QUARTERLY REPORT ON
UN-HABITAT COUNTRY ACTIVITIES,
DECEMBER 2009

Statement by the Executive Director
Mrs. Anna Tibajjuka

HSP/CPR/35/6

Nairobi, 7 December 2009
STATEMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON THE QUARTERLY UN-HABITAT COUNTRY ACTIVITIES, DECEMBER 2009.

Excellencies,

In September 2009, the Secretariat submitted to the CPR the first Quarterly Report on UN HABITAT country activities. UN-HABITAT appreciated the attention and the interest generated by the submission and we have as much as possible taken stock of the valuable inputs and recommendations made by the distinguished CPR members.

In this direction and as requested, we have widened the scope of the report by integrating, beyond the Regional and Technical Cooperation Division-RTCD, all newly opened or closed country activities from other Divisions during the last three months. This quarterly report complements the biennial Country Activities Report submitted to the Governing Council and widely disseminated.

We have organized the report in two sections. In the first section are presented the tables of projects which (i) have been completed or (ii) have been initiated in each region during the last 3 months. As per your recommendation and for better information, we have also added in the tables a column describing succinctly the challenges associated with the execution of the projects and programmes.

The second section highlights some of the completed and new projects of particular relevance to the MTSIP/ENOF action plan.

Among the recently completed projects we have highlighted some projects in each region. In Africa we have supported the Uganda Stabilized Soil block-SSB construction of 72 model houses for health workers and teachers in the Lango and Acholi sub regions. Likewise, in Namibia, with funding from Central Emergency Relief Fund – CERF, we have supported the government in providing emergency shelter for displaced persons in the country. These two projects are fully in line with focus area 3 of the MTSIP on promoting pro-poor land and housing.

In Asia, we have facilitated emergency shelter recovery for the victims of the Tsunami tragedy in the Maldives. Funded by UNDP, the project saw the repair of 2,739 housing units and 162 houses reconstructed in the island. It fits within focus area 2 of the MTSIP on land and housing. Likewise, in Myanmar, in partnership with BASF/Germany, UN-HABITAT facilitated the construction of multi-purpose schools, health and community centres.

Among the new projects, I wish to mention in Africa the beginning of the Lake Victoria Urban Schools Water and Sanitation Project supported by the government of Italy. The project falls under the MTSIP focus area 4 and is aimed at improving the health status and learning environment for primary school pupils through the provision of safe water supply, improved sanitation facilities and enhanced hygiene education in the three countries of East Africa.

Other new projects in Africa include the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralization Services in Somalia, supported by DFID. It is within the focus area 2 of the MTSIP. Worth mentioning as well is the Liberia Initial Support to the Land Commission project with funding from the UN Peace Building Fund. This project is in line with focus area 2 as well.

In Asia, we have also taken up several new initiatives. I can mention the programme on Community-Led Ger Area Upgrading in Ulaanbaatar City in Mongolia, (FA 3), funded by the
government of Japan, as well as a project on the Provision of the Vocational Training for Returning IDPs Affected by the Koshi Floods in Nepal, funded by UNDP and fits well with MTSIP focus area 2. In Pakistan, since Aug 2009, with support from the US Government, we have undertaken Emergency Shelter Assistance for IDPs (FA 3).

In Latin America, we are contributing to Inter-agency Programme for Promotion of Gender and Racial/Ethnic Equality in Brazil funded by the Spanish MDG Trust Fund. We are also promoting the Convivial Networks, Communities without Fear Programme (MDG-F) in Costa Rica. This project is also supported by the Spanish MDG Trust Fund and falls under focus area 1.

In Eastern Europe, the Kosovo Municipal Spatial Planning Support in the preparatory assistance to sustainable development project in Dragash is funded by UNDP and falls in focus area 2.

At Regional level, we thank UNDP, Norway, Spain and Kuwait for their financial support to the Cities and Climate Change Initiative in Africa and Asia, The Iberoamerican and Caribbean Forum on Best Practices and for contributions to the preparation of the next round of State of Cities Reports for the Africa, Arab States, Asia-Pacific, East Europe and CIS and Latin America-Caribbean regions.

As you will notice, based on the sample country and regional activities provided to you, UN HABITAT, despite the challenge associated with field work and programme execution, keeps a very dynamic portfolio responsive to national and regional specificities. But, above all, it respects the priorities defined in the MTSIP and contributes to policy reform and capacity-building, as indicated in our biennial work-programme.

For more information on the Regional and Country programme and projects presented, please to contact the Director, RTCD, and the respective Regional Offices or the Directors of the respective Divisions in UN HABITAT.

Thank you very much.