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Item 4 (c) of the provisional agenda*

Policy issues: coordination and cooperation with the United Nations system on environmental matters

Joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Note by the Executive Director

The present progress report on cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in the period 2005–2006 has been prepared jointly by the executive directors of the two programmes in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 40/199 of 17 December 1985 and 53/242 of 28 July 1999; United Nations Commission on Human Settlements resolution15/8 of 1 May 1995; UN-Habitat Governing Council resolution 19/4 of 9 May 2003; and UNEP Governing Council decisions 18/15 of 26 May 1995 and 22/2 of 7 February 2003. The report comprises five main chapters: chapter I summarizes objectives and institutional aspects of cooperation; chapter II reviews joint activities; chapter III describes regional cooperation; chapter IV presents the results of cooperation and chapter V outlines future opportunities for cooperation.

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Annex

Joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme

Activities in the field of the urban environment

Introduction

Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) has increased in 2005 and 2006. In the spirit of United Nations reform, the two programmes are in the process of developing a strategic framework for long-term cooperation. As a first step, the Urban Environment Unit of UNEP and the Urban Environment Section of UN-Habitat are creating a joint work plan to strengthen synergies and provide a more comprehensive range of services to their clients. The elements of the joint work programme consist of technical assistance and tools on environmental planning and management and urban environmental issues, such as air pollution, transport, energy, climate change, ecosystem services, and water and sanitation to cities; local-global linkages; technical support and capacity building to local and national governments on global environmental challenges; support to local governments on environmental assessments, among other issues. In a next step, all divisions of the two programmes will be invited to contribute to the joint strategic framework with the aim of mainstreaming urban environmental considerations into the work of both programmes. The Joint Operation and Coordination Group is well established and meets once a month. UNEP and UN-Habitat have broken new ground by starting to work on linkages between local and global environments. In this context, the two programmes signed a joint memorandum of understanding with ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability to implement activities in the field of climate change and biodiversity. In addition, UN-Habitat is supporting UNEP in an initiative to improve the environmental dimension of projects of the Cities Alliance, a global coalition of cities and their development partners committed to scaling up successful approaches to poverty reduction. Cooperation has also been enhanced in other areas of work; for example, in the urban environmental assessments undertaken as part of the Global Environment Outlook Cities initiative in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Africa. In the field of tools and publications, an urban air quality management handbook and toolkit (known as the "toolbook") in an interactive CD-Rom format was jointly launched at the World Urban Forum 3, held in Vancouver, Canada, from 19-23 June 2005.

I. Cooperation between UNEP and UN-Habitat



The world is approaching an urban era where the majority of the world's population lives in cities. Urbanization will be one of the main drivers of environmental change and will have a major impact on the future of our global environment. Likewise, cities depend on the environment for their upkeep and survival. Local and global aspects of environmental management are more and more interlinked, such that, for example,

measures to improve air quality and provide clean water not only significantly enhance the health of urban residents, but have more far-reaching effects. Environmentally sensitive policies at city level help preserve the ecosystems that cities depend on and have an impact on the global environment. This is the premise on which the cooperation between UN-Habitat and UNEP is based. The objectives of this cooperation are to mainstream the urban perspective and environmental management into national and global policymaking, and to highlight local-global linkages of environmental problems.

By joining forces, UNEP and UN-Habitat have combined expertise in different areas to assist local and national governments in their efforts to manage the environment more effectively at the local and national levels. By promoting more efficient interaction between the two programmes and by drawing on their complementary mandates and comparative strengths, activities are coordinated and cover a broader range of services. Thus, while UNEP concentrates on mainstreaming urban environmental concerns into policy

development at the global and national levels, UN-Habitat promotes sustainable urban planning and management at the local and national levels. Internally, an important task is to mainstream the urban environmental perspective into the work of both programmes. This cooperation contributes to the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 7 to ensure environmental sustainability and to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building.

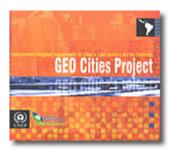


Since 2005, UNEP has increased its commitment and capacity in the field of the urban environment. In March 2005, for example, a new post was created within UNEP, with the aim to promote interagency coordination between UNEP and UN-Habitat. In September 2005, an Urban Environment Unit was established and is housed within the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation. UN-Habitat has also increased its commitment, capacity and activities in the areas of water and sanitation and transport and energy by assigning additional staff to those areas and enabling increased cooperation with UNEP.

Since 2004, UNEP and UN-Habitat have facilitated and maintained the **Joint Operation** and **Coordination Group** which is an institutional mechanism that promotes and coordinates joint activities and publications relating to the urban environment. The Group meets once a month, comprises the staff of the Urban Environment Unit of UNEP and the Urban Environment Section of UN-Habitat and relevant branch chiefs.

II. Joint activities

A. Assessment



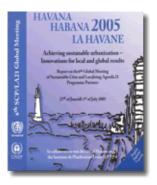
The **Global Environment Outlook** approach developed by UNEP is increasingly being used for regional, national and local environmental assessments. Localizing the approach is one way of paying more attention to managing ecosystems as an integral part of urban planning. UNEP and UN-Habitat have been supporting Global Environment Outlook processes in cities. More than 15 cities in Latin America and the Caribbean have or are undertaking Global Environment Outlook assessments (see chapter III of the present report). In 2005.

UNEP and UN-Habitat jointly selected three African cities (Dakar, Lusaka and Nairobi,) to undertake urban environmental outlook processes, the aim of which is to analyse the state of the local environment and the impact of urban development on the environment. Draft reports have been submitted by Lusaka and Nairobi, while the assessment of Dakar is expected to begin soon. To guide cities in this exercise, the Methodology for the Preparation of Global Environment Outlook Cities Reports, already used in several cities in Latin America, was customised for use in Africa with support from UN-Habitat. The manual will be revised based on the experience of the Global Environment Outlook processes in the three cities. The regional offices of UNEP and UN-Habitat in Asia have produced a similar manual for Asia and the Pacific and are in the process of selecting pilot cities.

B. Policy development

Cooperation between UNEP and UN-Habitat with regard to the environmental aspects of city planning, management and policymaking started in 1996 when the two programmes established a partnership through the **Sustainable Cities Programme** which assists cities in integrating environmental issues in their urban planning and development. The Sustainable Cities Programme uses the environmental planning and management approach, aimed at building capacity among local authorities and local stakeholders. Environmental issues and actions are identified and prioritized through a broad-based participatory decision-making process. The long-term goal of the Sustainable Cities Programme is to promote sustainable environmental governance at the local and national levels. The Programme is currently supporting more than 60 city-level initiatives in more than 20 countries in all regions.

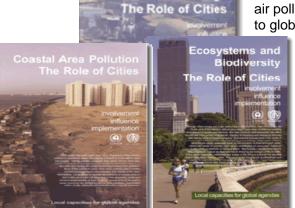
The Global Meeting of Partners of the Sustainable Cities Programme and the Localizing Agenda 21 Programme took place in Havana, Cuba, in June 2005. The meeting was attended by more than 200 participants, including local authority representatives, urban practitioners, representatives from central and federal governments, urban institutions and donor agencies. Participants discussed how the environmental planning and management approach and the experiences derived from it could be mainstreamed into policy development and planning at the local, national and global levels. They recommended that more capacity-



building and networking among cities was needed to assist cities in mainstreaming the approach. It was noted that better donor coordination and national commitment, as well as more effective and better funded demonstration projects, would help in this endeavour. A number of sessions were jointly organized by UNEP and UN-Habitat, increasing the focus on environmental issues.

UNEP played an important role in promoting the environmental pillar of sustainable urban development at the third session of the UN-Habitat **World Urban Forum** which took place in Vancouver, Canada, from 19 to 23 June 2006. UN-Habitat and UNEP organized one of six dialogue sessions entitled "Energy and Transport: Local Action, Global Impact". City representatives and practitioners speaking at the session reiterated that better living conditions and development could only be achieved through environmental planning and management. They called for participatory planning and innovative policies, such as non-motorized transport solutions, congestion charges and the co-location of business and residential areas.

UN-Habitat and UNEP are also cooperating through several United Nations inter-agency bodies such as UN Water, UN Energy and the **Environmental Management Group**. A number of significant collective efforts were made through several Environmental Management Group Forum meetings to make the Group a more effective system-wide mechanism for cooperation in the areas of environment and human settlements and to revive commitment.



Climate Change

Brochures on local-global linkages

UNEP and UN-Habitat have launched an initiative to link local environmental issues, such as water and sanitation, air pollution, sustainable energy and natural resources use, to global environmental agendas, such as climate change,

ecosystem services and coastal pollution. The initiative strives to identify "win-win" solutions that address environmental challenges at the local level and at the same time respond to global concerns.

In addition, the programmes produced a trio of brochures on the role of cities in biodiversity loss, climate change and coastal pollution. The brochures highlight how cities contribute to global challenges and solutions, the type of support they can receive, and their capacity to influence global policies.

As one next step, the two programmes are joining

efforts in two campaigns focusing on biodiversity and climate change. During the third session of the World Urban Forum UN-Habitat organized a networking event called "The Global Footprint of Cities" which explored the linkages between global environmental

issues of climate change and biodiversity, and local concerns and actions. In September 2006, UNEP organized an African regional workshop on cities, ecosystems and biodiversity in cooperation with the World Conservation Union Task Force on Cities and Protected Areas, the Kenya Wildlife Service, and the Brazilian Government. The workshop gave examples how cities, and especially poor urban dwellers, can benefit from protected areas, biodiversity conservation and services from ecosystems such as wetlands, parks and forests. Participants developed recommendations for cities as managers of ecosystems.



Nairobi National Park

ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability is an international association of local governments that have made a commitment to sustainable development. UNEP, UN-Habitat and ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability signed a tripartite memorandum of understanding in May 2006 which focuses on specific areas of cooperation, including the role of cities in global environmental issues, and city-to-city cooperation. Under the memorandum of understanding, UNEP and ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability

organized an African Cities Symposium on Climate Change at the fourth AfriCities Summit, held in Nairobi, from 18 to 24 September 2006. Although cities in developing country, especially in Africa, contribute little to climate change, they are strongly affected by it. The outcome document from the symposium served as a basis for a statement from local authorities to the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its twelfth session, which was held in Nairobi, from 6 to 17 November 2006.



UNEP and UN-Habitat are both members of the **Cities**Alliance, a global coalition of cities and their development partners committed to scaling up successful approaches to poverty reduction, and are cooperating closely in the Cities

Alliance Consultative Group and through joint projects. In 2002, an independent evaluation of the Alliance found that the environment tended to be neglected in Cities Alliance projects. In response, UNEP joined the Cities Alliance and launched the Cities Alliance Environment Initiative in November 2005 with the support of UN-Habitat. The aim of the initiative is to strengthen the environmental focus of the Cities Alliance by demonstrating how environmental management can successfully contribute to city development. UNEP and the Cities Alliance Secretariat commissioned a global study by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, which identifies best practices, case studies and methodologies to demonstrate how environmental considerations can be successfully included into city strategic planning, management and municipal budgets. UN-Habitat and UNEP are working together on several Cities Alliance projects, including a slum upgrading and city development strategy project in Dakar, Senegal, where UNEP is coordinating an environmental assessment, and similar projects in Cotonou

(Benin), Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) and Al-Fayhaa

(Lebanon).

UN-Habitat and UNEP publish a joint biannual **urban environment newsletter** which is distributed to the network of cities and partner institutions of the Sustainable Cities Programme and the Localizing Agenda 21 Programme, regional offices and other interested parties. Four editions of the joint newsletter were published during the reporting period to coincide with meetings such as the AfriCities summit and meetings of the Governing Councils and the Commission on Sustainable Development. A flyer on joint cooperation for achieving sustainable urban development was produced in 2005 (joint publications are available at www.unhabitat.org and www.unep.org).



C. Implementation

The two programmes are active at different levels according to their different mandates and comparative advantages. While UN-Habitat implements projects at the local and national levels, UNEP mainly supports normative work to link local with global

environmental concerns.

In 2004 the Sustainable Cities Programme started two initiatives to assist cities in their efforts to improve **basic urban services and sustainable urban mobility** . Basic urban services projects were implemented in Bobo

Dioulasso (Burkina Faso), two municipalities in Sri Lanka, Alexandria (Egypt), and Maharasthra State (India). Kisumu (Kenya) is one city where a sustainable urban mobility demonstration project was initiated. In close consultation with Kisumu City Council and various local stakeholders, steps were taken to improve the traffic situation by constructing bicycle and pedestrian paths and implementing special by-laws to regulate the bicycle taxi business. A second demonstration project will start soon in an African country. Demonstration projects under the basic urban services and sustainable urban mobility initiatives have attracted the interest of national Governments and there are indications that they will be replicated in other cities. Collaboration between UNEP and UN-Habitat regional offices and partners could further strengthen the outcomes by facilitating the mobilization of resources and anchoring the process in a national institution.



UNEP and UN-Habitat have developed an **urban air quality management handbook and toolkit** (known as the "toolbook") on CD-Rom designed to help local authorities in building capacity to develop and implement activities to reduce air pollution. The toolbook was launched at the third session of the World Urban Forum, at which a training session on air quality management was held. Regional and sub-regional training courses will follow.

The UNEP Sustainable Buildings and Construction Initiative is working on promoting **sustainable buildings and**

construction, with a primary focus on climate change issues and economic incentives. It is working with the Disaster Management Programme of UN-Habitat on a pilot project to develop a sustainable reconstruction manual. Discussions have also been initiated on developing global guidelines for sustainable settlements reconstruction in post-crisis environments. The two programmes are also seeking to increase operational collaboration at the country level, particularly in southern Sudan where UNEP and UN-Habitat are currently sharing an office.

III. Regional overview

A. Africa

Africa is the region where UNEP and UN-Habitat have worked together most intensively. Cooperation ranged from activities in the field of transport, industrial pollution, and climate change to activities within policy frameworks such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

UN-Habitat, in cooperation with the UNEP Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination, is implementing a **sustainable transport programme** targeting mainly East Africa. The overall objective of this programme is to disseminate the benefits of the bus rapid transit and non-motorized transport systems in Kenya and around Africa more generally, by facilitating the development and implementation of three inter-related demonstration sustainable transport projects. These are the development of a bus rapid transit and non-motorized transport system in Nairobi, a non-motorized transport system in Kisumu and a similar system in a third demonstration city, yet to be selected. The project also aims to create awareness and understanding among policy-makers, decision-makers and stakeholders at the national and local levels of the importance of establishing such systems for the achievement of comprehensive, sustainable and cost-effective urban mobility.

The Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination of UNEP and the Disaster Management Programme of UN-Habitat have jointly developed a regional **climate change** adaptation project for several African small island developing states. The objective of the

project is to reduce the vulnerability of urban coastal zones to the impacts of climate change.



Industrial site in Kigali, Rwanda

UNEP and UN-Habitat are working together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to provide technical and financial assistance in addressing the environmental problems associated with the current location of the **industrial zone in Kigali, Rwanda**. Activities have been focused on industrial environmental support services, promoting urban development and settlement and designing institutional and policy regimes.

Activities conducted during the reporting period include a training course on cleaner production assessment and the

improvement of the option generation process, assistance to nine industries on cleaner production and support for a strategy to create a small and medium-size enterprises park.

UNEP, UNDP, UN-Habitat, the Government of Kenya, the City Council of Nairobi, the private sector and civil society have become partners and stakeholders during the formulation of the third phase of the Nairobi River Basin Programme. The objective is to rehabilitate, restore and manage the Nairobi River Basin and its ecosystem in order to

improve livelihoods (especially for the poor), enhance biodiversity and provide a sustainable supply of water for domestic, industrial, recreational and emergency uses. Among the activities accomplished during the reporting period are three community-based solid waste management projects; the planting of six hectares of denuded areas of Karura Forest with 6,000 indigenous trees as part of the re-afforestation programme; data collection on water quality of the Nairobi River Basin and socio-economic human settlement patterns and infrastructure, which has been incorporated into an environmental management information system; the development of an information and communications strategy for public awareness and the incorporation of 35 private sector partners into the rehabilitation and restoration process of Nairobi River. Finally, the Nairobi Dam Trust and the Nairobi River Basin Programme Steering Group, which is chaired by the Government of



Nairobi River at Korogocho, Nairobi

Kenya, were launched to ensure gradual transfer of responsibility in the management of the Programme.



Mombasa, Kenya

UN-Habitat and UNEP collaborated during the fourth AfriCities Summit held in Nairobi, from 18 to 24 September 2006, which brought together mayors from Africa and other stakeholders. They jointly organized a thematic session on Millennium Development Goal 7: Ensuring Environmental Sustainability and worked together to prepare a background paper, coordinate presentations and prepare a summary of recommendations. Participants stressed that without actions by cities and local governments, Goal 7 would

not be met. They said that the decentralization of authority, policy development and financial resources

were essential to allow local governments to address challenges posed by slums and water and sanitation. Participants also underlined that, despite constraints, local governments should and were able to take immediate action.

UNEP and UN-Habitat are collaborating to support **NEPAD** through the partnership's cluster arrangement designed to facilitate inter-agency coordination, in particular with

regard to: cluster 1 on infrastructure development, in which there are sub-clusters on water and sanitation and on energy; cluster 4 on environment, population and urbanization and cluster 7 on advocacy and communication on greater cohesion in support of NEPAD. Both UNEP and UN-Habitat have contributed to an initiative to enhance cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union Commission. As part of a plan to promote inter-agency coordination on water sources, which is being developed by the United Nations mechanism established for that purpose (UN-



Accra, Ghana

Water/Africa), in the context of the International Decade for Action: Water for Life, UNEP and UN-Habitat have promoted joint programming to tackle domestic sources of surface and groundwater pollution (such as sewage, waste etc.) and have provided practical support to the African Ministers' Council on Water.

B. Latin America and the Caribbean

The "Urban Environment Strategy for Latin America and the Caribbean" jointly developed by the regional offices of UNEP and UN-Habitat has provided a solid support framework that has strengthened the reach and relevance of the **Global Environment Outlook**



Arequipa, Peru

Cities initiative of UNEP in the region. The strategy includes collaborative activities between the UNEP initiative and the Sustainable Cities Programme and Localizing Agenda 21 Programme of UN-Habitat. Based on UN-Habitat's expertise in installing local urban observatories, which help local governments develop and apply policyoriented urban indicators, statistics and other urban information, and providing the urban environmental information contained in the Global Environment Outlook Cities reports, an innovative component of the joint strategy was recently set in motion. It will link the cities initiative to the local urban observatories. Ciudad de Playa del Carmen in Mexico is the first municipality where the strategy will be implemented. In the past two years, Global Environment Outlook Cities reports were finalized in 12 cities (Ponta Porã and Marabá in Brazil; Santa Clara, Cienfuegos and Holguin in Cuba; Areguipa, Lima, Callao and Chiclayo in

Peru; Loja and Esmeralda in Ecuador; and the Great Metropolitan Area of Costa Rica) and are ongoing in four more cities (Beberibe and Piranhas in Brazil; Cartagena and Buonaventura in Colombia).

C. Asia-Pacific

UN-Habitat is a member of the **Regional Expert Group on Eco-housing** initiated by the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. Draft generic design guidelines for ecohouses and communities were prepared by the Expert



Group and discussed with national level stakeholders in national workshops held in Maldives, Sri Lanka and Indonesia in May 2005. Eco-housing guidelines for the tropical regions of Asia have been published. In addition to the guidelines, the UNEP eco-housing project includes training programmes for architects and several demonstration projects, including in towns and villages affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami disaster (e.g., in Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Indonesia). One demonstration project for a two-storey eco-building is being carried out in Bhutan at the request of the Government of that country.

IV. Key results of cooperation between UNEP and UN-Habitat

A. Initiative to strengthen cooperation

The most significant indication of increased cooperation between UNEP and UN-Habitat during the reporting period is the launching in March 2006 of an **initiative to strengthen cooperation** between the two programmes. A **mid-term review** of the Sustainable Cities Programme and Localizing Agenda 21 Programme was conducted between November 2005 and February 2006 and supported the idea of such an initiative. In its final report, the review team recommended, among other things, that greater emphasis should be given to normative functions in order to up-scale and institutionalize the positive experiences of the two programmes. The review team suggested that this could be achieved, inter alia, through a more intensive relationship and increased cooperation between the two programmes, involving all their relevant units and sections. The poverty-environment nexus, the localization of the Millennium Development Goals and global issues such as climate change and coastal pollution were proposed as areas for increased cooperation.

On the basis of these recommendations the two programmes developed a concept paper outlining principles for strengthened cooperation, involving the linking of activities at the local, national and global levels. Three options to increase cooperation were presented to a **joint senior management group meeting** which took place in May 2006. At the meeting, the senior managers of both programmes decided that the Urban Environment Unit of UNEP and the Urban Environment Section of UN-Habitat should embark on a joint programming exercise. Building on this, a joint framework for organization-wide long-term cooperation would be developed.

A meeting with representatives of a number of donor countries was held in Nairobi in May 2006. The representatives welcomed the initiative to strengthen cooperation between UNEP and UN-Habitat and suggested key elements which they thought needed to be developed further, such as a governance structure based on the Joint Operation and Coordination Group, a cost-benefit analysis and a stakeholder management and communications strategy. They recommended the development of the initiative as a partnership in the context of ongoing United Nations reform. Cooperation should be increased step by step, starting from the Urban Environment Unit of UNEP and the Urban Environment Section of UN-Habitat. The focus of work should be on projects carried out at the national level.

As a first step and based on the above developments, the Urban Environment Unit of UNEP and the Urban Environment Section of UN-Habitat are in the process of developing a **strategic framework for cooperation** for the period from 2008 to 2013 and a joint work programme for the remainder of the current biennium (2006- 07). This will enable UNEP and UN-Habitat to offer a more coordinated menu of services to a broader range of partners. These services include the provision of technical assistance and tools on environmental planning and management and urban environmental issues (air pollution, transport, energy, water and sanitation) to cities; the promotion of linkages between local and global issues; the provision of technical support and capacity-building to local and

national governments on global environmental challenges; the provision of support to local governments on environmental assessments and other issues.

B. Key results of joint activities

Other results of cooperation during 2005 and 2006 include:



Global Environment Outlook Cities consultation

The Joint Operation and Coordination Group has leveraged cooperation between UNEP and UN-Habitat in the implementation of the Global Environment Outlook process for cities in Africa. It also facilitated the tripartite memorandum of understanding with ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability and improved joint communication and outreach activities. All communication material relating to the urban environment prepared during the reporting period was

developed jointly through the Joint Operation and Coordination Group, allowing the two programmes to speak with one voice to the outside world. By expanding

outreach to networks of both programmes, UNEP was able to reach a wider audience at the city level, while UN-Habitat reached a wider audience in the environment community at all levels.

The two programmes have also visibly **improved cooperation vis-à-vis their clients at local and national levels**. This became evident at the Global Meeting of Partners of the Sustainable Cities Programme and Localizing Agenda 21 Programme, where participants acknowledged the active involvement of UNEP in the urban sector and requested that UNHabitat and UNEP undertake joint missions at the country and city levels. The number of Cities Alliance projects with an environmental dimension co-sponsored by different UNEP divisions increased from one to ten in the biennium 2005- 2006. Many of these are carried out or have been developed jointly with UN-Habitat. As a result, UNEP and UN-Habitat are

cooperating with partners such as the World Bank, the Japanese Bank for International Cooperation, the United States Agency for International Development and others in all regions. Direct interventions in cities have led to **environmental improvements on the ground**. One example of what can be achieved through targeted interagency coordination is the project that was carried out in the industrial zone of Kigali, Rwanda, by UNEP, UN-Habitat and UNDP. It resulted in significant economic savings and environmental improvements, such as efficient water uitlization,



Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

energy efficiency improvements, as well as materials and chemicals spilllage control for the businesses that implemented cleaner production measures. Buildings and operations are going to be relocated to a new site allowing the former location of the industrial zone to be restored. In another example, the Government of Bhutan is working towards applying eco-housing standards to all new government structures, following a training programme developed by UNEP with support from UN-Habitat.

At the global level, by working together in international meetings (such as the World Environment Day, the third session of the World Urban Forum, the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum) and at other urban or environment forums (such as at the meetings of the Sustainable Cities Programme and the Localizing Agenda 21 Programme, the Cities Alliance, at the AfriCities Summit and at the African Ministerial

Conference on the Environment) UNEP and UN-Habitat have increased the focus on the environment by organizing flagship events which drew large numbers of participants and produced tangible results and recommendations, such as the thematic session on Millennium Development Goal 7 at the fourth AfriCities Summit, which was attended by more than 500 delegates.

V. Future cooperation

The second step of developing the Strategic Framework for Joint Cooperation between UNEP and UN-Habitat will involve all divisions of both programmes and build on the joint work programme of the Urban Environment Unit of UNEP and the Urban Environment



Colombo, Sri Lanka

Section of UN-Habitat. The Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building has considerably strengthened the mandate of UNEP to work at the national level, thereby providing further opportunities to work with UN-Habitat. Activities will be designed to support decision-making for sustainable urban planning and management in cities; to involve cities in environmental policy development at the national and global levels; to promote cityto-city cooperation and to establish linkages between the local environment and national, regional and global environmental challenges.

In carrying out such activities, care will be taken to ensure that the two programmes continue to concentrate on their respective core mandates and efforts will be made to avoid overlaps and maximize complementarity. UNEP will focus on environmental challenges of cities in the field of climate change, energy and air quality, ecosystems management, poverty and the environment, and the issue of localizing multilateral environment agreements. UN-Habitat will focus on enhancing capacities for sustainable urban development, improving urban governance and basic urban services. Jointly the two programmes will thereby contribute to meet Millennium Development Goal targets 9, 10 and 11¹.

The initiative to highlight linkages between the local and global environments and associated campaigns are going to be strengthened. As part of the tripartite memorandum of understanding with ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, a network of cities interested in biodiversity is being established and a publication with case studies from Africa on cities and ecosystems will be produced. The secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity has asked UNEP and UN-Habitat to join an inter-agency task force on cities and biodiversity. Several initiatives are currently being considered to increase the role of UNEP, UN-HABITAT and ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability in the area of cities and climate change.



Ibadan, Nigeria

Water and sanitation are specific areas where joint activities will be developed further. UNEP and UN-Habitat still need to explore how best to take the Guidelines on Municipal Wastewater Management, which were

¹ The targets under Millennium Development Goal 7 are: Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes, reverse loss of environmental resources; Target 10: Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water; Target 11: Achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slumdwellers by 2020.

developed in 2004 by UNEP, UN-Habitat, the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council and the World Health Organization, to the city level, for example through the activities of the water for African and Asian cities programmes and the Sustainable Cities Programme.

Other tangible activities to begin in 2007 include: expanding the Global Environment Outlook for Cities initiatives in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America; pilot projects in Asia-Pacific and Africa to promote the active engagement of communities in the implementation of multi-lateral environment agreements; a three-year intensive course on sustainable communities which UN-Habitat and UNEP are developing with the Helsinki University of Technology and which will begin in August 2007; technical support on sustainable urbanization in Chinese cities in the area of wastewater treatment, cleaner production, water demand management and integrated solid waste management; technical support to the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; membership of the Urban Environment Unit of UNEP and the Urban Environment Section of UN-Habitat of a task force on sustainable cities within the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production (the so-called Marrakech Process); and joint projects in the field of sustainable public procurement, with a particular focus on national governments and local authorities and sustainable buildings and construction.