Regular Session of the Committee of Permanent Representatives,
7 December 2009

Introductory Statement of the Executive Director on Agenda item 4

Six Monthly Progress Report on the Implementation of the Medium-
Term Strategic and Institutional Plan (MTSIP) 2008-2013

Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka
Under-Secretary-General
and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT
Madam Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to introduce for the Committee’s consideration the six-monthly progress report on the implementation of the MTSIP. This is the second report to be structured around the MTSIP Focus Areas results framework and the sixth progress report since 2008, when we embarked on the implementation of the MTSIP.

After two years of hard work, significant progress has been made and, we believe, a sound foundation has been laid for the full roll-out of the MTSIP. I would like, once again, to thank the CPR members, in particular the CPR Working Group on MTSIP and the Work programme for guiding and supporting the implementation processes. Needless to say, your support has noticeably improved our progress reporting both in terms of format and substance.

Distinguished delegates,

I am sure you have noticed that the reporting on results achieved has improved considerably from the last progress report. As discussed and agreed with the CPR Working Group, this report presents status of progress on all six MTSIP focus areas. The report starts with a summary of achievements, challenges and next steps. The introduction captures the context, while part II presents the status of progress per focus area. Part IV details achievements measured against the indicators and Part V is on MTSIP resources and utilization. The report ends with strategic directions and the way ahead. In some areas we have met our milestones satisfactorily; in others the progress is mixed; and there are areas requiring greater attention.

Madam Chair,

Allow me to highlight some of our achievements in relation to MTSIP Focus Area results:

- An increasing number of institutions see UN-Habitat as their first port of call for urban data as evidenced by the number of requests we get for data from our flagship reports.

- At country level, UN-Habitat is increasingly successful in integrating the urban agenda into national development plans. Sustainable urbanization principles have been embraced in 23 United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks.

- A total of 48 countries are in the process of implementing policies to improve access to land and housing including security of tenure and slum upgrading with the support of UN-Habitat. Global Land Tool Network has played an important role in facilitating such reforms through its growing number of partners.

- Through the Water and Sanitation Programme, about one million people are now receiving safe drinking water and basic sanitation, an increase of 207,000 people since May 2009.

- ERSO and SUF have progressed well. Leverage of ERSO funds expected to be US$6.7 for every dollar spent in the first two loan transactions for Tanzania and Bangladesh.
• In Excellence in Management we continue to make progress. A review commissioned by Norway concluded that the new results framework has provided a new corporate vision and that focusing on results has led to an increased understanding of the need for internal collaboration. Our new programme review committee was launched in October 2009. A significant milestone has also been the completion of the staff survey as called for in the MTSIP, a best practice within the UN system to improve organizational effectiveness. All Division Directors have now been asked to prepare Action Plans, and these actions will be incorporated into the second phase of MTSIP implementation.

• UN-Habitat continued to strengthen working relations with strategic partners including United Nations bodies, international financial institutions and Habitat Agenda Partners. Global events such as World Urban Forum and World Habitat Days were suggested in advocating challenges of urbanisation. The 5 October 2009 World Habitat Day was hosted by Obama Administration and global celebrations were held in Washington D.C., USA. Over 20 events, stretching from 1 to 8 October, referred to as “World Habitat Week” focused on urban issues. Mr. Chris Williams, who heads our Washington D.C. Office will elaborate on the celebrations at the end of my statement.

_Madam Chair,_

Although significant progress has been made, there are still challenges. We realize that the results-based management approach take time to be effectively internalized and applied. Demands for multiple reporting has led to growing transaction costs. With your help, we need to streamline reporting processes. We are also still grappling with supportive business processes and issues of culture change. We still need to strengthen the capacity of our managers and staff to use results information for continuous improvement, accountability, learning and transparency. Systems that should provide relevant information to help managers to “manage for results” are not yet in place. And although financial resources have increased, imbalance between non-earmarked and earmarked and reliance on a small number of donors is still a challenge.

_Madame Chair, Excellencies,_

The report sets out next steps to be undertaken for each Focus Area. However, at the Agency level, the strategic priorities for the first quarter of 2010 will be to reach milestones that need to be completed, with special emphasis placed on Excellence in Management including, reviews of institutional and governance processes.

_Madam Chair,_

I hope this report is of interest to all concerned with successful delivery of the MTSIP. In this regard, comments and the guidance of the Committee regarding content, format and specific points of the implementation of MTSIP will be highly appreciated.

Thank you for your attention and now I call upon Chris to elaborate on the World Habitat Day 2009.