

CATALOGUE OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES



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FOREWORD



This publication presents an outline of UN-HABITAT's Medium-Term Strategic and Institutional Plan (2008-2013). It presents our Products and Services, both current and planned. And it also presents the agency's comparative advantages in these times of rapid and chaotic urbanization.

With half of humanity living in urban areas, the Plan is our new roadmap for meeting the challenges of an urban world. It is also a vision of a better urban future in a world where humanity can engage in its social, economic and cultural pursuits without compromising the ability of future generations to do so. In a rapidly urbanizing world, this is critical to the attainment of the Habitat Agenda and the human settlements related Millennium Development Goals.

After consultations with our partners at every level, we are convinced that our Plan is realistic and achievable as it is anchored in the principle of enhanced partnerships.

The idea is to marshal the goodwill, the know-how and the resources of all spheres of government, civil society, the business sector; international, regional and domestic financial institutions to focus sharply on the key determinants for sustainable urbanization and inclusive urban development.

As agreed by the 58 member States of the Governing Council which oversees our work programme and budget, these areas of focus are: (i) effective advocacy, monitoring and partnerships; (ii) the promotion of participatory planning and governance; (iii) the promotion of pro-poor land and housing; (iv) environmentally sound basic infrastructure and services; and (v) strengthened human settlements finance systems.

Work on each of these priorities will be spearheaded by a global campaign on "Better Cities, Better Life" to galvanize political will and commitment.

In short, the vision of sustainable urbanization is an achievable one.

It is achievable because the Plan builds on the growing realization of the international community that urbanization, despite all of its chaotic manifestations, represents a unique opportunity — a positive force — that can and must be harnessed to support economic growth and social advancement in a globalizing world economy.

This is particularly important in times of economic downturn and increasing climate change problems. It goes without saying that the impact of both is greatest on cities. Indeed, the

increasing number of disasters, natural and human-made, has highlighted the agency's unique contribution in the areas of planning and construction.

On the institutional front, the Mediumterm Plan has a sixth component that places UN-HABITAT at the forefront of UN reform: excellence in management. Here accountability, transparency, results-based monitoring and reporting will become not the exception, but the rule.

Details of UN-HABITAT's products and services, for which sustained funding will be required, are presented in this catalogue. Many of them are derived from our activities at the country-level which have already been approved and partially funded by the host government and supported by the UN Country Team. Owing to the strong sense of national and local ownership and to a coordinated approached with other UN agencies; these projects are totally in line with the principles of the Paris Declaration.

This catalogue will be periodically updated online.

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Andly Cibayako

Anna K. Tibaijuka Executive Director

POSITION STATEMENT

UN-HABITAT, the United Nations Settlements Programme, is the United Nations agency for housing and urban development. It is mandated by the General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. It helps transform cities into friendlier, healthier, greener places with better opportunities where everyone, including the urban poor, can live in dignity.

UN-HABITAT is one of the new United Nations bodies which works with organizations at every level, including local governments, to plan, finance, build and manage cities that are productive and liveable places for all, and which do not pollute the environment.

The world is at the dawn of a new urban era with most of humanity now living in cities. UN-HABITAT is at the frontline of the battle against fast growing poverty in cities, rapid urbanization, unemployment, disasters and the scourge of climate change. It does it by turning innovative ideas into action.

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