



## INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR NAIROBI OPENING REMARKS BY PETER AQUAH DEPUTY DIRECTOR REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA

- It is estimated that the total amount of municipal solid waste generated worldwide reached 1.84 billion tons in 2004, a 7 per cent increase on the 2003 total (Global Waste Management Market Report 2004).
- It is further estimated that, between 2004 and 2008, worldwide generation of municipal waste rose by 31.1 per cent, representing an annual rate of increase of some 7 per cent.
- The city of Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, with a population of more than 3 million people, is a centre of industry, education and culture occupying an area of 696.1 km<sup>2</sup> (0.1 per cent of Kenya's total surface area) and hosting about 25 per cent of Kenya's urban population (UNCHS 2001).
- The city is currently experiencing waste management problems and the City of Nairobi Environmental Outlook (2007) indicates that increase in solid waste generation has not been accompanied by an equivalent increase in the capacity of the relevant urban authorities to deal with the problem.
- The current generation rate of garbage in Nairobi is over 2000 tons per day and waste that finds its way to the final destination is disposed off at the Dandora dumpsite in an environmentally unsustainable manner.
- UNEP commissioned a study of the Dandora dumpsite in 2006 and the findings suggest that there are severe public health and environmental impacts due to the site. The study shows that the dumpsite is a serious threat to children living nearby and the city's environment in general.
- During the study, 328 children and youth aged between 2-18 years living around the waste dump were examined. The study also compared soil samples from the site with another location just outside of Nairobi.
- Half of the children tested had concentrations of lead in their blood exceeding internationally accepted levels while 42 percent of soil samples recorded lead levels almost 10 times higher than what is considered unpolluted soil (over 400 parts per million (ppm) as compared to 50 ppm).
- During the launch of the report in October 2007, UNEP's Executive Director pledged his support towards tackling this problem and advised that, "clear urgent action is needed to reduce the health and environmental hazards so that children and adults can go about their daily lives without fear of being poisoned and without damage to nearby river systems."
- UN Habitat has estimated the doubling of cities in developing countries every ten years including the Sub-Saharan Africa region that has one of the highest urbanisation growth rates of any region in the world. Population in Nairobi is thus expected to increase substantially over the next ten years hence the necessity for CCN to put in place systems for adequate service delivery is waste management, health, education and transport.



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- The launch of this workshop today is the first step towards this initiative and will result in the sustainable management of waste.
  - UNEP is closely working with the CCN towards the development of an Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) Plan for Nairobi that will include all aspects from waste minimization, segregation, collection, transportation, reuse/recycle, resource recovery, treatment and disposal.
  - The main objective of the proposed Plan is to maximize resource efficiency through the 3Rs (reduce, reuse and recycle) and to enhance health and aesthetic standards through de-littering of Nairobi.
  - Through the project UNEP intends to build capacity of local stakeholders to replicate the Plan in other cities within the region and also update the Nairobi Plan in future.
  - UNEP has also undertaken successful ISWM projects in other regions including Maseru in Africa.
  - With those few remarks ladies and gentlemen, I would like to officially launch this project and welcome you to today's awareness raising workshop.