



**UN-HABITAT'S
Strategy for the Implementation of the
Millennium Development Goal 7, Target 11**

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Millennium Development Goal 7, Target 11**



***“By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement
in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers”***

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Foreword



Efforts to improve the living conditions of slums dwellers (especially within developing countries) have been feeble and incoherent over the last decade or so, having peaked during the 1980s. However, renewed concern about poverty has recently led governments to adopt a specific target on slums in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which aims to significantly improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020. Slums are a manifestation of the two main challenges facing human settlements development at the beginning of the new millennium: rapid urbanisation and the urbanisation of poverty. Slums areas have the biggest concentrations of poor people and the worst shelter and physical environmental conditions.

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) is the focal point, within the United Nations system, for the implementation of the Millennium Declaration target on slums, as well as for global monitoring of progress towards this target. Slum upgrading has therefore become a very important area of focus for the organization, with increasing emphasis being placed on policy and operational support to the following areas: scaling up of slum upgrading projects and programmes, within the context of city development strategies and through more innovative international and national financing mechanisms; urban water supply and sanitation, mainly through region-wide operational programmes; and pro-poor planning and management of the urban economy, so as to enhance-generation opportunities for the urban poor.

The 19th Session of the Governing Council, 5-9 May 2003, adopted resolution 19/5 “Implementing and monitoring the goal of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on improving the lives of slum dwellers by the year 2020”. The resolution requests the Executive Director to “continue to work to fulfil the goal of improving the lives of slum dwellers and to present a

strategy paper thereon to the Committee of Permanent Representatives for its approval”.

This paper gives an overall vision of the strategy that has been adopted by UN-HABITAT to ensure that all the relevant Millennium Development Goals, generally, and the goals that target directly the urban poor, more specifically, become an integral part of the priorities and actions of its different organizational units.



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Farouk Tebbal and Ulrik Westman (both of UN-HABITAT, Shelter Branch) coordinated the activities and finalized the substantive content as well as layout of the publication.

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