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**Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements
Programme, including coordination matters**

Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Report of the Executive Director

Addendum

**Cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United
Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the
United Nations system and non-governmental organizations¹**

Introduction

1. The present report reviews progress in respect of cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and organizations and agencies within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations during the period from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2010.

**I. Cooperation with organizations and agencies within the
United Nations system in the implementation of the Habitat
Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals**

2. During the reporting period UN-Habitat has been actively participating in the inter-agency coordination mechanisms described below.

A. United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

3. UN-Habitat is an active member of the regional coordination mechanism in Asia and the Pacific, which is chaired by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific and coordinated from Bangkok. Its aim is to enhance policy coordination at the regional level. UN-Habitat Bangkok Office, under the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, is part

* HSP/GC/23/1.

¹ The mention of any commercial firm in this document does not imply endorsement by the United Nations.

of the mechanism's thematic working group on environment and disaster management and seeks to promote urban issues and the Habitat Agenda.

4. UN-Habitat has contributed to a draft United Nations system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication through full employment and decent work, which was commissioned by the High-Level Committee on Programmes. In addition, as a member of the High-level Committee's working group, UN-Habitat actively participated in the preparations for the United Nations climate change conference in Cancún, Mexico, including the organization of joint side events.

5. The main aim of the High-level Committee on Programmes and the second regular session of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2010, was to follow up on the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held from 20 to 22 September 2010, at which Heads of State and Government committed themselves to continuing to work towards cities without slums, beyond current targets, through reducing slum populations and improving the lives of slum-dwellers, with adequate support from the international community. Participants at the meeting discussed the linkage between the outcome of the High-level Plenary Meeting and the broader development agenda. They also related the obstacles to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals to the need to move towards a fairer, greener and more sustainable globalization. They discussed the patterns and governance of globalization, and agreed on the need for greater policy coherence between organizations in the advice that they gave to member Governments, governing bodies and the General Assembly, and in their assistance to policy implementation at the country level.

B. United Nations Development Group

6. UN-Habitat is a member of the Asia and Pacific regional team of the United Nations Development Group, along with 17 other United Nations agencies, and participates in its working group on environment and climate change. The UN-Habitat Bangkok Office is engaged in the Peer Support Group, providing technical assistance to the United Nations country team in the roll-out countries for the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

7. Under the auspices of the United Nations Development Group, the United Nations system provided a series of analytical inputs related to the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals. UN-Habitat contributed to a thematic paper on goal 7, which provided an analysis of country-level strategies and measures, the factors underpinning success, critical gaps, a summary of key lessons learned and future measures for accelerated progress; and to chapter 4, on environmental sustainability, of a publication on good practices with regard to the Goals, which aims to share knowledge and learn from creative country approaches.

C. Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee

8. UN-Habitat remains active within the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs, which is chaired by the Emergency Relief Coordinator and meets monthly, drawing together the heads of all member agencies to consider matters of policy regarding global humanitarian operations.

9. In November 2009, UN-Habitat hosted the seventy-fifth meeting of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Working Group in Nairobi, the first meeting of the Working Group to take place outside Europe or North America. During the seventy-eighth meeting of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Working Group, a strategy proposed by UN-Habitat for supporting the member agencies of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee in meeting humanitarian challenges in urban areas was endorsed. The strategy, along with a two-year action plan, analyses urbanization trends and identifies new ways of doing business among United Nations and non-governmental humanitarian actors so as to make their responses in urban areas more effective in saving lives and accelerating recovery. UN-Habitat will periodically convene a reference group on the topic.

10. Within the Inter-Agency Standing Committee global cluster coordination system, UN-Habitat chairs the Global Protection Cluster Working Group's Sub-Working Group on Housing, Land and Property, and provides an urban focus on relief, recovery and reconstruction programmes through the shelter, early recovery, and protection clusters. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat provided country-level guidance, technical support and training to humanitarian coordinators and to humanitarian country teams in Haiti, Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan; it also coordinated with the Rule of Law & Justice Sub-Working Group of the Protection Cluster, the Interagency Framework on Natural Resources and Conflict and the Peacebuilding Support Office. In addition, UN-Habitat participates in shelter and early recovery coordination systems within humanitarian country teams throughout its operational portfolio.

11. UN-Habitat has provided technical support to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies with regard to their role as emergency shelter cluster coordinators in post-disaster operations. A series of country-specific agreements has been signed to ensure that UN-Habitat leads long-term shelter planning during emergencies and a smooth transition from crisis to recovery and reconstruction.

D. Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs

12. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat participated actively in the meetings of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs and provided technical inputs for reports of the Secretary-General and other relevant documents. Rapid and unplanned urbanization is foreseen as one of the major challenges to sustainable development in developing countries in the twenty-first century. A review of progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of Chapter 7 of Agenda 21, focusing on sustainable cities and human settlements in an urbanizing world, will provide an opportunity to promote recognition of the role of sustainable urbanization in development and of cities as platforms for delivering environmental sustainability along with economic growth.

E. UN-Water

13. As a member of UN-Water, the United Nations mechanism for inter-agency coordination on water resources, UN-Habitat participated in the world's leading trade fair for water, sewage, waste and raw materials management, which was held in Munich in 2010. This contributed to enhancing the interest of the private-sector water and wastewater industry in engaging with United Nations agencies.

F. UN-Energy

14. UN-Energy is the United Nations mechanism for inter-agency coordination on energy. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat, as the current chair of UN-Energy Africa, took part in all UN-Energy meetings and contributed substantively to the organization of the first All-Africa Energy Week, which took place in Maputo from 1 to 4 November 2010. UN-Habitat represented UN-Energy Africa in a number of forums and conferences during the reporting period, including: the Tokyo International Conference on African Development follow-up meeting in Arusha; the Global Energy Efficiency 21 project (organized by the United Nations economic commissions for Europe and Africa); the forum on the use of clean energy for better management of megacities in Africa, organized by the African Union Commission during the World Expo 2010 Shanghai; and the ministerial conference of African energy ministers in Maputo. UN-Habitat also contributed to the design and development of the UN-Energy website and knowledge network, accessible at www.un-energy.org, and which was recently launched at the UN-Energy retreat in Vienna.

G. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

15. UN-Habitat and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) jointly hosted, in September 2009 in Nairobi, the fourth annual meeting of the Inter-Agency Committee of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, for which the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is the lead agency. It included a one-day public symposium on climate change education and sustainable cities. In May 2010, UN-Habitat participated in a side event organized by the Inter-Agency Committee on education and learning for sustainable consumption and production during the Commission on Sustainable Development's eighteenth session, in New York. UN-Habitat also contributed to a publication entitled "Tomorrow Today," which considers the increasing significance of sustainable human development and the important role of education in attaining that goal.

H. United Nations Institute for Training and Research

16. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and Yale University, in partnership with a number of bodies, including UN-Habitat, organized in September 2010 the second UNITAR/Yale Conference on Environmental Governance & Democracy. It brought together some 160 academics, governance practitioners and civil society representatives from more than 20 developed and developing countries to explore opportunities to strengthen policy-relevant research on effective governance to tackle climate change and foster a green economy.

17. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNEP, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, UNITAR and UN-Habitat work together on a programme on a territorial approach to climate change. The programme aims to reinforce regions' capacities to establish governance and partnership frameworks, develop sound climate change diagnoses, design territorial climate integrated plans and identify portfolios of public policy and investment projects. UN-Habitat supported the

development of the training modules and the implementation of a pilot training programme in collaboration with the East African Local Governments Association. The course brought together 28 representatives and members of the national local government associations of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, in addition to the East African Local Governments Association secretariat.

I. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

18. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat continued its collaboration with various partners through the United Nations Housing Rights Programme, an initiative jointly implemented by UN-Habitat and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. UN-Habitat and the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions cooperated in updating housing rights legislation, which was published through the housing rights documentation centre on the UN-Habitat website. Funded by UN-Habitat, the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions continued producing an advocacy tool in the form of the journal *Housing and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Law Quarterly*.

19. Alongside the fifth session of the World Urban Forum, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in March 2010, UN-Habitat co-organized an expert group meeting on guidelines and practices related to evictions, acquisition, and expropriation of land and housing, including compensation, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Advisory Group on Forced Evictions and the Global Land Tool Network and with the contribution of the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies

20. UN-Habitat produced, in collaboration with Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, a fact sheet on the right to adequate housing during the reporting period.

J. United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

21. UN-Habitat provides technical assistance and develops policy guidelines for Governments and local authorities to assist in the development of public policies related to the challenges facing indigenous peoples in cities. These activities are undertaken under the umbrella of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, as a response to outcomes of previous sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and requests by that body. UN-Habitat has developed, in particular, a policy guide to housing for indigenous peoples, which was launched at the 2009 meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, held from 28 to 30 September in Nairobi.

22. UN-Habitat also produced a new United Nations Housing Rights Programme report entitled "Urban Indigenous Peoples and Migration: A Review of Policies, Programmes and Practices". It was officially launched on 23 March 2010 during round-table discussions on indigenous peoples, sustainable urban development, culture and identity at the fifth session of the World Urban Forum.

23. As co-chair of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, UN-Habitat has had the opportunity to mainstream indigenous issues within its programmes and networks of partners and to strengthen its partnership with UNEP. Within the Group, UN-Habitat has also been stressing the importance of urbanization and its impact on indigenous peoples.

K. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

24. During the reporting period, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and UN-Habitat worked with the Global Land Tool Network in the production of three guidelines to strengthen international capacity to deal with land issues after natural disasters and in post-conflict situations.

L. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

25. UN-Habitat and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific work together on pro-poor housing finance. They have jointly organized workshops on the subject in Asia and the Pacific and facilitated the formation of an Asian and Pacific pro-poor housing finance network. They have also jointly developed a regional programme on urban safety for the poor.

26. As at October 2010, the UN-Habitat Bangkok Office was co-located with the Sustainable Urban Development Section of the Economic Commission's Environment and Development Division with a view to strengthening effective collaboration between the two agencies. UN-Habitat and the Economic Commission are jointly implementing various regional projects including a housing finance network, the Safer Cities programme and the Cities in Climate Change initiative (the last two funded through the Development Account). They are also seeking to localize Millennium Development Goal monitoring and publish reports on the state of Asian cities.

M. United Nations Environment Programme

27. A comprehensive report on cooperation between UN-Habitat and UNEP during 2009 and 2010, prepared jointly by the executive directors of the two programmes, may be found in document HSP/GC/23/2/Add.6.

N. United Nations Development Programme

28. Activities with UNDP are being implemented in a number of countries. UN-Habitat is responsible for a component of the Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction Programme in Bangladesh called “settlements improvement”, with a budget of \$55 million, taking place in 30 cities and towns.

29. UN-Habitat is also receiving funding support from UNDP for several activities. These include projects in Nepal, Papua New Guinea and the Republic of Korea; the first phase of integrated shelter assistance for landless households affected by flooding in Koshi, Nepal; capacity-building to support solid-waste management in Aceh, Indonesia; and UN-Habitat programme manager operations in Cambodia and Viet Nam. UN-Habitat is also part of the Joint Programme for Climate Change in the Philippines, which is funded by the Government of Spain through UNDP.

O. International Labour Organization

30. UN-Habitat and the International Labour Organization (ILO) have worked with the municipality of Kisumu, Kenya, to promote sustainable environmental management practices through what is known as a “purchasing power parity” approach with a focus on waste management and poverty reduction. The initiative forms part of the Lake Victoria City Development Strategies programme funded by the Swedish International Development Agency.

31. In Haiti, a joint project by ILO, UNDP and UN-Habitat to recycle debris created as a result of the devastating earthquake in 2010 has been developed. The project will promote microenterprises and small enterprises in the urban and peri-urban zones of Jacmel and Leogane, creating some 3,250 jobs.

32. Under the United Nations joint crisis initiative, UN-Habitat is actively engaged with ILO on two key programmes on social floor protection and poverty eradication. UN-Habitat has contributed to an inter-agency manual on social floor protection, which is intended to be used in the coordination of United Nations agencies’ activities at the country level. UN-Habitat contributions focused on promoting pro-poor housing and urban services in the context of implementing the guidelines on access to basic urban services for all, which were approved in 2009 by the Governing Council. UN-Habitat has also contributed to the system-wide plan of action on the second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017), on the theme “full employment and decent work for all”. This is an initiative that is co-chaired by ILO and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. UN-Habitat participated in and contributed to the discussions on inter-agency collaboration and coherence in implementing the plan of action, including at an inter-agency technical meeting on building employment and decent work into sustainable recovery and development, held in December 2010, in Turin, Italy.

33. ILO continues to participate actively in the sessions of the World Urban Forum, by conducting training events, and in the UN-Habitat World Urban Campaign.

P. World Bank Group

34. During the period under review UN-Habitat and the World Bank Group cooperated on land management, water and sanitation, energy efficiency and climate change adaptation, and housing finance.

35. UN-Habitat signed a memorandum of understanding with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which is acting through its World Bank Institute, to undertake collaborative capacity-development projects in the urban sector. The first initiative undertaken under this collaborative arrangement is a joint work programme on successful approaches to national slum upgrading and prevention.

36. The World Bank, UN-Habitat and UNEP have joined forces, with support from the Cities Alliance, to consider the topic of “cities and climate change”. This collaboration is contributing to a more coordinated and focused response on issues facing cities, especially in developing countries. It covers knowledge management, operational support, monitoring and awareness-raising and has already resulted in the development of a greenhouse gases standard for cities and a common urban risk assessment methodology.

37. The World Bank and UN-Habitat have carried out joint programming in land administration and policy reform in Benin, Ethiopia, India, Mexico and Rwanda, in addition to Kenya, where UN-Habitat chairs the land donor group. UN-Habitat is a member of the Bank's advisory group on a land governance assessment framework, and the Bank is a founding member of the Global Land Tool Network.

38. UN-Habitat worked with the water sector of the Bank's sustainable development network to launch pre-investment capacity-building in water demand management with the aim of accelerating Bank investments in water and sanitation in selected countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The two institutions agreed to coordinate the World Water Forum event, to be hosted in 2011 by South Africa.

39. The International Finance Corporation of the World Bank Group and the Urban Finance Branch of UN-Habitat have jointly supported the development of a \$500 million affordable housing programme in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. UN-Habitat provided a \$1 million loan to help create a new secondary facility for affordable home lending. This catalytic investment was necessary to unlock senior finance from the United States Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the International Finance Corporation, the Palestine Investment Fund, and two local banks in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (Cairo Amman Bank and Bank of Palestine). The programme is expected to employ over 100,000 construction workers and aims to build more than 30,000 affordable homes in the West Bank over the programme's life. The World Bank will support the improvement of the legal and regulatory environment relating to mortgage lending. As a result of its participation in the project, the International Finance Corporation has expressed an interest in launching a global microhousing facility as a public-private partnership to support increased funding for microhousing lending in emerging markets.

40. Concerning monitoring and research, the Bank and UN-Habitat have supported initiatives by the Global Urban Observatory to monitor trends in urbanization and slum formation. Work to define a joint research agenda on urban inequalities began at a high-level dialogue organized jointly by UN-Habitat and the Bank at the fifth session of the World Urban Forum.

41. In addition, UN-Habitat contributed to the Bank's adoption of its new urban strategy. Under the leadership of its President, Mr. Robert Zoellick, the Bank increased its portfolio of loans to assist Governments in delivering urban services.

Q. United Nations Children's Fund

42. UN-Habitat and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are working together on mechanisms for strengthening collaboration at the country and global levels in the areas of emergency water provision, sanitation and infrastructure. Collaboration is already under way in Madagascar and is being explored in Zimbabwe. In Nepal, a joint project on arsenic mitigation featuring the collaboration of the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and UN-Habitat has been completed. In September 2010, UNICEF and UN-Habitat jointly secured support from the United Nations Central Emergency Reserve Fund to tackle outbreaks of diarrhoea in several districts of Nepal.

43. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat also worked with UNICEF in promoting the Child Friendly Cities initiative. In August 2009, UN-Habitat participated in an exploratory workshop in Pretoria on Child Friendly Cities and Communities, with a view to linking the agency's work on urban youth centres and safer cities to UNICEF work with young people in the country. UN-Habitat also cooperates with UNICEF on the latter's adolescent development and participation programme.

44. Recognizing that armed violence can only be tackled through collective efforts, UN-Habitat works with UNICEF, UNDP, WHO and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs through a global armed violence prevention programme.

R. Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality

45. As an active member of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, UN-Habitat serves on various task forces, including one on violence against women that is spearheading a system-wide response to the Secretary-General's campaign, "UNite to End Violence against Women". UN-Habitat also serves on the United Nations Development Group's task force on strengthening gender mainstreaming at the country level and the gender and water task force.

S. United Nations Development Fund for Women

46. UN-Habitat and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) signed a memorandum of understanding in June 2009 on the global programme on safety and security for women and girls in cities. The memorandum also covers the broader issues of gender and local

governance, in addition to gender budgeting, and is intended to result in the scaling up of the work on women and girl's safety in cities globally. In follow-up to this memorandum, UN-Habitat and UNIFEM, in collaboration with Women in Cities International, Jagori, the Huairou Commission and various other local and international partners, organized the third International Conference on Women's Safety, in New Delhi, from 22 to 25 November 2010.

47. UN-Habitat collaborates with the Universitas Programme of the United Nations Office for Project Services and UNIFEM, the Huairou Commission and the International Development Research Centre to develop practical materials related to gender, decentralization and local development for use in policy forums and as educational materials for university teaching and professional development.

48. Under the United Nations joint programme for Kenya on gender equality and women's empowerment, and within the "One United Nations" framework, UN-Habitat, UNIFEM and UNDP, together with the Kenyan ministries for local government, gender, children and social development, planning, and public service, organized a first training of facilitators on gender and local governance through the Government Training Institute in Matuga, near Mombasa, and the Association of Local Government Authorities in Kenya.

T. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

49. UN-Habitat is continuing its cooperation with the United Nations Programme on Youth within the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. It contributes regularly to the e-newsletter "UN Youth Flash". Outreach and information activities related to the Urban Youth Fund have been carried out in cooperation with the Department and UN-Habitat also participated in International Youth Day on 12 August.

50. In conjunction with the Department, UN-Habitat launched at the fifth session of the World Urban Forum a newsletter on accessibility and social inclusion for urban dwellers living with disabilities.

51. Together with the Department and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in 2009 UN-Habitat organized an expert group meeting on young people, armed violence and urban social inclusion in Africa.

U. World Food Programme

52. During the reporting period, within the context of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force on Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas, UN-Habitat entered into partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) on assessing tools, methodologies and experiences in humanitarian response in urban areas and collaborated in assessing the strengths and weaknesses of key tools. UN-Habitat also provided inputs to a WFP review of tools for targeting food assistance, and practices in an urban emergency context by suggesting urban-based criteria and factors affecting WFP food assistance in urban settings.

V. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

53. The UN-Habitat Bangkok Office and the UNODC Regional Office for South Asia are exploring mechanisms for entering into strategic partnership for crime prevention and dealing with young people at risk in cities in Asia and the Pacific. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, a joint project is being developed for funding.

54. The UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme contributed to the establishment and signing of an agreement, in September 2009, on the prevention of armed violence. The agreement involves a number of partners (UNDP/Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, WHO, UNODC, UNICEF, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs) and is part of the Armed Violence Prevention Programme. UN-Habitat submitted a proposal to the EuropeAid Development and Cooperation Directorate-General of the European Commission, which was incorporated into a UNODC proposal in 2010. An agreement has been reached with UNODC and UNITAR, together with the Swedish National Police Board, the Institute of Public Safety of Catalonia and the police forces of Montreal and Nigeria on an annual joint workplan for the Police Platform for Urban Development.

W. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

55. The existing memorandum of understanding between UN-Habitat and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is being expanded to include support from UN-Habitat in the areas of water, sanitation and infrastructure for urban refugees and in large refugee camps. Collaboration in this area has begun in Kenya and will be expanded to Egypt and Ethiopia.

Collaboration is continuing with the Office in the areas of housing, land and property rights protection in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia and the Sudan.

X. International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

56. The UN-Habitat Bangkok Office is working closely with the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction regional office in mainstreaming issues on urban risks, safer construction and safer settlements through the Asian Partnership on Disaster Reduction, a regional mechanism involving the relevant regional stakeholders in implementing the disaster risk reduction strategy as outlined in the Hyogo Framework for Action: 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters. For the International Day for Disaster Reduction in 2010, UN-Habitat supported national launches of the “World Risk Reduction Campaign: Making Cities Resilient” in Myanmar, Thailand and Pacific countries.

57. Several joint events as part of the “Making Cities Resilient” campaign, and the World Urban Campaign, were organized by the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and UN-Habitat during the reporting period, including during the World Urban Forum, sessions of the Economic and Social Council and the World Expo 2010 Shanghai.

Y. Global Environment Facility

58. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat embarked on substantive engagements with the secretariat of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), which is based in Washington, D.C. Approved by participating finance ministries, the fifth replenishment of GEF (2011–2013) includes as one of its five thematic areas support, estimated at more than \$300 million, for environmentally sound transport and urban systems. GEF is keen to engage the expertise of UN-Habitat to guide the execution of this thematic area.

59. In collaboration with UNEP, GEF and the Governments of the East African Community (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania), UN-Habitat is working to promote energy efficiency in buildings in East Africa. The aim of this programme is to mainstream energy-efficient measures in housing policies, building codes and standards and building practices in East Africa. In addition, through funding from GEF, UN-Habitat is promoting sustainable transport solutions for the capital cities of Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. Together with participating national and local governments and other relevant stakeholders, the focus is on developing implementation strategies for mass rapid transit systems, corresponding infrastructure improvements for pedestrians and cyclists and travel demand management.

60. In November 2009, UN-Habitat, which is already recognized as an executing agency for GEF projects, has formally applied to become a GEF implementing agency. While a decision on this request is pending, the Programme Review Committee recently approved a project funded under the medium-term strategic and institutional plan to lay the groundwork for UN-Habitat to become a GEF agency. This project provides for an interdivisional task force, supported by a consultant, to advise the Executive Director as to the strategic approach that UN-Habitat should take to developing institutionally to become an effective GEF implementing agency.

Z. Environment Management Group

61. UN-Habitat has actively engaged with the Environment Management Group through its issue management groups related to specific environmental challenges and opportunities, including the green economy, land, biodiversity and a climate-neutral United Nations. UN-Habitat has also contributed to continuing Group discussions on environmental and social safeguards, sustainable management and international environmental governance. UN-Habitat is a contributor to the upcoming publication entitled “Global Drylands: A UN-Wide Response”. This publication aims at the adoption of a system-wide rapid response to drylands and options for a coherent United Nations system-wide contribution to meeting land challenges, including the implementation of the 10-year strategic plan of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa.

AA. Committee on Sustainable Development

62. UN-Habitat participated in the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which took place in New York in May 2009. Prior to the main session, UN-Habitat organized a special session on the margins of the Commission on Sustainable Development session in Addis Ababa to support African delegates in preparing to present their UN-Habitat-related agenda topics to the Commission in New York. UN-Habitat also submitted written comments to the Chair of the Commission at its seventeenth session, on the draft pre-session working documents. The

seventeenth session in New York provided a platform for UN-Habitat to articulate its mandate and relevant contributions to the Commission, particularly in the areas of land, sustainable urbanization, gender, Africa (though the land policy initiative), young people, partnership (working with and through regional organizations, civil society and academic institutions), local government and governance, all of which were reflected in the Commission's final adopted text.

AB. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

63. In April 2009 UN-Habitat, through its Warsaw office, signed a letter of intent with the Housing and Land Management Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe on areas of cooperation. The letter focuses on sharing information and mutual attendance at events hosted by each organization. In accordance with the letter, UN-Habitat contributed substantively to the Commission's conference on housing finance held in Rome in June 2009, and the Commission also contributed to a UN-Habitat conference on land and property taxation held in Warsaw in October 2009. UN-Habitat also participated in a mission and event in Georgia introducing the Commission's housing profile document for that country. UN-Habitat is represented at the meetings of the Commission's Housing and Land Management Committee and the Commission has observer status on the Advisory Council to the UN-Habitat Warsaw office.

II. Cooperation between UN-Habitat and intergovernmental organisations outside the United Nations system

A. European Commission

64. The European Commission has provided support for an inter-agency programme on land and natural resource conflict prevention. UN-Habitat has been responsible for developing a European Union/United Nations guidance note on land and conflict, in addition to related training materials. A second phase of the project focusing on the country level began in 2010.

65. UN-Habitat has continued actively to consolidate its relations with the various European Union institutions, while exploring and strengthening new partnerships with the potential to provide added value to its overall work. Policy dialogue with the institutions, including the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions, was reinforced and extended. Cooperation for programme support is continuing.

66. In October 2009, UN-Habitat and the European Parliament co-hosted a European celebration of World Habitat Day in Brussels. The celebration featured an active exchange on urban matters and a three-day exhibition advising Governments and other development stakeholders to focus efforts to tackle the challenges of rapid global urbanization. UN-Habitat continued to reinforce policy dialogue with a recently established task force on urban development within the European Parliament. The task force aims to support the inclusion of urban issues in European legislation, policies, operational activities and programmes. Considering the increasingly influential role of the European Parliament following the Treaty of Lisbon amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community, the consolidation of this partnership will strongly support the UN-Habitat mandate to increase awareness of urban issues, in cooperation with European bodies.

67. The cooperation between the European Commission and UN-Habitat has led to some joint initiatives, including a participatory slum upgrading programme funded by the Commission and currently being implemented in 30 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, and a tripartite international conference on urbanization challenges and poverty reduction held in Nairobi in June 2009. During the tenth anniversary of the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, the Commission, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, committed itself to providing substantial support for the extension of the participatory slum upgrading programme in all African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, contributing to the achievement of the Goals, particularly target 11 of goal 7, through participatory slum upgrading and prevention activities to combat urban poverty. The programme aims to expand the capacity of local, central and regional institutions to tackle urbanization challenges through the development of appropriate policies and instruments to improve urban conditions for the populations of African, Caribbean and Pacific member States. In support of these aims, UN-Habitat maintains a proactive and cooperative relationship with the secretariat of the group.

68. UN-Habitat and the Committee of the Regions signed, in February 2010, a memorandum of understanding aiming to enhance a partnership on sustainable urbanization in all spheres of public and private policies. The partnership will allow UN-Habitat to promote cooperation on sustainable urban development between a wide network of European local and regional authorities and partners in developing countries.

B. African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development

69. UN-Habitat continues to support the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development and was represented at the third session of the Conference, held in Bamako from 22 to 24 November 2010. The theme of the conference was “Land in the context of sustainable urbanization,” and UN-Habitat contributed, among other presentations, a statement on land policy issues in African cities. With support from UN-Habitat, ministers from the participating States drafted an action plan and declaration to tackle land issues with a view to eliminating slums in African cities.

C. Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development

70. UN-Habitat has been supporting the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development since its establishment in 2006. In June 2010 the Conference held its third session, in Solo, Indonesia, at which ministers from 38 countries deliberated on the issue of empowering communities for sustainable urban development and adopted the Solo Declaration and Implementation Plan. As a high-level organ of policymakers who are responsible for steering and implementing the urban agenda, the conference provides an effective partnership instrument for UN-Habitat in terms of influencing policy, backstopping implementation and allowing for joint monitoring and evaluation.

D. Parliamentarians and UN-Habitat

71. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat strengthened relations with Global Parliamentarians on Habitat and its regional chapters in promoting the Habitat Agenda and in support of the World Urban Campaign. The sixth Global Forum of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, focused on the overall theme of sustainable urbanization, was held in Rio de Janeiro before the fifth session of the World Urban Forum, from 18 to 20 March. It was attended by more than 200 parliamentarians. A key session was an expert group meeting to review and approve a strategy paper on working with parliamentarians. The paper, together with an action plan, is to form the basis of a charter of parliamentarians. A declaration was adopted at the end of the forum and served as the input from Global Parliamentarians on Habitat to the fifth session of the World Urban Forum.

72. A round-table meeting of parliamentarians was held on 23 March 2010 during the fifth session of the Forum, in partnership with Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, on climate change and human settlements. Global Parliamentarians on Habitat also agreed to support the World Urban Campaign. The Executive Director of UN-Habitat addressed the parliamentarians in the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat forum, and challenged them to pass relevant legislation and policies and support the Campaign.

73. UN-Habitat is expanding its partnership with many other parliamentary organizations, such as the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the Parliamentarians for Global Action, the Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa and the Inter-Parliamentary Union. A memorandum of understanding has been signed with the Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa for further collaboration.

E. African Development Bank

74. The need to increase investment into the water and sanitation sector has continued to be a primary focus of the UN-Habitat Water and Sanitation Trust Fund. The existing collaborative partnership with the African Development Bank is particularly important in terms of ensuring that pre-investment and post-investment capacity-building activities supported by Trust Fund programmes are directly and immediately linked to substantial investment opportunities in participating countries. Collaboration on key pre-investment activities significantly reduces the Bank’s project preparation and appraisal period increases the focus of efforts on serving the poor. To date, UN-Habitat’s activities under the collaboration have contributed to approximately \$245 million of approved projects in five countries under the Water for African Cities Programme, including Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania; Harar, Ethiopia; Niono, Mali; and in cities in Cameroon and Kenya.

75. The collaboration between UN-Habitat and the Bank to scale up the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Initiative has been one of the tangible outcomes of the memorandum of understanding signed between the two institutions. A project formulation study to prepare a project for Bank financing has been completed. The proposed project will encompass water and sanitation infrastructure, solid waste management and training and capacity-building for another 15 towns in the Lake Victoria basin, comprising three towns in each of the five East African Community member States. The Bank has committed some \$100 million to the project.

F. Inter-American Development Bank

76. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat strengthened cooperation with the Inter-American Development Bank in the substantive areas of water and sanitation, finance and urban safety. As part of a memorandum of understanding between UN-Habitat and the Bank, the two institutions aligned their respective capacity-building activities and loan portfolio to implement water and sanitation projects in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama.

77. In addition, the Urban Finance Branch of UN-Habitat and the Bank initiated joint programmes in Central America, combining the catalytic lending instruments of the experimental reimbursable seeding operations with the Bank's larger loan portfolio to support access by low-income households to water and sanitation services provided through large-scale infrastructure projects that have historically inadequately served these urban populations.

78. The Housing Policy Section of the UN-Habitat Shelter Branch and the World Bank Institute are partnering with the Inter-American Development Bank and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation to study and disseminate recent experiences and best practices of slum upgrading and prevention in 15 countries. The preliminary results were presented and discussed during an international expert group meeting on slum upgrading and prevention held on 25 March 2010, during the fifth session of the World Urban Forum.

79. UN-Habitat and the Bank are also working together in Colombia to introduce a joint urban crime and violence prevention programme and to field-test instruments to gather data on the frequency and nature of urban violence. The initiative is seen as an important pilot scheme that can be supported in the future throughout the region by UN-Habitat technical assistance and Bank lending.

G. Asian Development Bank

80. The UN-Habitat water and sanitation programme works in close collaboration with the Asian Development Bank. After satisfactory completion of joint activities under a memorandum of understanding signed between the Bank and UN-Habitat in 2003, the institutions are continuing to work together under a second such memorandum for the period 2007–2012. This collaboration aims to establish urban infrastructure partnership in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable human settlements, especially in the area of water and sanitation. It commits each of the two partners to providing \$15 million in grant funds to raise political awareness, build capacity, implement pilot and demonstration projects, and prepare investment plans for Asian cities. The memorandum also reflects the Bank's commitment to investing \$1.5 billion in the urban basic services sector with a focus on sanitation.

H. Association of Southeast Asian Nations

81. The partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and UN-Habitat has emphasized mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in the housing sector in Myanmar, assisting the Government of that country in tackling priority issues identified by the Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction, and also sharing best practices and lessons learned from the Tripartite Core Group partnership in appropriate international forums. Building on these partnerships, UN-Habitat is exploring collaboration with the Association and its member countries under the work programme of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response. Partnerships between the Association and the United Nations are currently being strengthened, and UN-Habitat is actively engaged in this framework.

I. Organization of American States

82. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat began cooperating with the Organization of American States (OAS) in the areas of public security and crime and violence prevention. This involved a high-level meeting between the Secretary-General of OAS and the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, in addition to active support from the New York Office, the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Safer Cities Programme.

83. UN-Habitat contributed to efforts by OAS to launch a first meeting of ministers of public security of the Americas. Having previously focused their attention exclusively on the criminal, judicial and penal systems, the ministers of public security from 25 member States on this occasion also considered crime and violence prevention.

84. On the occasion of the fifth session of the World Urban Forum, UN-Habitat officially joined the Inter-American Coalition for the Prevention of Violence, which is hosted by OAS. The coalition seeks to promote strategies to prevent the expansion of urban violence in the Americas by advancing policies and practical strategies for community policing, open-space planning, initiatives for young

people and management tools for urban security management. Coalition members include the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the centres for Disease Control and Prevention, the United States Agency for International Development, the Pan-American Health Organization, UN-Habitat and the Organization of American States.

J. League of Arab States

85. UN-Habitat was called upon by the Executive Office of the Council of Arab Ministers for Housing to assist in guiding urban planning in Arab countries. The UN-Habitat focal point for the League of Arab States and head of the agency's Kuwait office, together with the UN-Habitat Representative to Egypt, made a presentation to the Executive Office of the Arab Ministers' Council for Housing on a recent UN-Habitat report entitled "Planning Sustainable Cities" and on UN-Habitat programmes in Arab States in October 2010.

86. From 1 to 3 November 2010, the Department of Environment, Housing and Sustainable Development of the League of Arab States hosted an expert group meeting for a report on the state of Arab cities in Cairo, in partnership with the UN-Habitat Kuwait office for Arab cities, the Arab Towns Organization, the Arab Urban Development Institute and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. Participants defined the scope, directions and trends to be considered in the report, and produced an agreed timeline for production of the report with associated launch activities.

K. Organization of the Islamic Conference

87. UN-Habitat attended and contributed to a coordination meeting between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference in June 2010 in Istanbul, Turkey, to discuss potential programmes of cooperation in Islamic countries. UN-Habitat, together with the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry agreed to develop a joint workshop on energy-efficient housing. The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization agreed to contribute to research for a regional state of the cities report 2012, with information on cultural and historical facilities in Islamic countries. UN-Habitat has communicated with that organization to agree on the dates and scope of the workshop and other deliverables and is waiting for a response.

L. Commonwealth Local Government Forum

88. The Commonwealth Local Government Forum is building the capacity of local government officials in nine Pacific island States, using UN-Habitat training materials and methodologies on financial management and local leadership development. In addition, there is a partnership agreement to undertake climate change vulnerability assessments in three urban centres in the Pacific, and efforts are under way to extend this initiative to additional countries.

89. In collaboration with the Forum, the UN-Habitat Urban Governance Section undertook missions to Lusaka and Masvingo, Zimbabwe, in 2010 to build local capacity for the administration of the Urban Governance Index. In Lusaka, UN-Habitat worked through the Forum and with the Local Government Association of Zambia to train governance experts and representatives of five Zambian cities on governance concepts, the function of the Index, and how to gather and analyse Index data and develop governance improvement strategies in their cities. In Masvingo, UN-Habitat and the Forum jointly conducted a similar training programme for the Urban Councils Association of Zimbabwe and its 10 participating cities.

M. Commonwealth Secretariat

90. Through a network of Commonwealth government training institutions, UN-Habitat is working in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat to promote leadership development in the public sector. Currently, a toolkit for urban managers is being jointly developed for use in developing countries.

N. Cities Alliance

91. In January 2010, Cities Alliance marked its tenth anniversary with meetings of the Executive Committee and the Consultative Group held in Mumbai, India, attended by representatives of UN-Habitat. The Consultative Group said that, while it was evident that the two agencies had a solid basis on which to strengthen their collaboration in the urban agenda, it also recognized a need for the role of Cities Alliance to be more value-added and complementary. The Consultative Group further recommended that Cities Alliance should revisit its governance structure and decision-making process.

92. Following those discussions and decisions in Mumbai, the Executive Committee considered the charter of Cities Alliance. The issue was first debated at a meeting of the Executive Committee in Paris in July 2010 and at an extraordinary meeting in October 2010. During the meeting of the Consultative Group in Mexico City in November 2010, the Executive Committee presented the draft of a new charter for Cities Alliance, which was considered and subsequently endorsed by the Consultative Group. The Group was also presented with the main findings of an independent evaluation of project implementation modalities of Cities Alliance, the work programme and budget for 2010–2011, and the draft terms of reference for the independent evaluation for 2011.

93. Detailed discussions between UN-Habitat and Cities Alliance on the relationship between the two entities have taken place. It is worth noting that, until June 2010, UN-Habitat had seconded a senior level technical adviser to Cities Alliance, with future arrangements to be discussed.

III. Cooperation with other Habitat Agenda partners, including non-governmental organizations

94. The present chapter provides information on collaboration between UN-Habitat and other Habitat Agenda partners, including local authorities and non-governmental organizations outside the United Nations system. Activities are clustered according to the main focus areas of the UN-Habitat medium-term strategic and institutional plan and along the lines of major cross-cutting issues.

A. Cooperation with local authorities

95. Local authorities are considered to be the front-line actors and the closest partners to central Governments in implementing the Habitat Agenda. Cooperation with local authorities thus cuts across all UN-Habitat work at the global, regional and country levels.

96. At the global level, the focus is on engaging local authorities in efforts to ensure greater transparency and accountability for the way in which the Millennium Development Goal targets are being realized in the lives of people, especially slum-dwellers. A number of global, regional and interregional dialogues, round-table discussions and forums on local authorities and the Goals were organized as part of international events such as the fifth session of the World Urban Forum, and the World Expo 2010 Shanghai. These dialogues brought together mayors and local authority associations who shared local experiences and best practices, and put forward recommendations on effectively localizing the Goals. United Cities and Local Governments and its regional desks were the main partners in these efforts. During the World Expo, UN-Habitat, under the auspices of the World Urban Campaign, assisted UNDP with a global South-South creative week, organizing a municipal event entitled “Creative Economy and the Culture of Peace”.

97. In addition, UN-Habitat focused on strengthening its role as the focal point for local authorities within the United Nations system. The United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities, hosted by UN-Habitat, stepped up its revitalization as the advisory body of local authorities in the United Nations system. New mayor-members were appointed, following criteria to ensure regional and economic balance. The Advisory Committee brought mayors and resource persons to the fifth session of the World Urban Forum and to the Local and Regional Leaders’ World Summit in Mexico City in November 2010. It also organized a special meeting in Shanghai in October 2010, which aimed to facilitate the dialogue between local authorities and selected United Nations agencies.

98. At the country level, UN-Habitat has continued its collaboration with local authorities in the area of crime prevention and safety. Through the Safer Cities Programme, UN-Habitat has successfully concluded a project on urban safety for the poor through local government capacity-building, focusing on the most vulnerable groups in Asia and the Pacific. This was implemented jointly with the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific and CITYNET, with capacity-building activities piloted in Phnom Penh, New Delhi and Mindanao (the Philippines). A regional workshop for local authorities was held in Marikina City, the Philippines, in September 2010.

99. In addition, UN-Habitat has worked closely with local authorities in promoting adaptation and mitigation policies and strategies, tools, financing mechanisms and partnerships in combating climate change. Pilot projects were completed in Esmeraldas, Ecuador; Kampala; Maputo; Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso; Mombasa, Kenya; Kigali; and Walvis Bay, Namibia. More partner cities are emerging in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

B. Pro-poor land and housing

100. The Global Land Tool Network, an initiative of UN-Habitat and international partners, continues to expand and now comprises 42 partners from multilateral and bilateral organizations, civil society groups, professional bodies and research and training institutions.

101. UN-Habitat is developing a social tenure domain model and a pro-poor land rights recording system, together with the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation and the World Bank. This work is critical to the development of a new generation of tools capable of recording a wide range of land rights. Following completion of the first phase, in which a prototype was established, the prototype is being improved and customized for application in informal settlements.

102. UN-Habitat has mobilized grass-roots organizational partners to agree on the mechanism, process and methodology to be used to scale up community-level initiatives. Currently, grass-roots projects of this nature are being implemented in India, Peru, the Philippines and the United Republic of Tanzania. The Global Land Tool Network is providing technical assistance for all projects in close collaboration with partners such as the Hakijamii Trust, the International Land Coalition, the Huairou Commission and Shack/Slum Dwellers International.

103. UN-Habitat, with various Global Land Tool Network partners and other experts and practitioners, has developed a critical tool on participatory enumerations aimed at improving secure tenure and urban land management. Working with the Geneva-based Global Protection Cluster Working Group's Sub-Working Group on Housing, Land and Property, UN-Habitat has developed guidelines on dealing with land issues arising after natural disasters. Working with the University of East London, UN-Habitat has developed training material on addressing land issues in the Islamic context, which was piloted during a regional training session in Malaysia in collaboration with the International Islamic University of Malaysia.

104. In Kenya UN-Habitat, as chair of the Development Partners Group on Land, has supported the development of a national land policy, which was approved in late 2009. UN-Habitat has also initiated the establishment of a non-State actors group to support land reforms in Kenya.

105. In Ethiopia, UN-Habitat and the World Bank undertook impact evaluation studies in respect of a land certification programme. The results prompted the Government to scale up its land certification programme from 24 million to more than 40 million land certificates, with a loan of \$190 million from the World Bank.

C. Innovative human settlements finance

106. As part of its experimental reimbursable seeding operations UN-Habitat provided a catalytic loan for a new secondary housing finance initiative for affordable housing in the West Bank, for which the International Finance Corporation, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the Palestine Investment Fund and local banks in the Occupied Palestinian Territory are providing senior debt capital investment of \$300 million. The initiative is also being supported by technical assistance provided by the World Bank on market development and Cooperative Housing Foundation International on borrower financial education. The project will feature the construction of 30,000 new and affordable housing units in six locations in the West Bank over the coming five years.

107. Directly flowing from the above-mentioned project, the International Finance Corporation, the German Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (Reconstruction Credit Institute) and UN-Habitat are exploring a potential public-private partnership initiative with Standard Chartered Bank to offer credit-enhanced funding to domestic banks and microfinance institutions for expanded microhousing and municipal lending for urban upgrading. In addition, UN-Habitat is proposing to explore further partnership activities with the United Nations Capital Development Fund and the World Bank to further increase flows of funding for urban upgrading and housing improvement in developing countries, so as to help the maximum number of households to improve their living conditions and the maximum number of local governments to offer improved basic services to the underserved.

D. Urban planning, management and governance

108. To respond to growing demands for urban environmental planning and management expertise, UN-Habitat has been conducting capacity-building activities through a wide range of national training institutions in China, Cuba, Egypt, India, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. Through its Cities and Climate Change Initiative, UN-Habitat has provided capacity-building and technical assistance (including climate change assessments) in an increasing number of cities and countries. In 2009, UN-Habitat expanded the

initiative into five new countries in Africa (Burkina Faso, Kenya, Namibia, Rwanda and Senegal). In 2010, it expanded further into cities and towns in nine new countries in Asia and the Pacific (Fiji, Indonesia, Nepal, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Vanuatu and Viet Nam).

109. To engage more effectively at the global normative level on cities and climate change, the initiative has forged partnerships or collaborated with a number of organizations, including research networks. UN-Habitat has provided extensive comments on the first assessment report on climate change in cities being developed by the Urban Climate Change Research Network. Likewise, UN-Habitat contributed to the 2009 “Climate Sense” publication of the World Meteorological Organization. In May 2010, UN-Habitat supported a four-week capacity-building event on urban management tools for climate change, organized by the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies in the Netherlands. The initiative has resulted in an agreement in principle with the Cities Development Initiative for Asia, a joint initiative of the Asian Development Bank and the Governments of Germany, Spain and Sweden, to align capacity-building events in Asia and the Pacific. Lastly, UN-Habitat has signed a memorandum of understanding with ARCADIS, whereby the company will provide a significant level of pro bono technical support to UN-Habitat. To date, ARCADIS has provided such support for initiative activities in Saint-Louis, Senegal, an initiative-sponsored conference on green building rating in Africa and a regional partners’ meeting in the Republic of Korea.

110. UN-Habitat has established collaborative arrangements with associations of urban planners to advance normative discussion and advocacy on urban planning topics at the global and national levels. At the global level, the International Society of City and Regional Planners organized its congresses in 2009 and 2010 in collaboration with UN-Habitat. This has evolved from participation and provision of substantive inputs (a keynote paper and an article in its 2009 yearly review) to a broader partnership. For the first time, the Society is tackling urbanization in developing countries. Furthermore, in September 2010 it held its annual congress in Nairobi, with several inputs from UN-Habitat. In addition, UN-Habitat has been working with associations of planners from African countries to support the establishment of an African planning association. As at September 2010, the Association had gathered 18 national associations and developed a workplan. Lastly, in its work on urban planning, and in particular in the development of tools, UN-Habitat is involving the International Society of City and Regional Planners and the African Planning Association, in addition to a number of other associations such as the Commonwealth Association of Planners and national associations.

E. Young people

111. During the reporting period, five manuals were produced in partnership with the International Centre for Sustainable Cities with a view to establishing centres for young people in cities of developing countries worldwide.

112. Over 500 young people, representing primarily grass-roots organizations led by young people, gathered in Rio de Janeiro for the World Urban Youth Assembly, held on 19 and 20 March 2010. The goal of UN-Habitat in hosting the Assembly was to empower young people to engage actively in the proceedings of the World Urban Forum. To ensure that young people’s voices are fully heard by the World Urban Forum, the Governing Council has mandated, by its resolution 22/4, that the Youth Assembly should be an integral part of this unique global conference.

113. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat, through its Urban Youth Fund, processed more than 3,000 applications for funds, and 117 organizations led by young people were granted funds ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000. Since its inception (and within the reporting period), the Fund has granted nearly \$2 million, of which approximately \$1.3 million has been disbursed. The funding focuses on entrepreneurship and creation of employment for urban young people and on supporting young men and women in urban areas in increasing their capacity and influence in political processes and decision-making processes that affect them directly. The Fund gives young men and women in small-scale community-level organizations the opportunity to be agents of positive change in their local communities.

114. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat, through its Youth Empowerment Programme in Kenya, trained over 300 young people from informal sectors in construction technologies and in related skills such as welding, electrical work, masonry, carpentry and painting. Through the programme, UN-Habitat also provided training for Kenyan young people in business and life skills, conflict resolution, cooperative society training, and information and communications technology. The Moonbeam training centre was constructed by young people and was officially opened by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, after which its management was transferred to the Kenya Women Land Access Trust in August 2010.

115. Over the past two years, UN-Habitat has successfully integrated young people's concerns into many of its programmes. The launch of the "Youth for a Safer Africa" initiative in South Africa during the 2010 football World Cup by the Safer Cities and Youth programmes is one example, as is the composition and rendition of a water song by artists who have been designated as UN-Habitat "Messengers of Truth". The Regional and Technical Cooperation Division, through UN-Habitat programme managers in various African countries, is currently distributing some 1 million footballs donated to young people's groups.

F. Gender equality

116. UN-Habitat partnered with UNIFEM in organizing the third international conference on women's safety, in New Delhi in October 2010.

117. Through the Global Land Tool Network, UN-Habitat is working with partners, including the University of East London, the International Federation of Surveyors and the Huairou Commission, to develop a gender evaluation criteria land tool that assesses whether a large-scale land tool or programme is responsive to both men's and women's needs. The evaluation criteria were pilot-tested in three countries (Brazil, Ghana and Nepal), with the local grass-roots organizations in each area taking the lead. The results were highlighted in a round-table discussion during the fifth session of the World Urban Forum.

118. In response to Governing Council resolution 22/7, in which the Executive Director was requested to facilitate a gender equality action forum that would meet in conjunction with the sessions of the Governing Council and the World Urban Forum to enable partners to assess progress made in the implementation of the gender equality action plan, UN-Habitat organized the first-ever Gender Equality Action Assembly on 19 and 20 March 2010 in Rio de Janeiro. The Assembly was organized in collaboration with the Brazil's Special Secretariat for Women, the Women in Planning network of the Commonwealth Association of Planners, the Huairou Commission, the Metropolis Women International Network, the Ghana Local Government Training Institute, the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions, women land access trusts and the Centre for Asia-Pacific Women in Politics.

119. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat continued expanding and consolidating its partnership base. It signed a memorandum of understanding with the Huairou Commission on World Habitat Day, 4 October 2009, in Washington, D.C., to strengthen commitments between the two organizations on a number of human settlements issues including land, disaster management, safety and security, and gender mainstreaming. In follow-up to this partnership, a women's information portal on human settlements was recently launched as a comprehensive online website that focuses on human settlements issues, gender equality and women's empowerment. Experts, including representatives of the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the former International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,² the Committee of Women Elected Representatives of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, the Women in Planning network of the Commonwealth Association of Planners, and various universities reviewed the draft chapters of a global assessment on gender and local governance at an expert group meeting held from 1 to 3 July 2009 in Nairobi.

120. UN-Habitat continued to support women's land access trusts in Burundi, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. During the fifth session of the World Urban Forum, a women's land access trusts network was launched and more than 10 countries pledged to launch similar trusts. A women's land access trust was registered in Nigeria in October 2010.

121. UN-Habitat participated in an advisory capacity in the development of a report entitled "Because I am a Girl: Digital and Urban Frontiers: Girls in a Changing Landscape", the fourth in a series of annual reports published by Plan International examining the rights of girls throughout their childhood, adolescence and as young women. It was launched on 22 September 2010 in New York, 6 October 2010 in Kenya and 19 October 2010 in Uganda.

122. In the area of capacity-building, UN-Habitat, in partnership with the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Centre, offered two series of courses on gender and local governance, one in September 2009 and the other in November and December 2010.

² On 2 July 2010, the General Assembly established the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. The entity, to be operational by 1 January 2011, was to function as a secretariat and carry out operational activities at the country level, consolidating the mandates and functions of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat, in addition to those of the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.

G. Other Habitat Agenda partners

123. During the twenty-second session of the Governing Council, representatives of civil society organizations came together to give the Civil Society Organization Unit of UN-Habitat an opportunity to explain the programme's new structure, mandate and strategy for engaging with civil society.

124. UN-Habitat has improved its connection to local and global civil society organizations through the Dialogue Series held at UN-Habitat headquarters in Nairobi. Two events were held during 2009–2010 that assisted UN-Habitat in gaining insight into what civil society organizations were doing with regard to urban social justice.

125. A first-ever regional civil society event was held at the fifth session of the World Urban Forum, bringing together many new Latin American partners. It will be continued at the Forum's sixth session and will focus on Arab civil society organizations. Two further such events were held at the fifth session, giving civil society organizations an opportunity to give their views on various issues.

126. A UN-Habitat business forum was launched in July 2009 as a platform for private-sector companies to showcase and debate urban challenges and solutions. It engages the private sector in policy dialogue and helps to forge new partnerships that contribute to sustainable urbanization. The first forum was held in New Delhi and was hosted by the Government of India in partnership with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. The second forum, entitled "Business Caucus", was held in Rio de Janeiro during the fifth session of the World Urban Forum and focused on green cities.

127. UN-Habitat also initiated a private-sector working group to be regularly consulted on strategies and directions for strengthening the private sector's contribution to sustainable urbanization. The group met during the first UN-Habitat Business Forum and at the fifth session of the World Urban Forum. It has initiated business principles for sustainable urbanization, to be endorsed by private-sector companies partnering with UN-Habitat.

128. A large number of private-sector organizations have joined the World Urban Campaign since the fifth session of the World Urban Forum: ARCADIS (the Netherlands), Beijing Elite Foundation for Housing Technology (China), Cisco Systems, Inc. (United States of America), DCity Pty Ltd. (Australia), GDFSUEZ (France), mondofragilis group (Switzerland), Pressgroup Holdings Europe S.A. (Spain), Siemens and Siemens Stiftung (Germany), Veolia Environnement (France), the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, the Green World City Organization (Australia), Zerofootprint, Inc. (Canada). Operational projects in the areas of water and sanitation, housing and urban data management were also implemented with private-sector firms through corporate social responsibility funds or the provision of free technical expertise. The partner firms include Coca-Cola in India, Oxyana Mines (Australia), Google, BASF (Germany), ARCADIS (Netherlands) and Tata (India).

129. The Habitat Professionals Forum, a platform of international professional associations of urban practitioners established after the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held a meeting in April 2009 to review its roles and strategy. The Forum aims to foster cooperation and partnerships between professionals and UN-Habitat and to strengthen its contribution to sustainable urbanization. It has prepared a charter on the role of human settlement professionals in delivering a sustainable and equitable future, to guide professionals in their quest for sustainable cities.

130. It has also joined the World Urban Campaign as an official partner and also works through member associations: the International Union of Architects, the International Society of City and Regional Planners and the Commonwealth Association of Planners.

131. At the global level, UN-Habitat and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, with UNEP, have deepened their collaboration, focusing on the role of cities in global environmental issues and city-to-city cooperation. During the ICLEI World Congress in Edmonton, Canada, in June 2009, two new areas for collaboration were identified: cities and climate change; and local action for biodiversity. UN-Habitat, UNEP and ICLEI have been working together on a number of publications, including a sustainable urban energy planning handbook published in 2009. In October 2010, at the City Biodiversity Summit, which was held concurrently with the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in Nagoya, Japan, UN-Habitat and ICLEI launched a closely linked pair of publications: "Supporting Local Action for Biodiversity: The Role of National Governments" (developed by UN-Habitat and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity), and the "Local Action for Biodiversity Guidebook" (developed by ICLEI with UN-Habitat support).

132. In addition, UN-Habitat supported several ICLEI-led events, including the African Local Government Climate Roadmap Pre-Copenhagen Summit in South Africa in July 2009, followed in December 2009 by the Local Government Climate Lounge, held during the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen. Lastly, UN-Habitat staff and local officials sponsored by UN-Habitat participated actively in the first ICLEI Resilient Cities Congress, held in Bonn, Germany, in May 2010.

133. UN-Habitat has been working with non-governmental partners in the implementation of its Water and Sanitation Programme. These represent a wide range of organizations – from international non-governmental organizations that focus on thematic issues such as water education or gender to others that are more broad-based and locally-based non-governmental organizations working in towns and cities.

134. Some recent examples of UN-Habitat collaboration with non-governmental organizations include an initiative with the Project Wet Foundation, based in the United States. Through this collaboration, UN-Habitat is introducing its approach of human-values-based water, sanitation and hygiene education in several countries of Latin America. Other partnerships with non-governmental organizations include a project with Concern Universal in Bangladesh on water, sanitation and hygiene improvements in schools, which is partly supported by the private sector, and another with the Centre for Development in Cambodia targeting improved sanitation in several towns covered by the UN-Habitat Mekong Regional Water and Sanitation Initiative. Initiatives, aimed at improving access to water and sanitation in communities affected by natural disasters in India and Nepal, are also under way with World Vision International, the Foundation for Ecological Research, Advocacy and Learning, and Lumanti.

IV. Conclusions

135. The present report reflects an increased level of reporting on cooperation, particularly within the United Nations system, as compared to the document on such activities presented at the twenty-second session of the Governing Council. This results primarily from an improved internal process of communication and documentation rather than from an increase in inter-agency cooperation activities, which have always been strong.

136. In general, partnerships play an increasingly important part in the UN-Habitat's strategy to achieve its mandate. The medium-term strategic and institutional plan guides the programme to leverage strategic partnerships in service of the plan's vision of creating the necessary conditions for international and national efforts to stabilize the growth of slums and to set the stage for the reduction of urban poverty and the reversal of the number of slum-dwellers. This requires a systematic approach to selecting, engaging with, monitoring and evaluating partners with the capacity and scope to influence urban policy effectively. To support this aim, UN-Habitat has drafted a partnership strategy in line with the plan to guide the process of engaging strategic partners.

137. Looking forward, it is incumbent upon UN-Habitat to implement the partnership strategy recommendations and, in particular, to create and/or improve the internal structures necessary to enable it to manage the critically important information, knowledge and relationships related to existing and potential partnerships.
