UN-HABITAT

THE REVIEW OF THE WORLD URBAN FORUM
(2002 – 2008)

Statement by the Executive Director
Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka

HSP/CPR/34/6

Nairobi, 24 September 2009
STATEMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ON THE REVIEW OF THE
WORLD URBAN FORUM

Excellencies,

The review of lessons-learned from all previous sessions of the World Urban Forum has been carried out in response to the resolution on WUF adopted by the Governing Council during its 22\textsuperscript{nd} session in April 2009. In view of the expanding scale and importance of the World Urban Forum (WUF), and the increasing engagement of Habitat Agenda partners in the Forum, the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT decided that a review of all four WUF sessions held since 2002 should take place. The aim of the review was to improve planning, organization and effectiveness of future WUFs. More specifically, the review aimed at providing recommendations related to the items specified in the resolution 22/10, paragraph 2.

The review was carried out by a senior consultant, Ms. Nefise Bazoglu, former Branch Manager at UN-HABITAT, under the supervision of the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit and the guidance of the Director of the Regional Technical Cooperation Division, Mr. Blau. Ms. Bazoglu interviewed a large number of UN-HABITAT professionals both at headquarters and in the field, and a variety of important partners as well as several Permanent Representatives and Deputy Permanent Representatives. A result-based evaluation model was adopted for the review, which allowed her to identify strengths and weaknesses of the first four sessions of the World Urban Forum. Clear recommendations have been made on the 12 items listed in resolution 22/10.

Her draft report was submitted to the CPR working group and reviewed in detail on 14 September 2009 under the chairmanship of the US Permanent Representative, Mr. James Stewart. The report was subsequently amended to incorporate the views of the Working Group and is now submitted to the CPR for consideration.

The present session is therefore invited to consider the lessons-learned review and to support or even adopt the 19 recommendations made in the report, as requested in resolution 22/10.

To conclude, I wish to emphasize that several of these recommendations are already feeding into the preparatory process of the forthcoming session of the WUF, which will be held in Rio de Janeiro on 22-26 March 2010.

I thank you for your attention.