

UN **HABITAT** **FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE**

**Introductory Statement by Ms. Maimunah Mohd-Sharif
Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director**

Thematic/Country Presentation

Agenda Item 12

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Nairobi, 21 March 2018

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**Statement by Ms. Maimunah Mohd-Sharif
Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Director, UN-Habitat**

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**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Representatives**

I am pleased to share with you UN-Habitat's work in Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Rwanda. This presentation shows the work done by UN-Habitat in the four African countries during the past 5 years and how UN-Habitat has managed to obtain lasting results. The work is implemented by the Regional Office for Africa jointly with all thematic branches of UN-Habitat. A more detailed presentation was made to the CPR Subcommittee on Policy and Programme of Work two days ago, on 19 March.

UN-Habitat project development is aligned with the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan, the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. It is also aligned with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) at the country level. UN-Habitat's presence at the country level depends on the level of the country project portfolio. Thus successful fund raising is a precondition to country presence.

To sustain a country programme, UN-Habitat must earn trust from country level stakeholders. It must deliver results through the establishment of strong partnerships with key central government institutions, local governments, other UN system agencies, bilateral and multi-lateral donors, civil society organisations, the private sector and academia.

What do these four countries illustrate? Angola illustrates a new trend for securing the presence of UN-Habitat in African countries, following the collapse of the Habitat Country Programme Manager model due to financial difficulties. Both Ethiopia and Mozambique illustrate the evolution of comprehensive country programmes, with a high level of trust and credibility at all levels. Rwanda represents a country that has placed sustainable urbanisation high in its development agenda, as a means to reach middle-income status, in the process also developing a comprehensive urban and human settlements programme. All of these countries also illustrate the potential of earmarked domestic funding for programme and project activities.

Excellencies, Distinguished Representatives

This work has been made possible by financial support from the Governments of Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Rwanda, for which we are very grateful. Valuable financial support, for which we are also very grateful, has come from a number of donors and institutions, including Japan, Sweden, Spain, USAID, DFID, European Union, UNDP, UNICEF, IOM, World Bank, Adpatation Fund and Smart Africa Cities.

In this connection, I would like to call upon all African countries to consider domestic funding of UN-Habitat's technical assistance in areas where we have a comparative advantage. I would also like to call upon our donors, traditional and non-traditional, to continue supporting UN-Habitat's work at the country-level in Africa and in other regions as well.

Excellencies, Distinguished Representatives

Once again I take this opportunity to thank you for being here and welcome you to listen to the presentation.

I thank you.