

UN HABITAT

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

**61ST REGULAR SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVES TO UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME
15 June 2016**

Item 7:

Thematic/country presentation

HSP/CPR/61/6

Introductory Statement by the Executive Director

Statement by Dr. Joan Clos
Executive Director, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and
the Undersecretary-General
Nairobi – 15 June 2016

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Members of the CPR,

We present to you the UN-Habitat progress report on thematic/country activities for the biannual period ending December 2015. We thank you for your understanding and for the approval to present it during this session. In addition to the country activities report, we will highlight activities being undertaken by the Iraq Programme and the impact that the programme is making at the country level.

Today I am delighted to present to you a new format of the country activities' report; we have attempted to make it more result focused and easy to read. We will continue to improve this new format and will be very appreciative of your comments to further improve it and respond to what you would like to see. The report highlights results achieved across the seven (7) thematic subprogrammes during the year 2015. The regular format of the new report includes analysis of project portfolio and performance that helps to assess the implementation of the annual work plan and biennial work programme including three annexes showing detailed project information. However, for 2015 report, there is no project portfolio and performance analysis and its related annexes.

In 2015, UN-Habitat had 60 offices/ country representation and provided operational support (Technical, Advisory etc.) to 80 countries, of which 44 (55%) are LDCs, 35 (44%) are MICs and 1(1%) is HIC. 17 countries have Habitat Programme Managers (HPMs) with most of them funded by projects being implemented in the country and the others funded by Host Countries. The Agency has 5 Regional Offices (4 established and 1 proposed): Asia and Pacific (based in Fukuoka, Japan), Latin America and the Caribbean (based in Rio, Brazil), Africa (based in Nairobi Kenya), the Arab States (based in Cairo, Egypt) and the proposed Europe (based in Brussels, Belgium). It also had 2 sub-regional offices (based in Kuwait City, Kuwait and in Bangkok, Thailand). UN-Habitat currently has 3 Liaison Offices in New York, USA; Geneva, Switzerland and Moscow, Russia.

Excellencies,

Allow me to highlights a few results that were achieved in the reporting period:

- **In NEPAL**, a Unified Land Acts replaced 60 laws and regulations
- **In Rwanda**, National Urban Policy was adopted setting the stage for sustainable urbanization and development
- **In the State of Palestine**, there was improved economic empowerment for 175 underprivileged women in Hebron City
- **In Colombia**, cycling uptake increased by 270% during the rush hour after implementing the 'Safe Route' initiative
- **In Burkina Faso**, 30,575 (6,115 households) received improved sanitation
- **In Sri Lanka**, 186,000 (58,687 families) returnees achieved improved quality of life
- **And on the normative side**, over 300 cities are now implementing the UN-Habitat City Prosperity Index (CPI) and The UN-Habitat Global Urban Lecture Series reached 50,000 viewers and was voted the World's Second Best Massive Open Online Courses on Cities (MOOC)

Distinguished members,

The year 2015 was not without its challenges; from conflict, security issues, natural disasters and political situation of countries where the UN-Habitat worked; the Agency also experienced some internal challenges, such as the teething problems related to the transition to UMOJA Accounting System (the United Nations Enterprise Resource Planning System) launched in 2015. Whilst UMOJA has its benefits; it had some negative impact on project and programme implementation and caused major delays in some projects and strained the Agency's relationship with some implementing partners. It is expected that stabilization issues will persist through the end of 2016.

However, despite the challenges of 2015, UN-Habitat succeeded in maintaining its relevance, influenced policies (globally, regionally, nationally and locally), created and shared knowledge, and impacted the lives of people through its projects and programmes and support provided to member States.

Thank you.