**Agenda item 7: Resource mobilisation strategy**

**Introductory Statement by the Executive Director**

Madame Chair,
Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

Regarding agenda item 7, I have the pleasure of informing you that, under the able direction of my Deputy, Mrs. Inga Bjork Klevby, a 12 member task force has been established to prepare and submit, for your consideration, a Comprehensive Resource Mobilisation Strategy. We have adopted some of the same approaches as we have for preparing the Medium Term Strategic and Institutional Plan. This includes assembling staff from all divisions and from my office. Indeed half of the members of the Resource Mobilisation task force are also members of the Task Force for the Medium Term Plan. For obvious reasons, the Resource Mobilisation Strategy will depend to a large extent on the focus we sent ourselves, the results we want to achieve, and the Road Map we adopt to achieve those results.

The key elements that the Task Force has been working on to date include: broadening our funding base; improving our knowledge of funding needs and opportunities; streamlining our resource mobilisation efforts; and strengthening the Programme’s potential in innovative working relations with our partners, non-traditional donors and funding sources.

On the issue of broadening the funding base of UN-HABITAT, the Task Force is engaged in a deep reflection on what are the comparative advantages of UN-HABITAT and how to package those advantages to broaden our appeal. We have to this effect, developed draft Terms of Reference for soliciting external expert advice to help assess our strengths and weaknesses and to guide us in identifying key elements of our Strategy based on what works.

On the issue of improving our knowledge of funding needs, the task Force has been informing itself of successful resource mobilisation strategies of other UN Agencies, programmes and Funds.

The issue of streamlining our resource mobilisation efforts is closely tied to the work being carried out on our Medium Term Strategic and Institutional Plan. Both Task Forces have identified the packaging of our country-level activities, and linking country-level activities with our regional and global activities as an important area of intervention. This includes the alignment and harmonisation of our policy advisory, capacity building, advocacy, and monitoring and reporting activities. Such alignment should enable UN-HABITAT to present coherent packages for donor funding that improve efficiency, reduce transaction costs, and improve going to scale.

A key element of any successful resource mobilisation strategy depends on good communications and the building of trust. My deputy organised a first donors’ meeting round at WUF3. I believe that several of you were present at that meeting, and that you found the discussions both informative and productive. It is clearly my intention to hold such meetings on a regular basis so that we can improve communications and trust.
Finally, the Resource Mobilisation Task Force is also looking into the tapping of non-conventional sources of funding and partnerships, not least with the private sector. The recently held business round-table that was held at WUF III provided the secretariat with a good opportunity to explore this avenue of resource mobilisation.

Other issues that are also linked with the Medium Term Strategic and Institutional Plan include branding, communications, accountability and transparency across the board, and the issue of operationalising the new rules and regulations concerning the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation. I will, with your permission, address the latter issue under the agenda item: “Any Other Business”.

Madame Chair, Excellencies, this concludes my introduction to this agenda item, and I thank you for your kind attention.