Sixty-first session
Item 117 of the preliminary list*
Programme planning

Revised Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 12
Human settlements

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Overall orientation

12.1 The Medium-Term Strategic and Institutional Plan was approved by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat during its twenty first session in April 2007 through its resolution HSP/GC/21/1. The Plan seeks to sharpen UN-Habitat’s programme focus, promote alignment and coherence, and strengthen its catalytic role for the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda and human settlements-related internationally agreed development goals. This strategic framework has been revised to align it with the approved Medium-Term Strategic and Institutional Plan, in accordance with resolution HSP/GC/21/2.

The approval of the MTSIP will have short, medium and long term implications to the Strategic Framework and the Work Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 and beyond. These include minor adjustments, substantive changes and the introduction of new working methods to ensure sharpened focus, programme alignment and strengthened results-based management. Due to ongoing obligations and the predominantly earmarked nature of the budget, these changes will necessarily take place over time. Some of the priority changes to be implemented during the biennium are reflected at the end of this section, in table 1, entitled “Implementing the Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan”.

12.2 Responsibility for human settlements is vested in the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), which serves as the focal point for implementation of the programme within the United Nations system. The current mandate of UN-Habitat derives from the twin goals of the Habitat Agenda, resulting from the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), which comprise “adequate shelter for all” and “sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world”. The mandate of the programme also derives from: resolution 3327 (XXIX), through which the General Assembly established the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation; resolution 32/162, in which the Assembly established the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat); and resolution 56/206, by which the Assembly elevated the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). UN-Habitat is guided by its Governing Council, which reports every two years to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council and by a Committee of Permanent Representatives in Nairobi, which serves as a formal intersessional body. Important recent mandates derive from the Declaration on Cities and other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution S-25/2, other internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, such as the target of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by the year 2020, and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992, such as target 10 on water and sanitation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. The aforementioned two targets were subsequently reaffirmed by the General Assembly in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, which also highlighted slum prevention as a priority issue in human settlements. Additional mandates come from relevant legislative bodies regarding
Agenda 21 (chaps. 7, 21 and 28) and relevant resolutions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

12.3 The world urban population is currently expanding at the rate of about 70 million people per year. About 95 per cent of all urban growth is taking place in developing countries, where one billion people live in overcrowded and life-threatening slums. The main challenges are chaotic urban expansion, inadequate housing, lack of secure tenure, uncertain employment and lack of basic services, especially safe water and sanitation. Rapid urbanization in most developing countries is characterized by deterioration in shelter conditions for the urban poor, while conflicts and disasters compound the daunting task of creating sustainable human settlements. Central to meeting the challenge of urban poverty is the replacement of policies that foster social and physical exclusion with policies that recognize and respect the rights of all, especially women, people living in poverty and those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing, housing, water and sanitation, and the continuous improvement of living conditions. In consultation and cooperation with Governments, UN-Habitat develops and strengthens mechanisms for monitoring the impact of human settlements policies and programmes on the lives and livelihoods of women, men, youth and children in cities, especially those in low-income areas and slums.

12.4 The UN-Habitat programme consists of four strongly interlinked subprogrammes, namely: shelter and sustainable human settlements development; monitoring the Habitat Agenda; regional and technical cooperation; and human settlements financing. The interlinkages will be reflected in the close cooperation among the subprogrammes, with the global campaign on sustainable urbanisation providing an entry point for all work programme activities.

12.5 The strategy of UN-Habitat in meeting its mandates rests upon four pillars that correspond to its four subprogrammes:

(a) Advocacy of agreed norms for improving the lives of poor people, particularly slum-dwellers, and building the capacity of central Governments and local authorities, using as a primary vehicle the Global Campaign on Sustainable Urbanisation (subprogramme 1: shelter and sustainable human settlements development);

(b) Information generation and knowledge management for assessing progress made in implementing the Habitat Agenda and monitoring human settlements conditions and trends, with a particular focus on slum formation and the living conditions of slum-dwellers (subprogramme 2: monitoring the Habitat Agenda);

(c) Operational activities focusing on technical assistance and capacity-building to test methods and concepts to be scaled up and transferred and to provide feedback to policymakers at all levels (subprogramme 3: regional and technical cooperation);

(d) Facilitating pro-poor financing of housing and urban infrastructure and services that contribute to sustainable human settlements development and the improvement of living conditions of slum-dwellers (subprogramme 4: human settlements financing).
12.6 This strategic framework has been informed by the strategic planning and institutional development exercise initiated in 2005, further to the recommendations of an in-depth evaluation of the programme completed by the Office of Internal Oversight Services in 2005 and subsequently endorsed by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its twentieth session, in 2005. The recommendations called for the strengthening of the programme’s normative focus, greater cohesion among its advocacy, normative, monitoring and operational activities, and the broadening of the programme’s funding base. The first phase of the exercise carried out throughout 2006, focused on the development through a consultative process, of the 2008-2013 medium-term strategic and institutional plan which was adopted by the Governing Council at its twenty-first session in April 2007. The medium-term strategic and institutional plan identifies five substantive focus areas, each with an objective and corresponding indicators of achievement. These focus areas comprise: Effective advocacy, monitoring and partnerships; Participatory urban planning, management, and governance; Pro-poor land and housing; Environmentally-sound basic infrastructure and affordable services; and Strengthened human settlements finance systems. A sixth focus area, Excellence in management was also identified. The five substantive focus areas form the basis of an enhanced normative and operational framework consisting of a strengthened partnership and networking strategy and an integrated programme of activities at the global, regional, national and local levels. The revisions undertaken in this document have been informed by the five substantive focus areas and the corresponding objectives and indicators of achievement.

Some elements of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan reflected in the present document include the following:

(a) The strengthening of the programme’s normative activities, spearheaded by a revitalised and integrated Global Campaign on Sustainable Urbanisation, through its tightened relationship with global programmes and their alignment with the Millennium Declaration target on slums (see para. 12.11 below);

(b) The re-allocation of urban and housing finance activities previously subsumed under subprogramme 2, and water, sanitation and infrastructure activities, previously located in subprogramme 1, to subprogramme 4 which is aimed at ensuring greater cohesiveness among substantively related activities.

(c) Preliminary revision of the expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement in line with the medium-term strategic and institutional plan.

12.7 UN-Habitat will continue to mainstream the gender perspective in human settlements issues and empower women. The programme’s efforts in promoting women’s access to shelter were further endorsed by the General Assembly in the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1, para. 58) by guaranteeing women’s free and equal rights to own and inherit property and ensuring security of tenure of property and housing.

12.8 The work of UN-Habitat is concentrated in developing countries, countries with economies in transition and in countries in need of effective post-conflict and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction. As the focal point for the implementation of the human settlements programme within the United Nations system, UN-Habitat
will collaborate and cooperate with other United Nations organizations. Outside the United Nations, UN-Habitat will also cooperate with Governments, local authorities, international financial institutions, regional development banks, the private sector and other Habitat Agenda partners. A significant mechanism for cooperation with Governments and Habitat Agenda partners is the World Urban Forum, which is held every two years to address pressing human settlements issues. The next WUF meeting will take place in Nanjing, China, in October 2008.

Table 1: Work Plan for the Implementation Plan of the Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan (MTSIP) 2008-2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic objectives</th>
<th>Key activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| (a) Refinement of indicators of achievement, targets and priorities for each of the five substantive focus areas of the MTSIP as basis for further programme alignment and results-based management. | (i) Strategic, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound indicators integrated into the formulation of programme activities and outputs by 1st quarter 2008  
(ii) A set of refined indicators integrated into results-based management by 2nd quarter 2008  
(iii) Indicators integrated into revised guidelines for project formulation and approval by 3rd quarter 2008  
(iv) Review of application of results-based management and lessons learned by 3rd quarter 2009 |
| (b) Development of criteria for country-level activities in support of the enhanced normative and operational framework of the MTSIP, including deployment of Habitat Programme Managers | (i) Elaboration of criteria for country-level activities by 1st quarter 2008  
(ii) Consultation with partners to finalise above criteria by 2nd quarter 2008  
(iii) Selection of pilot countries for Enhanced Normative and Operational Framework by 3rd quarter 2008 and integration within work programme and budget and deployment plan for Habitat Programme Managers  
(iv) Roll out of Enhanced Normative and Operational Framework together by 4th quarter 2008 |
| (c) Resource mobilisation strategy                                                                                                                                                                                      | (i) Refinement of Resource mobilisation strategy and policy by 1st quarter 2008  
(ii) Roll-out of phased strategy and policy by 2nd quarter 2008 |
| (d) Strengthen partnerships especially with International Finance Institutions and other UN agencies and peer review process. | (i) Review existing partnerships with UN agencies, Habitat Agenda partners, and International Finance Institutions by 1st quarter 2008  
(ii) Consult with partners on new partnership policy and framework and peer-review process for the coordinated implementation of the MTSIP by 2nd quarter 2008  
(iii) Roll out new partnership policy and framework and peer-review process for the 4th World Urban Forum (3rd quarter 2008) |
| --- | --- |
| (e) Improved results-based management and knowledge management system | (i) Develop TOR for external assistance in developing an integrated results-based management and knowledge management strategy by 1st quarter 2008  
(ii) Identify potential experts for secondment/recruitment for further development of results-based management and knowledge management system and phased roll out plan (2nd quarter 2008)  
(iii) Implement Phase I of roll out of the plan by 2nd quarter 2008 |
| (f) Review of human resource requirements | (i) Review plan formulated and adopted by 1st quarter 2008  
(ii) Alignment of job descriptions and terms of reference for replacement of retiring staff and recruitment of new staff foreseen for 2008-2009 (3rd quarter 2008).  
(iii) Recommendations on institutional adjustments and governance structure by 4th quarter |
Subprogramme 1

**Shelter and sustainable human settlements development**

**Objective of the Organization:** To improve the shelter conditions of the world’s poor and to ensure sustainable human settlements development.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat</th>
<th>Indicators of achievement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Improved access to housing, property and land for vulnerable groups, particularly the poor to achieve the Millennium Declaration target on slums.</td>
<td>(a) (i) Increased number of Governments and local authorities introducing, revising and implementing pro-poor, gender and age sensitive slum upgrading and prevention policies in line with the Millennium Declaration target on slums.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(ii) Increased number of Governments, partnerships and alliances promoting, adopting and implementing effective shelter strategies and improved regulatory frameworks and capacities that provide for the progressive realization of housing, land and property rights.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(iii) Increased number of partners and alliances taking measures to reduce arbitrary and unlawful forced evictions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
b) Improved capacity for participatory, accountable, pro-poor, gender and age-sensitive urban governance and planning

b) Increased number of Governments introducing, revising and implementing policies, legislation and national action plans and strengthening institutional planning and management arrangements for promoting good urban governance

(ii) Increased number of cities measuring the quality of urban sustainability and governance, applying and promoting urban planning and governance tools, and adopting strategies for pro-poor and gender sensitive urban governance

(iii) Increased number of Habitat Agenda partners adapting, applying and promoting urban planning and governance tools

c) Strengthened relationships with local authorities and their associations.

c) More results-based outcomes from collaboration with local authorities and their associations

(d) Improved capacity and national advocacy for urban developments that is more sustainable, safer, less prone to disasters and better able to manage post-conflict and post-disaster situations

d) Increased number of Governments and cities working with UN-Habitat to establish urban environmental management capacity frameworks for sustainable urban development

(ii) Increased number of cities and municipalities working with UN-Habitat to promote safer cities for sustainable urban development

(iii) Increased number of Governments and cities undertaking management of human settlements in crisis through project interventions for disaster risk reduction and for sustainable rehabilitation of human settlements

(e) National and international training and capacity-building institutions strengthened to achieve more impact in meeting present and emerging training and capacity-building needs in sustainable shelter and human settlements sustainable urban development

(e) Increased number of national and international training and capacity-building institutions using UN-Habitat manuals and methods in shelter and sustainable urban development
Strategy

12.9 The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Shelter and Sustainable Human Settlements Development Division. This division will take the lead on the implementation of focus areas 2, Promotion of participatory urban planning, management and governance and focus area 3, Promotion of pro-poor land and housing and also contribute to the other three areas as they are all cross-cutting. The subprogramme’s main strategy, consisting of global advocacy, will be spearheaded by the fourth session of the World Urban Forum, the Global Campaign on Sustainable Urbanisation, the development of the global sustainable urban development network, and supported by global programmes. The campaign will be aligned with efforts to attain the Millennium Declaration Goal 7, Targets 9, 10 and 11. The strategy for implementing the programme of work is as follows:

(a) The subprogramme will seek to mobilize all Habitat Agenda partners to enhance the global visibility and impact of urban issues to achieve the goal not only of slum upgrading but also of slum prevention in order to realize more sustainable urban development. The Global Campaign on Sustainable Urbanization will serve as entry points to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and link operational and normative activities at all levels through the development and implementation of an Enhanced Normative and Operational Framework (ENOF). Particular focus will be placed on new forms of urban planning as integral parts of sustainable development, good urban governance and as cost-effective ways to achieve slum prevention and upgrading, as emphasized by the General Assembly in paragraph 56 (m) of the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

(b) During the biennium, UN-Habitat will strengthen its strategic partnership with local authorities and their associations, in particular with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), provide advisory services and carry out advocacy work. The New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) cities programme and similar programmes from other regions will be further developed and promoted as a means of contributing towards the Millennium Declaration goals.

(c) The global programmes, which include normative, capacity-building and knowledge management activities on secure tenure, housing and property rights, land and property administration, urban environmental management, urban governance, including decentralisation, disaster prevention and management and safer cities, will be carried out within the context of the campaign, in support of the Enhanced Normative and Operational Framework (ENOF), thereby assisting in translating normative work into practical real life processes at the national and community levels.

(d) The capacity at the national and local levels to undertake effective planning, management and delivery of shelter, land, infrastructure and services will be supported by dedicated training and capacity-building programmes and institutional strengthening. As a response to the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development the links with universities will be increased and Habitat Partner Universities named. A special feature of the strategy will be to focus on the role of women and youth, community-based organizations as active participants and beneficiaries in the efforts to improve shelter conditions, urban governance and access to basic services.
Subprogramme 2
Monitoring the Habitat Agenda

Objective of the Organization: To monitor and assess progress towards the attainment of the Habitat Agenda goals and the targets of the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation on slums, safe drinking water and sanitation, as well as to raise global awareness of human settlements issues.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat</th>
<th>Indicators of achievement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Improved global <strong>awareness</strong> among Governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners on human settlements conditions and trends, including <strong>sustainable urbanization</strong> and best practices, as well as on progress made in implementing the Habitat Agenda and in achieving the relevant United Nations Millennium Declaration targets.</td>
<td>(a) (i) Increased number of articles on the <em>Global Report on Human Settlements</em> and the <em>State of the World’s Cities</em> report in the media.</td>
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<td>(ii) Increased number of universities, research and training institutions using the <em>Global Report on Human Settlements</em>, the <em>State of the World’s Cities</em> report and the Best Practices Database in their education and training programmes.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(iii) Increased number of urban observatories that use urban information systems, such as UrbanInfo software and geographic information systems technology, for urban management, policymaking or urban planning.</td>
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<td>(iv) Increased number of in-house and other best practices documented, disseminated and analysed for policy implications and scaling up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Improved <strong>awareness</strong> among Governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners of the contribution of the urban and regional economy to national development, with particular attention to rural-urban economic linkages.</td>
<td>(b) (i) Increased number of requests from Governments and other Habitat Agenda partners for UN-Habitat policy and strategy guidelines on balanced rural-urban linkages in human settlements development and management, within the broader context of national development plans and poverty reduction strategies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(ii) Increased number of requests from Governments and other Habitat Agenda partners for information and policy advice on pertinent urban economic development issues, within the broader context of national development plans and poverty reduction strategies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Improved awareness among Governments, <strong>local authorities</strong> and other Habitat Agenda partners of mainstreaming of gender, partnerships and youth concerns in human settlements activities.</td>
<td>(c) (i) Increased number of human settlements programmes of UN-Habitat and other Habitat Agenda partners that mainstream gender and promote women’s empowerment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(ii) Increased number of UN-Habitat and other Habitat Agenda partner programmes that mainstream strategic partnerships at global, national and local levels,

(iii) Increased number of human settlements programmes that mainstream youth concerns and promote youth-led development

(iv) Number of public-private partnerships, including profit- and corporate social responsibility-based ones, and community partnerships facilitated at global, national and local levels

Strategy

12.10 The responsibility for the programme is vested in the Monitoring and Research Division. The core work of Subprogramme 2 falls within MTSIP Focus Area 1, i.e. "Effective advocacy, monitoring and partnerships", although, in terms of substantive content, the Subprogramme's work is cross-cutting and contributes to all the other MTSIP substantive focus areas. The strategy consists of working in close collaboration with Habitat Agenda partners and establishing national and local urban observatories to engage in a coordinated and systematic effort in:

(a) Collecting, collating, analysing, documenting and disseminating global and national data and evidence-based information on human settlements conditions and trends, including indicators, best practices, good policies and enabling legislation, for assessing progress towards achieving the goals of the Habitat Agenda as well as those of the Millennium Declaration as set forth in General Assembly resolution 55/2, especially on slums, safe drinking water and sanitation; and use of such data and information for programme formulation.

(b) Identifying, developing, testing, disseminating, promoting and mainstreaming new and innovative policies and strategies on the five focus areas of the MTSIP, including urban planning and management, urban economic development, urban-rural development linkages, urban poverty reduction and employment generation, gender and women’s empowerment and strategic partnerships and youth;

(c) Raising awareness on the role and capacity of public-private partnerships for up-scaling pro-poor shelter and related infrastructure.

(d) Promoting the transfer and exchange of lessons learned from best practices on a North-South and South-South basis;

(e) Disseminating results and findings through various publications, including the two flagship reports: the Global Report on Human Settlements and the State of the World’s Cities.
Subprogramme 3
Regional and technical cooperation

**Objective of the Organization:** To strengthen the formulation and implementation of urban and housing policies, strategies and programmes and to develop related capacities, primarily at the national and local levels.

**Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expected accomplishments</th>
<th>Indicators of achievement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Enhanced regional, national and local capacity to implement human settlements policies, strategies and programmes with special focus on the reduction of urban poverty and the response to natural and man-made disasters</td>
<td>(a) (i) Increased number of countries that strengthen their institutions’ ability to develop strategies to reduce urban poverty (ii) Increased number of countries that strengthen their institutions’ competence to respond to disasters and reduce vulnerability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Improved national policies on housing and urban development in line with UN-Habitat global norms and increased regional knowledge of urban conditions and trends</td>
<td>(b) (i) Increased number of countries adopting improved urban policies, in line with the Global Campaign for Sustainable Urbanisation (ii) Increased number of countries implementing policies and strategies on slum upgrading and slum prevention (iii) Increased number of partners participating in the monitoring of human settlements conditions through the documentation of best practices and preparation of national and regional state-of-the-cities reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Improved integration of sustainable urbanization into United Nations development assistance frameworks and national development strategies and plans, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist</td>
<td>(c) (i) Increased number of United Nations country teams that have integrated pro-poor and sustainable urbanization into United Nations development assistance frameworks (ii) Number of comprehensive country programme documents developed, particularly for One UN-Pilot countries hosting Habitat Programme Managers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Strategy**

12.11 Responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Regional and Technical Cooperation Division. To achieve the objective, UN-Habitat combines normative and operational functions. The normative functions include setting standards, proposing norms and principles, and providing examples of best practices and good policies built on experience gained at the country level. In implementing the
MTSIP, the Regional and Technical Cooperation Division will focus on all the five substantive focus areas at country and regional levels.

(a) The operational activities consist of providing technical assistance in policy formulation, capacity-building programmes and demonstration projects that support the normative work of UN-Habitat in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, at the request of Governments. National Habitat Programme Managers will continue to support normative and operational activities and contribute to the monitoring and implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the relevant Millennium Declaration targets at the national and local levels. To strengthen country-level operations, UN-Habitat will ensure that all Habitat Programme Managers have sound knowledge of sustainable urbanization issues and capacity to support governments and other partners at the local level as members of UN-country teams. In addition, Habitat Programme Managers will act as country-level catalysts for the implementation of the Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan, especially in One UN-Pilot countries hosting Habitat Programme Managers. Their role will be particularly crucial given that in paragraph 22 (a) of the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the General Assembly called for the adoption of comprehensive national development strategies to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In addition, major emphasis will be put on the exchange of policy experiences within regions and sub-regions and on regional monitoring.

(b) Regional offices will coordinate activities carried out at regional and country levels and contribute to the knowledge management strategy in close collaboration with all four subprogrammes. They will backstop operational activities at the country level, continue to build capacity in disaster prevention and management and ensure a rapid and effective response to post-conflict crises and disasters, as appropriate.

(c) Women, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities are expected to be active participants and beneficiaries of the programmes and projects implemented under the subprogramme.
Subprogramme 4
Human settlements financing

**Objective of the Organization:** To facilitate the mobilization of investments from international and domestic sources in support of adequate shelter, water and sanitation, related infrastructure development programmes and housing finance institutions and mechanisms, particularly in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat</th>
<th>Indicators of achievement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Strengthened institutional arrangements for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation effectively to assist Member States and Habitat Agenda partners to mobilize investment for their pro-poor human settlements development, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition</td>
<td>(a) (i) Institutional arrangements including a Trust Fund for experimental reimbursable seeding operations (ERSO) established for affordable housing and infrastructure, with particular focus on low-income populations in informal settlements and slums</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ii) Number of countries with established experimental reimbursable seeding operations as well as other innovative financial mechanisms</td>
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<tr>
<td>(iii) Number of operational procedures and guidelines introduced to strengthen institutional arrangements for the Foundation for the above experimental activities</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(b) Improved investment in human settlements development leveraged by the Foundation, including its Slum Upgrading Facility, from domestic private and public sources through innovative mechanisms for financing housing and related infrastructure

(b) (i) Number of countries working with the Foundation to strengthen mechanisms for financing housing and related infrastructure

(ii) Number of financial instruments and bankable projects designed, packaged and effectively applied

(iii) Increased level of public investment, private capital and community savings mobilized for slum upgrading, including water and sanitation and slum prevention programmes, at the country level

(iv) Number of countries that have promoted relevant policy and regulatory reforms and institutional arrangements that facilitate the mobilization of public investments, community savings and private capital for affordable housing and related infrastructure
(c) Improved capacity and environment to facilitate the provision and access of infrastructure and basic services in urban settlements of different sizes, especially safe drinking water and sanitation, to achieve the Millennium Declaration target

(i) Increased number of countries implementing policies, strategies and programmes designed to increase provision and sustainable access to safe drinking water, basic sanitation, and related infrastructure.

(ii) Increased number of urban centres of all sizes in developing countries benefiting from national reforms for improving safe drinking water, sanitation, solid waste services and related infrastructure.

(iii) Increased number of countries working with UN-Habitat to promote access to diverse and efficient energy services and to public and non-motorized transport.

(iv) Increased number of countries with water utilities that have extended their services to informal settlements with greater financing through benchmarking for enhanced credit rating.

(d) Expanded partnerships between UN-Habitat and international and regional financial institutions to ensure that the advocacy and technical assistance activities of the Organization promote and leverage investment by financial institutions in affordable housing and related infrastructure, thereby improving the coherence and impact of development assistance

(i) Number of partnerships established to enhance investment allocations for improving human settlements

(ii) Increased level of the loan and loan guarantee portfolio by international and regional financial institutions in affordable housing and infrastructure resulting from those partnerships

Strategy

12.12 The responsibility of this subprogramme is vested in the Human Settlements Financing Division, which serves as the institutional anchor for the activities of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation. The Foundation is dedicated to working with Member States and domestic and international financial institutions to mobilize resources for affordable housing, water and sanitation and related infrastructure initiatives. In the implementation of MTSIP, the Human Settlements Financing Division will take the lead on Focus Area 5, Strengthening human settlements finance systems, and on Focus Area 4, Environmentally sound basic urban infrastructure and services as the principle areas of work and relate these to all the other Focus Areas.

The strategy for implementing the objective includes:
(a) **Initiating a four-year programme on experimental reimbursable seeding operations (ERSO) for low income housing and infrastructure in the context of other global financing bodies, together with the appropriate institutional arrangements, operational procedures and guidelines, including those required for the establishment of experimental reimbursable seeding operations and other innovative financial mechanisms, building upon the instruments and networks of the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund and the Slum Upgrading Facility, for more effective mobilization of resources, from both public and private sectors, for shelter and related infrastructure in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition, with special focus on the needs of slum dwellers and low-income groups and on the implementation of the target of the Millennium Declaration on slum upgrading and the target of the 2005 World Summit Outcome on slum prevention (see resolution 60/1, para. 56 (m)).**

b) **Preparing terms of reference for a steering and monitoring committee for experimental reimbursable seeding operations and other innovative operations for financing pro-poor housing, infrastructure and upgrading initiatives**

c) **Establishing a working group with existing financial institutions, relevant UN bodies and other operators to identify and assess, inter alia, risks, preconditions, methodologies and other tools for innovative finance arrangements;**

d) **Providing technical assistance and targeted seed capital through the Slum Upgrading Facility of the Foundation to develop and support mechanisms for mobilizing domestic savings and capital to improve the availability of affordable housing, adequate shelter and infrastructure in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition. At the request of Governments, providing technical advice and facilitating peer exchanges designed to advance national policy frameworks, regulatory reforms and institutional arrangements that Member States can use to enable private banks, insurance companies, microfinance institutions and community-based savings and credit organizations to finance affordable housing and related infrastructure, thus leveraging limited public investment and official development assistance;**

e) **Promoting pro-poor investment in water and sanitation through strategic partnerships among key stakeholders including community organizations, municipalities, private sector utility operators, financial institutions, and central governments, drawing upon the Water for African Cities and Water for Asian Cities Programmes designed to strengthen the capacity of cities to improve coverage at the municipal level. Major focus will be placed on strategies that are owned locally and on activities designed to strengthen the political will to adopt pro-poor investment policies and regulations. The Water and Sanitation Trust Fund will be used as a tool to leverage and improve aid effectiveness from donor sources to field-test investment designs for long-term sustainability.**

(f) **Working with the World Bank Group, regional development banks, other development banks, the private sector, United Nations agencies and other relevant partners to link the normative and technical cooperation activities of UN-Habitat with the investment portfolios of the financing institutions and to mobilize finance from international sources to play a catalytic and preparatory role in leveraging domestic investment for slum upgrading and other pro-poor human settlements development.**
Legislative mandates

**General Assembly resolutions**

S-25/2  Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium

53/242  Report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements

55/2  United Nations Millennium Declaration

56/206  Strengthening the mandate and status of the Commission on Human Settlements and the status, role and functions of the United Nations Centre for the Human Settlements (Habitat)

57/144  Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

57/270 B  Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields

57/275  Special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)


58/269  Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change

60/1  2005 World Summit Outcome (subprogrammes 1, 2 and 3)

60/15  Strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and prevention in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster

60/124  Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations (subprogrammes 1 and 3)

60/125  International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development (subprogrammes 1 and 3)

60/130  Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

60/188  Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development (subprogrammes 2 and 4)

60/193  Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

60/194  Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the
Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (subprogrammes 1 and 3)

60/195 International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (subprogrammes 1 and 3)

60/196 Natural disasters and vulnerability (subprogrammes 1 and 3)

60/203 Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)


60/228 Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries: high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Economic and Social Council resolutions, decisions and agreed conclusions

2002/1 Agreed conclusions 2002/1 on strengthening further the Economic and Social Council, building on its recent achievements, to help it fulfil the role ascribed to it in the Charter of the United Nations as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration

2003/62 Coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda

2005/48 Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits

Governing Council resolutions

18/4 Implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/242 and cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme (subprogrammes 1 to 3)

19/5 Implementing and monitoring the goal of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on improving the lives of slum-dwellers

19/6 Water and sanitation in cities

19/16 Women’s role and rights in human settlements development and slum upgrading

20/1 Youth and human settlements

20/7 Gender equality in human settlements development

20/10 World Urban Forum

20/19 Work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlement Programme for the 2006-2007 biennium

21/1 Proposed work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements programme for 2008-2009
21/2 Medium-term strategic and institutional plan for 2008-2013
21/9 Women’s land and property rights and access to finance

Subprogramme 1
Shelter and sustainable human settlements development

*Governing Council resolutions*
16/7 The realization of the human right to adequate housing
17/10 Rural dimension of sustainable urban development
18/5 International cooperation and the review of mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the Habitat Agenda
18/11 Intensifying dialogue on effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities within the framework of the Habitat Agenda
19/3 Global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance
19/12 Decentralization and strengthening of local authorities
20/16 Enhancing the involvement of civil society in local governance
20/18 Decentralization and strengthening of local authorities
20/20 Thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development
21/4 **Guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities**
21/5 Guiding principles on access to basic services for all
21/6 Sustainable development of Arctic human settlements

Subprogramme 2
Monitoring the Habitat Agenda

*General Assembly resolutions*
34/114 Global report on human settlements and periodic reports on international cooperation and assistance on human settlements
55/194 Scope to be covered by the special session of the General Assembly on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)
59/248 World survey on the role of women in development
60/2 Policies and programmes involving youth
60/140  Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

**Economic and Social Council resolutions**

2001/22  Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits: coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda

**Governing Council resolutions**

17/10  Rural dimension of sustainable urban development

18/10  The role of local authorities

19/10  Urban-rural linkages and sustainable urbanization

19/13  Enhancing the engagement of youth in the work of UN-Habitat

20/6  Best practices, good policies and enabling legislation in support of sustainable urbanization and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals

**21/7  Urban youth development**

**21/9  Women's land and property rights and access to finance**

**Subprogramme 3  
Regional and technical cooperation**

**General Assembly resolutions**

59/243  Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy

59/250  Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

60/128  Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

**Governing Council resolutions**

19/7  Regional and technical cooperation

19/15  Countries with economies in transition

19/18  Human settlements development in the occupied Palestinian territories

20/14  Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People

20/15  Habitat Programme Managers and regional offices

20/17  Post-conflict, natural and human-made disaster assessment and reconstruction
Subprogramme 4
Human settlements financing

General Assembly resolutions

3327 (XXIX) Establishment of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation

Governing Council resolutions

19/11 Strengthening the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation

20/11 Strengthening the slum upgrading facility of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation

21/3 Africa Fund/financing mechanism on slum prevention and upgrading.

21/8 Sustainable public-private partnership incentives for attracting large-scale private-sector investment in low-income housing.

21/10 Strengthening the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation: experimental financial mechanisms for pro-poor housing and infrastructure.