



**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR
AFRICA**

Distribution Limited



**UNITED NATIONS
CENTRE FOR HUMAN
SETTLEMENTS
(Habitat)**

ECA/UNCHS/IST. + 5/00/1
14 November 2000

ENGLISH

REPORT

**OF THE REGIONAL AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HABITAT AGENDA**

(ISTANBUL + 5)

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 6-8 November 2000

A. Attendance and Organization of Work

1. The Regional African Ministerial Conference on the Implementation of the Habitat Agenda was held at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 6 to 8 November 2000. The Conference was jointly organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, (UNECA) and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS Habitat).

2. The Conference was formally opened by H.E. W/ro Almaz Meko, Speaker of the House of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. A welcome speech was made by Mr. K.Y. Amoako, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. Mrs. A. Kajumulo Tibaijuka, Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), made a keynote address to the Conference. A statement was also made on behalf of H.E. A. Dansokho, Vice Chairman of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee for Istanbul +5.

3. The Conference was attended by representatives of the following member States: Algeria, Benin, Burkina-Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

4. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Funds for Children (UNICEF), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

5. Observers were present from the following intergovernmental organizations: African Development Bank (ADB), Organisation Internationale de la francophonie (OIF), IULA, Programme de Developpement Municipal (PDM), Shelter Afrique and The Permanent Representative of the USA to UNCHS (Habitat).

6. The following non-governmental organizations were also represented:

AFRICAUCUS/HFHIN, ENDA/AFRICAUCUS, Human Settlements Zambia, Youth for Habitat International Network, GROOTS, Youth for Habitat/Kenya, Christian Relief and Development Association Ethiopia (CRDA).

7. The Conference elected the following officers:

- Chairperson: Ethiopia
- First Vice-Chairperson: Zambia
- Second Vice-Chairperson: Senegal
- Third Vice-Chairperson: Cameroon
- Rapporteur: Tunisia

B. Agenda

8. The Conference adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening Ceremony
2. Election of the Bureau
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Presentation of the reports on:
 - the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in Africa
 - the regional strategy for human settlements development in Africa
5. High segment for country presentation
6. Partners segment
7. Dialogues on:
 - Secure tenure campaign
 - Urban governance campaign
 - World charter of local self government

- Water for African cities

8. Presentation and discussion of the report and the Addis Ababa Declaration;
and
9. Other Business
10. Closing Ceremony

C. Account of Proceedings

9. H.E W/o Almaz Meko, Speaker of the House of Federation of Ethiopia, officially opened the Regional African Ministerial Conference on the Implementation of the Habitat Agenda. She underlined that social and economic deprivations of many developing countries, especially Africa, have become more and more complex. The continent is also the least organized region in the world, where 34 percent of its population is now living in urban areas. This means that most of Africa's population live in rural areas where opportunities are limited for improving their living condition.

10. She pointed out that as African Cities continued to increase in size during the 1990s, their depriving economic situation led to a very steep decline in the supply of basic infrastructure and urban services. In many of our cities the lack of these basic urban services have a negative impact on the quality of life and well-being of our people. A great number of these people live in life and health-threatening homes and neighborhoods because of very poor housing and living conditions and the lack of adequate provision for safe and sufficient water supplies, sanitation, drainage, the removal of solid waste and health care. The quality of life has also deteriorated as more of the urban population was forced into unplanned settlements or into more crowded living space. Therefore, rural and urban development in the Africa region poses important challenges in the policy domain, not only in terms of managing rapid urban growth, but also in improving the efficiency of cities and their competitiveness. Hence, it was with a great expectation that this Regional Ministerial Conference was being held to provide a platform for developing a common vision for addressing urban development

challenges at a regional level, and developing mechanisms for regional cooperation and technical exchange by assessing the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

11. She reminded the meeting that when the "Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlement" was held in Istanbul four years ago, a new concerted global approach was needed to introduce the Habitat Agenda with two themes of equal global importance – the first, "Adequate shelter for all", which includes the right to adequate housing, access to safe and healthy shelter and basic services and the second, "Sustainable human settlement in an urbanizing world" where the right to development by achieving greater peace and stability could be materialized. Most important of all, Habitat II reaffirmed the results from relevant recent World Conferences and developed them into an agenda of its own: the Habitat Agenda.

12. She noted that despite the commitment made by the international community in Istanbul to come to terms with these global urban challenges, this could not materialize to have a far reaching implication in alleviating shelter and human settlements problems. The official Development Assistance and other financial contributions by developed countries to address the human settlement crisis of developing countries are fast declining. Though the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements has completed the process of revitalizing itself to overcome a number of major differences in both the orientation of its work program and its management and financial controls which over the past years led to a major drop in donor confidence, there is still much to be done to enable the centre to carry out its duties and responsibilities efficiently and effectively in the years ahead.

13. She then shared the experience of her country in implementing the Habitat Agenda. She underlined that the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is committed to implement the Habitat Agenda through progressive realization of the right to adequate housing, providing legal security of tenure and equal access to land for all people.

14. Before declaring the Conference officially opened, she expressed the hope that this Conference would be able to come up with the necessary and fruitful recommendations of a common African stand, thereby enabling us next year to jointly carry out the Review and Appraisal of Istanbul +5 in an effective manner.

15. In his welcoming address, Mr. K.Y. Amoako, Executive Secretary of the ECA, stated that the Habitat II Conference brought together all the concerns of the previous UN conferences, focussing them sharply on that most basic of human needs: a place to live. Rauschenberg, one of the world's most celebrated artists, characterized Habitat II as more than just a conference, but rather a movement of the clan, in search of its destiny.

16. Mr. Amoako pointed out that much needs to be done to achieve the goals of sustainable human settlements and adequate shelter for all. What do we see in most cities in Africa today? Drove of people mulling about the streets; high unemployment; desperate vendors; usually youth and women; gaping potholes and dilapidated infrastructure; dark alleys; high security fences around the homes of the privileged; ever growing number of street children; shantytowns; and poor sanitation.

17. He indicated that the challenge is therefore not one of bucking the trend, but rather of managing the process. What does this mean for Africa? First, we need to examine the macro-economic context in which urbanization occurs; second, we need to think much more creatively about private -public partnerships; third, the issue of human settlements has cast a critical spotlight on matters of governance, and especially on local government; fourth, citizen participation; fifth, we need to encourage the emergence of small and medium scale enterprise; and sixth, we must harvest the energies of women. He also indicated the importance of sharing best practices.

18. Finally he stated that, in Africa, as elsewhere, vibrant prosperous cities can provide the basis for national progress and prosperity.

19. In a message read on behalf of Mr. Ahmath Dansokho, Minister for Urban and Housing Development of Senegal and Vice-Chairman of the Preparatory Committee of the Istanbul + 5 Conference, Mr. N'Diaye, Director of the Affordable Housing Scheme (HLM) of Senegal, conveyed the apologies of the Minister for not having been able to attend the opening ceremony because of reasons beyond his control.

20. He went on to stress the seriousness of the global issues identified at the Habitat II Conference and which still confronted African cities in terms of their high urbanisation rate, poverty, juvenile delinquency and crime. He also deplored the rise of conflicts in Africa and their attendant destruction which worsened and contributed to the deterioration of human settlements. Even though the sustainable management of African communities had now become a concern of all players in the human settlements arena, much still remained to be done by central Governments in order to guarantee decent housing for all and to make human settlements safer, more wholesome, more equitably distributed, sustainable and productive. In that regard, he pointed out that the global objectives of Habitat II could only be achieved by pursuing a facilitation strategy under the partnership and participation principles recommended by the conference

21. Regrettably, the dwindling of official development assistance was having an adverse effect on the achievement of Habitat II objectives relating to debt reduction, sustainable urban development, poverty reduction and the sound management of public affairs.

22. In her keynote address, the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), Mrs Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, drew the attention of the delegates to the common concern about the increasing urbanisation and feminisation of poverty in African countries and recalled how the Habitat II Conference had highlighted the fact that urbanisation, with proper guidance, could be a positive force for development. She reminded delegates of the commitments they had made at Habitat II, within the context of the Habitat Agenda, including action to develop adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements through local, national, sub-regional and regional plans of action, the creation of

enabling environments, partnerships, participation, capacity-building, international cooperation and continuous monitoring and evaluation.

23. She then highlighted the Global Campaigns for Secure Tenure and Good Urban Governance recently launched by UNCHS (Habitat). She expressed her hope that the Istanbul + 5 special session of the General Assembly would be able to set up an open-ended working committee on the proposed Global Charter of Local Self-government.

24. She pointed out that the Commission on Human Settlements had established the UN Advisory Committee on Local Authorities, which would act as a think tank on urban issues and on the role of local authorities in advising her. She further informed the Conference that Habitat had continued its operational activities, and in this connection, highlighted the Cities Alliance Initiative, which she said was a good example of collaboration with The World Bank.

25. She went on to describe a number of important meetings organised by UNCHS in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on Istanbul +5, including the ECOSOC segment on the "Coordinated Implementation by the United Nations System of the Habitat Agenda", held in July 2000. She invited African members of the Commission on Human Settlements to an Expert Group Meeting on "Urbanisation and the International Community", to be held shortly in Vasteras, Sweden.

26. She proceeded to emphasize a number of pertinent developments, including the appointment of a Special Rapporteur for Housing Rights by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, and the recent adoption of the Millennium Declaration by government leaders.

27. Finally, she said that a revitalised UNCHS (Habitat) was ready to provide support to governments through an increase in its normative and operational activities. She announced that the Centre was to organise a parallel event on "City-to-City Cooperation at the Third United Nations Conference on Least Development Countries". She stated that she was intent on making UNCHS (Habitat) a centre of excellence on human

settlements, inclusive of rural-urban dynamics and the problems facing rural dwellers, and urged the delegates to recommit themselves to the further implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

The Implementation of the Habitat Agenda in Africa

28. Ms. Axumite Gebre-Egziabher, Coordinator-Istanbul +5, presented the above-mentioned document. She raised issues related to (i) shelter, (ii) social development and eradication of poverty, (iii) environmental management, (iv) economic development, (v) governance, and (vi) international cooperation. She pointed out that encouraging progress has been made in each area of concern. In particular national strategy, institutional and legislative frameworks have been put in place.

29. With regard to shelter, Ms. Gebre-Egziabher highlighted the following key elements of progress achieved by African countries since Habitat II: revision of national shelter strategies, institutional and legislative frameworks; setting up of processes to increase delivery of land; development of complementary forms of low-income housing finance; informal settlement upgrading programmes; and creation of shelter and housing councils to provide regulatory frameworks for the shelter sector. Among the main constraints to shelter development identified in country reports were : continued operation of customary land rights; land speculation; lack of up-to-date cadastral and land data systems; inappropriate regulations affecting land use; lack of effective land adjudication procedures; and inappropriate valuation and taxation systems.

30. In the area of social development and eradication of poverty, she stated that the main developments reported include : institution of new legislation that supports the participation of women and disadvantaged groups; establishment of cross-subsidisation systems targeted at the poor; and the establishment of childhood development centres and youth forums. Problems that continue to impede progress include continued ignorance about the rights of marginalised groups and difficulties of translating legislation and policies into concrete action.

31. Turning to environmental management, some of the developments since 1996 highlighted in country reports include the development of comprehensive water management plans; involvement of local authorities and communities in environmental management; enforcement of environmental impact assessments; and development of national plans for disaster and vulnerability reduction, including awareness raising in this area.

32. Economic development efforts have mainly concentrated on the formulation and implementation of micro-enterprise support policies, including for women. One of the main constraints identified is the inadequacy of basic economic and social infrastructures and services, as well as the absence of enabling environments in many countries.

33. Significant advances have been made in the area of governance, including constitutional reviews designed to institute decentralised systems of governance, and policies to increase citizen participation and public-private partnerships in the delivery of services. Remaining obstacles include institutional weaknesses, ill-defined relationships between central and local governments and low capacity at the local level.

34. Finally, Ms. Gebre-Egziabher highlighted progress in international cooperation, which has generally been disappointing. Most of the action in this area has focused on eradication of poverty, as most of the country poverty reduction programmes have provided opportunities for integrating urban poverty reduction initiatives. Mechanisms for the exchange of information and experiences have also been developed. The coordination of multi-partner initiatives remains the most important challenge and many countries have reported that very little international assistance has so far been provided for the implementation of national plans of action.

The Regional Strategy for Human Settlement Development in Africa

35. Mr. Alioune Badiane, Director of the Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States UNCHS (Habitat), presented the above-mentioned document. He stressed that the

summary presented was based on the conclusions from the national reports received so far (26) by the UNCHS. He further stressed the need for more frequent meetings to review the progress in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

36. He presented some important urbanization trends in Africa and reviewed the major issues of the city summit in Istanbul in 1996. Before moving to the priority areas proposed to strengthen the efforts to improve the standard of living of the urban dwellers, he discussed the issue of slums as one of the highlights in the national reports in greater detail.

37. He continued to list and discuss the areas where key commitments and strategies of African governments should focus on. These include the issue of shelter and housing for the most unprivileged; social development and poverty eradication within a gender sensitive context; sound environmental management and economic development, including public private partnerships and support for medium to micro enterprises, and of governance and international cooperation.

38. The Conference congratulated and expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat. It expressed its congratulation to Dr. Tibaijuka for her appointment as Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat).

39. The Conference noted that the issues raised in both reports should be combined in a single document. The conference asked to clarify the relationship between the two reports. It pointed out that the reports reflected a common acceptance by African local authorities of their role in sustainable implementation of the Habitat Agenda and their growing commitment to decentralisation and democratisation in governance. But, the challenge lies in the lack of capacities to discharge their functions and responsibilities. He suggested that, this meeting could serve as a forum to discuss measures to be taken for building capacities of local authorities and to develop Africa's common position.

40. On the issue of capacity building of local authorities, the Conference was informed that an African charter on local government could also be prepared in the context of the

World Charter on Local Self-government, which was is in the process of being negotiated. On the other hand, a powerful tool called the "Local Leadership Programme" currently being implemented in Morocco, Namibia and Zambia could be expanded. The Sustainable Cities Programme could be used to further develop the capacity.

41. The Conference was informed by Mr. Badiane that the paper on the regional strategy was a synthesis of national reports and that the word "Strategy" was inappropriate, hence the substitution of the title with a new title called "The Way Forward".

42. The Conference decided to prepare the Addis Ababa Declaration. The draft was prepared by a Drafting Group chaired by the Conference's First Vice-Chairperson, Zambia.

High Segment of Country Presentations

KENYA

43. The delegate of Kenya indicated that although four years have passed since the Habitat Agenda was adopted, its implementation in Africa has been constrained by impacts of changing global economic trends, occurrence of disasters, armed conflicts, and widespread poverty. Thus, the human settlement situation is worse now than it was in 1996. Under these circumstances, Africa should become fully involved in the on-going review of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in order to influence the outcome for her benefit. Six areas of concern should be included in the regional position paper: a) International cooperation, b) Poverty eradication, c) Mechanisms of addressing disasters and conflicts, d) Prioritizing shelter development for low and middle income earners as well as slum upgrading, e) Meeting the special needs of Africa as outlined in the UN Millennium Declaration, f) Institutional framework to coordinate all this.

44. At the national level, after the Habitat II conference, the government established a National Committee on Shelter and Human Settlements. Since 1996, relevant policies have been formulated and programmes implemented to guide the improvement of human settlements. These include the National Poverty Eradication Plan 1999-2015 and the Housing Policy. A substantial number of houses have been constructed, although housing shortage is still acute among the low- and middle-income groups. Other initiatives have included upgrading of slums and informal settlements. Constraints to shelter delivery have been mainly due to inadequacy of finance, inadequate capacities in local authorities as well as bottlenecks in processing land for shelter development.

TANZANIA

45. The delegate of Tanzania reminded the Conference that at the Istanbul Conference in 1996, a global partnership to address the continuing deterioration of conditions of shelter and human settlements was launched, and progress achieved over the five years will be reviewed next June 2001. The task will be to re-energise our commitment to further action on goals and objectives set out at the city summit. Focus of the UNGA Special Session should be on ways and modalities for accelerating the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in a comprehensive manner.

46. He demonstrated that the overall trends are worse today than they were in 1996. Thus, the implementation of the Habitat Agenda remains vitally important and urgent. Provision of adequate and predictable financial resources and the transfer of technology are critical elements for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The implementation of the Agenda will require also the enhancement of the partnership created at Istanbul among the major stakeholders. Development partners should fulfil the target of 0.7 per cent of their GNP for Official Development Assistance (ODA). The United Nations organisations and programmes should be strengthened to support national efforts and make their actions consistent with national plans, policies and priorities of member states. In the same vain, it is critical that South-South co-operation programmes in

sustainable human settlements development and other sectors receive the necessary assistance from the international community.

TUNISIA

47. The representative of Tunisia expressed his deep appreciation to ECA, UNCHS (HABITAT) and the government of Ethiopia for the excellent arrangements made for the smooth running of the conference and the warm hospitality accorded to participants.

48. In 1999, nearly 78.2% of Tunisian families owned their homes. A programme had been instituted to complete, by 2004 the approximately 1.2% of rudimentary housing which remained. Tunisia stood prepared to participate actively in the south co-operation it continued to promote and which it considered key to Africa's development, particularly where settlements were concerned.

49. African countries needed to co-operate with each other in the implementation of the Habitat agenda. To do that, they must create a network for finding practical solutions to the problem of improving urban housing conditions in Africa.

50. His country had instituted programmes for the implementation of the Habitat agenda and formulated a long-term strategic plan which would build a model future village by the year 2016. Tunisia was also according priority to rural development. Accordingly, rural development projects had been prepared in order to maintain people in the rural areas and to forge and strengthen partnerships between the rural and urban areas. With regard to the improvement of urban living conditions, the Tunisian authorities placed a high premium on establishing a partnership between local government and the citizens who would benefit directly from all the urbanization and housing programmes. It was also considered essential, in Tunisia, to take into account the situation of urban women.

MALAWI

51. The delegate of Malawi indicated that his country attaches high importance to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The preparatory sessions have given the country an opportunity to take stock of accomplishments and challenges since Habitat II. Since 1996, Malawi has been able to formulate a National Housing Policy and a National Land Policy. These policies have addressed the issues of access to land, security of tenure, and access to credit and to basic services. The Malawi government is committed to implement these policies in view of the fact that 80% of the population in the country's four major cities reside in informal unplanned settlements. Moreover, in 1994 the government adopted a National Environment Action Plan and in 1996 a National Environment Policy. These established the overall policy and legislative framework to guide the review of sector policies in order to make them consistent with sustainable environment management principles and are used as a framework for all development in line with the requirements of Agenda 21.

52. He also indicated that Malawi has continued to place more emphasis on the development of micro and small-scale enterprises. However, the success of this approach requires input from the private sector and the international community. The government has, therefore, established a Special Task Force on the Economy whose major task is to enhance public-private sector partnerships. On the issue of good urban governance, Malawi formulated in 1998 a Decentralisation Policy that devolves wide-ranging powers to local governance. Despite these achievements, Malawi faces major challenges, one of which is the high incidence of poverty. Malawi's commitment to fight poverty has been constrained by lack of a well-articulated comprehensive national poverty reduction strategy, as well as lack of capacity, in terms of both technical and financial resources.

ETHIOPIA

53. The delegate of Ethiopia underlined the commitment of his government to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. Ethiopia has identified the need to strengthen the urban development effort in a more systemic way with full realisation of the need for fixing priority of actions for a more fruitful human settlement development program. In line with the new economic policy and development strategy, different measures have been taken in connection with housing and urban development matters and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda: 1) Emphasis to decentralisation and development of programmes at local government level; 2) Adoption and implementation of a land policy addressing the interest of the largest majority of the society by creating the opportunity of equal access to land as the strategic prerequisite for the provision of adequate shelter for all; 3) Privatisation of the public housing; 4) Creation of an institutional framework to support urban development activities; 5) Implementation of a comprehensive capacity building programme at national, regional and local government levels; and 6) Creation of an appropriate management structure for poverty alleviation. All these actions are directed towards the formulation of a national urban policy and to the review and formulation of a new strategic vision and recommendations to develop initiatives that aim to improve people's living standard.

54. Despite the government's commitment for its implementation, the following constraints have been met: a) low implementation capacity of the local government level because of scarce human, technical and financial resources; b) insignificant level of participation and partnerships among major stakeholders; and c) low level of mobilisation and co-ordination of external assistance for urban development projects and programmes.

55. Co-operation at the international, regional, national and local level in support of the two important themes of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements are very important steps. The appraisal and review of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda need to emphasize the issues of new additional financial resource needed to implement the Habitat Agenda through the spirit of international co-operation. This conference should also help develop better understanding and co-operation among developed and developing countries, and other important partners in our joint effort to meet the challenges of human settlements in Africa.

UGANDA

56. The delegate of Uganda re-stated the commitment of his country to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. As part of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, Uganda formulated a National Plan of Action to guide the development of human settlements up to the year 2000 and beyond. The Plan of Action identified three priority areas: a) Poverty eradication and job creation; b) Access to land and shelter; and c) Development of integrated environmental infrastructure.

57. Uganda set up a National Inter-agency Habitat Committee to co-ordinate and monitor the implementation process. A number of policies, laws, programmes and other interventions have since 1996 been formulated and adopted within the framework of the Habitat Agenda. In 1997 the government has also formulated a comprehensive Poverty Eradication Action Plan and its implementation is in progress. Within the development strategy, Uganda has the following priorities: 1) Increase access to credit; 2) Improved road infrastructure; and 3) Maintenance of security. Furthermore, Uganda has embraced decentralisation and democratic governance. Uganda also recognises the importance of gender equity and gender representation in all statutory entities.

58. Uganda has pursued liberalisation and privatisation programmes as instruments of stimulating economic growth of the country. On the management of the environment, the country has set up a National Environment Management Authority in charge of all matters of environmental concern in Uganda.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

59. The delegate informed the Conference that a national strategy and a Habitat Plan for 2000-2006 have been formulated for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The priorities set by this strategy are to: 1) Encourage private initiatives and promote local technologies; 2) Clarify the role of the public sector and urban regulations to facilitate a better co-ordination of interventions; 3) Formulate mechanisms and modalities for financing the housing programmes. 4) Clarify the role of local communities and institutions in the management of the urban administration. Several Habitat Agenda programmes have already been implemented.

60. The implementation of the Habitat Agenda is a challenge for the country. The situation is clearly worse now than it was in 1996. The highest priority of the government is given to poverty alleviation, access to property, development of basic services, and good governance. All national partners have to be mobilised in order to seek sustainable solutions. For further implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the government hopes to have the support of the international community.

NIGERIA

61. The delegate of Nigeria indicated that the implementation of the Habitat Agenda is certainly a daunting challenge. Nigeria is one of most urbanised countries in Africa and the current urbanisation growth has great challenges and implications for human settlement development. Urban poverty in Nigeria is also on the rise. Substantial progress in implementing the Habitat Agenda has been made. This has been mainly in the areas of new legislation on human settlement development. Government has taken a number of concrete actions since 1996 on four main aspects, namely, Poverty Alleviation, Governance, Security of Tenure, and International Co-operation. Nigeria has recently launched its Poverty Alleviation Programme with the objective of promoting

sustainable economic development, through employment creation and improvement in income generation. The importance of good governance to sustainable human settlements is crucial. Since 1999, efforts have been intensified in this regard in Nigeria. A most recent achievement is the establishment of the Anti-corruption Commission to sanitise governance at all levels and civil society. A Governance Programme has been formulated with UNCHS.

62. The Housing Policy Council, established to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the National Housing Policy, has adopted a set of housing indicators. The country is posed to establish a veritable Data bank on housing to enable it project efficiently into the housing needs of Nigerians. The government has been actively supporting Habitat II review activities. Istanbul+5 provides a fitting platform for developing a common vision for addressing urban development challenges at the African level, and for developing mechanisms for regional co-operation and technical exchange. Some of the key areas to which we must focus attention for the five-year review process are: 1) Reduction of urban poverty levels through anchored strategies and programmes at local levels; 2) Improvement of urban governance; 3) Improvement of the quality of the urban environment; 4) Improvement of the capacity of local governments and administrations through support to capacity building initiatives; and 5) Increase of the International Assistance and Co-operation to honour the commitment made in Istanbul to address the problems of poverty eradication, capacity building and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

ALGERIA (see in the French version)

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68. The delegate of Algeria indicated that Istanbul+5 represents a milestone in the evaluation of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The preparatory meetings are a good opportunity for the preparation of a common position at the regional level. The problems that Algeria faces in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda are related to the intensification of poverty and to the high level of population growth. Nevertheless, Algeria has already accomplished several activities aiming to achieve the objective of providing an acceptable shelter for everybody. Since 1996, the country has defined a global strategy. Programmes have also been formulated and implemented in order to improve living conditions of the urban population and to support the situation of the most vulnerable population among the urban dwellers.

69. A national plan is already in implementation aiming at the improvement of the urban situation. In the framework of the Habitat Agenda, several initiatives have been undertaken, including: 1) A programme for the improvement of precarious houses and the promotion of housing conditions; 2) The creation of national indicators for monitoring housing development; 3) The strengthening of co-operation among all stakeholders in the country in order to enhance partnership activities.

EGYPT

70. The Egyptian delegate expressed his gratitude to ECA for the warm hospitality accorded to the delegates. He then proceeded to make a presentation on the recent achievements and progress made by the Egyptian government in various areas associated with the Habitat Agenda.

71. In the area of housing, for example, projects such as the Mubarak housing project aimed at improving the housing conditions of youths. Many projects with the aim of helping to alleviate the housing problems of the low-income people have been launched. In particular, these projects were geared towards ensuring the equality of access of the people to credit and loans with low interest rate. Recently, over 2 billion Egyptian pounds were for instance made available to low income families.

72. In the area of social development and poverty alleviation, the work done to date resulted in a reduction of infant motility of more than 80%, while the crime rate also went down.

73. Against the current backdrop of Egypt's successful economic growth rate, some regional centres and institutions for the provision of basic infrastructure such as water distribution were also successfully created.

74. In view of this overall positive development and recent progress, Egypt certainly would like to underscore its support and commitment for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

RWANDA

75. The delegate from Rwanda first acknowledged the importance of holding this meeting, which marks an important milestone and the realization of the dream for the improvement of human settlements in Africa. While acknowledging that Rwanda's problems related to human settlements are basically due to its economic status like many other poor African countries, she also pointed out the country's particular problems resulting from the 1994 genocide, which aggravated the problems. The genocide claimed many human lives, while at the same time destroying most of Rwanda's physical, socio-economic infrastructure like schools, roads, health care and basic service infrastructure (e.g., water distribution facility).

76. As the 1996 Istanbul meeting took place when the country had just emerged from genocide, the Rwandan government had to implement the Habitat Agenda together with emergency rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes. Despite many constraints, the government still made progress in the areas of shelter, social development and poverty eradication, environment protection and so on.

77. In view of Promoting Gender equality a Law on succession, matrimonial regimes and liberalities was enacted. This Law provides for equal Rights to Inheritance between men and women.

78. For example, with regards to shelter, under the policy on 'grouped type of settlement' (IMIDUGUDU) in rural areas, so far 177,073 houses have been constructed for vulnerable families, and basic services like water, school and health care facilities have been provided in some of these settlement sites. However, a great deal of work still remains to be done in this area, as about 370,000 vulnerable families are still living in a refugee-like situation. A good number of settlement sites are still lacking necessary basic infrastructure such as water, school and health care facilities.

79. Concerning social development and poverty alleviation, the policy has been to give equal opportunities in social services, with the government subsidizing the health and education sectors. The government has also created a fund to assist the genocide victims by contributing 5% of its annual revenues. The government is also currently in the process of developing an elaborate national poverty reduction strategy.

80. Regarding the environment degradation problem, which is a critical crosscutting issue in all human settlement programmes, the Rwandan government took note of the fact that environmental degradation has severely been exacerbated by resettling of millions of returnees and internally displaced people. To rectify this situation, various programmes such as solid and waste water management programmes were put in place.

81. Recognizing that the Rwandan economy is mainly based on subsistence agricultural production, which is the occupation of more than 91% of the entire population, the government is clearly committed to achieving macroeconomic stability. For this purpose, nine priority areas such as infrastructure improvements have been identified for a targeted effort.

82. Finally, good governance and international co-operation are viewed as important factors for the improvement of human settlements. Good governance is important to guarantee sustainability of all efforts and programmes, while stronger international co-operation will help Rwanda to mobilize more resources required for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

83. As a concluding remark, the Rwandan delegate once again stressed that the Rwandan government has clear policies and programmes for enhancing socio-economic development, while appealing for an international understanding, stronger co-operation and support.

BURUNDI

84. According to the delegate, Burundi is currently faced with a serious problem resulting from an extremely dense population. The country has a vast majority of the rural population, with the urbanisation rate amounting only to 7%. For this reason, Burundi initiated a policy to develop urban centres to reduce the demographic pressure in the agricultural areas.

85. The concrete development policy measures entail, for example, provision of basic infrastructure and promotion of the growth of the non-agricultural areas. While recognising that housing is a fundamental human right as much food is, the government in Burundi made particular efforts and managed to achieve remarkable progress in this regard.

(See French version for change)

which began in October 1993,

86. However, ~~since October 1993~~ the national crisis severely affected the government's achievements. It took not only many human lives away, but also created millions of refugees and internally displaced persons, while leading to the destruction of numerous houses.

87. In order to rectify this sad situation, which profoundly affected the human settlements, and to implement the Istanbul Conference recommendations, the Burundi government developed a national report with some action plans. These actions for example entail the reconstruction of the socio-economic infrastructure and housing destroyed by the war, and the resettlement of internally displaced persons. In this context, the delegate made an appeal for the support and solidarity of the international community, which will help the Burundi government to realise this action programme.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

88. The general situation of human settlements remains a daunting challenge in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and this has had a negative impact on the economy of the country. The major inhibiting factors were: (i) the problem of refugees from neighboring countries in the eastern part of the country; (ii) the freeze of most bilateral and multilateral cooperation; and (iii) the recurring wars imposed by neighboring countries.

89. However, with the assistance of UNDP, a unit in charge of human settlements has been established with the mandate to reinforce the institutional capacity of the Housing Ministry, to prepare a national plan of action, rehabilitate infrastructural facilities and to catalyze all habitat initiatives. Contacts have been made with several national and international partners for the provision of housing improvement of water and electricity services, the rehabilitation of transport infrastructures and the revival of agriculture in urban and peri-urban areas.

90. A law has been enacted to put in place a decentralization system that would give greater autonomy to local authorities. Inflation has been curbed thus allowing for the undertaking of several projects in developing water supply, and sanitation, transport infrastructure and agriculture. The country has made great strides in the achievement of gender equality. Women are now represented at all levels of the government both at the national and local levels and been empowered through sensitization campaigns.

91. However, problems relating to security have led not only to a freeze in investments but also to a great deal of public spending being geared towards national defense. The war has also created a degree of persistent land tenure insecurity, especially in the eastern and northern parts of the country. As a result, poverty had deepened rendering redundant 12 per cent of the work force. The percentage of poor households has increased to a high record of 75% and 27.5% of all households are now headed by women.

92. The rapid urbanization has not been accompanied with the necessary social and economic infrastructures such as water and electricity supply, public conveniences and transport facilities. The urban population ratio of 30 per cent in 1998 might well reach 50 per cent by 2025. The country has made little progress in implementing the Habitat II Agenda and the delay in that connection was having a negative impact on the overall economic development of the subregional and there seemed to be no way out before the end of the hostilities.

GUINEA

(realignment with French)

93. Towns in the Republic of Guinea are experiencing rapid urbanisation. Urban population. Growth rose from 16% in 1997 to more than 30% in 1998 and is estimated to reach 43% by 2015. Most of this growth is recorded by the capital city of Conakry, which accounts for more than 50% of the total urban population. To correct this disparity, the government has (i) put in place a programme of urban planning, operational urbanization and new land tenure systems; (ii) improved the management of urban administration and instituted a programme of decentralization; (iii) forged a dynamic partnership with the private sector and autonomous communities, and (iv) is pursuing a policy to facilitate the participation of all actors in development programmes.

94. The government has also put in place a housing policy, which has five components. These are (i) the restructuring and modernisation of the existing housing (ii) the development of new housing in suburbs, (iii) the introduction of a new regulatory, judicial and institutional environment, (iv) the promotion of social housing and (v) the introduction of a bank for housing.

95. In line with the Habitat agenda, the government is trying to put in place a national plan of action. The objectives of the plan would be (i) to reinforce the country's land tenure system, (ii) to increase the creation of jobs, (iii) to alleviate poverty with a special emphasis on women, (iv) to broaden access to housing, (v) to collect and dispose of household garbage, and (vi) to balance the development of the capital city Conakry compared to other towns in the hinterland.

(See French version for realignment)

96. However, the government's endeavors are hampered by the continued insecurity problems in some regions of the country. It sincerely looked forward to the restoration of peace on the continent.

BURKINA FASO

97. Since 1996, Burkina Faso has embarked upon the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Habitat II Conference. To this end, a 15 member national committee on the follow-up of Habitat II including representatives of government, NGOs, civil society and local communities was set up. After the General Assembly Special session Preparatory Committee meeting held in Nairobi on 8 May 2000, the national follow-up committee prepared a national report which has just been considered, amended and adopted at a workshop attended by a large number of participants. With a population of over 10 million inhabitants and an urbanization rate in the order of 18%, Burkina Faso which is comparatively unurbanized, has however been experiencing some housing difficulties in its main cities.

98. In order to cope with these difficulties, the Government has formulated a coherent policy based on the promotion and popularization of local building materials; the promotion of social housing; the establishment of a bank for housing; the preparation of the project for the development of 10 medium cities; the establishment of communal development institutions and the project for improving living conditions in urban areas.

99. However, the implementation of this housing programme is faced with numerous difficulties: the absence of housing financing institutions; excessive cost of building materials; lack of support for activities in the housing sector at the level of national and international institutions; difficulties in mobilizing local resources; and the low purchasing power of the people. In accordance with the Oslo commitments on social development and poverty eradication, the following activities were undertaken: family life education; training of women groups by decentralized state institutions; celebration of the international Day of the Family; translation and dissemination of personal and family codes into vernaculars; promotion of human solidarity through the organization of solidarity days in 15 provinces of the country and strengthening the follow-up of the national action plan for the child.

BENIN

100. In Benin, the constitution recognizes the right to ownership of property, in particular land and real estate. The right to housing is implicitly recognized by the 1990 constitution. In 1997, the government adopted an urban housing strategy, which it has been pursuing since 1999. The main aspects of the strategy are: the establishment of serviced areas with a view to the construction of affordable housing by estate developers; the establishment of mechanisms for housing financing; and the implementation of urban development projects including housing access for a greater number of people. Pending the establishment of the national housing fund created in 1996, the government has made available to the Ministry of the Environment, Housing and Urban Development, an amount of CFAF 1 billion per year to promote housing activities.

101. The Ministry's activities in this area are aimed at: increasing the supply of serviced areas with a view to curtailing speculation on land; and guaranteeing support for and training towards private housing promotion not to mention the establishment of a bank for housing in close partnership with the private sector. In this connection, several pilot operations for the construction of over 4,000 affordable houses have been embarked upon in various towns. The land reforms instituted in 1990 aim to clarify the Benin land tenure system, simplify land registration procedures and standardize title deeds. A major problem of urban housing is the level of equipment and access to basic services. In this respect, the government has embarked upon a number of activities aimed at the paving and drainage of urban roads, the building of rural roads and construction and the rehabilitation of communal amenities.

102. (See French version for realignment)

CAMEROON

103. The implementation of the Habitat Agenda was embarked upon at a time of rapid urbanization involving 50% of the population, a reduction in social sector budget appropriations, and urban poverty steeped in under-employment. In order to cope with that situation, the government has mapped out some strategies which at the institutional level related to the establishment of three ministries responsible for gender issues, quality of life, and social issues in general.

104. In the area of urban and environmental policy, the actions related to the articulation of an urban development strategy, the preparation of a national plan for the management and protection of the environment, the establishment of a programme on governance, a poverty eradication programme and the national plan to fight corruption.

105. At the social level, the actions undertaken dealt with the gradual organization of civil society, particularly the promulgation of the 1999 law on the activities of NGOs, the national health, fertility and nutrition programme and the implementation of privatization policy.

106. Despite these efforts by the government, the human settlements situation remains alarming: the "decent housing for all" objective can only be achieved through the construction of 60,000 houses a year. The improvement of living conditions in most suburbs requires major programmes for the containment of unplanned housing; improvement of systems and modes of urban transport and strengthening of the capacity for waste collection, treatment and recycling. Urban violence remains a daily occurrence and programmes to address this and other phenomena require support by international organizations.

LESOTHO

107. The government of Lesotho has taken some measures to facilitate the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and continues to undertake policy, legislative and administrative reforms to ensure a more effective outcome. In 1997 the Local

Government Act was passed, making provision for the establishment of urban, community, rural and municipal councils. The land supply system has evolved through three main systems; the customary system, the statutory system, and the informal system. To address the issue of security of tenure the government enacted the Land Act. The National Shelter Policy has been developed and is awaiting the approval. The national settlement policy has also been developed to promote balanced settlement and protect the environment.

108. To promote gender equality in human settlements development the Law Reform Commission is reviewing all discriminatory laws to ensure gender equality. In order to promote overall economic growth, the government has taken a series of initiatives including: accelerating divestiture of state-owned enterprises; improving domestic financial inter-mediation; diversifying and increasing the government revenue; elaborating the poverty alleviation strategy. Taking into account that urban poverty is often an outgrowth of rural poverty, the government is committed to putting in place mechanisms that promote and support balanced urban-rural development through linkages. Equally important is international cooperation and financial support for effective realization of the Habitat Agenda.

MADAGASCAR

109. The national plan of action of Madagascar results from a strategic and operational approach, which sets long-term objectives for the year 2020 and medium-term objectives for action to be undertaken in the coming five years. This plan of action has three main components: (i) poverty alleviation through (ii) promotion of access to decent housing by all and (iii) better management of cities by giving greater autonomy to local communities.

110. Madagascar also has a rapid urbanization rate with a consequent increase in urban poverty. Cities receive a limited part of public investments and thus cannot maintain or promote internal and external exchanges. In order to promote unity, solidarity equality and balanced development, the constitution has been amended to cater for autonomous provinces. In the area of human settlements, this has been translated into a strong-willed policy aimed at the reduction of disparities and the introduction of regulations following specified norms which include the right to basic health, education, projects ownership, free enterprise and environmental protection.

111. The government has put an immediate priority on the implementation of the urban programme to reduce poverty through (i) equitable urban development that furthers the economic development of the country; the provision of basic services and amenities, social integration, good governance and economic development, through urban policies aimed at filling the above gap and putting in place a framework to facilitate the social, cultural and economic integration of the urban poor, and (iii) more equitable access to urban residency through land tenure, housing and urban or and social services. (See

French for realignment) In view of the magnitude of the pertinent challenges, countries will have to rely on ^{resource} mobilization at the international level.

NAMIBIA

112. Namibia is a newly independent nation, which is trying to rebuild a new society free of all racial, ethnic and social fighting which characterized the nation before independence in 1990. In particular the country is trying to promote equal access to shelter, water and other basic services. However, the country is faced with daunting challenges, which include among other income distribution inequality, frequent droughts and water shortages, low density of the population and rapid urban migration.

113. The government has adopted several policies and implementation strategies in the areas of housing, environment and good governance. Since independence the government has identified housing as one of its four priority areas of development along with health, education and agriculture. A National Housing policy has been formulated and an implementation strategy has been developed with the help of UNCHS. The "Build Together Program" targets both urban and rural low-income groups and has four sub-programs: urban/rural housing loans, social housing, informal settlements and upgrading of single quarters. The role players in the program include the community, the public sector through the National Housing Enterprise and the National Habitat Committee, the private sector, local authorities and regional councils. In particular the National Habitat Committee acts as a monitoring and coordinating body of human settlement activities.

114. Given the scarcity of water, the government has initiated a comprehensive review of the water resources management in the country. As a result an institutional framework on integrated water resources management has been proposed and a White Paper on water resources management has been approved. Similar reviews have been conducted for other aspects of the environment and a law has been enacted requiring that an environmental impact assessment study should be undertaken before the implementation of any major project.

115. The Constitution of Namibia allows for the decentralization of powers to the sub-national governments. In order to improve the capacity of regional and local governments to plan, implement, manage and monitor the delivery of services to their constituencies it has been required that all decentralization of responsibilities must be accompanied with the corresponding personnel and financial resources. Moreover, a policy has been enacted to encourage and facilitate public-private partnerships in the delivery of services at local levels because it was felt that the public sector alone cannot deliver all services in a sustainable manner.

CHAD

(See French version for realignment)

116.

117.

118.

Partners Segment

IULA

119. Statements were made by the following Organizations : IULA, Programme de developpement municipal, Youth for Habitat, African NGOs (Africaucus), Regional Council for Africa, Commonwealth Human Ecology Council/Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlement, Huairou Commission, HIC Women and Shelter Network.

120. She representative of IULA indicated that, since the Istambul Summit, his organization was fully actively involved in many gobal initiatives and IULA was rewarded in 2000 the Habitat Scroll of Honour for its efforts to promote women's partcipation in local government. IULA also played an active role in (i) solliciting for international debt cancellation or relief for the heavily indebted poor countries ; (ii) the implementation of Local Agenda 21 in many cities around the world, including Africa ; (iii) the promotion of good governance campaigns and initiatives.

121. He also noted with satisfaction the impressive efforts made by many African countries towards decentralization and democratization , entailing the strengthening of local authorities, as the sphere of government nearest to the people, to discharge their duties. In this regard, he raised concern about the lack of adequate capacity in the majority of local authorities and made a plea to the Conference to put the issue of capacity building on the priority list of the development agenda.

Municipal Development Programme

122. Speaking on behalf of Mayors and local representatives in Africa, the representative of the Municipal Development Program stated that since the Istanbul Conference, nearly all-African countries had adopted and implemented decentralization laws and enhanced local democracy. Thus, despite its economic and financial difficulties, Africa had also endorsed the two main innovations that the Habitat Agenda had brought to the management of public affairs, namely partnership and participation.

123. He went on to say however that if a solution was not found to the crucial issue of urban investments financing, it would be impossible to make tangible progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the Istanbul Conference. In that connection, the issue had been discussed by the African Summit held in Windhoek in May 2000 and the Declaration adopted at the end of the Summit had emphasized the need for African States to increase markedly the share of public resources used at the local level, to make it possible for communities to have access to financial markets and to lay down durable mechanisms for financing local investments.

Youth for Habitat International Network (Africa)

124. The representative of the Youth for Habitat International Network (Africa) noted that the youth in Africa continued to face the challenges of rapid urbanisation and are increasingly at risk and marginalised. She underscored the outstanding signs of stigmatisation and loss of citizenship value, as manifested in the violence against young people, low literacy levels and, high rates of HIV/AIDS infection. Other problems afflicting the youth were highlighted as unemployment and underemployment, weakened family ties, intra-state conflicts resulting in child soldiers, refugees and displaced persons, drug abuse and trafficking and, the phenomenon of street children.

125. The representative of African NGOs (Africaucus) noted that the network is supporting sustainable development efforts by providing poor people information, tools and training. He indicated that focal points have been set up in western, eastern, northern and southern Africa in order to strengthen the network.

Regional Council for Africa

126. The representative of the Regional Council for Africa (RCA) of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat reported that the recent RCA meeting in Abuja, Nigeria resolved to: (i) institutionalise the Habitat Agenda through the creation of Habitat Committees in African parliaments and; (ii) review relevant legislation so far adopted by various parliaments. He stressed the need for an enabling environment to facilitate the enforcement of policies and legislation intended to promote the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

GROOTS

127. The representative of GROOTS Kenya highlighted various achievements made by the Hairou Commission, of which the organisation is a member. These included a total of 46 submissions to the UNCHS Best Practices Programme, mobilization of over 100 women living in poverty to attend the 1999 IFUP conference, translation of the Habitat Agenda into Kiswahili, capacity building through the promotion of a peer-to-peer exchange learning programme and, involving grassroots women in the global campaigns on good governance and security of tenure.

Commonwealth Human Ecology Council

128. The representative of the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council/Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlement pointed out that in May this year, the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC) started its collaboration with UNCHS and participated in the UN Habitat Center's first Preparatory Committee meeting on Istanbul+5 with the objective to strengthen the process and implementation of the Habitat Agenda. Part of the resolution adopted during this meeting was to encourage the development of a model set of showcase examples from all parts of the Commonwealth that would illustrate best practices in implementing the Agenda.

129. He indicated that the CHEC has a partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Foundation aimed at developing a staged process for the implementation of the Agenda. The process will involve setting targets for the national reporting of plans and achievements; presenting strategies and case studies on the Agenda at major international conferences; and facilitating support for key partnership initiatives. To coordinate the sharing of knowledge and experience of Commonwealth countries, the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements (CCGHS) was established through a partnership between the Commonwealth Secretariat and CHEC. He went on to discuss the work done so far, as well as future plans.

HIC – Women and Shelter Network (WAS)

130. The representative of the HIC-Women and Shelter Network (WAS) reminded the Conference that 187 paragraphs out of the 241 contained in the Habitat Agenda deal with gender and /or women issues. Accordingly, HIC-WAS has produced a booklet, known as «Gender and the Habitat Agenda», which contains these specific paragraphs for easy reference. She also reported that her organization has developed medium and long term plans for the implementation of the the Habitat Agenda which include plans for promoting equal right of access to and control of land and property, inheritance, women's participation in decision making and access to credit.

131. She stated that her organization fully supports the new approach for quick implementation of the Habitat Agenda through Global Campaigns namely the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure and the Global Campaign for Good Urban Governance. She further indicated that her organization was nominated to coordinate the secure Tenure Campaign at the global and regional levels. However, the HIC-WAS has chosen to give priority to the implementation of the Campaign at the national level. Consequently, it organized a two-day brainstorming workshop in Tanzania which provided participants the opportunity to analyze problems related to secure tenure and identify strategies for combating them.

TITLE + (See french version)

To check

132. ✓

133. In making their contributions to the presentations, delegates addressed some fundamental issues with regard to the Campaigns and the World Charter for Local Self Government.

134. On the World Charter, Uganda, which was later supported by Tanzania said that it might be better to use the term "Declaration" rather than the word "Charter". It was noted that even though some African countries, such as Uganda have embraced decentralization policy with representation at the grassroots level, the word Charter called for a binding instrument for which most countries in Africa may not ready to adopt. *The Tanzanian delegate making a precautionary remark stated that the mentioned Declaration should address aspects of devolving power to local government structures at the grassroots where people live in order for them to get the requisite power and resources necessary to improve their living conditions. Nigeria, commenting on the Charter said that their Government support decentralization to local authorities but called for the need to incorporate the peculiar constitutional, historical and Socio-economic circumstances of our cultures. Egypt indicated that the draft Charter requires further consultation.*

135. Most delegates agreed on the need for further consultation on this issue at the national and regional level. A recommendation was made for a need to establish a working group to discuss procedures for working on a "Charter" for Local Self Government. The Municipal Development Programme and the International Union for Local Authorities drew the attention of delegates to previous discussions and commitments made on the World Charter for Local Self Government. Particular reference was made on a meeting held in Accra, Ghana in April 2000 on the Charter.

136. On the Campaign on Good Urban Governance, Nigeria supported the need for more efficient, equitable, and transparent ways for managing our cities in Africa as this has major benefits, particularly in our efforts to poverty reduction. Senegal added that there might be need to incorporate aspects of human rights education, culture and peace within the operational principles of the Campaign.

137. Tanzania supported the Campaign for secure tenure and noted that most countries in Africa have enacted land laws. Commenting on the presentation of the Campaigns, the delegate from Tanzania and Senegal applauded the reference made to the need to re-think International Development Strategy, particularly within the framework of globalization and the developments in information technology. In addition, Senegal proposed that gender aspects be addressed in this Campaign.

138. On the Campaigns, some delegates felt that each country should be allowed to adopt the campaigns as they deem fit into their national strategies and policies and socio-economic realities. In addition, it was suggested that the secretariat provide information and more simplified format and language to cities to prepare proposals for the implementation of the campaigns and other technical co-operation activities.

139. In his closing remarks, the chairperson of the session said that what the African governments are working on is "Towards a" World Charter for local self government. He noted that most African countries have taken steps towards decentralization although the process may differ from one country to another.

Water for African Cities

140. The dialogue was opened by Hon. Ali Abdo, President, Addis Ababa City Government, who stated that the Water for African Cities Programme is important and beneficial to the seven participating demonstration cities, as it will enhance regional efforts to create socially, economically, environmentally and technically sustainable cities in providing water and sanitation services. He further elaborated that the programme allows sharing of experiences and provides practical solutions to the problems encountered by urban centres in delivering water and sanitation services.

141. Mr. Alioune Badiane, on behalf of the Executive Director of UNCHS, delivered a statement which outlined how the Water for African Cities Programme, being implemented by UNCHS and UNEP, can contribute to building a society in African cities where all people have access to safe drinking water. It was further elaborated how the programme was conceived by African ministers attending the Cape Town Consultations in 1997 on "Partnerships in the Water Sector for Cities in Africa", where African ministers adopted the so called "Cape Town Declaration" which reflected a new political resolve and solidarity in the region to deal with the challenge of improved management in the water sector.

142. Mr. Kalyan Ray, Coordinator of the Water for African Cities Programme gave an in-depth overview of the work of the programme so far. The programme's focus is on three interlinked priorities: Water Demand Management to ensure efficient water use by all consumers; Mitigation of the environmental impact of urbanization on fresh water

resources and exchange of information, sharing of good practices and awareness creation. The programme is being implemented along two parallel tracks. The first is field demonstration of good practices in the aforementioned three areas. The second track aims at building capacity in the region by linking sector professionals through a list serve (WACNET) and sharing information in an interactive manner amongst city and utility managers through a web page (WACWEB) and newsletter, as well as through creation of regional resource centers, study visits, capacity building initiatives and school water education.

143. Mr. Stephen Donkor of UNECA provided an overview of the Africa Water Vision, which is part of the United Nations Special Initiative for Africa (UNSI) and aims at promoting equitable and sustainable use of water for socio-economic development. He further elaborated on the interlinkages between the United Nations Special Initiative for Africa and the Water for African Cities Programme, which is one of the operational inputs to UNSI.

144. Mr. Abebe Bellete, of Addis Ababa Water and Sewerage Authority, provided a detailed overview of the field demonstration activities of the Water for African Cities Programme in Addis Ababa. His presentation was accompanied by an exhibition and a field trip as part of the conference. Mr. Bellete explained how the programme in Addis Ababa provides a mechanism for reconciling the demand and supply gap and coordinating and guiding capital investments for water supply expansion programmes through a comprehensive water demand management strategy for the city.

145. The session commenced half an hour late, the delegates, in view of a reception, decided to close on time, which only allowed for one intervention. Ambassador Sen stressed that water is an important issue for peaceful cohabitation in Africa. He further elaborated on initiatives of UN agencies in the water sector in Africa and called for UN agencies to join forces to ensure strategic management of water resources.

Consideration of the Draft Addis Ababa Declaration on Human Settlements in the New Millennium

146. The Conference of Ministers considered the draft Declaration. The Declaration was adopted as attached.

Closing of the Conference

147. In her closing statement, Mrs. Paulina Makinwa-Adebusoye, Chief of Food Security and Sustainable Development Division of ECA, expressed her sincere thanks to the distinguished delegates for their complete dedication during the Conference to an in-depth review of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in Africa. She noted that the high-level and large number of participants at the meeting was a testimony to the seriousness of African countries in matters related to human settlements. She recalled the pledge made by the Executive Secretary of ECA in his opening statement that ECA will spare no effort to assist African governments in their continuing efforts to improve the quality of life of the African population.

148. She noted that the declaration, which the ministers had adopted at the end of the meeting, bore eloquent testimony to their determination to ensure sustainable Human Habitat and adequate housing for all particularly when viewed against the fact that in barely ten years from now, in 2010, more than half of the world population will be living in cities.

149. She said that in the coming months, ECA would strengthen its cooperation with UNCHS in order to facilitate the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and to ensure meaningful and result oriented participation of the African region at the Special Session of the General Assembly (UNGASS) for the review and evaluation of the implementation of the plan of action of the Habitat Programme.

150. In his closing remarks, Mr. Alioune Badiane, Director of the UNCHS' Regional Office for Africa and Arab States, stated that the Habitat II marked a turning point in the international efforts to tackle the new emerging human settlements issues in the new millennium. He noted that the conference after reviewing the individual performance of countries, reaffirmed the commitments made in Istanbul.

151. He indicated that, under the constant and heavy pressure of globalization as well as population growth, urbanization processes, mass poverty, environmental degradation, insecurity and unsafety, the next millennium will offer no other alternative but to decentralize, to democratize and set new ways of doing business and conducting public affairs through good urban governance and the rule of law. In opening the doors to the association of local authorities and other habitat partners, African governments are doing the right thing in preparing the region for future challenges. He finally expressed his wish that African cities and towns will be in the future a place of better life and prosperity.

152. The Ministers thanked the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for the warm hospitality extended to us all, as well as the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for jointly organizing and efficiently servicing the Conference. They also thanked the ECA for the excellent facilities and support provided for the Conference.

153. On behalf of the Conference, the Minister from Uganda congratulated the Executive Director for her appointment. He pledged the support of ministers, wished her a successful tenure of office and hoped that she, on her part, would respond to the needs of African States accordingly.

154. In response, the Executive Director thanked the ministers and their delegations for their attendance at the Conference and for the kind words they had said concerning her appointments as the new Executive Director. She said that as an African and a woman, she would do all in her power to ensure that Habitat fulfils its mandate particularly in Africa. Announcing that Uganda and Nigeria had contributed \$1,500 and \$100,000 respectively to the Habitat Foundation fund, she appealed to all other African state for their contributions to the Fund to enable her strengthen the Centre. She looked forward to strong support from and an excellent working relationship with the African ministers.

155. The Chairman in his closing remarks stated that several governments have made considerable policy changes or are in the process of revising their legislation for extending and strengthening action to implement the Habitat Agenda commitments and achieve its goals in the African Region. Governments have created an environment conducive to different forms of partnership. The meeting has also demonstrated that the period after Habitat II was characterized by a high degree of partnership and participation in devising follow-up activities, resulting in the adoption of a common set of approaches and exemplary contributions by a wide range of partners.

156. He indicated that the Conference has very much benefited from the interesting presentations on UNCHS(Habitat)'s Global Campaigns for "Secure Tenure" and "Good Urban Governance", and also on the "Water for African Cities Programme". The Conference has concluded by adopting "The Addis Ababa Declaration on Human Settlements in the New Millennium", which is a significant milestone on Africa's road to Istanbul +5.

157. He concluded by urging African countries to provide maximum support to UNCHS (Habitat) not only in the preparatory process for Istanbul +5, but also in fulfilling the whole of its mandate, as the focal point of the United Nations System for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

158. He, then declared the Regional African Ministerial Conference on the Implementation of the Habitat Agenda (Istanbul +5) closed.