REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF MAYORS OF CAPITAL CITIES OF AFRICA

26-27 February 2009
UN-HABITAT Headquarters
Nairobi, Kenya
Regional Conference of Mayors of Capital Cities of Africa
Day One
Thursday, 26 February 2009

09:30-10:15  Welcoming address
Dr Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT

Statements by:
Chair of G77 and China and Permanent Representative of Nigeria
Representative of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
Hon. Mutula Kilonzo, Minister of Nairobi Metropolitan Development

Video clip on the state of African cities

10:15-10:30  Keynote address
Dr Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT

10:30-11:00  Coffee break

11:00-13:00  Plenary Session 1
Capital and major cities of Africa: continental hubs and global role
After a brief overview of the State of African Capital and Major Cities extracted from the State of the African Cities Report, a representative selection of mayors will discuss the initiatives taken and challenges encountered in enhancing their role in their respective national urban systems and their linkage continentally. They will include in their discussion how they are pursuing global agendas relating to sustainable urban development.

The plenary discussion in this first session will centre on how to enhance the role of mayors of capital and major cities at the regional and global level. It will also aim at bringing out the key issues which will be followed up in the subsequent sessions.

Launch of the State of African Cities Report

13:00-14:30  Lunch (Executive Director’s reception by invitation) with Mayors Meeting Children Under the Globetree

14:30-16:30  Plenary Session 2
Governance and management of capital and major cities of Africa: regional collaboration and international agendas
After a brief overview by UN-HABITAT, another selected group of representative mayors will present a brief introduction on governance and management initiatives in their cities. The objective is to explore areas of convergence where experience can be shared and collaboration pursued. The Guidelines on Decentralisation will provide the main framework for charting the way forward.

16:30-18:00  Plenary Session 3
MDG Target 11: A focus on improving access to basic services
Whilst acknowledging the importance of land and housing -- of which there are a number of programmes being undertaken -- the session will highlight different experiences in addressing the challenge of service provision and access for all. After the initial overview, a group of mayors will share their experiences and challenges. Modalities of promoting the Guidelines on Access to Basic Services will be explored.

Private evening programme
Regional Conference of Mayors of Capital Cities of Africa
Day Two
Friday, 27 February 2009

09:00-10:30 Plenary Session 4
**Cities and climate change: adaption and mitigation**
After a brief introduction by the Chair, a select group of mayors will make brief presentations on measures being taken in their respective cities. Experts from UN-HABITAT and UNEP will highlight some of the ongoing initiatives at the global level and the role of mayors in those undertakings.

The plenary discussion will identify concrete collaborative measures and how to reinforce the role of African local authorities on this agenda.

10:30-11:45 Coffee break

11:45-12:45 Plenary Session 5
**Capital cities and finances: challenges and opportunities**
Two experts will present an overview of the state of financing shelter, infrastructure and service delivery in African capital cities. They will highlight the challenges being faced and some of the emerging options, including the initiatives being developed by UN-HABITAT.

In the plenary discussion mayors will share their experiences on some of the successful approaches in overcoming the financing challenge.

12:45-13:00 Snack break

13:00-14:30 Plenary Session 6
**Enhancing the role of representatives of local authorities in the United Nations system**
In this session UN-HABITAT and a representative from UCLG will briefly introduce the basic issues, particularly elaborating RULE 64 of the UN-HABITAT Governing Council. The discussion will explore ways of strengthening the engagement of local authorities -- and especially mayors -- in the decision-making processes of the Agency in particular, and the United Nations system in general.

14:30-16:00 Presentation of Nairobi Declaration and Commitment by Mayors of Capital and Major Cities of Africa

Composition of a Contact Group for coordination and follow-up

Discussion of next steps

16:00-16:15 Closing remarks