



**AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT (AMCHUD)**

African Cities Driving the NEPAD Initiative: *An Introduction to the NEPAD Cities Programme*

31 JANUARY – 04 FEBRUARY 2005
DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

**INCORPORATING THE 5TH ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN
POPULATION COMMISSION SERVING AS THE EXPERT
GROUP MEETING FOR THE MINISTERIAL SEGMENT**

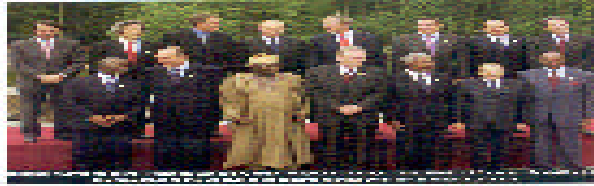


A. Urbanisation in Africa.

1. Urban areas will strongly influence the world of the twenty-first century, and urban and rural population will be increasingly interdependent for their economic, social and environmental well being. Among the economic and social factors influencing this process are population growth, voluntary and involuntary migration, real and perceived employment opportunities, cultural expectations, changing consumption and production patterns, displacement by conflicts and wars, and administrative reclassification of settlements. As humanity rapidly transforms to living in cities, the urban agenda will increasingly become a dominant global concern. By 2015, more than half of the world's population is expected to live in 30 mega cities and 375 urban centres with 70 to be in sub-Saharan Africa. Africa's urbanisation, which is presently growing at a rate of about 5% per annum, is one of the fastest in the world. By the turn of the second decade of this millennium, the population of the Africa continent would have increased fourfold to 500 million from 138 million in 1990, during which 200 million of the projected population would be living in cities.
2. The popular position is that Africa is a rural continent and indeed at its present average urban level of 35%, it is the least urbanised continent. However, at its present rate of growth, Africa's rate of urbanisation is two times faster than Latin America and Asia. Secondary cities continue to grow very rapidly, in many cases faster than the primary or capital cities. Consequently, over the next two decades, 87 per cent of the population growth in Africa will take place in urban areas. According to projections 55% of the people would be living in urban areas by 2007.
3. For Africa as a continent, urbanisation is a strong and overwhelming force to be reckoned with, exacting tremendous pressures on economic and environmental sustainability, and creating unmet demands for basic urban services. The continent's rising urbanisation poses a high challenge, because it is happening in the context of widespread poverty. Of the 20 countries classified as possessing the lowest human development index (HDI), 19 are in Africa. At the city level, sub-Saharan Africa has over 166 million urban slum dwellers, representing about 71.9% of its total urban population. In this context, there is a grave problem of increasing urban poverty with its attendant consequences on Africa's social and political stability.

B. The New Partnership for Africa's Development. (NEPAD).

4. The NEPAD, was conceived by African Union (AU) as an innovative people – centred framework for speeding up the sustainable development of Africa and the eradication of poverty. African leaders are convinced that democracy, stability, good governance, human rights and economic development on the continent are the prerequisites for reversing the trend of poverty, attracting external investments and managing the challenges of urbanisation in Africa. As an integrated programme of the African Union, success of the NEPAD which is formulated around mutually dependent and reinforcing partnerships, hinges on the successful execution of a trinity of reforms: - total focus on democracy, good governance and human rights; concerted drive to eliminate the poverty and social deprivation of its people; and partnership with the private sector as the vital engine of growth. While these reforms are expected to be driven by development policies of individual countries, emphasis is on sub-regional and regional integration through linkages, synergies and co-operation.
5. Sustainable development as proposed by the NEPAD cannot be achieved without sustainable urbanisation. Sustainable urbanisation is a dynamic, multi-dimensional process covering environmental as well as social, economic and political sustainability. It embraces relationship between all human settlements, from small urban centres to metropolises, and between towns and cities and their surrounding rural areas. It is an unstoppable process, and in the context of the NEPAD, a potent and desirable force for development.



6. Unfortunately, Africa's urbanisation is not being accompanied by sustained growth generally because the continent has been regarded as primarily rural and the issues related to sustainable human settlements development such as an integrated approach to the problems of urban poverty and demand for urban infrastructure have not received the required priority attention in national plans. Urbanization has thus been quite chaotic over the past 40 years as African cities are consequently not fulfilling the promise of raising the living standards of their inhabitants. They are overrun by a drift from the rural areas which is fed more by an illusion of prosperity than reality, and alas, the locus of global poverty which is more acute in Africa is moving into cities. Cities are also not sending back a flow of resources that are commensurate to what they are receiving from the hinterland in the form of raw materials, labour, energy, etc. As the urban centres sprawl at their fringes without limit and the central areas break down with pressure from demand of a highly migrant daily population, they are becoming homes of the poor and deprived, islands of desperation for people and the sites and sources for environmental pollution and degradation as well as social anomie and insecurity. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg in 2002, all governments were called upon with a sense of urgency to give attention to the overwhelming challenge of provision of urban basic services especially water and sanitation for the teeming people in slums where the quality of life is sliding into a precarious state of decay and deprivation.

Women and youth remain the most hard hit by urban poverty

7. However due to economies of scale, and the dynamics of agglomeration propelled by information technology and concentration of power, cities have gained new political, economic and social influence, and hold the potential to maximise the benefits and to offset the negative consequences of globalisation. African cities provide the platform for advancing the NEPAD while the NEPAD

provides the most needed impetus for cities to be appreciated beyond their national boundaries as nodes for regional integration. They are points of convergence between population and environment, and the rate of growth of mega cities and medium towns demonstrate the problems posed by the unstoppable, indeed, desirable process of urbanisation. Africa's main development challenge for the next two decades therefore will be to manage the successful urbanisation of the continent.

C. UN-HABITAT, African Union (AU) and the NEPAD

8. In the light of the challenges posed by urbanisation in Africa, UN-HABITAT, the UN agency charged with the co-ordination of development of human settlements has embarked on a two-track strategy to bring the urban challenge to the forefront of Africa's development agenda. These strategies are being implemented through a multi-pronged approach which includes technical co-operation with members states, building capacities of policy makers, city managers and community groups, advocacy and lobbying with the African Union, collaboration at operational levels and partnership with the AU Commission; co-ordination and information exchange with other UN agencies working in Africa. This conference of the African Ministerial of Housing and Urban Development is a long awaited outcome of such partnerships with member countries and the Commission itself.
9. As core components of its programme for Africa, UN-HABITAT has continued to articulate normative and substantive issues for addressing shelter delivery, provision of basic services, efficient municipal management and urban poverty reduction through the launching of the global campaigns for urban governance and secure tenure in several African countries. In the cluster system by which UN agencies working in Africa are organised around priority themes of NEPAD to support the partnership at all levels, UN-HABITAT is convenor of Cluster 4: On Environment, Population and Urbanisation (other agencies which are members of this cluster are: UNFPA, UNEP, IMO, WMO). UN-HABITAT's responsibility in this regard is to ensure smooth co-ordination with the member agencies within the cluster with a view to submitting joint programmes, and rendering of regular progress report to the Secretary General through the Special Adviser on Africa.
10. Through its Water for African Cities Programme (WAC), UN-HABITAT as an active member of UNWater, is implementing a strategic component the NEPAD Action Plan on Water and Sanitation, which forms part of Cluster 1 on Infrastructure Development. The first phase of this programme has been completed with 7 countries participating. The second phase was launched in December 2003 and an additional 7 countries have signed up, bringing the total number of countries in the WAC Programme to fourteen: - Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana, Senegal, Zambia, Tanzania, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Mali Nigeria, Rwanda, Mozambique, Uganda, and South Africa. The six thematic areas of emphasis are: pro-poor governance of water and sanitation with follow up investments; sanitation for the urban poor; water demand management; urban catchment management; advocacy and awareness creation; and water education in schools. Gender mainstreaming; and training and capacity building are strong cross cutting components in the delivery of all thematic areas.
11. At its second summit held in Maputo, Mozambique, in July 2003, the Assembly of the African Union took a landmark decision (Decision 29) which was aimed at reaping the benefits of cities and towns as places of opportunity and prosperity for all African people. The Summit requested UN-HABITAT to continue to render support to the Commission of the AU in the implementation of programmes to address the challenges of urbanisation in Africa. As a direct response to this call by the AU, the UN-HABITAT launched the NEPAD Cities Programme, to support cities to play positive roles as engines of growth, built on alleviation of poverty and empowerment of the municipalities. The Heads of State and Governments Implementation Committee (HSGIC) of NEPAD endorsed the Programme at its 8th meeting in Maputo, and with active collaboration of and support from the NEPAD Secretariat, UN-HABITAT is implementing it in seven African cities to start with. We are working closely with other agencies on this programme to demonstrate the critical role that cities stand to play in promoting the regional integration of the continent as enunciated by

the NEPAD. With co-ordination by UN-HABITAT, other international donor agencies with cross-cutting responsibilities are called upon to mobilise resources to achieve the NEPAD Cities' goal of a well governed, productive and inclusive city.

D. The NEPAD City Programme

City Selection Criteria

12. In tune with the novelty of the NEPAD, but mindful of the scepticism which it evoked and still does, a quick start up with immediate impact was considered essential. The first seven cities were thus selected on zero assumptions notwithstanding that they are at different stages of development. A simple set of criteria with practically no value judgements was used to identify these cities for early approval of the Steering Committee. The potential of the NEPAD City Programme to reach to the grassroots level with the message of NEPAD was one of its attractions which secured its early approval. The framework profiles of the cities which were rapidly produced, served subsequently as the baseline for the identification of the investment needs for each city. The quick buy-in which this achieved for the NEPAD goals at the municipal level is an appreciable factor in view of the fact that the NEPAD is still perceived as a high level, central government concern with little relevance for the ordinary people.
13. The first seven cities were then selected based on the following criteria:
 - i. *Representation and geographical balancing:* Each sub-region of the continent is represented to ensure ownership of the programme across Africa.
 - ii. *Representative political leadership of the city:* The NEPAD is generally perceived amongst the citizens as an exclusive central government affair, yet local and municipal authorities that manage cities play a key role poverty alleviation and in the economic development of the cities. A representative leadership of a city denotes a certain measure of responsibility and accountability which are important norms of local governance to ground the goals of the NEPAD at the grassroots level.
 - iii. *Proximity/access to offices of a Regional Economic Commission (REC).* The RECs are identified as spearheads for the implementation of the NEPAD therefore it is considered critical that they were brought on board from inception the Programme. Proximity to offices of a REC was considered a favourable factor for selection. There were nevertheless some overlaps in the coverage of some of the RECs.
 - iv. *On-going Habitat programme.* The NEPAD programme builds on already established partnerships and enhance projects which are already on-going in the cities, .

Table 1 : Cities Selected for the start up of NEPAD Cities Programme

Serial No.	CITY SELECTED	REGIONAL BLOCK	ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
1	Rabat	Northern Africa	UMA
2	Bamako	Western Africa (French)	ECOWAS
3	Lagos	Western Africa (English)	ECOWAS
4	Durban	Southern Africa	SADC, COMESA
5	Lusaka	Southern Africa	SADC, COMESA
6	Douala	Central Africa	ECCAS
7	Nairobi	Eastern Africa	EAC , IGAD

E. Profile of a NEPAD City

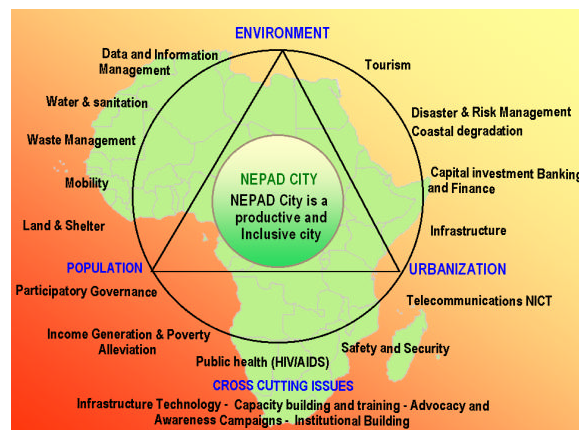
14. The Sustainable NEPAD City is one that is functional, economically productive, socially inclusive, environmentally sound, safe, healthy and secure. In direct response to the need for regional integration and the need to create critical mass for profitable investment, the NEPAD City would be one, which has a balanced and symbiotic relationship with its hinterland. A

NEPAD city is a well-functioning city with adequate infrastructure and dynamic land markets which can easily absorb excess rural population. It is one which effectively influences the productivity of agriculture, stimulates strong sub-regional flows of trade, and provides adequate access to domestic and international market.

The profile of such a city would include the following attributes:

- i. Spearhead of economic growth with sound capital investment and opportunities for employment, such as one-stop-shop investment information and Export Processing Zones;
 - ii. Opportunities and programmes for urban poverty reduction, upgrade and support of informal sector and especially empowerment of poor women and youths in poorer sectors of the city;
 - iii. An open and dynamic land market supported by simple and efficient institutional structure to provide access to land, shelter, essential services and secure tenure, towards improvement of slum conditions and prevention of new formations;
 - iv. Safe and secure city with system-wide crime prevention systems, including strong, adequate dispensation of justice;
 - v. Effective anticipation of risk and disaster, backed with early warning, and efficient rescue mechanisms;
 - vi. Functioning infrastructure including affordable telecommunication services
 - vii. Sound governance structures including clear mechanisms for community partnership and participation to promote social inclusion in priority setting and service delivery;
 - viii. Environmental services - properly planned and managed with hygienic public utilities, efficient management of waste, adequate water and sanitation services, industrial pollution control, active management of coasts and shorelines;
 - ix. Historic monuments preserved and heritage of cultural assets built and kept;
 - x. Capable municipal structures for anticipatory and proactive physical planning services of peri-urban areas with sustainable rural-urban linkages.
15. To achieve this profile, the planned outputs of the NEPAD Cities Programme which is built on the foundation laid by the Sustainable Cities Programme of UN-HABITAT,¹ include: improving information and technical expertise using GIS data; improving strategic policy formulation and decision making; improving effective policy implementation capacities; institutional improvements and building capacity to plan and to manage change in these cities. In achieving these objectives, the Programme's overriding philosophy is work with cities and assist them to promote public/private partnership in identifying their problems, prioritising their needs, mobilising their resources, and implementing development/investment plans through consensus building, participatory process of implementation. By so doing, cities are supported to realise their critical contributions to sustainable development as local actors are empowered to improve their planning and management capacity.

¹ The NEPAD Cities Programme adopts the in part the principles of Environmental Planning and Management which is at the core of the Sustainable Cities Programme, to cast role of cities as engines of economic growth and nodes of regional integration.



A conceptual framework of the NEPAD City. © UN-HABITAT

F. Progress of Implementation of the Programme to Date

Start Up

16. Following the approval of the Programme by the HSGIC in July 2003, UN-HABITAT provided some support funds for the start up phase while encouraging the participating countries to provide for it in their national budgets. Letters introducing the Programme and its objectives were sent to all the national governments and municipal councils of the participating cities, including to ministries in charge of the NEPAD, planning, land and urban development, housing and local government. Letters were also sent to all UNDP offices, and all the respective Regional Economic Communities. Information and publicity materials were sent to all the partners identified as well as ensuring that such information was available at major meetings. A team of national consultants was assigned to assist the city management with the preparation of their framework profile. These profiles served as basis for identification of priority needs for immediate action. Care was taken to ensure that the consultants were local personnel that were based in the cities and already had working relationship with the municipalities. In some cities, some stages of the profiling process were skipped because they already had a strategic plan in place. In such cases, on-going processes of consultation were appropriately integrated within the broader goals of NEPAD. Similarly, cognisance was taken of other on-going programmes by multilateral organisations in the city.
17. Between October 2003 and February 2004, identification and formulation missions were fielded to all seven cities². In each city, multi-stakeholder fora with targeted discussions with select audiences were held. Courtesy calls were paid on key ministers in charge of local government, lands, housing and environment. Agency members of the UN/NEPAD Cluster 4 on Environment, Population and Urbanisation were consulted and kept abreast with developments. The RECs were also contacted, the programme was explained to them supported by information and relevant documents. They were also invited to relevant events of the programme.

Preparation of Framework Profiles and Identification of Priority Areas for Action

18. The framework profiles that were prepared of the seven cities covered the following areas:
 - a. Infrastructure roads, communications systems, water and sanitation etc.;
 - b. Governance system - whether it is participatory etc.;
 - c. Environment - efficiently managed and hygienic utilities;
 - d. Investment opportunities - whether information is readily available and accessible;
 - e. Safety and security - crime prevention systems; and
 - f. Poverty reduction strategies.

² Rabat was not physically visited by the team from Nairobi, but with guidance on line, a resident UN-HABITAT field officer filled in to provide support for the process.

19. The profiling process was closely monitored to ensure that the critical development needs of the cities were identified, endorsed and prioritised in consultation with stakeholders that include the Central Government Ministries, the Private Sector, NGOs, CBOs, IGOs etc. The priorities revolved around the immediate challenges for poverty eradication and wealth creation to improve the lives of the citizens and improvements that were needed to develop the regional outlook of the city especially in strengthening its ties to its hinterland and other cities - thus their roles as nodes of regional integration. These proposals form the basis of further action during the implementation phase.



The consultations in Bamako – January 2004

20. In the wings of the Africities 3 held in Yaoundé Cameroon from 2-6 December, 2003, a roundtable discussion on the NEPAD Cities programme was organised. Five of the seven NEPAD cities were represented and the mayors discussed their cities potentials in regional integration, and highlighting their role in leading economic revival and reduction of poverty. They took several important decisions, one of which was to organise a consultative forum for the participating cities. (The decisions of the Mayors from the Yaoundé round table is at Annex 1).
21. The First Consultative Forum on NEPAD Cities was jointly organised by UN-HABITAT and the Lagos State Government, from 13-17 May 2004 at Eko Hotel, Lagos, Nigeria. It attracted Ministers, senior government officials, city mayors, and representatives of the diplomatic corps, ambassadors, UN Agencies, NGOs, CBOs including women and youth groups, and private sector organisations. The forum offered the cities the opportunity to further dialogue with one another to deepen their understanding of the roles of their cities in driving the NEPAD process. The Forum not only identified key challenges facing their cities, such as has been documented, but it also duly acknowledged the window of opportunities in the NEPAD Cities Programme for positive intervention to address them. Several technical presentations were made and the cities each presented their profiles which was the bases of animated discussions and brain storming for practical solutions by professionals, practitioners and municipal managers across Africa. (The communiqué from the Forum is in Annex 1, and the report of the Forum is currently in the process of publication).

Two faces of the Port City of Douala. © UN-HABITAT

G. Main Challenges Faced by Cities and Key Messages from the Forum

22. Profiles of each of the cities participating in the programme were presented, and discussed. The most urbanised and populous of them is Lagos with an estimated population of about 15 million, which is 13 times larger than Bamako (1.2million) and almost 8 times larger than Lusaka and Rabat (each with an estimated population of 2 million people). The annual population growth rates of the cities also vary from 3.8% for Lusaka to between 6-8% for Lagos. The challenges include the well known issues of high poverty, inadequate housing, low resource mobilisation, broken down infrastructure, low security, high unemployment, poor governance and poor access to social services, as well as other problems peculiar to each city (see matrix in table 2). The cities are grappling with these challenges with varying results, but their involvement in the NEPAD Cities Programme has broadened their perspective of the multifarious nature of their mandates also to appreciate the potential resources at their disposal.
23. The profiles confirm that urbanization in Africa is neither orderly nor sustainable. Squatter settlements and informal sector enterprises proliferate despite numerous urban development plans. City development plans are often either inflexible or unrealistic, as they are frequently not guided by realities of the social, economic and environmental status of the majority of their citizens.

TABLE 2: Matrix of Priorities Identified by NEPAD Cities

Development Priorities	LUSAKA	RABAT	NAIROBI	DOUALA	DURBAN	BAMAKO	LAGOS
Urban upgrading and low cost housing, investment in basic services/shelter	X	X	X	X		X	X
Development of export free zones and high value commercial corridors/resuscitation of industry	X				X	X	
Strengthening urban governance e.g. inclusiveness and popular participation	X				X		
Re-capitalization of land development fund	X						
Human resources development	X						
Strengthening the systems for economic governance/poverty eradication and sustained economic growth			X				X
Resident's involvement in policy/ programme planning and implementation			X				
Facilitating private sector participation (PSP) in services provision for example, waste management			X	X	X		X
Marketing the city for tourism and direct investment		X	X	X		X	
Promoting macro-economic and regional investment			X				
Improvement of transportation, water supply and power		X			x		X
Enhancing the special status of the city		X					
Strengthening of security and prevention of delinquency						X	
Fight against malaria/HIV/AIDs	X					X	X
Food security							X
Revenue enhancement							X
Gender and Employment promotion as cross cutting issue							X

Urban planners and their political leaders have not only to address the needs of slum dwellers for better shelter, but also the broader challenges listed in paragraph 22 above. Plans drawn by bureaucrats within the confines of city offices with little if any consultation or participation of the people they are being planned for do not get the populist support that assures success with the above challenges. Furthermore, plans are preoccupied with physical layouts on paper without sufficient regard to socio-economic dynamics of the use of land and the realities of social exclusion.



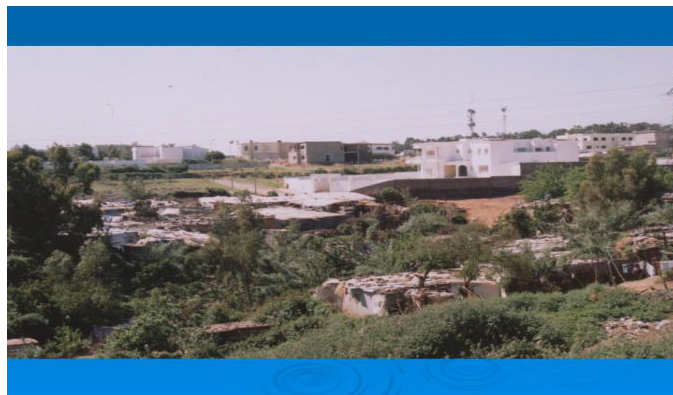
Sprawling fringes of eThekweni(Durban), reclassified as part of the metropolis.
© UN-HABITAT

24. Urban growth is not as a result of migration alone, but in almost equal proportions, also of reclassification of rural settlements into the boundaries of the city and of natural growth. Strong urban governance is therefore a key to keeping all citizens and sectors actively involved in finding solutions to urban challenges. Institutional models for governance of the NEPAD city were proposed. Durban and Lusaka in their presentations, demonstrated the positive results of the processes which are already in place and which they plan to improve upon to achieve the goals of NEPAD. Rabat identified unclear lines of institutional responsibility as its major challenge and has called for assistance in that area. Environmental management was identified as the major challenges in Douala and Lagos, while Bamako decried air pollution, and Nairobi , local governance. Similarly, each city showcased their areas of relative strength around which partnerships and collaborations began to build amongst them even before the Forum was over.
25. Physical layout plans are implemented, and in turn sustained by social and economic policies, which translate into functional spatial systems. For industrial growth, cities must have not only the appropriate space zoned, but should have support services such as finance and banking, insurance, information technology, housing, health and education facilities for staff, etc. Tourism, although often based in the rural areas, must have adequate management and service outfits to support it and these are based in the city.
26. The quality of city infrastructure, including roads and telecommunications networks, bears directly on the success of tourism. Regional transport networks often have their hubs in the city. Trans-national highways, railway lines or airports, all influence trade between the city, the country and the outside world, and yet the cities are not often equipped either statutorily or resource – wise to maintain them in top shape. Water supply is an essential component of a liveable and functional city. The management of this resource goes beyond the city boundary, in order to preserve watersheds and catchments guide upstream usage and control course pollution. Cities that depend on such cross boarder resources need to have a co-operation under guidance of the NEPAD.
27. The positive correlation between efficient infrastructure and improved productivity makes it a prerequisite and a product of regional leadership, and only a city that has the vision of this responsibility and addresses itself lends itself easily to be a node for regional integration. Systematic an pragmatic planning will enable a city to improve the internal welfare and well-being of its people as measured in adequate housing, health and educational facilities, transport, water supply, security, clean environment and availability of goods and services required by its residents. It is one of the responsibilities of government to anticipate the future and prepare for it.



Regional infrastructure cuts through Nairobi City, but by passes Kibera, its largest slum settlement. © UN-HABITAT.

28. African political leaders at all levels must come to the realisation of the un-abating process of urbanisation which is taking place in the context of increasing urban poverty, and the consequences of this in hindering cities from fulfilling their roles as engines of growth. To reverse the trend, the cities in the NEPAD programme need to focus among others on three imperatives: enhancing good urban governance, improving physical infrastructure and promoting access to shelter among the urban poor. Urban economic base needs to be boosted by increased investment to provide efficient infrastructure. While not ruling out the place of external support, the first and most important effort has to come from within the countries, not forgetting the municipal sources. This has to be supported by strong partnerships and active involvement of the private sector in all categories. All of these require responsible and accountable leadership from the local level right up to the national level.



Rabat City Council

29. A proposal was made at the Forum for the establishment of an Award for the NEPAD Cities. The award which would measure liveability, productivity and efficiency of cities and potentials for attracting investment was considered to be a significant contribution from the municipalities to the African Peer Review System. The mayors in-committee, will monitor the execution and performance of the award.
30. The Forum held in Lagos, brings to close the start up and preparatory phases of the NEPAD Cities Programme. The next phase is the implementation of the identified priorities. This phase, which was proposed to start in October 2004 is delayed for lack of financial and professional resources backed up with a well equipped secretariat. In the meantime, requests have been received from Addis Ababa and Kano to be included in the Programme. The confirmation of these request are awaiting funds flow into the Programme.

I. The NEPAD Cities Programme and the Strategic Vision of the African Union Commission

Strengthening Rural-Urban Linkage sand Regional Integration.

31. Given the centrality of the “fight against poverty in Africa” in the strategic plan of the AU, it is necessary and urgent that the Commission plans, develops and harmonizes continental and regional policies programmes and projects such as build capacity and promote integration. The development plans of the Regional Economic Commissions which though built on individual country proposals must recognize cities as repositories of knowledge, the loci of innovations as well as the agents of innovation diffusion and socio-economic transformation. Cities as nodes of development are able to direct and support rising productivity in smaller settlements, and provide the required connectivity in a regional network of trade and commerce. This process hinges on an interrelated flow of people, resources (both financial and material) as well as trade and production relationships between both areas. Rural areas on the other hand, play an important role in ensuring food security and in sustaining the social and ecological balance over large tracts of land and thus contribute significantly to the task of protecting bio-diversity and fragile ecosystems and to the sustainable use of biological resources³.
32. An integrated approach is necessary to achieve sustainable development of human settlements. Until and unless cities are developed to meet the various demands and aspirations of its people, the cities will continue to be centres of deprivation rather than progressive influence on the rural areas. While it is urgent to improve quality of living as well as create employment and educational opportunities in rural settlements, regional centres and secondary cities, full advantage must be taken of the complimentary contributions and linkages of rural and urban areas by balancing their different economic, social and environmental requirements⁴. Thus strong local and national institutions for the planning and management of human settlements are required to place emphasis on rural-urban linkages and treat villages and cities as two ends of a human settlements continuum. In this regard, cities need to move from being simply deliverers of services to drivers of growth and development.

Cities and Trans-Regional Infrastructure and Cross Boundary Resources

33. Water resources management in human settlements for example, presents an outstanding challenge for sustainable development. Meeting this challenge requires an integrated approach of the resource such that takes cognizance of the links between water, sanitation and health, the economy and the environment, as well as between cities and their hinterlands. It should also harmonize land-use planning and housing policies and ensure a comprehensive and coherent approach to setting and enforcing realistic standards. A strong political commitment, cooperation between disciplines and sectors, as well as an active partnership of all interested parties is essential to integrated water resources management. UN-HABITAT is working with ADB to partner in 14 cities in Africa to implement the second phase of the Water for African Cities Programme. The adoption the AMCOW and its consultative processes into the Commission’s operations is therefore a welcome development as it brings this much needed attention of the member states to a critical MDG which is key to attainment of several others.
34. In the above regard, the example of the Lake Victoria Small Towns Initiative in Water and Sanitation is instructive. Rapidly growing secondary towns around the Lake Victoria are playing an increasingly important role in the development of the economy of the East Africa region as they provide non-agricultural employment to nearly 1 million people. Most of these towns are experiencing unplanned, spontaneous growth and their sustainability is seriously threatened by the run-down and often non-existent basic infrastructure and services in fringes that remain outside the reach of municipal services. The consequences of this phenomenon to the management of this essential but fragile natural resource is telling for the sustainable development of the human

³ The Habitat Agenda page 94 paragraph 164.

⁴ The Habitat Agenda page 12 paragraph 10.

settlements around it and ultimately in the 3 countries that share it Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. UN-HABITAT is supporting these countries to demonstrate an integrated approach to the provision of basic services in about 15 towns located around the Lake Victoria, by creating capacity at local levels to demand and maintain these services. This is expected to lead to a review in national policies such that would further strengthen structures to promote participatory processes of development at all but especially the local levels. The immediate outcome of the initiative will be at the attainment of the MDGs in Water and Sanitation, but it promises also to foster regional cooperation among the East African countries.

J. Towards an Enhanced Framework for Development of NEPAD Cities

35. Can the first set of NEPAD Cities profiled so far claim to be on the path to achieving at least a minimum of the requirements to fulfil the roles expected of them? Cities dictate to those living in them how they should be developed. They are like living organisms that demand food and cannot survive without it. If their demands are ignored, the city dies. It is how the demands are met that determines how the city grows. Cities can be helped to realize their crucial contributions to sustainable development, not only within their boundaries, but also the hinterlands they serve and that serve them. Over time, the ranging debate has been whether cities really are the nodes of development, and whether they are able to direct and support rising productivity in rural areas.
36. It is clear that the solution to urban poverty in Africa is not stopping urbanization, because in any case, the process is unstoppable. The solution lies in designing better policies, better urban governance, and better integration of new population into the urban economy.⁵ This requires well enunciated and properly funded national development programmes which deliberately put emphasis on human settlement development. It means integrating these into Poverty Reduction Plans and Country-wide Development assistance frameworks, etc. RECs should be required to include same in their plans and budget for them as well. Examples of poorly managed and successfully managed cities of equal or even inversely varied sizes around the continent bears to this fact.
37. Urbanization cannot be sustained without partnership at all levels. Since this is the essence of the NEPAD, this aspect must be driven home to all member states that partnership at all levels including especially with the private sector and local communities must be the fulcrum for development of cities. The strategic vision of the African Union therefore must guide member states as they implement Decision 29 of 2003 as an owned initiative of the continent.
38. For cities to generate growth, they must attract external investments and this is only possible if the required infrastructure is in place, and social-economic and political environment is conducive. Mobilising resources from within for investment must therefore engage the attention of city managers, and this is a process that can succeed only with clarity of purpose and information

⁵ Daniel Biau in Habitat Debate Issue No 10 Vol 3. Sept 2004.

dissemination such as is required by the norms of local governance. Participatory decision-making and planning process in cities has been identified as a key norm for development at the local level

39. Local actors lack the required capacity to give effective contribution to sustainable development. It is therefore imperative to build the requisite capacities in essential technical fields and at every level of the development process. Women must be targeted as a special group to participate in the process of making choices and designing solutions for them. In this regard, the coordination and streamlining of all programmes and identification of each partners roles is very necessary.
40. Funds mobilisation from internal sources forms a central pillar of the NEPAD initiative. There is no other level at which this is most needed than at the municipal level. Mayors and their city managers therefore must understand and receive help in this aspect. Funds for identified priority projects must begin to come from the cities themselves, then supplemented by transfers, and external partners. President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria in his capacity as chairman of the HSGIC and a key initiator of the NEPAD, has appealed to his fellow Presidents of the seven cities. While acknowledging the support from the UN so far, he reminded them that the funds to move ahead with NEPAD will have to come largely from internal efforts. He appealed to them therefore to ensure that the Programme is integrated in their national budgetary processes.
41. For the NEPAD Cities Programme to propel African cities to respond to the challenge laid before them by the AU, it is very important that the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development sets up a consultative mechanism to sustain the momentum to ensure that urban development policies receive central attention of members states as the way to deal with the multi-farious problems of population pressure on resources in human settlements. There must be a purposefully designed campaign by the cities to promote ownership by citizens. Without a vision for the city which is shared by all its citizens, no development effort can be sustained. However given the role of cities as spearheads of wealth creation and development of the nations, City managers cannot deal with the challenges alone. The national governments must attend to it as well.

REFERENCES USED

1. UN-HABITAT . 1996 The Istanbul Declaration and the Habitat Agenda- United Nations Conference on Human Settlement.
2. UN-HABITAT 2001. Implementing the Habitat Agenda. The 1996-2001 Experience. Report on the Istanbul+5 Thematic Committee at the 25th Session of the UNGASS. NY June 2001
3. UN-HABITAT 2002. Coalition for Sustainable Urbanization. Progress report for the WSSD. Aug 2002.
4. UN-HABITAT 2003. The Sustainable NEPAD City. Addressing the Urban Challenge in Africa. May 2003.
5. UN-HABITAT . habitat Debate. Cites as Engines of Rural Development. Vol 10 No 3 . Sept 2004.
6. Findings form field missions to Bamako, Lagos, Douala, Nairobi, Lusaka, Durban and Rabat. October 2003 – January 2004.

ANNEX 1 DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE MAYORS OF NEPAD CITIES AT THE ROUNDTABLE HELD AT YAOUNDE, CAMEROON. 4 DECEMBER, 2003.

1. **Mayors of the NEPAD Cities will pursue partnership with the African Union through the proposed establishment of African Mayors Association, and committed to improve service delivery at the grassroots as a way of implementing the NEPAD.**
2. **Mayors of NEPAD Cities will reorient their settlement development plans to take advantage of the renewed spirit offered by the NEPAD and promote regional integration for sustainable development of Africa.**



3. **Mayors of NEPAD Cities are committed to establish NEPAD Units in their councils to support the sensitisation of their people on the initiative, and to execute the ideals of the partnership in their programmes.**
4. **The Mayors agreed to establish and participate in a NEPAD Cities' Award Programme.**
5. **The mayors agreed to collaborate and establish a working mechanism with all UN organisations and Africa Union for successful implementation of the NEPAD Cities Programme.**
6. **They upheld the proposal for a NEPAD Cities Consultative Forum endorsed the offer by Lagos City to host the first one at a date to be fixed early in 2004.**

These decisions form part of the overall outputs of the Africities 3.

ANNEX 2

The Communiqué of the First Consultative Forum of NEPAD Cities Held in Lagos Nigeria. 13-17 May 2004.

The First NEPAD Cities Consultative Forum, organized jointly by the Lagos State Government and UN-HABITAT, was held at Eko Hotels and Suites, Lagos, Nigeria from 10-13 May 2004. The Governor of Lagos State, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, opened the Forum. The Honourable Minister - Federal Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Chief (Mrs.) Mobolaji Osomo was the Guest of Honour. Also in attendance were other dignitaries including the Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Advisers to the President on NEPAD and Members of Lagos State Cabinet. Participants included representatives of the seven NEPAD Cities (Bamako, Douala, Durban, Nairobi, Lagos, Lusaka and Rabat), UN-HABITAT, and other UN-Agencies including UNDP and UNFPA, NGOs, the Academia, Embassies including Japan, USA, UK, France

and Germany, and the private Sector. A total of 289 participants, comprising 112 delegates, 132 guests and 45 members of the media attended the conference.

This being the first time the seven cities currently in the NEPAD Cities Programme were coming together, the consultative Forum reviewed NEPAD goals. These include poverty reduction, good governance, sustainable economic development, increased participation of Africa in a globalizing world, restoration of peace and security in the continent and the roles that cities can play in the attainment of these goals. Specifically, the Forum recognized the roles that cities can play as engines of economic growth and as vehicles of regional integration in Africa.

Inputs were received from the seven cities represented in the Forum as well as expert presentations on urban economy, infrastructure provision and urban governance. These issues were deliberated upon both at Plenary and Syndicate group sessions. Arising from individual city reports and group deliberations, several priority actions for promoting the ideals of NEPAD and forging regional integration were identified as outlined hereunder.

1. The Forum agreed that for cities to serve as engines of growth and as vehicles for promoting integration in Africa, the NEPAD Cities must execute the following:
 - i) Accept Mayors as the main drivers of the NEPAD Cities Programme, for which a Mayors Committee was set up with the Mayor of Durban as the convenor;
 - ii) Address the problems of urban poverty, urban informal sector, insecurity, poor revenue base, corruption, and inadequate social and physical infrastructure;
 - iii) Address environmental health problems in the cities as well as take into consideration the impact of urban activities in the environment;
 - iv) Forge linkages amongst cities and between cities and rural areas within their countries. These linkages should be in the form of goods and services and in the form of social interaction (tourism, recreation), spatial connections (roads, rail and air), information flows (telephone and communication), and economic integration (trade and exchange of expertise);
 - v) Promote institutional reforms especially improving access to land and easing processes for facilitating access to loans especially for the large informal sector;
 - vi) Establish adequate database to plan and monitor the growth and development of cities and for regional comparisons;
 - vii) Promote transparency and accountability, especially participatory planning and budgeting;
 - viii) Promote partnerships between public and private sector and between these and NGOs/CBOs in the provision of infrastructure, investments and overall governance of cities;
 - ix) Develop an operational and sustainable programme on at least one area of challenge and priority from each city; and
 - x) Work towards integrating the NEPAD Cities, especially the outcomes of the NEPAD Cities Award into the operations of the African Peer Review at the city level.
2. The Forum accepted the principle of institutionalizing NEPAD Cities Award to serve, not only as an award for excellence, but also as an incentive for cities to work hard towards the attainment of the goals of NEPAD. The Forum accepted that the mayors of the seven cities should form the Sub-Committee to work out the details of this award.
3. The Mayor of Durban offered to host the next Forum of the NEPAD Cities at a date to be communicated by UN-HABITAT in consultation with all the cities.

I. Background

A. Justification

1. The increasing preoccupation at policy level with issues of shelter, employment, poverty, decentralization and municipal reforms brings to prominence the urgency of addressing the challenge of rapid urbanization in Africa. The fact that in under two decades more than half the Continent's population will be living in urban centres has a bearing on the strategies that must be adopted in taking measures aimed at eradicating poverty, improving governance, stimulating local economic development and promoting human development as a whole.
2. The combined population of African cities will double in the next 14 to 18 years as 200 million additional people – mostly from the countryside – take up residence there. Whereas at current levels of urbanization, and with distinct variations across regions, an average of 70 per cent of the urban population in sub-Saharan Africa are slum dwellers, the doubling of the population poses a major challenge not only for shelter delivery and modalities of governance, but also for ensuring adequate water, sanitation and basic infrastructure, security, social services, means of livelihood and means of combating major pandemics, particularly HIV-AIDS.
3. Recent surveys have indicated that only 19 per cent of the urban population in Africa is connected to mains water and 7.5 per cent to sewerage. The informal sector provides a means of livelihood for 78 per cent of the urban labour force in the region. At the same time, the region is still handicapped by weak capacities of local governance and, despite the measures taken to decentralize governmental functions in many countries, a commensurate transfer of resources has not been effected.
4. Separately, each of the prevailing urban problems in Africa has been a subject of discussion and even a Ministerial declaration. A number of Governments have even put in place national programmes relating to those commitments. Despite those initiatives, African human settlements remain overwhelmed by the dysfunctional aspects of rapid urbanization and by fragmented approaches to tackling its impact. Very few countries have managed to direct and harness the developmental attributes of towns and cities. In fact, the challenge of rapid urbanization has not yet been considered as a priority issue in development. It is high time for that anomaly to be rectified and for the urbanization agenda to be taken up at a continental level, not only in terms of declarations and affirmation of commitments, but also in developing a concerted framework of action that can guide and reinforce individual national initiatives. Indeed, such an approach could also reinforce Africa's quest for closer integration.

B. Offer by the Government of South Africa

5. With the above in mind, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat held consultations in September 2002 with the Minister for Housing of the Government of South Africa, and with a number of other Ministers of Housing, regarding the actions to be taken as a follow up to the Round Table on Partnerships for Sustainable African Cities which was held during the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Towards that end, the Government of South Africa expressed its desire to host an African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development that would consider the articulation of programmatic policy tools for addressing the challenge of urbanization in Africa.
6. Over the past 10 years, the Government of South Africa has made significant gains in supplying services and infrastructure to formerly disadvantaged communities. More than 1.5 million houses for low-income families were constructed between 1994 and 2003 through the Government's subsidy programme. The programme has also provided security of tenure and also access to water and sanitation to more than 5 million of the poorest of the poor. Despite those achievements, the Minister of Housing of South Africa recognizes that the challenge of eradicating the legacy of the segregated city still remains, and in some cases has even been reinforced.
7. The Minister is aware that the challenges of urbanization faced in South Africa are, in varying degrees, similar to those faced by other African countries. It is therefore important to forge closer areas of cooperation and create opportunities, such as the proposed Conference, which would enable learning from each other. Besides raising South Africa's profile, the Conference will provide the country and its Department of Housing with the opportunity to liaise with African partners leading to the development of stronger continental synergies. It will also provide an opportunity for South Africa to work with other countries in developing a proactive advocacy for sustainable human settlement.

C. Action by the African Union

8. When the present issue was considered by the African Union at its second Summit meeting, which was held in Maputo from 4 to 12 July 2003, the African Union, after taking note of the challenges posed by the rapid rate of urbanization in Africa, adopted its decision 29, in which it requested the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to continue rendering support to the Commission of the African Union in promoting the development of sustainable cities and towns in Africa. It also contributed towards the implementation of population policies in member States. The main policy organ of the African Population Commission (APC) is its General Assembly, which meets every two years. It is coordinated by the Joint Secretariat of the African Union, the African Development Bank and the Economic Commission for Africa, with the collaboration and support of the United Nations Population Fund. Within the framework of its expanded agenda, the fourth APC General Assembly was held in February 2002 in Addis Ababa and deliberated extensively on HIV-AIDS, young people and migration in Africa.

9. The relationship between those social challenges and population issues, such as migration, trafficking in humans, poverty, drug trafficking and abuse and other crimes, have, however, not been given due attention in Africa. The APC General Assembly therefore decided to consider urbanization, shelter and their impact on population and development at its fifth session, and decided to adopt “Urbanization, Shelter, and Development” as the theme for the session. Also, the African Union has convened two Extraordinary Summits on issues that are closely associated with urbanization and shelter: the Extraordinary Summit on Agriculture and Water held in Sirte, Libya on 27 February 2004 and the Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation held in Ouagadougou from 3 to 9 September 2004. Indeed, when all those developments are considered, one must conclude that cities possess a powerful strategic potential in realizing the goals and objectives of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and the Millennium Development Goals.

10. The challenge of urbanization and the overall management of African cities has also been given due attention in the Vision, Mission and Strategic Framework of the African Union for 2004–2007, which was submitted to the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government at its third session, in Addis Ababa in July 2004. Such issues as the rule of law, good governance and human security are at the core of the strategic vision and mission. Similarly, the eradication of poverty and social exclusion and improving the quality of life of communities are among the priority programmes and activities in the Union’s Plan of Action. Those strategic objectives and programmes of the African Union and its organs dovetail appropriately with the global programmes, technical cooperation initiatives and also with the twin UN-Habitat Global Campaigns on Urban Governance and Secure Tenure.

D. Action by UN-Habitat

11. The UN-Habitat Global Campaigns on Urban Governance and Secure Tenure, in the context of Africa, are aimed at working with Governments, local authorities, the private sector and civil society organizations in promoting inclusive and participatory systems of local governance. The Campaigns are charged with shaping a global perspective on realizing the goal of sustainable human settlements. They also act as a catalytic force to spur partnerships and encourage cooperative solutions to the challenges of urban development. In so doing, the Campaigns focus on the basic foundation of sustainable urbanization. They give primary importance to norms and values that foster inclusiveness and collective engagement and target the reform of institutional and organizational systems and processes so as to promote sustainability and effectiveness. The aspect of nurturing integrated and well-functioning urban systems in which people are at the centre has been a driving factor for the Campaigns.

12. A critical constituency for realizing the main goals of the Campaigns is the collective of African Ministers of Housing and Urban Development, together with the senior policy practitioners who have been charged with steering the shelter delivery process and urban development in general. The proposed conference will serve as an important forum for energizing that constituency and its quest to surmount the challenge of providing adequate shelter for all and developing sustainable human settlements.

13. The thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development is scheduled to take place from 11 to 22 April 2005. That session will be the policy session for the first two-year “Implementation Cycle” which will continue to focus on the thematic cluster of water, sanitation and human settlements. It will build upon the outcome of the Commission’s twelfth session – the review session of the cycle – and take policy decisions on practical measures and options to expedite the implementation of the commitments in water, sanitation and human settlements contained in Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of

Implementation, and also in the Millennium Declaration. The current Conference will provide an excellent opportunity for the Ministers to develop a common position as they prepare for the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Also, the Conference will enable them to initiate consultations on the forthcoming implementation review of the Millennium Declaration, particularly in their respective sectors of responsibility. The high-level review meeting is scheduled to take place from 14 to 16 September 2005 in New York during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly.

E. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

14. NEPAD, which was adopted at the Maputo session of the Assembly of African Heads of State and Government, was conceived as an innovative people-centred framework for speeding up the sustainable development of Africa and the eradication of poverty. Consequently, it must be able to deal with urbanization and its consequences. To do so, NEPAD must seek to articulate strategies and guidelines aimed at promoting sustainable development through regional integration and must acknowledge that well-managed cities are engines of economic growth. Cities have gained new political, economic and social influence, and they hold the potential to maximize the benefits and offset the negative consequences of urbanization. Thus, African cities can also provide the required leadership and guidance in managing the negative impacts of globalization. The Conference should provide an opportunity to reflect on the concrete implications of urban development within NEPAD, and particularly to examine the modalities of promoting the NEPAD cities programme.

II. Recent developments

15. While important initiatives have been taken to implement the Habitat Agenda, it was admitted during a review of implementation in 2001 that 50 per cent of Africans live in poverty and that the urbanization and feminization of poverty is increasing in many African countries. That phenomenon is made manifest in the form of inadequate urban housing and limited access to basic services. In the Addis Ababa Declaration on Human Settlements in the New Millennium, adopted in November 2000, African Ministers responsible for human settlements reaffirmed a commitment to the Habitat Agenda and also adopted new commitments in the areas of shelter, social development and poverty, environmental management and governance.

16. Once again, in 2004, it was noted in the report of the African Regional Implementation Review for the Commission on Sustainable Development at its twelfth session that African countries have responded to the various commitments with varying emphasis, efforts and achievements. However, a wide gap still exists between commitments and performance. With the exception of a few countries, all the efforts made have not had much impact on shelter delivery and poverty reduction. It was admitted at the Regional Implementation Meeting on water, sanitation and human settlements held in December 2003 in Addis Ababa that some African countries would be unable to meet the goals and targets of the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

17. In the light of the above, African Heads of State and Government at the second African Union Summit, in Maputo, reiterated their determination to reap the benefits of cities and towns as places of opportunity and prosperity for all African people. They took a decision to promote the development of cities and towns in the sustainable development of the continent, and requested UN-Habitat to continue working with the African Union Commission in achieving the set objectives.

III. Fifth General Assembly of the African Population Commission

18. The African Population Commission (APC) was established in May 1994. The specific objectives and functions of the Commission are:

- (a) To increase political awareness on the implications of the current population trends on national socio-economic development efforts;
- (b) To contribute towards the implementation of population policies in Member States;
- (c) To help devise appropriate population policies which are sensitive and applicable to different local situations and can be readily adopted by all national sub-groups;
- (d) To develop, guiding and monitoring systematic and sustained national efforts in actionable population policy programmes; and

(e) To promote cooperation between member States and multilateral and bilateral agencies in the field of population and development, including urbanization, shelter and development.

19. The responsibilities of APC also include coordination of the activities of the national population commissions and similar national institutions and organizations, and monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the resolutions and declarations adopted by African countries. The main policy organ of APC is its General Assembly, whose members are the highest officials of national population commissions and similar institutions of the African Union member States. It holds its session once every two years. The secretariat of the Commission is jointly coordinated by the African Union, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank, which work in close collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The African Union is the lead organization and the coordinator of the secretariat.

20. In June 2004, while meeting in the margins of the regional conference for a 10-year review of implementation of the Dakar-Ngor Declaration and the programme of action of the International Conference on Population and Development, to be held in Dakar, Senegal, the Bureau of APC, in view of decision 29 (ii) of the second Summit of the African Union, in Maputo, on promoting the development of sustainable cities and towns in Africa, took note of the fact that urbanization, inadequate shelter and the growth of slums constitute a major challenge for the world in general and Africa in particular.

IV. African Ministers' Conference on Housing and Urban Development

21. In consolidating the above developments, UN-Habitat, in cooperation with the African Union, is convening a conference of African Ministers responsible for Housing and Urban Development, which will be hosted by the Government of the Republic of South Africa in Durban from 3 to 4 February 2005 and will be preceded by the fifth General Assembly of the APC/Experts Meeting, from 31 January to 2 February 2005. In line with the Maputo Decision, the overall theme of the Conference will be "Urbanization, Shelter and Development: Towards an Enhanced Framework for Sustainable Cities and Towns in Africa". Its objectives are:

(a) To agree on an enhanced framework of implementation in overcoming the challenges of shelter and urbanization taking into account the Millennium Development Goals, NEPAD and the World Summit on Sustainable Development Plan of Implementation;

(b) To identify strategies for turning the urbanization challenge into an opportunity for development, particularly by consolidating integrated approaches to urban development;

(c) To outline ways of managing the consequences of urbanization, especially the increase in urban poverty in slums and informal settlements in African urban areas;

(d) To consider modalities for enhancing collective capacities in Africa through regular consultations and institutionalizing the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, exchanges of experiences and joint activities, and ensuring that appropriate synergies are developed in executing the overall African Agenda for development;

(e) To provide a platform for developing a common understanding among African countries on issues of housing and urban development to enable African countries to speak with one voice during regional and international meetings, specifically, the twentieth session of the UN-Habitat Governing Council, the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the 2005 review of the Millennium Declaration;

(f) To consolidate the above and previous decisions into a pragmatic strategy of action within the context of the NEPAD;

(g) To enable African decision-makers to develop a collective understanding of the implications of urbanization and human settlements in the strategic vision and mission of the African Union that has been recently adopted;

(h) To concretize decisions taken at the Divonne-les-Bains International Working Groups Conference on the Provision of Basic Services, held in June 2004.

V. Organization of the conference

22. To realize the above objectives, the Conference will be organized by linking the fifth General Assembly of the African Population Commission with the Ministerial Conference. APC was scheduled

to discuss the theme of urbanization, shelter and development, and it will now serve as an expert group meeting preparing recommendations for submission to the Ministerial Conference.

23. The overall conference, whose working languages will be both French and English, will therefore be convened in two steps:

(a) Step 1: The first three days will see the convening of the fifth General Assembly of the African Population Commission addressing, at a technical level, the pertinent issues relating to the overall theme of “Urbanization, Shelter and Development: Towards an Enhanced Framework for Sustainable Cities and Towns in Africa”. The composition of the General Assembly will include experts at official level from all the critical sectors in the area of population, housing and urban development, thus bringing together technical experts, policy implementers and senior Government officials from sectors such as housing, population commissions, local government, urban service delivery and infrastructure development, urban environment and gender development. The Assembly will constitute itself as an expert group meeting. Lead papers on six main areas will be delivered in working groups and plenary sessions. Those areas are:

- (i) The challenge of slums, land, shelter delivery and the provision of and access to basic services for all;
- (ii) The challenge of urbanization and human settlements within the framework of the African Union’s Strategic Plan and its NEPAD Programme;
- (iii) Governance and urban development;
- (iv) Population and urbanization within the context of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD+10);
- (v) Financing housing and urban development
- (vi) Draft enhanced framework for sustainable cities and towns in Africa.

Background papers will be distributed for information and to supplement the technical papers. At both levels, the Conference deliberations will go beyond producing overviews and more attention will be given to action-oriented, innovative ways of overcoming the challenges of urbanization and propelling a collective momentum forward.

(b) Step 2: A summary report of the fifth Assembly of the African Population Commission/ Expert Group Meeting will be submitted for consideration by the Ministerial Meeting of Ministers responsible for housing, urban development and population.

VI. Expected outputs

24. The following outputs are expected:

- (a) An Enhanced Framework of Implementation on Housing and Urban Development in Africa;
- (b) Report and recommendations of the fifth General Assembly of APC/Expert Group Meeting on Urbanization, Shelter and Development;
- (c) Establishment of a consultative mechanism for African Ministers of Land, Housing and Urban Development under the auspices of the African Union.
- (d) A common position on Africa’s message to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its thirteenth session and to the implementation review of the Millennium Development Goals.

VII. Follow-up and monitoring

25. The outcome of the Conference will be submitted for adoption by African Union organs and the Governing Council of UN-Habitat. Member States, partners and the appropriate mechanisms to be identified will then work closely to follow up and monitor the implementation of the commitments agreed upon.