

**SYNTHESIS OF NATIONAL REPORTS ON
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HABITAT AGENDA
IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION**

Summary

The main objective of this preliminary report is to highlight the main trends and issues of concern in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, as identified in the national reports received so far from Asia and the Pacific Countries by UNCHS (Habitat). The commitments and strategies of the Habitat Agenda, which are the core negotiated agreements of Habitat II, provide the framework for the assessment. For each of the commitments covered, the synthesis highlights key issues from the 14 national reports so far analyzed, with an emphasis on progress made since 1996, prevailing conditions, new trends and emerging issues, policy and legislative changes since Habitat II, institutional weaknesses and obstacles encountered and lessons learnt, with emphasis on sustainability and impact. The presentation is organized in six chapters: shelter; social development and eradication of poverty; environmental management; economic development; governance; and international cooperation, as per the guidelines for country reporting issued by UNCHS (Habitat) in October 1999.

Revisiting the Istanbul commitments is a powerful reminder of the strength of the goals set at the Habitat II Conference and a way to assess the extent to which further action is required to implement them. Progress has been made in many countries, but more intensive action is needed in all areas.

The purpose of the regional meeting that was held in Hangzhou, China from 19th -22nd October 2000 was not only to review progress made but also to identify and agree on concrete initiatives for extending and strengthening action to implement the Habitat Agenda commitments and achieve its goals in the ESCAP region.

* This document has not been formally edited.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey in 1996 endorsed important changes in the approach to human settlements, acknowledging the need for guiding urbanization, rather than preventing it. 171 governments adopted the Habitat Agenda - a global call to action. The Habitat Agenda highlighted that the benefits of economic growth should be spread equitably among all, and that fulfilling the basic requirement in terms of housing, employment and services for the people should rest upon a national consensus where supportive policy frameworks recognize and strengthen action by local levels of government, civil society and communities.

2. As elaborated in the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Global Plan of Action, the objectives of the Habitat Agenda, and the strategies for their implementation revolve around two main themes: (a) Adequate shelter for all and (b) Sustainable human settlements in an urbanising world. By adopting the Habitat Agenda, the international community endorsed the Agenda's key objectives of enablement, participation, partnerships, capacity building, monitoring and evaluation and international cooperation, as well as specific commitments and strategies. United Nations Member States committed themselves to implementing the Habitat Agenda through local, national, sub-regional and regional plans of action and developing policies and programmes for adequate shelter and sustainable human settlements. The overall implementation of the Habitat Agenda is thus dependent on countries implementing their local and national plans of action and monitoring progress

towards achieving objectives by means of appropriate indicators.

3. Pursuant to a recommendation of the Conference, the General Assembly in paragraph 12 of its resolution 52/190 of 18 December 1997, decided to hold a special session of the General Assembly in the year 2001 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of Habitat II. The Organizational Session of the Preparatory Committee which was held in Nairobi in May 1999, as a follow up to General Assembly resolution 53/180 of 15 December 1998, adopted the criteria on scope of the review and appraisal process to be conducted at the Special Session.

4. To help organise in-country activities and make national reports broadly congruent and directly relevant to the Habitat Agenda, 20 key items have been identified in a consultative process (in line with resolution 17/1 of the United Nations Commission on Human settlements) as universal priorities from the commitments and strategies adopted in Istanbul in 1996. Although they vary in breadth, the commitments and strategies have a clarity of intent that would assist in keeping preparation and debate clearly focused, with priorities and specific performance objectives against which progress can be measured.

5. Guidelines for national reporting on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda were sent out to Member States and Habitat Agenda Partners and United Nations' agencies and organizations in October 1999. Reminders of the deadlines for submission of the national reports were also sent in December 1999, February and June 2000.

6. The main objective of this report is to highlight the main trends and issues of concern in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, as identified in the national reports received by UNCHS (Habitat). (The list of countries, which have submitted their reports, is attached as annex 1)

7. The synthesis follows the universal-reporting format that was provided to national governments in the guidelines for country reporting. The commitments and strategies of the Habitat Agenda, which are the core-negotiated agreements of Habitat II, provide the framework for the deliberations. For each of the commitments covered, the report considers progress made since 1996, prevailing conditions, new trends and emerging issues, policy and legislative changes since Habitat II, institutional weaknesses and obstacles encountered and lessons learnt, with emphasis on sustainability and impact.

8. The synthesis is organized in six chapters corresponding to the Guidelines for Country Reporting: shelter; social development and eradication of poverty; environmental management; economic development; governance; and international cooperation.

Chapter 1

Shelter

9. The Asia-Pacific region is characterized by great differences in socio-economic development. South-East and East Asia had seen high economic growth for several decades, which was interrupted by the economic crisis in 1997. The economy of China however continued to grow at high rates. South Asia's development had been much slower and was less affected by the crisis. However, fuelled earlier by economic growth, urbanization continued unabated. While population growth is expected to decrease to 1.11 per cent for the period 2000 to 2010,¹ the formation of households will continue at a much higher level (growth rate of 2.29 over the same period). This will keep housing demand in developing countries of the region at a

very high level. The industrialized countries in the region face different problems such as the changing housing needs of the aging populations and the formation of single person households. Therefore demand for housing will continue these countries also at a high level, especially for small households. Together with an existing backlog in most of the developing countries, where homelessness and inadequate housing and lack of access to basic services are still widespread, the provision of housing will remain one of the top priorities in most countries of the region.

10. Several countries in the region reported on the progress made in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. Many see shelter provision as an important component of their efforts in reducing/eradicating poverty, which manifests itself in particular in the sprawling slums and squatter settlements around the major cities of the region. Some countries have been successful in addressing housing shortages and inadequate basic services,² however, the economic crisis that struck much of East and South-East Asia in 1997 had a negative impact on the housing sector in this subregion. The collapse of the building boom might have in a way relieved some of the pressure on urban land. For example in Thailand, due to the economic crisis a lot of newly constructed houses have been left unsold³.

11. Policy changes in the region have included the development and review of urban development and housing acts with the objective of promoting national housing and settlement policies that seek to facilitate the access of the poor to shelter and basic services. In the Philippines and Sri Lanka, a presidential task force on housing and urban development has been set up. Provision of basic services has been undertaken in a number of countries through programmes such as mass housing and setting up of commissions or machinery specifically responsible for this sector. In some countries, such as the Philippines and the Republic of Korea and Bangladesh the emphasis has been

on housing programmes that are market oriented, demand driven, spearheaded by the private sector, decentralized and deregulated.

12. Among the major trends in the region is the shift of government policy towards an enabling role and more reliance on partnerships with the private sector as well as with NGOs and local community organizations. In many countries with national level organizations, self-reliance of well-organized communities is playing a growing role. For example in India, NGOs are increasingly involved in shelter delivery and community infrastructure, through provision of micro-credit both for self-employment and house construction. Government programmes like the National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) and Swarn Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) also lay emphasis on the formation of groups and Thrift and Credit Societies. The groups prioritise projects, identify the beneficiary and monitor loan repayment. Since formal credit is not easily available to the poor, this is seen as a viable alternative.⁴ This is particularly visible in the well-established democracies, while more centralized states tend to move towards more inclusive shelter policies more cautiously. Such policies tend to include various actors, but are mostly relying on the private sector to deliver shelter to all strata of the population. Despite long tradition of public participation in shelter development processes in some countries, widening these participatory processes and mechanisms by involving more stakeholders and promoting sustainability still remains a challenge. Some countries encourage shelter provision for the poor by a requirement for developers, which obliges them to set aside a portion of any development for low-income groups.⁵

1.1 Provide security of tenure

13. Many countries in the region are focusing their attention on strategies to provide shelter to the urban poor. Several innovative policies and programmes have been initiated for this purpose. Some of these initiatives have provided a certain level of security to established low-income settlements through programmes that recognized rights to tenure. One example of such programmes is the Community Mortgage Programme in the Philippines, which provides credit to communities to acquire the land on which they are settling.⁶ In India some of the States or local governments have acknowledged long-term squatter settlements and guaranteed their existence, or at least a relocation site in cases where they have been occupying the right of way of infrastructure developments.

14. However, security of tenure issues remains unresolved in most countries. According to national reports, despite the economic crisis and the crash of the real estate market in some of the countries in the region, land is still expensive and out of the reach of the urban poor. Governments are still struggling with strategies to provide land for low-income housing under the prevailing conditions of population growth and rapid urban development with high demand for land and increased prices. However, some governments have been able to develop strategies to decrease this problem. For example the Government of Sri Lanka has enacted several laws to enable transferring the ownership of a large stock of government owned housing apartments to the respective occupiers⁷. With the exception of China, rental housing has not been emphasized in the region.

15. Eviction is the greatest threat to most existing slum dwellers since it means loss of cheap affordable housing at a convenient location and a loss of an interdependent community lifestyle. Evictions of slums are still taking place in some countries of the region, but some positive developments are noteworthy: In Bangladesh the High Court, in a landmark decision has declared the

eviction of squatters without rehabilitation illegal. The National Housing Policy (1993, amended in 1999) does not approve of eviction without rehabilitation⁸. In Iran, the right to adequate housing has been recognized in article 51 of the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran. There is a general tendency in Iranian legislation to support housing rights. The Civil Law in particular, protects the householder who occupies a dwelling for more than 30 days, against eviction⁹. However there are still many examples of governments not recognizing slum dwellers rights to stay where they are unless an acceptable alternative can be found.

1.2 Promote the right to adequate housing

16. In the industrialized countries of the region, the right to adequate housing concerns mainly the homeless people in need of shelter, who need to be covered by a network of social services. In the developing countries of the region, housing rights are more an issue of securing the right to live in the often-precarious conditions of informal settlements, proliferating around the major urban centres. The housing rights concept also includes the right to access to basic services.

17. Most governments in the region have recognized housing development as an important contributor to economic growth as well as a tool for the improvement of living conditions and the realization of human rights in general and housing rights in particular. In order to meet the requirements for provision of housing to its populations and improve conditions of the existing housing stock, various types of housing strategies have been pursued in the region. The Philippines have made efforts in recent years to overcome the problems of the economic crisis and to promote the transformation of housing

delivery system more oriented at market mechanisms and decentralizing the programmes in order to mobilize local governments.¹⁰ Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka have also strongly emphasized a market oriented housing delivery system in which the role of the government changes from providing to enabling.

18. Changes in the shelter delivery systems have taken different forms, including promoting the modernization of housing industry, increasing the technical components of housing and improving the housing quality in China.¹¹ There the actual delivery of housing had by far exceeded goals set in the country's report to the Habitat II Conference, which has improved housing conditions considerably and contributed towards the realization of housing rights and the goal of adequate shelter for all. The effects of the economic crisis in 1997 on the shelter sector were however significant in the affected countries, hindering progress in the realization of housing rights of the poor. The construction and provision of housing units per year went down in some countries in 1998 and 1999 due to the crisis of 1997 and this triggered increase in homelessness. In the Republic of Korea, for instance, housing units provided per year dropped from well over 500,000 in the early 1990's to less than 400,000 in 1999.¹²

19. Other developments in China include accelerating the housing reform and social housing construction. New approaches to shelter provision have been devised, which take into account cooperative, collective and individual construction including rental housing.

20. Apart from the poor living in squatter settlements in several cities, there are many invisible, temporary urban poor. They are seasonal migrants who come to the cities in slack agricultural. In Phnom Penh (Cambodia) there may be up to 100,000 seasonal migrants who are scattered all over the city, can easily be overlooked and are more difficult to reach.¹³

21. In many countries in the region the actual construction of housing is generally left to the private sector developers. They are mainly focussing on middle and higher income households. For example in Bangladesh only 3 percent of the constructed houses are earmarked for the poor¹⁴. Sri Lanka has encouraged private property developers to invest in construction of houses for employees of middle and lower income groups by providing them incentives and concessions.¹⁵ India has also introduced a package of incentives and concessions to attract private sector participation in the construction of housing for the poor¹⁶.

1.3 Provide equal access to land

22. The recent disasters of landslides in Mumbai and Metro-Manila which destroyed the lives of hundreds of people and the homes of thousands are an indicator for the precarious situation of the poor in the land market. The urban poor are not able to access suitable land for their homes and frequently have no choice but to settle on land, which is insecure and unfit for housing development. Equal access to land remains a fundamental goal for the poor in almost all countries in the region. Some governments have recognized the need of addressing this issue with priority and initiated policy changes, for instance through the review of legislation on land administration and urban planning.¹⁷ In some countries, the focus has been on promoting policies that support the temporary and permanent rights to land, targeting low-income settlements where tenure is uncertain. Transparency of land management institutions remains, however, an issue in many countries.

23. In some countries policy changes had to be made regarding allocation of land. These have included

making unutilized government land available for housing purposes; in others inventories were undertaken in conjunction with departments of agriculture to determine what land was available for residential purpose. In the Republic of Korea, the revision of relevant legislation such as donation tax and inheritance law was undertaken to enable women to enjoy equal inheritance rights with men, particularly concerning land and property.¹⁸ In Japan the "New Outline of Promoting Comprehensive Land Policies" states that the objective of land policy from 1997 on should switch from the restraint on land prices to the promotion of rational land use through the effective use of land under the principle of "from ownership to use".¹⁹

1.4 Promote equal access to credit

24. Housing finance is emphasized in the region as one of the fundamental elements of the housing delivery system. While most countries in the region have well-established housing finance systems, few are serving the poor. The availability of mortgage facilities forms a necessary function to ensure access to owner occupancy. It is observed in general that the credit administrations become cumbersome and are often open to graft, when limited funds are available at subsidized interest rates. Poor repayment records of public housing finance institutions have often lead to their collapse. A new approach has been introduced in India, where NGOs have been able to set up guarantee programmes and involve commercial banks in financing housing for poor communities, which manage the loan programme on the individual level.²⁰ In Bangladesh the formal mortgage market is limited and confined to new housing construction and serves the high income groups in selected urban areas (Hoek-Smit, 1999). However, some private institutions are coming up with loans for renovating existing houses. On the other hand, micro-finance housing lenders (Government, semi-government and NGO's) offer non-collateral based credit for housing to low-income²¹.

25. In some other countries the access to credit still very much relies on the government. For example in Iran there are no private banks, and all housing related loans are mortgage loans. It is estimated that about 60% of constructed buildings are covered by mortgage bank loans throughout the country. The percentage for urban increases to 72%, whereas it drops to 38% in rural areas. The share of banks of the total amount of loans granted for building construction is around 93%. Therefore, the banking system policies are the determining factor in the urban housing market.²²

26. After the collapse of the National Home Mortgage Finance Company and the Unified Home Lending Programme, the revival of housing delivery system was needed in the Philippines. While the Community Mortgage Programme was continued, the Government has set up new lending mechanisms for housing. It enlisted all relevant partners in the public sector as well as the private, and revived the Home Guarantee Corporation.²³ Practitioners in the field of housing development for the poor, however, feel that these reforms have not had much impact on the ground so far.²⁴

27. In some countries private sector led type of housing programmes have been pursued whilst in others, such as China, housing subsidy policy and promulgation of the Central Provident Fund have been undertaken. Modification of mortgage policies and setting up of standards and specifications for design, planning, construction, building materials and products are other policies undertaken.²⁵

28. There has been a focus on generating sustainable sources of finance for the housing sector other than from government and also stimulating the market for housing. Some countries have strengthened the commercial

mortgage system by establishing a framework for secondary mortgage markets as in the Republic of Korea.

1.5 Promote access to basic services

29. There is a consensus in the region that access to shelter cannot be understood simply as having a roof over the head, but incorporates access to basic services, such as water supply and sanitation. Most countries in the region have made considerable progress in the provision of clean water, however much remains to be done in the field of sanitation. The access to health facilities and education has increased in parallel to economic development, particularly in those countries, which experienced rapid economic growth.

30. Some countries have focused on the provision of access to basic service, such as portable water, electricity, waste disposal and sewerage facilities through developing adequate distribution systems. The Republic of Korea has been able to raise the level of service provision in every respect.²⁶ China has made large investments into service provision, with the result that electricity is available in almost every dwelling in all cities and towns. Urban water supply coverage has reached 96 per cent, while in spite of large investments the urban sewerage treatment capacity has not surpassed 30 per cent.²⁷ In Sri Lanka the access to water has gradually improved; the household connection to electricity has remarkably improved, but the sewerage system is still lagging behind.²⁸ In order to resolve the urgent issue of solid waste management, the Philippines created a solid waste management commission for Metro-Manila. Recycling and composting projects have been initiated nation-wide.²⁹

31. A major problem with the delivery of basic services is that many poor households do not own the land on which they live. As a result they are deprived of access to water and other utilities because water and sewerage connections are provided to plots

upon production of ownership documents. In Bangladesh a project in which water points and latrines are installed is successfully implemented by cooperation between donor agencies, the local people, an NGO and a public organization³⁰.

32. In some economically more advanced countries in the region, efforts have been focused on the renewal of old facilities and earthquake, counter measures. At present Japan is renewing old water facilities, and many water utility companies around the country are engaged in the rebuilding and renewal of water supply facilities³¹.

33. In the government strategy of Lao People's Democratic Republic the highest priority is given to the most rapidly urbanizing and larger urban centres, but the attention will progressively turn to the smaller urban areas. Many of these towns start to experience urban problems such as insufficient solid waste collection, drainage and sewerage problems and a poor road network, but lack the financial, human and institutional resources to address the problems adequately.³²

Chapter 2

Social Development and Eradication of Poverty

34. Key elements highlighted in the Habitat Agenda are the provision of equal opportunities for a safe and healthy life, social integration and inclusiveness, and gender equality. Addressing the status and needs of marginalized groups is fundamental to this aspect of policy worldwide. Efforts to identify and measure the situation of marginalized groups, and the development, implementation and assessment of policies that correct inequalities are being undertaken in

different contexts. The situation and prospects for children, urban crime and violence, and the continuing existence of gender gaps in many areas, are all of concern.

35. Poverty in the Asia and Pacific region manifests itself in various forms, including homelessness and inadequate housing, exposure to unhealthy living conditions and lack of access to health services. It is for this reason that countries are addressing the issues of human settlements through adoption and implementation of poverty eradication and social development programmes. In undertaking these programmes, countries have focused on strengthening the areas of education, health, safety, social inclusion and gender. The emphasis of these programmes is on both urban and rural areas. This is because some countries see urban poverty as an outgrowth of rural poverty, and policies therefore target development in both urban and rural areas.

36. Governments have adopted different approaches to poverty eradication and social development, depending on the local situation. They are all characterized by the concern of addressing the minimum basic needs of families, especially those in low income groups. Regarding the need for providing equal opportunities for a safe and healthy life in the region, systems for social care that give special attention to the needs of family, youth, elderly people with special needs, and minority groups have been established.

2.1 Provision of equal opportunities for a safe and healthy life

37. In order to address inequities in the access to health services, countries have pursued implementation of mass based health and nutritional programmes. Preventive health care systems, especially targeting women and children, are a priority. As a result, countries have registered some progress. For instance in the Philippines there has been an increase in life expectancy; from

69.9 in 1998 to 70.3 in 1999, while infant mortality was reduced from 44.28 per 1,000 live birth in 1998 to 42.73 per 1,000 live births in 1999. In the case of Korea the death rate of children under 5 has reduced from 2.7% in 1993 to 1.7% in 1998. In Sri Lanka the infant mortality rate has been reduced from 37.1 per 1000 live births in the year 1978 to 16.1 in 1999³³.

38. There has been a trend towards the adoption of reform agendas in the health sector. At the same time, schemes that support vulnerable groups through subsidizing health are being established. Other schemes involve child support to parents who do not get this from their employers, and special health programmes for older people. In countries such as China there exists a social system of assistance directed specifically at the needs of low-income families. Regarding regional priorities, some countries are recommending the extension of medical insurance systems, and investment in medical system specifically targeted for children, so as to further reduce infant mortality levels.

39. A major problem in several South Asian countries is violence against women. Crime and violence have become severe menaces to normal everyday urban life. The root cause to this situation is poverty, inequality of income, frustration among the young generation and political disturbances. Women are frequent victims of murder, rape and acid throwing. However progress has been made in for instance, Bangladesh the government has enacted laws to deal with the crimes where women are victims. The Children and Women abuse Act (2000) is applicable for crimes like trafficking, using acid, rape, sexual harassment and murder for dowry.³⁴

2.2 Promote social integration and support to disadvantaged groups.

40. Depending on local circumstances, different methods of addressing the problems of poverty eradication and social development have been adopted in the region, within an overall basic needs approach. There have been efforts to define and meet the minimum needs of families, especially those in low income groups. The basic needs of survival, security, and basic services are primary. The provision of low cost housing and protection from crime and violence are likewise priorities.

41. The promotion of a partnership approach is fundamental to the strategies adopted. Programmes to address the basic needs of low income groups have been developed in consultation with the private sector, academia, non-governmental organizations and community based organizations.

42. There have been some policy changes which aim at the promotion of social integration and support for disadvantaged groups. These include the promulgation of legislation such as the Act of National Basic Livelihood Security in South Korea, and the social assistance measures already mentioned which direct support towards low-income families. Others include the Lingap Para Sa Mahirap Programme in the Philippines, which involves the integration of 2 million poor families by providing them with viable micro-enterprise activities. Another example is the National Housing and Habitat Policy adopted in India. This is being implemented through operational strategies that envisage access by vulnerable groups to institutional finance, cost effective building technologies, slum upgrading, and self-help construction, including through capacity building.

43. The majority of countries in the region have developed specific programmes to integrate and enhance the participation of disabled people in society. For example in China special attention is paid to the needs of

the disadvantaged groups in urban planning administration. The government has promulgated "Design Standard for Urban Roads and Buildings with Easy Access for Disabled People", and has implemented the program of "Ten Years of the Disabled". In Sri Lanka special attention is paid to the growing number of disabled people as a result of the ongoing war. Special schemes and structural designs to suite their basic needs to ensure comfortable living and access to basic services have been implemented³⁵.

44. In some countries in the region efforts are being made to create various opportunities for exchange between the elderly and the young generation. In Japan efforts are being made to promote the construction of core facilities for exchange, such as housing and residential land for multigenerational accommodation, parks, plazas, community centers, and sport and recreation facilities.³⁶

2.3 Promote gender equality in human settlements development

45. In response to gender inequalities, some countries have undertaken specific initiatives. For example, the Philippines has increased its budget allocations to Gender and Development (GAD) activities. Most of the funds are directed towards women entrepreneurs, with the intention of enhancing their economic opportunities through the provision of loans through a special window. Financial assistance is also being provided to 3,000 poor women for home-based livelihood projects. However, implementation of these measures has been slow.

46. There have also been efforts in the region to improve women's access to affordable housing, economic resources and social services. Several

governments consider women's illiteracy level to be a major factor that has to be addressed in order to reduce their poverty. Consequently, policies and incentives aimed at encouraging more women to increase their literacy levels have been developed.

47. There have been a number of policy changes in support of gender equality in human settlements development since 1996. Governments have established legislative frameworks such as the Sex Equality Employment Acts in the case of Korea. In other countries women or gender commissions have been set up.

48. There have been specific measures adopted that support the participation of women in decision-making. These include legislation, such as that adopted in India before the Habitat II Conference, that a third of the seats in local councils be allotted to women. Subsequently, 800 000 women took their places in local level politics in India, in both urban and rural areas. This massive influx of women into local politics was coupled with a period of mobilisation of grassroots women. In Bangladesh the government has also reserved posts for women in municipalities as well as in local administration.³⁷

49. Despite this newly found presence of women in planning and management processes in India, the gains have been undermined by women's apparent inability to impact on policy processes. While women are now officially represented in decision-making structures, they have not concomitantly been empowered to actively participate in processes due to lack of capacity. The policy implication is that while representation is an important step, it needs to be accompanied by the active training and capacity building of the new representatives.

50. Laws that support the representation of women in high-level positions of government have been advocated for elsewhere in the region, and data banks on professional women have been established. In Japan the Equal Employment Opportunity

Law and other legislation were revised in June 1997 to ban discrimination against women at all stages of employment management, from job advertising and recruitment to mandatory retirement and dismissal.³⁸

51. Despite these various regulatory frameworks, discrimination against women persists in the region. For instance in Korea, women still receive lower salaries than men. Thus there is a definite need to increase programmes that ensure women's equal access to employment and those that support equal pay for equal work.

Chapter 3

Environmental Management

52. This report reviews the key aspects of the Habitat Agenda concerning environmental management, namely, (a) promotion of geographically balanced settlement structures, (b) management of supply and demand for water and sanitation in an effective manner, (c) reduction of urban pollution, (d) prevention of disasters and rebuilding of settlements, (e) promotion of effective and environmentally sound transportation systems, (f) supporting mechanisms to prepare and implement local environmental plans and local agenda 21 initiatives.

53. While the region hosts some of the largest urban agglomerations of the world (e.g. Tokyo and Bombay), their population will grow much slower than the smaller cities, particularly those with less than half a million and between one and five million inhabitants. National policies are already in place in most countries in the region promoting geographically balanced settlement structures.

54. Provision of urban basic services remains a major challenge to

governments in the region, with 98 million urban dwellers without adequate access to drinking water supply and 305 million without access to adequate sanitation. While significant investments have been made for the enhancement of basic services in the region, much more effort needs to be given to managing the demand to a sustainable track. In the area of municipal waste management, the capacity of most civic authorities is overwhelmed by the rapid growth of urban wastes. Urgent attention needs to be given to strengthening institutional capacity and legislation for waste management as was recently highlighted by the garbage dump tragedy in the Philippines. Greater participation of the private sector in the provision of urban basic services could go a long way to improve the efficiency of these services and to attract much needed investment.

55. The rapid growth of motorization in the vast majority of cities has significantly contributed to urban air pollution. Industrial pollution of air and water quality also remains an area of major concern requiring legislative action and effective enforcement. An important development since Habitat II has been the ratification of the 1997 Tokyo agreement on emission of carbon dioxide and setting up of Air and Environment Conservation Acts.

56. Recent natural disasters caused by cyclones and floods in Bangladesh, India and a number of other countries in the region and the forest fire in Indonesia indicate the need for greater preparedness and early warning systems in the disaster-prone countries to deal with natural disasters.

57. Support mechanisms to prepare and implement local environmental plans and Local Agenda 21 have been put in place in most countries of the region.

58. In the field of environmental management many countries now recognize the need to decentralize environmental policy-making and implementation at local level and strengthening partnerships between

local authorities and other stakeholders, particularly community based organizations.

3.1 Promote geographically balanced settlement structures

59. Current trends and patterns show that more and more people are moving to urban areas. It is expected that the majority of people will be living in cities, where the largest share of GDP is generated. It has thus been identified to promote geographically balanced settlements structures, between urban and rural areas as well as among large and small settlements.

60. Promotion of national settlement policies whose main thrust is to develop geographically balanced and sustainable human settlements. This has included provision of infrastructure and services to the various levels of settlements. Programmes that have been undertaken include residential environmental improvement for low-income groups in cities. Others have advocated for the development of small towns to mitigate pressure on large and medium sized cities.

61. It is necessary to have a systematic urban development that involves the citizenry. Taking cognizance of the specific socio-cultural characteristic of areas in establishing the strategy of balance area development.

62. Development of comprehensive policy for balanced local development should be devised for further primary balanced local development, which can induce to distribute the development pressure in metropolitan area to local areas.

63. Some countries are undertaking programmes to encourage urban slum dwellers to return to their original

villages and others stimulate the growth of small towns or new townships in areas adjoining bigger cities to promote geographically-balance settlements. For example the Bangladesh government offers loans to those slum dwellers who wish to return to their home village and start a new business there³⁹. To enhance the coordinated development of large, medium-sized and small cities and accelerate the construction of small towns, the Chinese government endeavors to formulate and implement the regional urban hierarchical planning to promote the rational distribution of population, industries, transportation and cities and towns in various regions⁴⁰. In India special initiatives have been taken to develop new townships in areas adjoining bigger/metro cities. The policy framework provides for stronger public-private partnerships; housing cooperatives/societies are provided land at reasonable prices to undertake affordable housing for a wide range of population with varying incomes and occupations. Successful examples are planned peri-urban growth around Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Chandigarh, and Calcutta⁴¹.

3.2 Manage supply and demand for water in an effective manner.

64. Comprehensive water resource management plans have been prepared with the aim of securing water resources and maintaining proper water quality. The plans include water conservation and demand management strategies, which promote efficient and equitable water, use and ensure that demand does not outstrip supply. In many countries the water sector has undergone reforms with public-private partnerships dominating. Gender mainstreaming has been promoted in the water sector, which women taking more responsibility in managing water both as users and providers.

65. Within the context of sector reforms there has been a major shift towards public-private partnerships, aimed at mobilizing

finance for the water sector and increasing efficiency of the sector. Since Sri Lanka has adopted the market economy principles, the cost recovery management method has been increasingly applied to ensure a better service and coverage in the water sector. However, special target groups still receive subsidized water⁴². This demand is being met through a variety of channels and agencies. Private operators have been given licenses for network supply of water in three towns.⁴³

66. In the context of privatization a challenge has been to establish strong regulatory bodies to oversee the performance of private sector water utilities, in many cases large multinational companies.

67. The emphasis of reconciling water supply and demand by developing and implementing water conservation and demand management strategies and plans have greatly impacted on the enhanced sustainability of urban water resource management in the region. The increasingly applied principle of stakeholder consultation has also greatly contributed to sustainable water use.

68. The performance of private and public water utilities should be monitored closely to ensure maximum efficiency. The experiences of developing and applying water conservation and demand management strategies and plans should be evaluated and shared widely in the region.

3.3 Reduce Urban Pollution

69. Programmes that address air and water pollution, solid waste management have been intensified. Solid waste management projects implemented include assessment of landfill sites, waste segregation to effect

rational plans for environmentally acceptable disposal of domestic solid waste, recycling and reuse. Governments have undertaken initiatives aimed at improving air quality and living conditions through the provision of environmental standards. Philippines for instance has banned the use of incinerators that emit toxic fumes, installed air quality monitoring stations in all regions. In the People's Democratic Republic of Lao the improvements in the solid waste management system has resulted in an increase in the solid waste collection from 10 to 40%.⁴⁴

70. One of the major legislative changes in the region was the ratification of the 1997 Tokyo agreement on emission of carbon dioxide and setting up of Air and Environment Conservation Acts.

71. In a bid to abate urban pollution greater cross-sectoral collaboration is required. Conventions and agreements on environmental standards are helpful and a first step in improving living conditions, but require a stronger regulatory body. Moreover a lack of competent mechanisms to monitor the implementation of environmental regulations is a major bottleneck. However in some countries successful measures have been taken. In Japan the Container and Package Recycling Law was enacted in June 1995 to promote recycling through appropriate role sharing by consumers, municipalities and business. Under this Law, a mechanism has been incorporated into the social system whereby economic incentives are given for the reduction of containers and packaging, and steps are being taken to greatly reduce the volume of waste.⁴⁵

3.4 Prevent disasters and rebuild settlements.

72. Man made and natural disasters including other emergencies have had major impacts in a number of countries and enhanced measures on disaster mitigation have had to be undertaken. One example is the multi-sector flood mitigation initiative, which promotes the deluging of waterway,

drainage systems and tributaries in the Philippines. Another is the forest fires in Indonesia. In Myanmar the most frequent disaster is the outbreak of human-made fires and the Central Committee for National Disaster Prevention Relief and Resettlement has been established to take measures to avoid these outbreaks.⁴⁶ Awareness promotion, emergence preparedness and crisis management in order to reduce the impact of the disaster particularly in settlements have been advocated for.

73. Policy changes have included the formulation of La Nina Plans to counter the detrimental effects of La Nina Phenomenon, formulation of Disaster Protection Plans. Others include the formulation of construction plans for new settlements, plans that take into account possibilities for future disasters and building codes. For example in Iran the Seismic Building Code approved in 1990 is compulsory for all urban and most rural areas. It is enforced through the legal responsibility of supervising engineers in urban areas. In rural areas, a non-governmental organisation, and the Banks extending facilities for rural construction provide the supervision free of charge⁴⁷.

74. There is a greater need to create national disaster preparedness and response centres, which build-capacity at local level for enhanced disaster preparedness and mitigation. Awareness creation among planners, local government authorities, politicians and the public on environmental consciousness and natural hazards is recommended. In Japan disaster-prevention drills with citizen participation have been implemented. These drills promote proper response by residents in the event of a disaster.⁴⁸

3.5 Promote effective and environmentally sound transportation systems.

75. Widespread recognition and understanding of the negative environmental and economic development impacts on the overuse of the private automobile to meet regional travel needs has been in clear evidence since 1996. Massive amounts of financial resources have been placed on expanding and enhancing access to public transport and LRT systems have been opened or are currently under construction in Kuala Lumpur, New Delhi, Manila, Jakarta, Bangkok and Singapore, among others. However, the widespread use of two-wheelers or motorcycles in the largest cities in Asia are replacing many trips previously made by public transport and are having new impacts on emissions levels/air quality, traffic congestion and quality -of-life. As the share of Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions from the transport sector in Asia continues to grow exponentially, further steps must be taken to incur reduced demand for transport and clean up the transport required through improved fuel mixes and alternative vehicles.

76. Many countries within the region have recognized the rights of the urban poor for enhanced access to affordable transport by passing legislation protecting ceilings for public transport fares and requiring appropriate transport access for new development. The role of walking (pedestrianization) in the overall urban transport fabric has been noted and acted upon with several localities enhancing pedestrian and bicycle access. In Japan for example efforts are being made to promote environment-friendly transport and a change to walking or cycling instead of short-distance automobile use.⁴⁹

77. Overlapping jurisdictional responsibilities and management confusion among the wide variety of public and private entities involved in providing urban transport and regulating it continues to plague the urban transport delivery sector within the

region. Compounding this problem is the purely sectoral approach still taken by many planners and engineers when the interactions between land use and transport are not properly and appropriately accounted for in transport program design.

78. Among the lessons learnt is that while the scope, scale and overall cost of urban transport infrastructure expansion may dictate national and multi-lateral financial assistance, economic sustainability dictates urban transport remain planned, operated, managed and regulated at the local level. Where national-level action is most necessary is ensuring urban transport service provision, planning and management maintains appropriate levels of environmental quality.

79. Carefully regulating and limiting the overall amount of the transport demand relegated to the private automobile remains the most pressing priority for the region in this crucial development sector. Viable and realistic alternatives for a wide variety of travel options for a wide variety of trip purposes and income levels are the keys to sustainable developments in the future. Providing appropriate transport infrastructure for non-motorized modes of transport remain a priority to serve the transport needs of the urban poor.

3.6 Support mechanisms to prepare and implement local environmental plans and local agenda 21 initiatives.

80. Support mechanisms to prepare and implement local environmental plans and Local Agenda 21 have been put in place in most countries including concretization of Agenda 21. Specific programmes aimed at improving the access of the poor to shelter; basic infrastructure and services through the implementation of broad-based

participatory environment improvement plans have been implemented.

81. Countries acknowledge that in order to undertake environment policies successfully there is need to decentralize and implement at local level. A trend that has been observed is the strengthening partnership between the local authorities and other stakeholders. It has been reported in the national reports that the municipalities together with community-based organizations have developed strategic plans. Also based on Environment Vision 21 implementable mid term plans for environmental improvements were established. Governments have undertaken national energy strategies aimed at encouraging the introduction of energy serving techniques and utilities in settlements. For example in Iran since the enactment of the Air Pollution Law in 1995, incorporation of environmental considerations in the preparation of local urban development plans has been made mandatory. The creation and election of local councils in 1998, in line with the government of Iran's commitment towards a more participatory urban environmental management at the local level, has paved the way for an effective implementation of Agenda 21 at the local level.⁵⁰

82. In order to support mechanisms to prepare and implement local environmental plans and local agenda 21 initiatives citizens and non-governmental organization (NGO) participation has been viewed as very crucial however, according to some reports current policies are founded and carried out mainly by central governments.

83. It has become evident that sectoral approach by various ministries does not promote integrated planning. Environment policies need to be decentralized and implemented at local level, in order to be undertaken successfully.

84. Some Local governments have established local environment plans but most

of them still need to be concretized into action and resources mobilized.

85. Among the lessons learnt is that environmental management needs to be transferred to the local governments. There is need to establish local Environment Standards taking into account social and economic properties of each area and the residential needs.

86. The good experiences in Localizing Agenda 21 should be further documented and shared widely within the region. In Japan the government is compiling Guidelines for Local Agenda 21 formulation and workshops will be held in Thailand and South Korea in 2001 for the popularization of Local Agenda 21 plans⁵¹.

Chapter 4

Economic Development

87. Asia and the Pacific Regions (comprising East Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific and South Asia) had on the average GNP per capita of about US\$ 1,113 in 1997. Agriculture accounted for the about 17 per cent of the GDP on the average, industry about 38 per cent and services about 45 per cent. (Calculated from UNDP Human Development Report (1999) Tables 11 & 12).

88. Economic development in the Region was shaken by the Asia financial and currency crisis of 1997, which also had a global impact of slowing global growth momentum and decrease in world trade. In the region itself, the shock of the instability had unprecedented effects on the real sector, considerably reducing the rate of growth, raising the rate of inflation, increasing unemployment and undoing the social and political fabric of the society (Lee, 1998: *The Asian Crisis: The Challenge for social policy* (ILO,

Geneva). It was estimated that Indonesia's GDP contracted by about 6% and that of Thailand fell to 5% in 1998. The economies of Hong Kong, Malaysia and that of South Korea contracted.

89. The human costs of the East Asian crisis have been found to be wide-ranging and widespread (UNDP: Human Development Report 1999 p.40) In Indonesia, an additional 40 million people (or 20% of the population) are estimated to have fallen into poverty. In Korea and Thailand, poverty is expected to rise, with 12% of the population affected in each country – 5.5 million Korea and 6.7 million in Thailand.

90. Unemployment rose in all countries of the East Asian Region, real wages declined. Job losses hit women, the youth and unskilled workers hardest. Families under stress were taking children out of school. In Thailand, a study estimated that nearly 100,000 students are not pursuing either primary or secondary education because of the crisis. In Korea, enrolment registered small declines at primary and middle school levels, but drop-outs at the higher level increased by 36% in 1998.

91. In most countries of the region, efforts were made to protect public expenditures. In Thailand, the budget of the Ministry of Public Health was reduced by 10% and the Community and Social Services budget by 7.6%. In the Philippines, health expenditures declined by about 10%, and the budget showed reductions in family health and nutrition (6%) and communicable disease control (10%). Malaysia initially cut all expenditures by 18-20 per cent, but introduced a stimulus package.

92. Increasing domestic violence, street crime and suicides are reported in most of the countries as a result of increased social stress and family fragmentation. In Korea, the Hotline for Women received escalating numbers of calls from women suffering domestic violence – seven times as many as in the previous year. The incidence of suicide also went up, from about 620 a month

in 1996 to more than 9000 a month in the mid-1998. Unemployment was often reported as the cause of intolerable human pain and social tension. (UNDP 1999:40).

93. Domestic demand had been weak due to depressed consumption caused by rising unemployment and lower investments caused by corporate restructuring. It is projected that any economic recovery of the Asia –Pacific region has to be led by an export recovery, but that this will take some time since Asia's economies rely heavily on trade with each other. Quick recovery was also hindered by economic problems that afflicted the Japanese economy in the past couple of years. The Region however, is showing dynamic potentials of recovery.

94. Unlike other South-East Asian countries despite current civil strife and high percentage of expenses of defense and security measures on one hand, and the serious economic and financial setbacks suffered in the region, Sri Lanka was able to maintain the economic stability as well as achieving some progressive results in economic development⁵².

4.1 Strengthen small and micro enterprises, particularly those developed by women.

95. Several countries have undertaken specific activities and programmes to improve the urban economy, employment and incomes. Despite the set backs suffered in the south and far- east economies, the countries of the region have endeavored to maintain economic stability as well as achieve some progress. Sri Lanka for instance has adopted market economic principles and policies. It is in the process of transforming from a traditional agriculture society into a manufacturing and service sector. The result of this shift has been an increase

in GDP. Recognising the need for direct intervention to create employment opportunities, the Government of India has also launched two new schemes. Both schemes focus on promoting self-employment through micro-enterprise development. Group activity is preferred, even though provision exists to support individual initiatives. Women get preferential treatment or priority of access. Establishing community groups is a prerequisite and these groups are involved in identifying/targeting the scheme benefits and implementation of the programme as a whole. Cash subsidy is only a minor enabling component in these schemes and credit facility is offered through nationalised banks⁵³.

96. Employment in informal sector accounted for a large percentage of all employed persons. In the Philippines, this sector accounted for 50.6 % of all employed person. In urban areas it accounted for 36%. In the capital of Bangladesh it is estimated that 63% of all employed people are employed in the informal sector⁵⁴. In the case of Korea, report indicates that small companies with less than 4 staff had increased from 85%in 1993 to 87% in 1998 and women represent 33% of all businesspersons. In terms of encouraging public - private sector partnerships and stimulation of productive employment opportunities, some public services have been consigned to the private sector increasingly for example social welfare and medical service, traffic services and public safety. For example in South Korea 43% of social welfare and medical service, 38% of traffic services and 12% of public safety services is left to private hands.⁵⁵

97. Policies that promote productive employment have been pursued. Other policies are those that Promote Private Investment such as the Philippines Special Economic Zone Act. Programmes that provide employment information assistance (public employment service) have been undertaken as well establishing of support centers for small merchants and industrialists.

Establishment of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Center for Technology has also contributed towards policy changes in the region.

98. Countries should review their legal and regulatory regimes and put in place, more business-friendly regulations to stimulate economic investments in both the formal private sector and the informal sector of the economy.

99. Moreover collaboration with training institutions and NGO's to assist the beneficiaries of low income settlements on capacity building and venturing into small and micro enterprise development activities is recommended.

Chapter 5

Governance

100. Since Habitat II, significant progress has been made in Asia to promote decentralization. In many Asian countries, the national constitutions have been amended and new legislation has been enacted for democratically elected urban local authorities. Devolution of fiscal and functional powers has facilitated strengthening of urban local authorities. One of the shortcomings of the decentralization process has been the mismatch between the financial resources of the local authorities and their new functional domain. While in some countries, the urban local authorities have predictable and assured transfer of resources from higher levels of governments, in many others, rational systems of resource transfers have not been implemented. In many Asian countries, local government legislation provides for civic engagement in the management of urban local authorities. In other countries, local leaders and key stakeholder groups have initiated

process of citizen participation in urban development. In cities where organized groups of poor exist, they are well represented in these consultation processes. The challenge in Asia is to build capacity of the stakeholder group representing the poor and widen the base of participatory process.

5.1 Promote decentralization and strengthen local authorities

101. Constitutional reforms that provide periodic elections, independent parliament, devolution of power, and functions and responsibilities to local governments has facilitated decentralization and strengthening of local authorities. Constitutions that allow representation in local governments of women and disadvantaged groups have been put in place. Decentralization policies to facilitate devolution of power to lower levels have been enacted. Processes that allow certain functions tasks and powers to be decentralized to local governments and other actors have been set in motion. These comprise of well-established local government systems. Such systems have also facilitated in widening of the tax base for the local authorities.

102. Since 1996 there has been a major recognition of urban local authorities as third layer of government mandated to deal with urban planning, slum development and environmental management. In this regard local authorities have undertaken interventions that facilitate effective stakeholder consultative process and strengthening political, administrative and financial interventions at the local level.

103. Policy changes have been characterized by national constitutions that provide planning, administrative and decision-making powers to local governments. Various instruments such as the Local Government Acts, Promotion of Administrative Right Transfer from Central to Local Acts have been promulgated. In 1998 the government of Cambodia passed a law granting limited financial autonomy to the provinces and cities. The city of Phnom

Penh has financial autonomy and it has its own budget.⁵⁶ During the period under review, one of the most important policy decisions of the Government of Lao has been the decentralization of responsibilities for urban development from the ministerial departments at provincial and prefecture level to the level of an urban local authority.⁵⁷

104. One of the major weaknesses has been the miss-match between financial resources of the local bodies and their functions and responsibilities.

105. It is important to strengthen the institutional and financial bases of local authorities to enable them participate effectively in the development process.

106. Involvement of central government is crucial in ensuring that the reformed management system is consistent with the overall function of the government. In Thailand, the local authorities have increased in terms of quantity and power. In order to overcome remaining weaknesses the Civil Service Commission has joined hands with the Ministry of Interior, UNDP and some other agencies in a pilot project of task delegation to local authorities⁵⁸. The Government of India has devised and issued guidelines to all States Governments. In an attempt to simplify tax procedures and tax rates on various types of properties. The objectives of these guidelines is to reduce the discretionary powers of the assessing authorities to the minimum and at the same time increase the revenue base of urban local bodies. Many urban local bodies have started the exercise to bring necessary reforms in their taxation system.⁵⁹

5.2 Encourage and support participation and civic engagement.

107. Popular participation and civic engagement in the management and improvement of villages, towns and cities confirmed during Habitat II as key, has been used in the creation of better and environmentally sound conditions for settlements. In India, representation of the more vulnerable from among the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, and the Backward Classes in local governance is ensured. For empowerment of women one-third of the seats in every municipality, including those of the offices of mayors and chairpersons are reserved for women. This feature of statutory empowerment of women is a landmark in the road to complete gender equality in governance⁶⁰.

108. The growing recognition for popular participation has created opportunities for low-income families to participate in their own settlement improvements, citywide planning and other development forum. The challenge however, has been the capacity of particularly low-income groups to participate in the complex and political development processes.

109. A number of weaknesses and obstacles have been identified. These include weaknesses in the system of partnership in support of vulnerable groups of society. Democratic organizational structures that ensure the representation of low-income households do not exist.

110. Lack of knowledge by the people of low-income regarding the workings of the various actors in the settlements (NGO's, local governments and private companies) to enable them participate as partners. Despite some long traditions of decentralization in some countries the new challenges have been to widen the participatory processes and mechanisms by involving more stakeholders in sustainable development.

111. Lessons learnt indicate that people's participation in local administration goes a long way in contributing to democracy and efficiency of the administration in improving the living conditions of the citizens. There is need for local organization to form broad networks to support one another.

Chapter 6

International Cooperation

112. At the regional level, effective coordination of international development cooperation within the framework of the Habitat Agenda and its plan of action remain constrained by the delays in preparing for and holding the Third Asia-Pacific Urban Forum. This has also affected the level of regional preparations for the special session. The Regional Inter-agency Committee for Asia and Pacific could be a useful Forum for a UN system-wide consultation on coordination in implementing the Habitat Agenda through international cooperation, and in preparing regional inputs from the UN system for the special session.

113. Subregional consultations on the draft World charter on local self-government took place in Mumbai in January 2000 (for South Asia) and in the Republic of Korea in February 2000 (for East Asia, the Pacific and South East Asia). They proved to be useful opportunities for raising awareness of the Habitat Agenda and commitment to its implementation at local levels. At the meeting of Ministers of Economic Affairs participating in the South Pacific Forum in July 1999, it was decided to prepare a Pacific Habitat Agenda on the specific housing needs and urbanization issues which would guide the overall implementation of the Habitat Agenda in countries of that sub-region.

115. A number of countries have reported national and local level policy changes as a basis for implementing Habitat II commitments under their respective national plans of action. However, there is still need for the United Nations system, particularly through the country strategy frameworks, to reflect these policy changes and incorporate Habitat Agenda goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable urban development in better coordinated international cooperation. This concerns particularly the efforts in a number of countries to give more autonomy to the local level (Cambodia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka and others) and adopt participatory strategies for urban governance.

116. The Government of China has reported on its attention to cooperation with other countries of the Region and with international organizations on matters concerning the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, particularly with UNCHS (Habitat), UNDP, World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. Examples of this commitment to international cooperation include (a) the 1999 World Habitat Day observation in Dalian, (b) the international seminar on best practice in improving the living environment, Chengdu (October 2000), and (c) the regional consultations on Istanbul+5 (October 2000).

117. The Government of the Philippines reports on the use of funds from international assistance on specific projects for improving infrastructure and basic services, urban environment, as well as for social development and small-scale enterprise development in urban areas. Through its Official Development Assistance (ODA), Japan provides support in the fields of basic education, health, medicine and water supply to support poverty reduction and social development in developing countries and also extends support for social infrastructure in those countries, such as the building of roads, waterworks, and telecommunication networks⁶¹

118. In the national report of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the need for international assistance in addressing goals of the national Habitat plan of action is outlined. The country is in the process of strengthening the legal and financial base of local government bodies, in order to undertake such programmes as social protection, low-income housing, basic infrastructure and services for urban and rural development, and improving access to drinking water. Priority is given to the development of rural areas. A national coordinating council has been set up to coordinate international cooperation in support of the national Habitat plan of action for the period 2000-2004.

119. Lessons learned in Sri Lanka indicate that isolated target-based foreign assistance programmes have been found unsustainable as they are not economically affordable for both users and the state.⁶²

120. Several Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in Indian cities like Ahmedabad, Allahabad, Bangalore, Calcutta, Delhi, Mumbai, and Rajkot are active Members of the CITYNET, a Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements in Asia and the Pacific. In January 2000, subregional consultations on the draft World Charter on Local Self-Government took place in Mumbai for South Asian Countries. Besides the ULBs, many non-governmental organisations as well as national organisations like HUDCO/HSMI are actively involved with the activities of regional organisations like CITYNET, which is closely working with the UNCHS as well as UN-ESCAP in pursuing the goals of sustainable human settlements in the region. Several Indian NGOs are also promoting international cooperation to pursue the goal of Habitat Agenda.⁶³

Annex 1

List of member states that have submitted their reports as of 1 May 2001

Bangladesh
Cambodia
China
India
Iran
Japan
South Korea
(Malaysia)
Myanmar
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Philippines
Sri Lanka
Thailand
Uzbekistan

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- ¹ United Nations, World Population Prospects :The 1999 Revision based on UNCHS data to be published in the forthcoming Global Report on Human settlements,2001
 - ² The Human Settlements Development Report of the People's Republic of China (Draft), 1996-1999.
 - ³ Provisional National Report on Istanbul+5 of Thailand, August 2000.
 - ⁴ India, National report.
 - ⁵ Report of the Philippines, Malaysia.
 - ⁶ IIED, HiFi News, July 2000, N0.7, Interview with Bill Keyes, Freedom to Build, the Philippines, p. 3, who mentioned that after the crash of 1997, this was one of the few programmes remaining in force.
 - ⁷ Istanbul+5 Sri Lanka Country Report.
 - ⁸ Bangladesh Country Report on Urban Indicators
 - ⁹ National Report Islamic Republic of Iran
 - ¹⁰ Report of the Philippines.
 - ¹¹ The Human Settlements Development Report of the People's Republic of China (Draft), 1996-1999.
 - ¹² Draft National Report for the Republic of Korea.
 - ¹³ Country report on the implementation of the habitat agenda in the kingdom of Cambodia
 - ¹⁴ Bangladesh Country Report on Urban Indicators
 - ¹⁴ Istanbul+5 Sri Lanka Country Report.
 - ¹⁶ India, National Report
 - ¹⁷ The Human Settlements Development Report of the People's Republic of China (Draft), 1996-1999.
 - ¹⁸ Draft National Report for the Republic of Korea.
 - ¹⁹ National Report Japan
 - ²⁰ Homeless International, Website: www.homeless-international.org, Report on SPARC.
 - ²¹ Bangladesh Country Report on Urban Indicators
 - ²² National Report, Islamic Republic of Iran.
 - ²³ Report of the Philippines.
 - ²⁴ IIED, HiFi News, July 2000, N0.7, Interview with Bill Keyes, Freedom to Build, the Philippines, p. 4.
 - ²⁵ The Human Settlements Development Report of the People's Republic of China (Draft), 1996-1999.
 - ²⁶ Ibid.
 - ²⁷ The Human Settlements Development Report of the People's Republic of China (Draft), 1996-1999.
 - ²⁸ Istanbul+5 Sri Lanka Country Report.
 - ²⁹ Report of the Philippines.
 - ³⁰ Bangladesh Country Report on Urban Indicators
 - ³¹ National Report Japan
 - ³² Country report on the implementation of the habitat agenda in the Lao People's Democratic Republic
 - ³³ Istanbul+5 Sri Lanka Country Report.
 - ³⁴ Bangladesh Country Report on Urban Indicators
 - ³⁵ Istanbul+5 Sri Lanka Country Report
 - ³⁶ National Report Japan
 - ³⁷ Bangladesh Country Report on Urban Indicators
 - ³⁸ National Report Japan
 - ³⁹ Bangladesh Country Report on Urban Indicators
 - ⁴⁰ The Human Settlements Development Report of The People's Republic of China (Draft), 1996-1999.
 - ⁴¹ India, National Report
 - ⁴² Istanbul+5 Sri Lanka Country Report
 - ⁴³ Country report on the implementation of the habitat agenda in the kingdom of Cambodia
 - ⁴⁴ Country report on the implementation of the habitat agenda in the Lao People's Democratic Republic
 - ⁴⁵ National Report Japan
 - ⁴⁶ National Report on the Implementation of Habitat Agenda, Union of Myanmar
 - ⁴⁷ National Report Islamic Republic of Iran
 - ⁴⁸ National Report Japan
 - ⁴⁹ National Report Japan
 - ⁵⁰ National Report, Islamic Republic of Iran.
 - ⁵¹ National Report Japan
 - ⁵² Istanbul+5 Sri Lanka Country Report
 - ⁵³ India, National Report

⁵⁴ Bangladesh Country Report on Urban Indicators

⁵⁵ National Report of South Korea.

⁵⁶ Country report on the implementation of the habitat agenda in the kingdom of Cambodia

⁵⁷ Country report on the implementation of the habitat agenda in the Lao People's Democratic Republic

⁵⁸ Provisional National Report on Istanbul+5 of Thailand, August 2000

⁵⁹ India, National Report

⁶⁰ India, National Report

⁶¹ National Report Japan

⁶² Istanbul+5 Sri Lanka Country Report.

⁶³ India, National Report