

UN HABITAT

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

**Introductory Statement by Dr. Joan Clos
Executive Director**

Thematic/Country Presentation

Agenda Item 7

**HSP/CPR/62/7
Nairobi, 14 September 2016**

Statement by Dr. Joan Clos

**Executive Director, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and
the Undersecretary-General**

Nairobi – 14 September 2016

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Members of the CPR,

We present to you the UN-Habitat thematic/country activities report for the biannual period ending June 2016. 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 and impacts of UN-Habitat's work in Myanmar.

At the 61ST session of the CPR held in June 2016, we presented to you a new format of the country activities' report, that was more result focused and easier to read than previous format, as a demonstration of our attempts to better showcase the work of UN-Habitat and its impact at the country level. We will continue to improve this new format and present it as the regular format of the country activities' report.

However, 2016 being an important year for UN-Habitat; ready for the New Urban Agenda that will be the outcome of the very important upcoming Habitat III conference to be held in Quito in October 2016; we decided to go memory lane, looking at the important timelines of the evolution of UN-Habitat from its conception, creation to its growth into a programme and also review our work and consolidate our impacts, particularly the contributions made to the achievement of the MDGs. Hence, we present to you today, a special edition country/activity report, that gives a timeline highlight of UN-Habitat's evolution, the relevant mandate and GA resolutions; we showcase consolidated impacts of our work focusing at this time on two regions: Asia and Pacific and the Arab States, using two country examples per region (Afghanistan and Philippines for Asia and Pacific; Iraq and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the Arab States).

The report presents some examples of the impacts that UN-Habitat's partnership with the selected countries have had on the people of the countries; It also gives a brief highlight of the journey, including some testimonials from some of the beneficiaries and stakeholders. These are in no way a full representation of our work but only some examples. The report concludes with brief highlight of our normative contributions in

creating and sharing knowledge in the areas of Human Settlement, Sustainable Urbanization and Sustainable Development. The research, data, knowledge, practice and experience of UN-Habitat has facilitated the production of these highly informative and influential publications.

Distinguished members,

As the current urbanization model is unsustainable in many respects, the pattern of urbanization needs to change in order to better respond to the challenges of our time, to address issues such as inequality, climate change, informality, insecurity, and the unsustainable forms of urban expansion. We therefore look forward to The New Urban Agenda that will set the road map for the future of urbanization; mutually reinforcing the relationship between urbanization and development.

Thank you.