8 March 2006

Excellency,

Subject: Evaluation of HPMs

As you know, the Governing Council in its resolution 20/15 has requested UN-HABITAT “to undertake an independent strategic evaluation of the performance and impact of the Habitat Programme Managers before the end of 2006 and to report thereon to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session”. As you also know, draft Terms of Reference for this evaluation were discussed by the CPR Working Group on 9 November 2005 and subsequently finalized by the secretariat. I now wish to inform you that the establishment of a Steering Group to provide guidance and support to the evaluation will be discussed by the CPR Working Group when it meets to discuss progress made in the implementation of resolution 20/15 i.e. on 15 March 2006.

In the meantime I am pleased to report that the first two phases of the evaluation are already well advanced. The self-assessment by HPMs themselves is almost complete while the assessment by UNDP offices is underway. As planned, we expect that the overall assessment by UN-HABITAT headquarters be available during May 2006. The independent strategic evaluation itself will then be carried out by external consultants in June-September 2006. As indicated to the CPR Working Group, this third phase of the evaluation process will require a budget of USD 200,000. Therefore I reiterate my call for earmarked financial contributions which would allow UN-HABITAT to fully address the expectations of the Governing Council in its resolution 20/15. Without funding we will have to downsize the third phase of the evaluation process and practically limit it to a desk-study backed by the self-assessment reports cited above. This would be very unfortunate.

Finally, I am pleased to attach herewith a financial report on the HPM programme for the biennium 2004-2005. It can be observed that the approved Foundation allotment of US$780,000 has indeed been observed.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Anna K. Tibaijuka
Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director