Introductory Statement by Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director

Quarterly Report on UN-Habitat Country Activities

Agenda Item 7

HSP/CPR/40/7
Nairobi, 2 March 2011
Madam Chair,
Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,

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

As requested, we have now widened the scope of the report by integrating, besides the activities of the Regional and Technical Cooperation Division (RTCD), all newly opened or closed country activities from other Divisions during the past three months. This quarterly report complements the biennial Country Activities Report submitted to the Governing Council for its session in April this year.

The current report is organised into two sections. In the first section, a selected number of closed and new projects are presented. The second section presents a table of all projects that have been initiated and completed in each region during the last three months.

In Africa, we have supported the Government of Uganda in delivering the ‘Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Project’. This project supported the Government and Local Authorities in establishing pro-poor water and sanitation investments in secondary urban centres, as well as enabling far-reaching water sector reforms in the Lake Victoria basin.

In the Arab States, we have concluded the activities under the ‘Improvement of Living Conditions of IDPs in Jowhar and Baidoa’ in Somalia. This project promoted a comprehensive approach towards improving the living conditions of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and their protection. It also provided them with solutions for integration and resettlement. This project was funded by SIDA and the Italian Cooperation.

In Asia, we have finalized one strategic project: the ‘Training and Technical Support for Earthquake Resistant Housing Reconstruction’ in Pakistan. The project focused on the provision of training and technical support for earthquake resistant housing in the regions affected. The project was funded by SIDA.

Madam Chair,
Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,

As always, UN-HABITAT continues to initiate new projects. In the period under review, new projects were started in Africa, the Arab States, Asia and Pacific and in Latin America.

Our Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States has commenced two important new projects in the Arab States. These are ‘The UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery’ in Somalia; and the ‘Regional Operations in Arab Cities’ in Kuwait. These projects are respectively funded by Italy and Kuwait.

In Asia, we have started five new projects. These are: the ‘Peace-Building in Afghanistan through Consolidation of Community Solidarity’; and in Pakistan, the ‘Rehabilitation of Community Infrastructure and Facilities’; the ‘Community-Driven Shelter Interventions in Sindh’; the ‘Pakistan Settlements Flood Recovery’; and the ‘Housing for Internally Displaced Persons in Conflict-affected Areas’. These projects are respectively funded by Japan, the United Kingdom and the European Union.
In the Caribbean region, I can highlight two new projects: the ‘UN-Habitat Emergency and Recovery Response to Haiti Earthquake’ and ‘Coordination of the Haiti Shelter Cluster’). These projects are funded respectively by the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the European Union.

Based on the completed and new projects in the current reporting period, you will have noticed that, despite the challenges associated with field work and programme execution, UN-HABITAT keeps a highly dynamic portfolio responsive to regional and national needs. But, above all, we respect the priorities defined in the MTSIP and contribute to the policy reform and capacity-building activities outlined in our biennial work-programme.

If you require more detailed information on the regional and country programmes and projects presented, please contact the Director of RTCD, the respective Regional Offices, or the Directors of the relevant Divisions in UN-HABITAT.

I thank you for your kind attention.