, workshops and seminars in partnership with UN-HABITAT, including an Asian women mayors conference, held in Phitsanulok, Thailand, in October 2001, seminars on securing land for the urban poor, held in Fukuoka in October 2001, the fourth session of the Asian Mayors Forum in Bangkok, Thailand, in July 2002 and the UN-HABITAT workshop on poverty alleviation through rural-urban linkages, held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, in September 2002.

T. International Labour Organization

38. UN-HABITAT is collaborating with the International Labour Organization (ILO) in promoting initiatives that improve service delivery and create employment as a means of tackling growing poverty in cities. This aim was pursued through a subregional training event held in Nairobi, in October 2002, involving the Urban Management Programme, the Sustainable Cities Programme and the ILO International Training Centre in Turin. The training event focused on the promotion of tools and good practices in improved urban service delivery and job creation in eastern and southern Africa. The two strategies that have been explored are community-managed labour-based urban infrastructure upgrading and service delivery through small enterprises. The outcome is a framework for action to be discussed at the local level with a broader range of stakeholders for adaptation and implementation.

39. UN-HABITAT also cooperated with ILO in a parallel event during the first session of the World Urban Forum on 30 April 2002, on municipal strategies for job creation, micro-enterprise development, infrastructure provision and urban poverty alleviation.

U. United Nations Centre for Regional Development

40. The Programme has been collaborating with the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) in the annual training programme on local and regional development planning and management, aimed at building the capacity of African planners. UN-HABITAT staff serve as resource persons in the training programme.

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

41. At the fifth meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction, held in Geneva on 25 and 26 April 2002, the United Nations Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs, Mr. Kenzo Hoshima, welcomed UN-HABITAT as a permanent member of the Task Force. The meeting reviewed the state of implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction under the monitoring responsibility of the Strategy’s secretariat, based in Geneva. UN-HABITAT, through its Disaster, Post-Conflict and Safety
Section, actively contributed to an inter-agency working group dealing with risk, vulnerability and impact assessment. At the sixth meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force, held on 24 and 25 October 2002, UN-HABITAT and the secretariat of the International Strategy agreed to pursue their collaboration by reviewing areas of common interest through the implementation of the plan of implementation of the World Summit for Sustainable Development, and by providing further joint support for partnership initiatives of the World Summit in the field of sustainable urbanization, where the disaster reduction perspective should be introduced.

W. Inter-Agency Standing Committee on Humanitarian Affairs: Regular briefings, special inter-agency task force and donors’ meetings

42. The Executive Director of UN-HABITAT participated in a special inter-agency meeting on international cooperation on Chernobyl, held in Geneva on 8 April 2002. She presented the main conclusions of the recent mission by UN-HABITAT undertaken at the request of the Ministry of Architecture and Construction of the Government of Belarus. The recommendations and findings of the mission were incorporated in the United Nations report on the human consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear accident, which presented a strategy for recovery.

II. COOPERATION BETWEEN UN-HABITAT AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS OUTSIDE THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. Caribbean Community

43. The Caribbean Community (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

44. In December 2002, the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT and the President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) signed a memorandum of understanding in Washington DC. Under the memorandum, IDB and UN-HABITAT will explore areas of collaboration that support the improvement of housing, urban infrastructure and basic services in Latin America and the Caribbean. Through consultations in Washington and in the region, the two institutions have identified specific joint activities that link technical expertise and capacity-building with lending operations already in place and those in prospect.

C. League of Arab States

45. UN-HABITAT coordinated a regional meeting with the League of Arab States in Cairo in collaboration with the Egyptian Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities in April 2002, focusing on the global campaigns on urban governance and secure tenure. The meeting was attended by participants from national Governments, local authorities and representatives of civil society, including the Arab Women Network for Urban Development.

D. Shelter Afrique

46. UN-HABITAT and Shelter Afrique signed a memorandum of understanding in 1987 on such issues as information exchange, technical cooperation and expert advice and training. Under this 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

47. 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 and the work of the Programme. 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 ECA and in convening the cluster on environment, population and urbanization.

F. African Development Bank

48. 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

49. On numerous occasions UN-HABITAT staff have briefed counterparts in the Asian Development Bank on the global campaigns on urban governance and secure tenure and on the issue of supporting global and interregional programme activities in the Asia and Pacific region. These efforts have 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 with 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. UN-HABITAT joined the Asian Development Bank’s Institute in holding the fourth session of the Asian Mayors Forum in Bangkok, in July 2002.

H. Commonwealth Secretariat

50. UN-HABITAT is collaborating with the Commonwealth Secretariat in the development of a training module targeting youth organizations and local authorities. The Youth Affairs branch of the Commonwealth secretariat attended the conference on young people in conflict with the law, held in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, in June 2002 and the expert group meeting on safer cities, organized in parallel to the Youth Employment Summit in Alexandria, Egypt, in September 2002. This collaboration will be further extended with the development of the youth-related activities of UN-HABITAT, with a particular focus on youth employment.

51. UN-HABITAT is also working 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 Programme’s Training and Capacity-building Branch.

I. Council of Europe

52. UN-HABITAT has become 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 has participated in three meetings: on improving the conditions of the housing network in south-eastern Europe, held in Zagreb, in November 2001; on the Roma/Gypsies in Europe, held in Strasbourg, France, on 21 and 22 February 2002 and in Belgrade, on 24 February 2002; and on housing and settlements rights for the Roma and Sinti, held in Presov, Slovakia, from 6 to 8 June 2002.

53. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe and the Association of Local Democracy Agencies, set up by the Council of Europe to promote cooperation in south-east Europe, took part in celebrations of World Habitat Day in Geneva on 7 October 2002 and were included as panellists in the round table organized in the Palais des Nations on the theme of city-to-city cooperation.
J. European Union

54. During the reporting period, UN-HABITAT has continued its collaboration with the European Union through its various institutions in enhancing the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The European Commission has provided support to UN-HABITAT projects in post-conflict regions, such as the development assistance provided to communities in Afghanistan and the Housing and Property Directorate in the province of Kosovo.

55. The European Commission joined UN-HABITAT in the World Habitat Day celebrations in Brussels, Belgium, held on 7 October 2002, at which it was represented by a high-level delegation and actively participated at a side event with the Cities Alliance Consultative Group.

56. Since its establishment in February 2001, the UN-HABITAT Brussels Liaison Office has been collaborating closely with the European Commission, attending and actively contributing to Commission events, meetings and workshops. In that context, it helped with work to finalize the European Union urban development guidelines. The two bodies are currently pursuing consultations on the possibilities of closer cooperation, in particular, in the water and sanitation sector in least developing countries.

K. Organization of the Islamic Conference

57. 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.

III. COOPERATION BETWEEN UN-HABITAT AND HABITAT AGENDA PARTNERS, INCLUDING NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

58. Over the period 2000-2002, the main focus of cooperation and collaboration with non-governmental organizations and other Habitat Agenda partners was on the implementation of the UN-HABITAT global campaigns for security of tenure and good urban governance and on the global monitoring of urbanization trends. The partnerships established with parliamentarians and the private sector, in addition to the traditional non-governmental organization partners of UN-HABITAT, have been strengthened, and UN-HABITAT is currently revitalizing its partnerships with the regional networks of non-governmental organizations, including youth groups, urban professionals, researchers and academics and women. The establishment in 2002 of the Non-Governmental Organizations and Partners Section will enhance UN-HABITAT engagement with its partners.

59. With the aim of strengthening relations between UN-HABITAT and its partners, the Partners Section has set up an interactive civil society web site. This web site provides electronic conference facilities and reviews major activities by UN-HABITAT related to partners, non-governmental organization reports related to the Habitat Agenda and implementation of the millennium development goals. It also provides links to forthcoming events, to umbrella non-governmental organization networks, to the Economic and Social Council and to the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service. The existing civil society organization database of UN-HABITAT contains detailed information on 3,100 non-governmental organizations and it will be available to the users through the site, with extended search and print facilities.

60. All divisions and branches of UN-HABITAT are closely involved with partners in all regions. The following sections provide a non-exhaustive but a representative review of the Programme’s cooperation with non-governmental organizations and other Habitat Agenda partners for the period 2000-2002.

61. They are divided into two parts: partners’ engagement in the intergovernmental processes and global events of relevance to UN-HABITAT, and system-wide engagement of partners in UN-HABITAT. Over the last two years, UN-HABITAT has also focused its cooperation with non-governmental organizations on major umbrella groups and networks. This cooperation has resulted in the strengthening of specific forums
of civil society organizations, such as grassroots groups, women’s groups, the Youth for Habitat initiative, urban professionals and researchers. At these forums each umbrella group continued to exchange expertise and provide inputs to the sustainable urbanization agenda and all these contributions were well received by the member States during the major events of the reporting period. While the engagement with the private sector needs further strengthening, the local authorities are already extensively integrated in UN-HABITAT work.

A. Major events of relevance in building partnerships

62. At its special session for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, held from 4 to 6 June 2001, the General Assembly facilitated the accreditation of a further 450 non-governmental organizations, in addition to the 2,140 organizations already affiliated to UN-HABITAT during the Habitat II Conference, held in Istanbul in 1996.

63. The first session of the World Urban Forum, held from 29 April to 3 May 2002, was attended by representatives of over 500 non-governmental organizations, constituting half of all the participants at the event. One of the main outcomes of this participation was the establishment of a non-governmental organization advisory group to the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, to provide a platform for continuous dialogue for various partner groups on issues such as sustainable urbanization. Another important outcome was the establishment by Kenyan, Tanzanian and Ugandan non-governmental organizations of a civil society forum for UN-HABITAT, designed to strengthen the southern set of urban-sector non-governmental organizations.

B. System-wide mainstreaming of partnerships – overview of activities undertaken

64. The Gender Unit has collaborated extensively with women’s networks working in the area of women and habitat, on various issues of mutual interest, including international solidarity building in the area of acceptable standards and regulations relating to gender equality. As part of gender mainstreaming in UN-HABITAT, many of these partners are now integrated into the Programme’s activities, especially the two global campaigns, where they participate in the steering committees and activities in the different regions. They have contributed to the revision of the UN-HABITAT gender policy, the formulation of position papers on the issues of women and urban governance, and women and secure tenure, as well as research work on women’s right to land and property in east Africa.

65. In collaboration with the Rockefeller Foundation, UN-HABITAT has started work on women’s community-based responses to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, particularly through awareness-raising and the provision of care for AIDS patients and orphans.

66. The Urban Secretariat cooperated with a number of organizations in the preparation of the Global Report on Human Settlements 2001, including international networks of professional organizations, research centres and non-governmental organizations. Prominent among these organizations were: the Argentine Foundation Urban Research and Action Workshop, the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights, based in Thailand, the International City and County Management Association, the International Institute for Environment and Development, UK Shack Dwellers International and the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights, based in India.

67. The Global Urban Observatory of the Urban Secretariat collaborated with 13 non-governmental organizations within the global urban observatory network; its main partners at the global level were the Society for Development Studies and the International Council on Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and, at the regional and subregional levels, Environmental Development Action in the Third World (ENDA), the Arab Towns Organization, the Sustainable World Foundation and City Region Household. Several other partner non-governmental organizations are involved in urban indicator-related activities as so-called national or local urban observatories at the national or local level, respectively.
68. The Urban Economy and Finance Branch collaborated with the Canada-based International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Strategic Initiative on Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture, in organizing a workshop on urban policy implications of enhancing food security in African cities, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 27 to 31 May 2002. The Branch also actively collaborated with the Coalition of African Organizations for Food Security and Sustainable Development (COASAD), in organizing a food security workshop as a parallel event during the first session of the World Urban Forum, from 29 April to 3 May 2002.

69. The partners’ network under the best practices and local leadership programme continues to identify initiatives in such areas as housing, urban development and governance, environmental management, economic development, social inclusion, crime prevention, poverty reduction, women’s empowerment, programmes for youth, and others. The partnership network consists of intergovernmental organizations, such as the joint arrangements with the Commonwealth on action for human settlements, known as ComHabitat; associations of mayors and local authorities, such as CityNet, Metropolis and the World Association of Cities and Local Authorities Coordination (WACLAC); non-governmental organizations, including, among others, ICLEI, ENDA Tiers Monde and Youth for Habitat; academic institutions, such as University College of London, Harvard University, the Joslyn Castle Institute and Naples University; United Nations agencies, including UNDP – with its equator initiative and public-private partnership for the urban environment, ILO and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs; and arrangements from around the world for the conferring of awards of sustainable development. In 2002, 539 practices were submitted for such awards, 461 of which merited review. Of the 10 award winners four (Argentina, Benin, Germany and Lebanon) were civil society initiatives and one (Brazil) was a local authority initiative with a high level of civil society participation.

70. The Training and Capacity-Building Branch continued to work throughout the world with non-governmental organizations involved in capacity-building work, in the development of training tools and implementation of training programmes. A growing number of these tools and programmes are concerned with the needs of the local development non-governmental organizations to improve their effectiveness, organizational capacity and ability to collaborate with local governments. The key tools used by the Branch in this area are the new UN-HABITAT series on building bridges between citizens and local governments and non-governmental and community-based organizations and capacity-building manuals.

71. The Housing Policy Section of UN-HABITAT, working alongside the United Nations Housing Rights Programme (UNHRP), is engaged in close cooperation with the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions. UNHRP, in collaboration with the International Indian Treaty Council, convened a panel discussion on indigenous peoples and the right to land and housing during the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, held in New York in May 2002. In collaboration with ECE, the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), the Housing Development Administration and the Turkish Association of Housing Cooperative Unions, the section convened a colloquium on the contribution of the cooperative sector to housing development, in Ankara, Turkey, in June 2002. In collaboration with the European Network for Housing Research, the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies and the Institute for Local Government Studies in Ghana, the section also organized a conference on housing and urban development for low-income groups in sub-Saharan Africa, held in Accra, from 22 to 26 July 2002.

72. Regional steering groups have been established to localize the objectives and principles of the campaign on urban governance. At the global level, key international partners have been brought together in 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. Five meetings of this group have taken place so far, in Nairobi (May 2000), The Hague (November 2000), Tigoni, Nairobi (February 2001), New York (June 2001) and Nairobi, on the occasion of the first session of the World Urban Forum (May 2002). The campaign has continued to work with non-governmental organizations in a range of areas and countries, including Brazil, Burkina Faso, east Africa, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Nigeria, the Philippines and south-east Europe, with the aim of translating governance principles into focused action plans for good urban governance.
73. The urban poor, particularly federations of urban poor savings associations, are the primary partners of the global campaign for secure tenure, which is an advocacy instrument of the United Nations designed to improve living and working conditions for the poor. These federations include the National Slum Dwellers’ Federation of India, the South African Homeless People’s Federation, the Philippines Homeless People's Federation, Muungano wa Wavijiji in Kenya and the Namibian Homeless People's Federation. Each federation incorporates between 100 and 10,000 small daily savings associations, groups of between 10 and 30 people who save and lend money to one another, thereby building capital and trust.

74. In implementing the campaign, UN-HABITAT has worked with two sets of non-governmental organizations: non-governmental organizations affiliated with urban poor federations, such as the Pamoja Trust in Kenya, the Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres in India and the People’s Dialogue for Land and Shelter in South Africa, and non-governmental organizations that provide professional skills or expertise in research, legal advice, lobbying, architectural and financial services, etc. These may also include private consulting firms, such as Geoffrey Payne Associates, or coalitions, such as Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood (GROOTS) International, the Habitat International Coalition-Women and Shelter Network, the Uganda Land Alliance, the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions, the Land Tenure Institute, the International Research Group on Law and Urban Space (IRGLUS) and others.

75. The Land and Tenure Section is closely linked with the global campaign for secure tenure and the various contacts and working relationships with civil society organizations and international non-governmental organizations are coordinated with both the campaign and the Housing Rights Programme. Over the reporting period the Section cooperated with a great number of civil society organizations and conducted workshops on women’s access to land and land law reform in Rwanda, engaged in various activities aimed at improving secure tenure in Angola and Mozambique and held a regional conference in the Balkans, in which a number of civil society organizations from the region participated.

76. The Water for African Cities Programme is a partnership programme between UN-HABITAT and national ministries of local government, local city authorities, non-governmental organizations and international development agencies. The programme was initiated in late 1999 and is being implemented in seven African cities, namely, Abidjan, Accra, Addis Ababa, Dakar, Johannesburg, Lusaka and Nairobi. The Section also worked with several non-governmental organizations, including the Green Cities Movement in the town of Malindi, Kenya, and CARE International in Zambia, in implementing waste management projects in Kenya, Zambia and Ghana, with a view to improving local environmental management in selected cities in those countries.

77. The Disaster Management Programme continued to facilitate partnerships in disaster management in collaboration with various non-governmental organizations and civil society. In September 2002, the Disaster Management Programme organized a regional consultation on local management and risk reduction in Central America and the Caribbean, with the objective of developing disaster mitigation and management capacity for local governments at the municipality level, and continues to strengthen cooperation and networking with local non-governmental organizations through the implementation of technical cooperation projects in northern Iraq, in such areas as settlement rehabilitation and capacity-building. In Kosovo both local and international non-governmental organizations were involved in policy development and capacity-building for local government.

78. Over the reporting period, the Safer Cities Programme worked closely with the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC), based in Montreal, and with the European Forum for Urban Security – a network of more than 300 cities in Europe involved in crime prevention activities – at the global level and on activities relating to standards and regulations. Collaboration with other non-governmental organizations at the global level included the United States National Crime Prevention Council, the Chilean Centre for Social Studies and Education (SUR), the Intermediate Technology Development Group, based in Nairobi, Kenya, and the Institute for Security Studies, in Pretoria, South Africa. At the local level and in each of the projects under the Safer Cities Programme, close collaboration was also developed with non-governmental organisations and, in particular, with women and youth groups.
79. In May 2002, the Safer Cities Programme co-organized an international conference on women’s safety, together with the municipality of Montreal, attended by more than 70 non-governmental organizations. In June 2002 over 50 non-governmental organizations participated in an international conference on youth in conflict with the law in Africa. The Safer Cities Programme also actively took part in the Youth Employment Summit, held in Alexandria, Egypt, in September 2002, with the participation of more than 1400 delegates, representing mainly youth groups, youth networks, other non-governmental organizations, governments at all levels and international agencies.

80. The Sustainable Cities Programme and the Localizing Agenda 21 Programme actively cooperated with a wide range of actors from the public, private and academic sectors as well as non-governmental and community-based organizations, in strengthening the environmental planning and management capacity of local authorities and their partners in more than 40 cities around the world. In Kenya, these partners were involved in the launching and preparatory phase of the Nairobi slum-upgrading initiative. In a number of cities, mechanisms for partners participation have been fully institutionalized; examples may be found in Essaouira, Morocco, with the Centre for Urban Development and Environmental Protection, and Nakuru, Kenya, with the establishment of zonal development committees.

81. In 2002 UN-HABITAT initiated negotiations on developing strategies for the building of national and regional capacity in environmental planning and management and the development of resource networks and anchoring mechanisms with a number of national and subregional institutions and organizations, such as the University College of Lands and Architectural Studies in the United Republic of Tanzania; the Copperbelt University in Zambia; the Institut Africain de Gestion Urbaine in Senegal; the Thailand Environment Institute; the Urban Training Institute in Cairo; the Centre for Local Agenda 21 in China; the All-India Institute of Local Self Government; and the St Petersburg Institute of Urban Planning.

82. Over the reporting period the Urban Environmental Section collaborated with a range of partners, including the European campaign for sustainable cities and towns and ICLEI, and with international institutions such as the Postgraduate Centre for Human Settlements at the Catholic University of Louvain, in Belgium.

83. All the UN-HABITAT regional offices continued efforts to extend their collaboration with civil society partners during the reporting period. Priority has been given to collaboration with non-governmental organizations and other partners in advancing the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Declaration. Examples of such collaboration include work conducted with ENDA-Tiers Monde, on capacity-building for local authorities and communities; with the Institut Africain de Gestion Urbaine, on the preparation and the launching of the two global campaigns in Senegal; with the Forum for Peace and Governance in Somalia, on an urban sector study; and with the Society for Development in Egypt, in the areas of capacity-building, participatory planning, gender in development and geographical information systems.

84. The Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific is engaged in extensive cooperation with civil society partners in the region, in particular with both international and national non-governmental organizations in Afghanistan. Regional and international networks that have collaborated with the regional office include: SPARC, the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights, the CityNet building and social housing foundation, the Eastern Regional Organization for Planning and Housing, the Slum Dwellers International network, Kokkyonaki Kodomotachi, the Network of Local Government Training and Research Institutes in Asia and the Pacific and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum. The regional office for Asia and Pacific has also worked with a number of national non-governmental organizations in Bangladesh, Cambodia, East Timor, India, Japan and Sri Lanka.

85. The Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean is working on strengthening the networks of non-governmental and community-based organizations with a focus on human settlements and urban development issues within the region. Key non-governmental organization partners for the two global campaigns include: the Continental Front of Communal Organizations, the Federation of Elected Women...
Representatives, the Habitat International Coalition and the Women and Shelter network. The regional office has also worked with Transparency International, focusing on accountability and efforts to combat corruption.

C. Cooperation with local authorities

86. Over the reporting period, UN-HABITAT worked closely with local authorities and their international associations. Thus, the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities, launched by the Executive Director in January 2000, met four times in the biennium. In June 2001, during the special session of the General Assembly in 2001 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Secretary-General declared UN-HABITAT the United Nations focal point for local authorities. In August 2002, in their political declaration to the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa, the local authorities associations formally designated UN-HABITAT as their link to the United Nations.

87. At the same time, technical collaboration with local authorities and their associations was facilitated through a number of UN-HABITAT projects, global programmes and global campaigns. Prominent and successful examples of these new joint activities include the work on city-to-city cooperation and the joint preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, undertaken in response to resolution 18/10 of 25 May 1995 of the Commission on Human Settlements and involving close collaboration between UN-HABITAT, the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities and the World Associations of Cities and Local Authorities Coordination.

88. Major milestones and achievements in this collaboration include the following: the launch of the joint city-to-city programme during the meeting of the Advisory Committee, in February 2001; the endorsement of the joint city-to-city programme during the joint congress of the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA) and the United Towns Organization (UTO) in Rio de Janeiro in May 2001; the report of the Executive Director on the joint city-to-city programme to the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels in May 2001; the joint city-to-city activities, conducted under the slogan “Partnership for local capacity development”; and the selection of city-to-city cooperation as the topic for the 2002 World Habitat Day.

89. A number of local authorities are directly supporting UN-HABITAT activities, both technically and financially. The most prominent are Dubai municipality, co-organizer and sponsor of the Best Practice International Award; Fukuoka municipality, which supports the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific; Rio Municipality, which supports the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean; and Barcelona municipality, co-organizer of the second session of the World Urban Forum, scheduled to be held in September 2004.

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