Quarterly Report on the Financial Status of UN-HABITAT

Agenda Item 7

Statement

By

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Madam Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

Allow me to provide you with a brief summary of the financial situation of UN-Habitat, also reflected in the “Financial Update October 2007” report that has been circulated to you.

It gives me great pleasure to report that UN-Habitat has been able to maintain its rising trend in contributions. The annual general purpose (non-earmarked) income is currently projected at an all time high of US$17.7 million of which pledges amounting to US$17 million have been received and the balance of US$0.7 million is still expected based on prior year trends. The 2007 target is an increase of 68% from the previous year receipts of US$10.5 million, bringing the total projection for the biennium to US$28.2 million. We note that this increase is partially due to the increasing strength of the European Currencies vis-a-vis the United States Dollar.

Excellencies, the level of general purpose (non-earmarked) contributions received this year marked yet another milestone, being the highest ever received in a single year, since the inception of UN-Habitat. In addition, the total general purpose contributions received during this biennium have exceeded the projected income target of US$25 million as approved by the 20th Session of the Governing Council.

Distinguished delegates, I would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank all donors, for the positive and constructive manner in which you have continued to respond to UN-Habitat’s call for financial support. This is extremely encouraging as we embark on the implementation of the Medium Term Strategic and Institutional Plan (MTSIP).

Madam Chair, allow me to give a special mention to the Governments of Italy, Norway, Spain and Sweden for the substantial increase in their general purpose contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation during the current year. I would also like to
extend my sincere gratitude for the general purpose contributions from the Governments of Netherlands, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago and Tanzania which were received during the last quarter. Contributions from the Governments of South Africa and Tanzania have only recently been received and are, therefore not reflected in the financial report before you.

I take this opportunity to thank the Governments of Algeria, India and the Russian Federation for their 2008 pledges, made during the Pledging Conference in November in New York, which will also be reflected in the next financial report.

Excellencies, as we approach the end of this year, I appeal to those Governments that have not settled their prior year pledges which currently stand at US$6,403 to do so before the end of the year. In line with the UN-Habitat policy on write-offs, all general purpose pledges that remain outstanding for a period longer than four years must be written off. The outstanding pledges from the year 2002 will therefore be written off at the end of the year and reported accordingly to the Governing Council in 2009.

Distinguished delegates, you will note from Annex C of this report, that as at 31st October 2007, the programme had received earmarked contributions totalling US$104.3 million towards specific projects and activities from governments, UN Agencies, various public and private organizations.

Excellencies, allow me to record our appreciation to all governments and various organizations who have continued to partner with UN-Habitat to provide the much needed support towards our post conflict reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo, Lebanon and Sudan. In noting the continued support towards the victims affected by the Tsunami and earthquake in Pakistan, I thank all the donors for their financial commitments.
Distinguished delegates, as we kick start the implementation of the MTSIP, it is encouraging to note that a number of governments have already increased their support to UN-Habitat. I urge you all to make firm and timely commitments for adequate resources, in line with the resource requirements approved during the 21st Session of the Governing Council.

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