

Talking Points: Executive Board by Padma K Mainalee, Joint Secretary, MOUD, Government of Nepal

Honorable Chair of UN-Habitat Executive Board

Honorable Madam Executive Director of UN-Habitat

Members of the Executive Board, the government delegates and the participants

It is my honor to participate UN-Habitat's Executive Board and I would like express my sincere thanks to the UN-Habitat for facilitating my participation. In continuation to the presentation (by Mr. Raf Tuts,) I want to reaffirm the highlighted achievements of UN-Habitat Nepal and further elaborate the key aspects of technical collaboration between the Government of Nepal and UN-Habitat. (and also the established mechanisms of cooperation).

1. The Government has formed a multi-ministry Steering Committee for UN-Habitat at the Ministry of Urban Development. The Committee is convened twice a year and serves as platform to ensure coordination with and between government agencies, to ensure an integrated approach in implementation and for regular updates and inputs on projects. This committee has helped in building a stronger collaboration between Government and UN-Habitat, with ownership of the initiatives – both in process and in product.
2. UN-Habitat is our key technical partner. We have co-worked on urban issues and in multiple sectors – like WASH, Land, Climate Change and Inclusion - to inform the policies through strong technical insights and data analytics which are well incorporated in policy frameworks. An example is the collaboration in redefining the degree of urbanization in Nepal, the results of which are strongly reflected in the national urban policy.
3. UN-Habitat Nepal brings its regional and global expertise to support the Government. We have worked on contextualization of the tested global tools, concepts and guidelines to shape a localized version for

implementation. We have prepared a climate and inclusion responsive national framework and municipal planning guideline.

4. We acknowledge UN-Habitat's long-standing engagement and contribution in basic services and land reform, with support that extended from policy to its implementation through a stronger vertical integration between the national and local governments. This has resulted in tangible impacts as you saw in the presentation.
5. We appreciate the inclusive, community-led and participatory processes of UN-Habitat that led to successful implementation of complex projects on urban reconstruction and land reform, including on-going efforts of ensuring meaningful participation of women and socially excluded groups in the planning process.
6. We are happy to collaborate with the regional office of UN-Habitat and their continued coordination. It has helped us to extend the association with other countries in and across the region, where Nepal co-hosted the International Spatial Planning Platform with the Government of Japan in 2023, and have been actively participating in the regional and global events convened by UN-Habitat and the partners.
7. I want to conclude by highlighting two key priorities of Nepal, where we seek intensive support and collaboration:
 - First is in deepening efforts for climate risk mitigation and climate responsive development by seeking climate finance windows, as we are increasingly facing unprecedented impacts of climate change and becoming a day-to-day crisis.
 - Second, Localizing urban planning is a priority and empowers local governments with data and capacity in taking informed development and investment decisions.

In closing, I want to thank the executive board and UN-Habitat and affirm our continued collaboration and commitment for collective actions.

Thank you. Nairobi, 5th December 2024