QUARTERLY REPORT ON
UN-HABITAT COUNTRY ACTIVITIES,
SEPTEMBER 2009

Statement by the Executive Director
Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka

HSP/CPR/34/3

Nairobi, 24 September 2009
STATEMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON THE QUARTERLY REPORT ON UN-HABITAT COUNTRY ACTIVITIES, SEPTEMBER 2009.

Excellencies,

In addition to the biennial Country Activities Report submitted to the Governing Council and widely disseminated, the secretariat has been requested to provide quarterly updates to the CPR on UN-HABITAT country activities.

We have submitted a report organized in two sections. In the first section are presented the tables of projects which (i) have been completed and (ii) have been initiated in each region during the last 6 months.

In the second section some of these completed and new projects are highlighted as particularly relevant to the MTSIP/ENOF action plan.

Among the recently completed projects we have highlighted one project in each region. In Africa we have supported the Anambra State of Nigeria in the preparation of structure plans for three cities. Funded by the Anambra State, this project is fully in line with focus area 2 of the MTSIP on participatory planning.

In Asia we have facilitated access to land plots for the victims of the October 2005 earthquake in Pakistan. Funded by DFID this project is only one of several activities carried out in Pakistan during the last three years. It fits well within focus area 3 of the MTSIP on land and housing.

In Latin America we have continued our support to the Municipality of Bogota, under its own funding, particularly in the area of urban environmental planning and management, as part of MTSIP focus area 4 on environmentally-sound services.

In Europe we have concluded our large “Settlement and Integration of Refugees in Serbia Programme” (SIRP) funded by the Government of Italy to the tune of USD 20 million. A new housing policy has been derived from that project, based on local government leadership. Again this is very much in line with MTSIP focus area 3.

These four completed projects provide a good reflection of the diversity, both in substantive terms and in funding arrangements, of our country activities around the world.

Among the new projects, I wish to mention in Africa the beginning, after long preparations, of the Korogocho Slum Upgrading Programme in Nairobi, as well as the new programme aiming at developing structure plans in Nigeria (Nasarawa State). We have also started new projects in post-disaster situations, particularly in DRC, Liberia, Somalia and Sudan. These projects focus generally on land administration, improved planning and better service delivery. They contribute directly to broader peace-building processes supported by the whole UN system.

In Asia we have also taken several new initiatives. I can mention the programme on water and sanitation in Myanmar, funded by the government of Japan, as well as a number of emergency shelter projects in Pakistan funded by US-AID, DFID and the UN-CERF. New projects have also started in Vietnam in partnership with UNDP, as part of our Habitat Country Programme 2008-2009.
In Latin America we will contribute to large Water and Sanitation programmes in Ecuador and Mexico involving several UN agencies and funded by the Spanish MDG Trust Fund. We are also promoting national dialogues on decentralization in collaboration with FLACMA (Federation of Latin American Cities) in various countries.

As you see, our country activity portfolio is very dynamic and suited to regional and national specificities. But it respects the priorities defined in the MTSIP and contributes to policy reform and capacity-building, as indicated in our biennial work-programme.

More information on specific activities can be obtained by contacting the Director, RTCD and the respective Regional Offices.

Thank you.