PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME ON WATER AND SANITATION FOR CITIES – BRIEFING ON UN-HABITAT’S NORMATIVE ACTIVITIES

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Responding to the internationally agreed target to “Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation”, UN-HABITAT launched a Water and Sanitation Trust Fund on World Habitat Day (6 October 2002).

Under the aegis of the Trust Fund, UN-HABITAT reorganized its water and sanitation activities into a comprehensive Water and Sanitation Programme with a pro-poor focus in late 2003. The main activities of the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund are:

- Normative Activities involving the development of pro-poor and gender sensitive water and sanitation governance frameworks.
- The Regional Water and Sanitation Programmes in Africa and Asia.
- Pro-poor water and sanitation strategic initiatives in: a) the secondary towns in the Lake Victoria Region; and b) the secondary towns in the Greater Mekong Region.
- Monitoring and Evaluation of the achievement of Water and Sanitation (WATSAN) related MDG programmes.

During 2005, there has been consolidation of the normative activities under the Water and Sanitation Programme. Progress was made in the following areas:

- Preparation of the chapter on Water and human settlements as input to the second edition of the World Water Development Report (WWDR II) currently under preparation by the UN World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), in which UN-HABITAT is an active partner.
- Contributions to global WATSAN processes such as the CSD 13, the 6th Global Forum on Reinventing Government, the upcoming 4th World Water Forum, and contributions to the GC 20 Resolution on Access to basic services for all.
- Normative activities to facilitate pro-poor governance frameworks, urban water resources management, environmental management, advocacy, awareness creation and values based water education.

1. Report on Water and Sanitation in Cities

The second edition of the UN-HABITAT Report on Water and Sanitation in the World’s Cities, to be published in 2006, will examine water and sanitation provision in secondary urban centers around the globe. This second edition is a follow-up to the first edition published in 2003 on “Water and Sanitation in the World's Cities: Local Action for Global Goals.”
An agreement has been signed between UN-HABITAT and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), with the aim of coordinating the inputs and compiling the report. An expert group meeting held in June 2005 finalized the outline and background papers to be commissioned for the report. A second meeting is planned for November 2005 in Mexico, by which time a first draft will be available for circulation and discussion. The report will be ready by January 2006 and will be launched at the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico City in March 2006.


The second edition of the World Water Development Report (WWDR II), under the auspices of the UN Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), is currently under preparation and will be published in 2006. UN-HABITAT is an active partner in this programme and has already contributed a chapter on the theme *Water and Human Settlements* for WWDR II.

3. **UN-HABITAT Contribution to Other Global Processes in the WATSAN Sector**

*CSD 13*: UN-HABITAT actively participated in the 13th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and made interventions related to UN-HABITAT’s work on Urban Water and Sanitation for the Chair’s Summary Report. At CSD 13, UN-HABITAT organized the side event on “Unheard Voices of Women” which was attended by eminent speakers including Ministers, and representatives from NGOs. In addition, UN-HABITAT organized a side event with the United Nations Institute of Training and Research (UNITAR) on Urban Basic Services.

*Fourth World Water Forum*: UN-HABITAT has been invited by the secretariat of WWF 4 to function as a co-beacon with UNDP on the theme of Water and Sanitation. As a co-beacon, UN-HABITAT has the responsibility of organizing with UNDP a full day of events on Water and Sanitation at WWF 4 to be held in Mexico in March 2006.

4. **Pro-poor Water and Sanitation Governance**

UN-HABITAT, in partnership with the World Bank, has developed an assessment tool on "*Pro poor Governance in Urban Water Supply*” over the past two years. The strategy and assessment tools are currently being tested in World Bank and UN-HABITAT funded projects in Africa and Asia (Kibera in Kenya, Mafalala in Mozambique and Kathmandu in Nepal). These interventions are looking into ways of creating innovative public-private-NGO partnerships, between CBOs and the Municipal Councils to test the pro-poor governance frameworks that have been developed. UN-HABITAT is currently preparing a strategy for its Water and Sanitation Pro-poor Governance Initiative, which will be available in late September 2005.

UN-HABITAT has also facilitated two international meetings on the topic: “Pro-poor water and sanitation governance” – the first in Barcelona, Spain, in September 2004 during the Second World Urban Forum, and the second in Seoul, South Korea, in May 2005 during the 6th Global Forum on Reinventing Government.
5. **Urban Water Resources and Environmental Management**

*Urban Water Demand Management:* A guide document entitled, “Water Demand Management Cook Book” has been developed. This guide document is being actively applied within the framework of Water for Asian Cities’ Programme in Madhya Pradesh, India. A Water Demand Management Strategy and Action Plan is being developed for the 4 cities as part of Asian Development Bank (ADB) loan for improved water supply initiatives. In addition, a detailed training programme on Water Demand Management is being developed for Apex, Senior and Middle Managers of Water and Sanitation service providers. Work on Water Demand Management will soon be started in Kathmandu, Nepal, and in Nanjin, China.

*Urban Catchment Management:* A guide document on Urban Catchment Management has been developed based on a Regional Workshop held in Weihai in the People’s Republic of China. The methodology of Urban Catchment Management is currently being applied in selected cities covered under the Water for African Cities Programme and in 4 cities in India covered by Water for Asian Cities Programme.

*Environmental Management:* The water and sanitation programme in Cities has begun to use the “Guidelines for Environment Assessment Requirements in UN-HABITAT Activities” to evaluate its projects/programmes. The focus is to assess the environmental impacts as well as the social impacts, particularly as they relate to the urban poor. In this context, the guidelines are being used at the planning stage in the environmental appraisal of the envisaged investments in the Lake Victoria Region and the Mekong Region Water and Sanitation Initiatives.