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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES REPORT, 2002

Note by the secretariat

In its resolution 5/5 of 6 May 1982, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to take measures to ensure that Governments are adequately informed about projects and progress made in implementing them. The attached report on operational activities is issued in response to the above-mentioned request of the forthcoming Council.

* HSP/GC/19/1.

^{*} In its resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, the General Assembly transformed the Commission on Human Settlements into the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly. This session has been designated as the nineteenth instead of the first session of the Governing Council to signify the continuity and relationship between the Governing Council and the Commission on Human Settlements.

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INTRODUCTION

The operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) focus on supporting governments in the formulation of policies and strategies to create and strengthen a self-reliant management capacity at both national and local levels. Technical and managerial expertise is provided for the assessment of human settlements development constraints and opportunities, the identification and analysis of policy options, the design and implementation of housing and urban development projects, and the mobilisation of national resources as well as external support for improving the condition of human settlements. This national capacity-building process involves not only central government institutions, but also stakeholders such as community-based and Non-Governmental Organisations, universities and research institutions, as well as local governments in human settlement management.

In accordance with its work-programme, UN-HABITAT's operational activities are focusing on the following priorities: (i) Promoting shelter for all, (ii) improving urban governance, (iii) reducing urban poverty, (iv) improving the living environment, and, v) managing disaster mitigation and post-conflict rehabilitation. Acting as a catalyst in the mobilisation of technical cooperation, UN-HABITAT is supporting the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the local, national and regional levels. Lessons learnt from operational activities are also used by UN-HABITAT to formulate global policy options and guidelines, particularly in the framework of the two global campaigns for secure tenure and good urban governance.

As of the fourth quarter of 2001, UN-HABITAT had 154 technical programmes and projects under execution in 61 countries, the vast majority of them in the least developed countries. As a direct response to increasing demands from governments in developing countries, UN-HABITAT's technical cooperation activities have grown significantly over the last decade from budgets totalling US \$18.7 million in 1988, to US\$197 million in 2001. Roughly 67 percent of the financing for these technical cooperation projects in 2001, excluding the Iraq programme, came from UNDP's various sources of funds – four percent from UNCDF resources, 19 percent from government and third-party cost sharing and funds in trust with UNDP, and nine percent from the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, the latter mainly for preparatory assistance and to help mobilise other sources of financing. It should be noted that the total budget for the biennium is larger than in previous biennia mainly because of several large reconstruction programmes in Africa, Asia (Afghanistan), the Arab States (Iraq) and Europe (Kosovo). These programmes are almost entirely funded by various bilateral or multilateral resources, and in the case of Iraq, through the Oil for Food agreement.

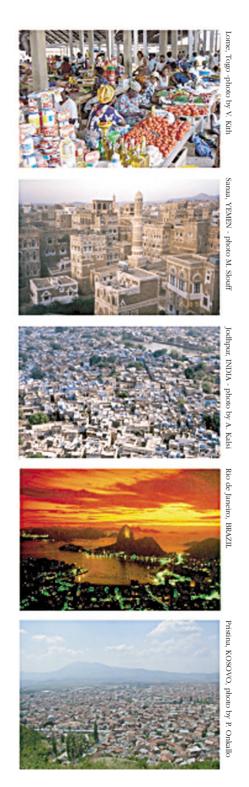
In supporting these operational activities, UN-HABITAT is fully committed to the goals of maximising the use of national expertise and supporting both national execution and procurement from developing countries. In 2001, more than 80 percent of UN-HABITAT's project personnel were national experts.

This report describes UN-HABITAT's operational activities in single-page sketches each devoted to an on-going project or programme. These reference sheets include the total project or programme cost, partner institutions, background objectives, activities and results. The report is divided into six sections. The first covers global and interregional programmes and projects, followed by five sections describing UN-HABITAT's operational activities in each region – Africa, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe.

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Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka Executive Director

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