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Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243 Telephone 517 700 Fax : 517844

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Report of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and
Urban Development (AMCHUD)

**Report of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and
Urban Development (AMCHUD)**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Ministerial Session of the 1st African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development was held at the International Conference Centre in Durban, South Africa, from 3 to 4 February 2005. It was preceded by the Meeting of the African Population Commission (APC) held between 31 January and 2 February 2005. The APC Meeting served as the Experts' Group which made the technical preparations for the Ministerial Conference. The theme of the Conference was "*Urbanization, Shelter, and Development: Towards an Enhanced Framework for Promoting Sustainable Cities and Towns in Africa*".

II. ATTENDANCE

2. The Ministerial Conference was attended by delegations from the following AU Member States: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Cote D'Ivoire, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sahrawi Arab Republic, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. In addition, representatives of the following UN and International Organisations also attended the Meeting: UNFPA, ADB, UNECA, UN-HABITAT, AU Commission and a number of non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

III. OPENING CEREMONY

a) Statement by the AU Commissioner for Social Affairs

4. On behalf of the African Union Commission, H.E. Adv. Bience Gawanas, Commissioner for Social Affairs, expressed appreciation to the Government of South Africa for hosting the 1st Session of the Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development. She stated that the Conference was a timely endeavour towards addressing the plight of the urban poor and was an important initiative in view of the mid-term review of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2005. As such, the Conference provided an important platform for African countries to assess the progress in the implementation of the MDGs. She further noted that the January Summit of AU Heads of State and Government in Abuja, Nigeria had mandated the AU Commission to prepare an African Common Position for the UN Review Meeting of the MDGs in October 2005.

5. The Commissioner remarked that it was evident that Africa is not likely to meet the MDGs and that concerted efforts should be made to reverse this situation. She welcomed the active participation of UN-HABITAT in continental efforts to address the

challenges of urbanisation, shelter and development, and pledged the readiness of the AU Commission to work with all other partners in this endeavour.

b) Statement by the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT

6. The Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Dr Anna Tibaijuka, welcomed the delegates and thanked the Government of South Africa for hosting the historic Ministerial Conference. She recalled that South Africa, having hosted the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD), was again hosting an important continental meeting on housing and urban development. The Executive Director also thanked the AU Commission for its active role in the preparations and organisation of this Conference. By joining hands, she said, the two organisations had demonstrated a common commitment to address the shared challenges of slum formation, which is a consequence of rapid population growth and urbanisation. She further stated that land was critical to sustainable urban and overall socio-economic development.

7. The Executive Director further noted that UN-HABITAT was working closely with the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) to develop a Network of Land Developers, who can disseminate knowledge amongst African countries on sound land policies. She also stressed the importance of urban settlements as essential locations for economic activity and as engines of economic growth. She cautioned that urbanisation and feminization of poverty is a phenomenon that mostly affects the urban poor depriving them of access to basic social services. She then reminded the Conference that Governments have political and historical obligations to improve the quality of life of the African populations. Therefore the drive for urban renewal needs the support of government at all levels to promote an Africa-wide effort to upgrade slums and urban poverty.

c) Message of Ms. Thoraya A. Obaid, Executive Director of UNFPA

8. The Executive Director of UNFPA, in a statement delivered by Ms. Fama Hane-Ba, UNFPA Director for Africa Region, applauded South Africa's leadership and active promotion of NEPAD as well as its advocacy role for the promotion of socioeconomic development on the Continent. She congratulated African countries for the progresses made towards the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the ICPD/PoA. She also conveyed her appreciation for efforts being made by the African Union Commission and the UNHABITAT in organizing this important Conference which brought together Experts' from the population and development field as well as from housing and urban development sector.

9. She concluded by noting that one of the challenges which requires serious consideration is effective and accelerated implementation of regional and international consensus which are enshrined in the MDGs. The Executive Director offered support for the outcomes of both the Experts' Meeting of the APC and the First Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development.

d) Statement by the Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa

10. As the Guest of Honour, H.E. Jacob Zuma, Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa, officially opened the Ministerial Session and observed that the Conference was taking place as the Republic of South Africa was celebrating this year the 50th Anniversary of the “Freedom Charter”. He noted that the Charter clearly states that “there shall be houses, shelter and comfort”. He emphasized that this clarion call is still timely today and that all efforts are being made to fulfil those commitments made fifty years ago. He also noted that the theme of this important Ministerial Conference is perfectly in tune with South Africa’s continued efforts to ensure adequate and affordable housing for people. He assured the Conference continued support of South Africa to the implementation of the Enhanced Framework for sustainable urban development in Africa.

11. The Deputy President further recalled that during the inaugural Summit of the African Union (AU) in July 2002, African Heads of State and Government committed themselves to a long-term development agenda to improve the quality of life of the African people. It was therefore necessary to coordinate efforts to end economic marginalization and to come up with a common plan on shelter and urbanization that would ensure provision of decent shelter and housing for all. He added that this effort is imperative to ensure human dignity for all people, including those living in shacks and slums. The Deputy President further noted that the Continent would be propelled into an urban age with the next few decades and that the majority of Africans would be living in urban areas. He therefore reiterated that there is a need to enhance coordination and linkage between initiatives and programmes of countries within the context of the NEPAD framework in order to build synergies and learn from best practices. Finally, he called on African Governments to utilize their human, material and financial resources to address the needs of people for “houses, shelter and comfort”.

IV. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

a) Election of the Bureau

12. The following Member States were elected into Office:

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--------------|-------------------|
| Chairperson | : | South Africa | (Southern Africa) |
| 1 st Vice Chairperson | : | Senegal | (West Africa) |
| 2 nd Vice Chairperson | : | Algeria | (North Africa) |
| 3 rd Vice Chairperson | : | Chad | (Central Africa) |
| Rapporteur | : | Kenya | (East Africa) |

b) Adoption of the Agenda and Work Programme

13. The agenda and work programme were adopted as presented.

V. PRESENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE EXPERTS' MEETING

14. Hon. Mr. M. Mabuyakhulu, Member of the Executive Council (MEC) of Kwazulu Natal, South Africa, and Chairperson of the Experts' Meeting presented the outcomes of the Meeting. He stated that the Experts' Meeting had been constituted as Experts' Meeting for the 1st Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development. He recalled the theme of Conference which was "*Urbanization, Shelter, and Development: Towards an Enhanced Framework for Promoting Sustainable Cities and Towns in Africa*". He extended warm words of appreciation to all participants of the APC for their hard work, and the Ministers for coming all this long to participate in this important Conference. He further noted with satisfaction that the Experts' Meeting of the APC was characterised by frank and open exchange of views on wide ranging issues related to the theme of the Conference.

15. Then the Chairperson introduced the outcomes of the Conference which included:

- i. The Report of the Experts' Meeting (ANNEX 1);
- ii. Draft Enhanced Framework for Sustainable Urban Development which was read out in full for the benefit of those who did not have the translation in their respective language;
- iii. Draft proposals on establishing a Consultative Mechanism for Ministers of Housing and Urban Development; and
- iv. Contribution of the African Ministerial Conference of Housing and Urban Development to an African Common Position for the 13th UN Commission Sustainable Development (CSD-13), the Mid-Term Review of the MDGs and the 20th Session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat's; and
- v. Draft Declaration on sustainable development of towns and cities in Africa.

16. During the session that followed the presentation, all delegations who took the floor conveyed their appreciation to South Africa for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to them, and to the co-organizers of the Conference, the Experts' as well as the Chairperson of the first part of the conference for the excellent work accomplished in such a short time. They also commended African Heads of State and Government for the visionary initiative of calling for the promotion of sustainable cities and towns in Africa. In this regard, the Ministerial Conference was a concretisation of the decision of African Leaders. At the same time, the delegates shared experiences on national programmes to promote sustainable cities and towns in their respective countries.

17. The Ministers re-iterated that access to shelter is a human rights concern and that planning and implementing programmes to promote sustainable cities is vital for poverty alleviation and socio-economic development in Africa. The debate was constructive and also highlighted the challenges associated with unplanned settlements.

18. The Ministerial Session finally made the following recommendation that were to be incorporated into the Enhanced Framework:

- i. Request the African Union (AU) to formally integrate and institutionalise the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development Sector in its organs;
- ii. Mobilize resources from local and international sources for development of sustainable cities in Africa. This would include such sources as debt relief, direct development assistance, public-private partnerships, social security funds, resources of the NEPAD programmes, and other sources;
- iii. Adopt integrated and inter-sectoral approaches in the promotion of sustainable cities in view of the linkages to many other sectors. Emphasis should be laid, among others, on human security, rural development including control of rural to urban migration and promotion of low cost housing.
- iv. Ensure proper planning and monitoring of urban development programmes to avoid the formation of slums. In this regard, legal reforms and public policies should address issues related to land use taking into account specific needs of each country or society.
- v. Preparations for the next session of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development should include setting up of an inter-sectoral team to address all concerns related to housing and urban development, as well as clear regulations and plans for institutionalisation of the Conference.
- vi. Sensitise and mobilise the private sector and civil society organizations as important strategies in the promotion of sustainable cities.
- vii. Urge developed countries to meet their commitments to mobilise resources, including the Blair Commission for Africa and the G8 Countries, to meet their Overseas Development Assistance (ODA).

19. At the end of the debate, the Ministers:

- i. Took note of the Report of the Experts' Meeting (See Annex 1);
- ii. Agreed to enrich the Draft Enhanced Framework on Promoting Sustainable Cities and Towns in Africa;
- iii. Designated a Drafting Committee to assist the Secretariat in finalising the Draft Enhanced Framework and to draft the Declaration for consideration.

VII. CONSIDERATION ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING

A. Draft Declaration

20. A Drafting Committee, consisting of Member States and the Secretariat of the UN-Habitat was set-up to work on a draft Declaration which was later presented to the Ministerial Meeting on 04 February 2004. The Ministers deliberated on the draft Declaration at length and welcomed the Declaration and pledge support for the follow-up on recommendations contained therein. In this connection they made the following additional comments/recommendations:

- i. Formulate guidelines for research in implementation of the Enhanced Framework;
- ii. Make sure that disadvantaged countries benefit from the proposed Consultative Mechanisms;
- iii. The draft Declaration should include NEPAD initiatives for Sustainable Cities in Africa;
- iv. Encourage collaboration with all organizations and partners at all levels;
- v. Maximize utilization of existing structures instead of creating new organs.
- vi. African countries should complement mobilizing external or global support, by strengthening local partnership within and between Member States;
- vii. Include rural housing development in the Declaration since in most cases urban poverty originates from rural poverty and the majority of slum dwellers are largely migrants from rural to urban areas;
- viii. In addition to the 0.7% of GDP committed by developed countries as Official Development Assistance (ODA) which has not so far been received in full, African countries should allocate a certain percentage of their budget to the housing and urban development sector.

B. The Draft Enhanced Framework

21. The revised draft Enhanced Framework was presented and adopted as amended

C. The Draft Ministerial Conference

22. The draft Report of the Ministerial Meeting which contained a summary of the proceedings was adopted.

VIII. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT SESSION OF THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

23. It was decided that the next Session of the AMCHUD be held in 2007, at least three months before the Session of the Governing Council of the UN-HABITAT. The exact Date, Venue and Agenda of the Session would be communicated to Member States in due course of time.

IX. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

24. There was no substantive issue for consideration under this Agenda Item.

X. CLOSING CEREMONY

25. The Closing Ceremony was chaired by the Hon. Dr. Lindiwe Sisulu, Minister of Housing and Urban Development of South Africa.

26. In her closing statement, H.E., Adv. Bience Gawanas, the AU Commissioner for Social Affairs, thanked the host country, the AU-UN-Habitat co-organizers and the participants for their hard work and noteworthy contributions to the success of the Meeting. She said she was extremely delighted to listen to the songs and moving speech of the renowned Artist, Ms. Miria Makeba, commonly referred to as Mama Africa, and one of the living symbols of African Unity. The Commissioner assured the participants that the outcomes of the Conference would be given due attention by the African Union Commission. She pledged further support to the implementation of the Enhanced Framework for Sustainable Development of Cities and Towns in Africa.

27. The Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Dr. Ana Tibaijuka, joined the Commissioner in expressing her appreciation for the Government of South Africa, the African Union Commission and all the participants in the Conference. She also congratulated South Africa for having been elected Chair of the newly constituted Bureau of African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development. She reiterated that housing and urban development was being taken at a higher level. In this regard, she appreciated the great job being done by the African Union. She added that she would advocate for the recognition of the African Ministerial Conference at various regional and international fora.

28. Following the two speakers, delegations of Algeria, Cote d' Ivoire, Angola, Zambia, and Kenya took the floor to commend the host Country and the co-organizers of the Conference, the AU Commission and UN-Habitat for their valuable contributions. The distinguished delegate from Cote d' Ivoire read out a "Vote of Thanks".

29. In her closing remarks, the Hon. Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Dr. Sisulu, expressed profound gratitude for all the participants for taking the trouble to come to Durban and for having exerted maximum efforts to make the debates fruitful and the Conference a great success. She said that as a Chairperson of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, she would do her best to make it relevant and successful in tackling the challenges of urban poverty, slums and inadequate social services in most African cities.

XI. ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: REPORT OF THE AFRICAN POPULATION COMMISSION (APC) MEETING 31 January – 4 February 2005 Durban, South Africa

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The African Population Commission (APC) Meeting was held at the International Conference Centre (ICC), Durban, South Africa from 31 January to 2 February 2005, under the theme of “*Urbanisation, Shelter and Development: Towards an Enhanced Framework for Promoting Sustainable Cities and Towns in Africa*”. The APC served as an Experts’ Group to the First African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD). It was co-organized by the African Union (AU) Commission and UN-HABITAT and hosted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development of the Republic of South Africa, with support from UNFPA in the framework of implementation of the 2003 Maputo Decision 29 on Promotion of Sustainable Cities in Africa.

II. ATTENDANCE

2. The Meeting was attended by delegations from the following AU Member States: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Congo, Cote D’Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sahrawi Republic, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia.

3. In addition, representatives of the following UN and International Organisations also attended the Assembly as observers: UNFPA, ADB, UNECA, AND the AU Commission.

III. OPENING CEREMONY

4. After brief welcoming remarks by the Chairperson of the African Population Commission (APC), Hon. Paul Kimiti, the opening ceremony was addressed by:

Statement by the Representative of UNFPA

5. Madame Fama Hane-Ba, representing the Executive Director of UNFPA, thanked the organizers of the Meeting for their continued efforts to mainstream population issues into the development agenda at national and regional levels. She highlighted the realities facing African populations, such as exclusion and inequality particularly faced by women, the youth and children. She noted that HIV/AIDS is particularly affecting the rural areas and therefore emphasized the importance of addressing these multi-faceted, interrelated social problems in a coordinated manner.

6. In this connection, UNFPA welcomed the theme of the Experts’ Meeting, which addresses the challenges faced by the majority of Africans, particularly the

disadvantaged and the poor. In conclusion, the UNFPA Representative called for the acceleration of programmes aimed at increasing investment to improve the lives of the rural and urban populations. She concluded by expressing UNFPA's readiness to strengthen partnerships with the African Population Commission (APC), both at regional and national levels, as contribution to promotion sustainable cities.

Statement by the Representative of the UN-HABITAT

7. The Representative of UN-HABITAT, Mr. Lars Reutersward, on behalf of the Executive Director, expressed appreciation to the Government of South Africa for hosting the twin meetings of the Experts' Meeting of the African Population Commission and the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development. He stressed that the attendance at the meeting by many delegations from AU Member States demonstrated the importance attached by countries and organisations to the problems of rapid urbanization and the need for concerted efforts to find solutions to common problems in the sector of housing and urban development. To this end, he added, a meaningful action at all levels was needed to build dynamism in addressing these challenges.

8. The Representative further stated that it was therefore important for African countries to develop a common understanding on the upcoming mid-term review of the Millennium Declaration. He noted that the 1st Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD) would provide a platform to elaborate common positions amongst African countries on matters to be discussed by the UN-HABITAT Governing Council and the Thirteenth Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-13).

Statement by the Representative of the AU Commission

9. Dr Kamel Esseghairi, speaking on behalf of the AU Commissioner for Social Affairs, thanked the Government of South Africa for hosting the Experts' Meeting. He also thanked the UN-HABITAT for its commitment in realizing the 1st African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development and the UNFPA, which has supported the APC since its establishment in 1994.

10. He indicated that the AU Commission advocates for maintaining a balance between population growth and the pace of economic development. In this connection, he noted, it was important to develop measurable targets in addressing population concerns. He added that the Vision, Mission and Strategic Framework of the African Union Commission stress the importance of sustainable development for social justice in Africa. The AU Commission, he noted, was therefore supportive of initiatives aimed at addressing poverty. In this regard, he pointed out, the Experts' Meeting was expected to assess the challenges of population growth as well as rapid urbanization and come up with recommendations to address these problems, particularly those related to housing and urban development.

Statement by the Representative of the Minister of Housing and Urban Development

11. Ms M. Mpofu, representing the Minister of Housing and Urban Development, welcomed the delegations attending the Conference to the Republic of South Africa. She recalled the Maputo Decision (Dec.29 (ii)), which urges the AU Commission, the UN-HABITAT, and other partners to address issues of housing and urban development. She welcomed the themes of the Experts' Meeting of the APC to consider critical challenges facing Africa's rapidly growing urban populations. She further stressed that taking the lead in addressing concerns of the present as well as future generations was of paramount importance for the Experts' Meeting to come up with firm recommendations on implementation of measures to overcome the challenges in the sector in view of the fact that close to 40 per cent of Africa's population are urban dwellers.

IV. ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN POPULATION COMMISSION

12. Hon. Paul Kimiti, Chairperson of the APC, presented a brief overview of the activities carried out under his chairmanship during the period 2002-2004. The Report outlined the major activities undertaken, the challenges encountered and recommendations for the way forward. He stated that despite a number of achievements, the work of the APC was hampered, among other things, by the transition from the OAU to the AU, lack of adequate resources, weak coordination between the members of the Joint APC Secretariat (AU, ADB, and ECA), inadequate information flow and limited interaction among the Bureau Members, between them and the Secretariat and the member states.

13. In conclusion, the Chairperson recommended the following actions:

- (i) Restructuring the Secretariat of the African Population Commission to make it more effective;
- (ii) Revising the APC's Rules of Procedure to harmonize it with those of the AU Commission;
- (iii) Maintaining and improving effective communication channels between the Bureau and the Secretariat;
- (iv) Allocation/mobilization of resources to enable the effective functioning of the Secretariat and the Bureau; and
- (v) Establishing service facilities for the Secretariat;

14. The Chairperson also expressed his appreciation to the AU Commission and UNFPA for their commitment to support the African Population Commission in performing its duties. He also thanked the African Union Commission and UN-HABITAT for organizing the Experts' Meeting of the African Population Commission and the Government of South Africa for having hosted the Experts' Group Meeting and AMCHUD.

15. The Experts' Group Meeting examined and endorsed the Report. At the same time, the Meeting unanimously agreed to form a small Task Force to re-appraise the challenges encountered. The Taskforce was comprised of Algeria, AU (Secretariat), Ghana, Malawi, South Africa, Uganda, and Tanzania. The Task Force was mandated to come up with a draft proposal on the repositioning of the APC and on how to make it more effective in delivering the services expected of it. The task force would submit its recommendations to the 6th General Assembly of the APC for further consideration and endorsement.

16. These recommendations will be presented to the AU Organs for further consideration and endorsement. Once adopted, the recommendations will guide the process of transforming and revitalizing the APC into an effective policy organ to respond to the pressing challenges of population and development in Africa.

V. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

(i) Election of the Bureau

17. After consultations among the various regional delegations, the following members of the Bureau were elected for the smooth conduct of the Experts' Meeting and the Ministerial Conference:

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---|--------------|-------------------|
| Chairperson | - | South Africa | (Southern Africa) |
| 1 st Vice-Chair | - | Algeria | (North Africa) |
| 2 nd Vice-Chair | - | Gabon | (Central Africa) |
| 3 rd Vice-Chair | - | Mali | (West Africa) |
| Rapporteur | - | Sudan | (East Africa) |

(ii) Adoption of the Agenda and Work-programme

18. The draft agenda and work programme were adopted as presented.

VI. TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS

19. The following papers were presented in the plenary Session, with a view to clarify and support the main theme of the Conference "*Urbanisation and Development: Towards an Enhanced Framework for Sustainable Cities in Africa*".

a) The Challenges of Urbanization and Human Settlements in the Framework of the African Union Commission's Strategic Plan and its NEPAD Programme

20. In presenting the topic, the representative of the AU Commission highlighted the Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan of the African Union Commission which asserts that the qualitative transformation of the OAU into the African Union reflects the realization by Africans that the Continent has arrived at crossroads, and that it is absolutely necessary to change its structures and functions to enable it instill renewed hopes in the

daughters and sons of Africa and to live up to their expectations. He stressed that the Vision sets a number of ambitious goals to be achieved by the year 2030 to bring about “an Africa Integrated, Prosperous and Peaceful, an Africa Driven by its own Citizens, a Dynamic Force in the Global arena”, ideals enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union.

21. The presenter noted that despite the projections of rapid growth of urbanisation, most agencies, development partners and policy makers continue to focus on rural poverty reduction approaches while ignoring the urban sector. He pointed out that as the 2001 UN Report on the ‘State of the World Cities’ shows: ‘many countries in Africa, states are pitted against their cities, abetted by a pro-rural bias among most aid agencies’. Urbanisation continues to be poorly understood.

22. In the discussions that followed, delegations concurred that cities represent great opportunities as well as challenges for reducing poverty. Dynamic and well-managed cities generate benefits for people far outside their boundaries. A buoyant regional economy, which fosters productive exchange of goods, services, people and capital between rural and urban areas, makes a significant contribution to national economic growth.

23. With regard to the way forward, the delegations recommended the following:

- i. To improve the environment, attract investment and tap the economic benefits of globalisation in order to bring about well-run cities.
- ii. Successful cities – and nations – should rely on sustainable urbanisation;
- iii. Strengthening local governments - the AU Commission should encourage city councils in Member States in their efforts to promote sustainable development of cities and towns.

b) The Challenge of Slums and Shelter Delivery; and Governance and Financing Human Settlement

24. In this presentation, the issue of rapid population growth in Africa was attributed, *inter alia*, to high fertility rate in poor rural and urban areas. This high population growth has implications for the rapid urbanisation in Africa and countries’ capacities to provide needed infrastructure, housing and other services. This needs to be addressed to improve the conditions in slum areas and quality of life of slum dwellers.

25. After the discussions, the meeting made the following recommendations:

- i. There is a need for an integrated poverty reduction strategy encompassing shelter, unemployment, education and health, including reproductive health;
- ii. Need to include urban poverty in national PRSPs;
- iii. The involvement of the private sector in housing (construction and financing) must be encouraged;
- iv. Need for an integrated rural and urban planning and development;
- v. Need for empowerment of women;

- vi. Need to integrate customary and modern tenure systems to ensure tenure security;
- vii. Minimize misunderstanding of democracy among people since it may be a factor that contributes to the growth of slums if people are aware only of their rights and not of their obligations.

c) Addressing the Challenges of Slums, Land and Shelter Delivery and the Provision of and Access to basic Services for all: Overview

26. This paper was presented by the UN-HABITAT's team and discussed the concept of "Istanbul 96: New social contract for Africa" and also presented the Istanbul + 5 reviews of achievements, challenges and recommendations for the way forward. The paper outlined the UN-HABITAT's global experience and its work in various countries, particularly in Africa. It provided an overview of the key issues in urbanization, the challenges of slums, with a focus on the MDGs (Goal 7: Targets 10 and 11). The ideas presented in this paper were complemented with the paper presented by the AU representative entitled "Urbanization Challenges and Human Settlement". The presentation of the paper was followed by discussions and questions which resulted in the following concrete recommendations to be integrated into the proposed Enhanced Framework:

- i. Turn urban challenges into opportunities for development;
- ii. Upgrade slum areas with emphasis on a rights-based approach;
- iii. Focus on integrated rather than fragmented urban development approaches and programmes;
- iv. Ensure equitable access to urban facilities and resources by all, with emphasis on the most vulnerable slum dwellers – women, children, and the elderly as well as persons with disabilities;
- v. Make land accessible and affordable to the urban poor, especially to people in poor slum areas and informal settlements.

d) Population and Urbanization within the Context of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD+10) & the NEPAD City Programme

27. The representative of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) introduced the Report of Dakar, Senegal, Meeting of June 2004 to review 10 years of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (PoA) adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in 1994 in Cairo, Egypt. The report presented the outcomes of the mid-term review of the 20-year ICPD/PoAs based on the ECA survey carried out in 43 African countries. The review focused on nine (9) areas of action, namely population, poverty, environment, sustainable development; gender equality, equity, empowerment; the family, its role, rights, composition and structure; children and youth; reproductive health; HIV/AIDS; population distribution, urbanization and migration; crisis situation and population consequences; resource mobilization for implementation of ICPD's Programmes of Action.

28. With regard to population distribution, migration and urbanisation, it was noted that a number of Governments have undertaken the following key actions:

- i. Policy formulation (population and environmental policies);
- ii. Poverty reduction strategies;
- iii. Strengthening partnership with civil society organizations; and
- iv. Parliamentary workshops on advocacy, policy dialogue and development by some governments.

29. In terms of the way forward, the Report of the Review Meeting recommended, among others, to:

- i. Adopt sound policies, strategies, measures to modify population distribution;
- ii. Adopt sound policies on rural-urban migration;
- iii. Promote integrated strategies to enhance rural development (income generating projects, decentralization, establishment of rural credit facilities, training in farming activities for youth and access to water);
- iv. Encourage Member States to ratify the 1990 International Convention of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families;
- v. Pilot the NEPAD sustainable cities programme as a mechanism for improving the quality of life in African cities.

30. During the discussions, the following challenges were raised:

- i. Number of chronically undernourished people is increasing and there is a need for urgent action;
- ii. Food insecurity is accelerating because of drought, low agricultural productivity, impact of HIV/AIDS, Wars, etc; and
- iii. Feminization of poverty is increasing as a result of HIV/AIDS epidemic and other social factors.

e) *Background to Developing an Enhanced Framework of Implementation*

31. In the two presentations from the AU Commission and UN-HABITAT, the presenters highlighted the background to the Draft of the Enhanced Framework for Implementation.

32. The presenters emphasized that:

- i. Africa's urban population is expanding at double the rate for the world as a whole;
- ii. Over 200 million people will be added in the next 12 to 15 years to the 2004 urban population of 340 million people (Lagos and Cairo with respectively 8.7 and 9.5 million will be expected to host in 2015 respectively 16 and 11.5 million people);
- iii. The main developmental challenge over decades will be to manage urbanization of the continent successfully.

33. The Enhanced Framework for Urban Development and Housing in Africa aims at addressing challenges facing housing and urban development within the context of urban poverty and its multi-faceted manifestations. Proceeding from the basic premise that urban infrastructure and housing development need to take account of the concerns of the majority of city dwellers, the urban poor, the Framework focuses on a number of objectives some of which include:

- i. Increase access to income generation activities and asset accumulation for low income households;
- ii. Promote the right to decent housing, including the rights to benefit and share from urban resources;
- iii. Improving housing and basic services among the vulnerable/poor;
- iv. Ensuring that basic social safety nets are made available for the vulnerable/poor;

VII. WORKING GROUP SESSIONS

34. The participants were divided into two working groups to discuss items such as the challenges of urbanization and human settlements in the framework of African Union's strategic framework and its NEPAD Programme and the challenges of slums, land, shelter delivery, and the provision of and access to basic services for all; land and shelter delivery & governance and Financing Human Settlements. Delegates were requested to address how to adopt a more effective framework and make recommendations for the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development which followed the Experts' Meeting.

a) Working Group I

35. This Group discussed matters related to population and urbanization within the context of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD +10) and adopted the following general recommendations:

- i. Since population data and information are critical for sustainable development and urban management, there is need to establish database and information networks;
- ii. Integrate urbanization, rural development and migration into Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and all development initiatives;
- iii. Ensure sustainable social development for all including the development of social and human capital and the empowerment of women;
- iv. Recognize the role of the private/informal sector in housing and urban development;
- v. Promote adequate planning and financing of cities, towns and urban settlements with the involvement of all stakeholders;
- vi. Promote micro-financing initiatives targeting poorer communities to improve income generation;
- vii. Respect internal migration as well as the human rights of migrants;
- viii. Enhance capacity building for sustainable development of cities and towns;

- ix. Integrate demographic trends and population concerns into social development programmes;
- x. Strengthen inter-sectoral cooperation between population and housing as well as other sectors; and
- xi. Recognize and adopt the recommendation of the ICPD + 10, especially those dealing with population distribution, migration and urbanization.

b) Working Group II

36. Working Group II was assigned with the task of examining the issues of Urban Governance and Financing Housing and Urban Development. The Group came up with the following recommendations:

- i. Define good governance clearly and make all possible efforts to improve and monitor urban governance reform;
- ii. Identify the root causes of urban poverty, growth of slums, especially high and unsustainable population growth, and other social problems in African towns and cities;
- iii. Promote slum upgrading programmes as an essential element of national development plans;
- iv. Integrate population and demographic dynamics in planning and implementation of urban development programmes;
- v. Strengthen local capacity in terms of both skills promotion and infrastructure development;
- vi. Encourage decentralization and coordinate inter-governmental and inter-sectoral linkages including public-private-community partnerships;
- vii. Consider gender issues in all the programmes and activities of urban development;
- viii. Address the cultural dimension of social development;
- ix. Promote public-private partnership as well as the participation of NGOs and CSOs;
- x. Promote the implementation of the NEPAD City concept in the framework of the relevant MDGs targets;
- xi. Establish documentation and database systems, encourage exchange of information and share best practices and experiences;

37. Furthermore, the working groups considered the institutionalization of a **Consultative Mechanism** to follow-up and monitor the implementation of the outcome of the 1st Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD). They also discussed issues related to common positions for African delegations at upcoming international meetings such as the 20th Session of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT, the 13th Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-13) and the General Assembly Review of the MDGs, which will take place in the course of 2005. In this regard, the groups elaborated the following general principles and recommendations, which have international relevance:

- i. Encourage the international community to play increasing roles in addressing poverty, which is intensifying in Africa;
- ii. Promote slum upgrading through appropriate housing and urban development strategies, as an essential ingredient of national plans for the development of cities and towns;
- iii. Regularise settlements and *in situ* upgrading as intrinsic to city development plans, to provide affordable basic services to prevent slum formation;
- iv. Encourage secure tenure as an essential component of slum upgrading based on pro-poor land policy that emphasizes a range of affordable options not limited to formal title;
- v. Integrate legal recognition and effective implementation of women's equal property rights as a critical component of slum upgrading;
- vi. Address poverty in cities as a cross-cutting issue in an integrated manner, particularly on matters related to agenda items for UN Commission on Sustainable Development 13th Session on water, sanitation and human settlements;
- vii. Encourage increased external assistance for Africa, both from public and private sectors, to complement local sources;
- viii. Empower local and regional authorities to act decisively and responsibly to the needs of their citizens;
- ix. Promote the participation of the urban poor and urban civil societies in city development strategies and slum upgrading activities as active agents, rather than as passive beneficiaries;
- x. Encourage international financial institutions to exclude investment targeting MDGs from the debt servicing of poorer African countries; and
- xi. Encourage city authorities to take a leading role in implementing national and local action plans for MDGs, particularly those related to slum upgrading.

VIII CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXPERTS' MEETING

Remarks by the AU Commissioner for Social Affairs

38. Consideration of the Report, conclusions and recommendations was preceded by remarks of the AU Commissioner for Social Affairs, H.E. Adv. Bience P. Gawanas. After thanking the delegates for the participation, she apologized for missing the first part of the APC Expert Meeting, an important component of the Conference. She explained that this was because the APC Meeting coincided with the 4th General Assembly of the AU Heads of State and Government, and that she had to participate in the Summit, particularly the discussions on Food Security and HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis and Polio. This was in the framework of fighting poverty and exclusion and was aimed at putting the human being at the center of development.

39. The Commissioner recalled that for the first time, the APC had also served as the Experts' Meeting to prepare for a Sectoral Ministerial Meeting on Housing and Urban Development. On the objectives of her intervention, she said that she wanted to thank the Experts' and also assure them that the AU was taking off smoothly. She noted that

having 10 Commissioners, 50 per cent of whom are women, the AU Commission was a role model in and outside Africa in mainstreaming gender issues. She concluded by reiterating her appreciation to and full support for the Experts' and the Bureau of the Meeting.

40. The following documents were then carefully considered paragraph by paragraph and adopted as amended:

- (i) The Draft Enhanced Framework for Promoting Sustainable Towns and Cities in Africa;
- (ii) Draft Proposals on Establishing Consultative Mechanism for Ministers in charge of Land, Housing and Urban Development;
- (iii) The African Common Position to the CSD-13, the Review of MDGs and the 20th Session of UN-HABITAT 's Governing Council;
- (iv) Report of the Experts' Meeting.

IX. CLOSING REMARKS

41. The Meeting was closed by M.E.C., M. Mabukhulu, Department of Housing of South Africa and Chairperson of the Meeting. He thanked the delegates for their patience and enthusiastic participation in the plenary sessions and group discussions. He particularly commended the delegations for working hard to come up with the Draft Enhanced Framework for the Promoting the Development of Sustainable Cities and Towns in Africa. He also expressed thanks to Hon. P. Kimiti, Chairperson of the APC, for his cooperation, the Joint Secretariats of the AU and the UN-HABITAT for their smooth coordination of the Conference, and the South African Department of Housing for its support and hospitality.

ANNEX 2: ENHANCED FRAMEWORK OF IMPLEMENTATION AND RELATED OUTCOMES OF THE EXPERTS' MEETING

1. Overview

42. In Africa, rapid population growth has been accompanied by rapid urbanisation. The pace of socio-economic development in urban centres has not been matched by parallel development in infrastructure and social service facilities. In some cities, the population living in slum areas reaches more than 60 per cent. Consequently, the majority of the population in some of the African cities live in abject poverty, illiteracy, and sheltered in unliveable housing conditions.

43. A number of national and regional as well as international efforts are being made to alleviate the problem of people in cities in the process of implementing continental and global initiatives, some of which are outlined below:

- The 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) recognised that “The process of urbanisation is intrinsic to economic and social development ...” and recommended “... to foster a more balanced distribution of population by promoting sustainable development in both major sending and receiving areas.” The ICPD clearly underlined that “Such development should be ecologically sound and promote economic, social and gender equity”.
- In 1996 the UN-HABITAT Summit in Istanbul and the 2001 Istanbul + 5 review of the Second Habitat Summit called on governments to take necessary measures to ensure adequate housing for all, alleviate urban poverty and promote overall social development.
- Targets 10 and 11 of the MDGs urge UN Member States to “Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation” as well as to “Have achieved by 2020 a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.”
- The New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) recognizes the role of African cities as engines of socio-economic development and growth, contributing to regional integration and the objectives of AU and NEPAD, which need to be developed on sustainable basis.
- The Maputo Decision (Dec.29 (ii)) of the Second General Assembly of African Heads of State and Government (2003) expressed concern that “... if left unchecked, rapid urbanisation is leading to the urbanisation of poverty on the African continent with attendant problems that have condemned the majority of urban dwellers to unemployment, food insecurity, and life under squalid conditions in slums and other unplanned neighbourhoods ...”. The Assembly requested the AU, in collaboration with the UN-HABITAT, to work towards the implementation of the Decision.
- In May 2004, the first NEPAD cities forum was organised in collaboration with the UN-HABITAT. The forum endorsed the priorities set by the seven African cities - Bamako, Douala, Durban, Lagos, Lusaka, Nairobi, and Rabat - the first targets of the NEPAD-city development initiative.
- The 2004 ICPD + 10 review in Africa stated that “Many cities in the ECA region are facing major challenges in the provision of basic services (housing, transport and sewage disposal facilities) due largely to rapid population growth, increased insecurity, scarce foreign investment, and economic mismanagement”.
- The newly adopted Vision, Mission and Strategic Plans of the African Union (2004) recapitulated all previous commitments for social and economic development of the Continent but re-emphasised the role of African cities and towns as centres of economic development and social integration. These plans reinforce the NEPAD cities initiatives and commit to provide political and policy support to the successful implementation of these initiatives.

- These regional and international responses to the challenges posed by rapid urbanisation, coupled with extreme shortage of social services, called for joint collaboration between the African Union Commission, the UN-HABITAT and the Government of South Africa to organise the Experts' Group Meeting of the African Population Commission (APC) and the First African Ministerial Conference of Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD) with the theme **“Urbanisation, Shelter and Development: Towards an Enhanced Framework for Sustainable Cities and Towns in Africa”**.
- The recommendations and outcomes of the Meeting have resulted in the development of this enhanced framework for the implementation of programmes for sustainable development of cities and towns.

2. Urbanisation: challenges and opportunities

44. Africa's population will double from 888 million in 2005, to 1.77 billion in the next 30 years. During the same period, the urban population will increase from 353 million, which is 39.7 percent, to 748 million inhabitants at the rate of 4 to 5 percent per annum. That means, in the next 30 years, roughly 400 million people will be added to the urban population. As highlighted in the 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the process of urbanisation is intrinsic to economic and social development.

45. In 2001, about 61 percent of all African urban residents lived in slums, with 54 percent of these in sub-Saharan Africa and 7 percent in Northern Africa. Even more notable is the slum incidence in sub-Saharan Africa, where 71.9 percent of the urban population currently lives in informal settlements. In addition to the situation above, 57 percent requires access to improved sanitation and 43 percent to improved sources of water.

46. It is estimated that 71 percent of the population live in poverty with two out of five living in extreme poverty (less than a dollar a day). In Africa, 31 countries have a Human Development Index (HDI) below 0.500, presenting a life expectancy at birth of 46 years and a GDP per capita of 469 US dollars. To add to the challenge, Africa remains the world's most affected region with an estimated 25.4 million infected with HIV/AIDS at the end of 2004. Within the same year, 2.3 million adults and children died from HIV/AIDS related diseases.

47. Rural-urban migration is a key component of urban population growth. Other factors in Africa contributing to this phenomenon are civil wars and natural disasters such as drought and flooding. Urban areas have become the refuge for populations driven out of their homes because of fighting. Refugee camps, which are located near towns for ease of access to emergency assistance, have become permanent features in the human settlements of the Great Lakes Region, in Central Africa and several West African Countries. Twenty million refugees are in need of protection and assistance right now. An additional 25 million people are currently displaced within their own countries as a result of violence and human rights abuses.

48. The UN Heads of State and Government, in September 2000, in New York, committed themselves to the Millennium Declaration, which provides an integrated development framework. Goal 7 – Environmental sustainability, Targets 10 and 11 address the challenge of housing and urban development. Within a wider framework of social and economic interventions, ‘improvement of the lives of slum dwellers’ implies access to safe water, access to sanitation, security of tenure, durability of housing, and sufficient living areas as well as social services such as health and education.

49. In a rapidly urbanizing Africa, the promotion of sustainable urbanization requires, more than ever before, strategic, integrated planning, consensus building, gender mainstreaming, capacity building, international co-operation, south-south co-operation and conflict resolution systems.

50. Notwithstanding the above, urbanization is a positive development process. However, without equitable access to land, adequate shelter and basic services, urban environments can be among the most life-threatening conditions. Political will, decentralization, good governance and empowerment of national and local authorities as well as the adoption of inclusive processes of mobilizing local resources and judicious resource allocation and decision-making are fundamental to addressing the urbanization challenge in Africa.

3. Enhanced Framework for Housing and Urban Development in Africa

51. The framework aims to identify and suggest measures for more effective African urban development policies and strategies so as to guide the actions of all stakeholders (government and non-government) in the urban development process thereby steering them towards the achievement of a collective urban vision.

3.1. Pro-poor Focus and Prioritising the Vulnerable

3.1.1. Poverty is a major challenge to urbanisation. An urban poverty reduction focus is required for towns and city development strategies (CDS), and PRSPs.

3.1.2. Cross-cutting and integrated approaches addressing, inter alia, water, sanitation and human settlements, are essential for poverty reduction. Multi-sectoral approaches that are sensitive to gender, the aged and the disabled, and are participatory and deal with all aspects of an improved living environment, must be put in place to reduce risk and vulnerability.

3.1.3. Inclusive processes for decision-making which involve civil society organizations must be encouraged and promoted. Particular emphasis must be placed on the involvement of women and the poor.

3.1.4. Countries should be encouraged to empower women, by removing or reviewing laws that are discriminatory against women especially with regard to property rights, and to promote affirmative action in favour of strengthening effective women's rights to land and shelter. Legal recognition and effective

implementation of women's equal property rights for women are an essential precondition for effective slum upgrading.

3.1.5. Heighten awareness through a campaign concerning land rights for women.

3.2. *The Challenge of Slums in Africa*

3.2.1. Slum upgrading in the context of housing and urban development policies must be an essential ingredient of national plans, town and city development strategies and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs).

3.2.2. Secure tenure is essential to empowerment of slum dwellers and should be based on a pro-poor land policy that emphasises a range of affordable options that is not limited to formal title. Secure tenure campaigns should be undertaken by governments.

3.2.3. Governments are urged, in consultation with all stakeholders, to set national slum targets taking into account urbanisation trends and the MDGs slum target and set out plans and strategies to prevent new slum formation.

3.2.4. Cities should take a leading role in implementing MDGs slum upgrading targets.

3.3. *Deepen Understanding of Urban Land Markets*

3.3.1. Identify and communicate the role of urban land in poverty reduction, economic development and environmental sustainability in an African context. Affordable land should be made available to the poor, and land markets made transparent.

3.3.2. Research the ways in which formal and informal urban land and housing markets operate in African towns and cities, and how to make these markets work better for the poor.

3.4. *Policy and Law Reform*

3.4.1. Policies and laws must be revised and amended to ensure that they:

- respect the rights of citizens to move to towns and cities, and to support them in their efforts to realise the economic, cultural and social opportunities there;
- support, encourage and strengthen efforts to improve the quality of life and strengthen the rights to shelter, tenure security and services of slum dwellers; and

3.5. *More Effective Urban Management and Governance*

3.5.1. Improved urban governance is essential for addressing urban development challenges, including poverty reduction.

3.5.2. Monitoring of urban governance to ensure effective urban management of urban resources to eradicate corruption.

3.5.3. Decentralisation should be accompanied by necessary material, human and financial resources. To this end, it is critical to strengthen the capacity of local government to address urban management challenges.

3.5.4. Multi-sectoral and inclusive local/urban and spatial planning approaches must respond to the objectives of environmental sustainability, and develop land management and participatory decision-making processes tailored to the reality of African cities.

3.5.5. Strengthen information and databases required by local governments for development and planning.

3.5.6. Establish institutional platforms for partnerships for service delivery and decision-making between the public and private sector, NGOs and community-based organisations.

3.5.7. Effective spatial planning is important for sustainable urban development. Rural and urban development concerns are not mutually exclusive processes.

3.5.8. Establish sound intergovernmental relations between national, regional /state/provincial and local/municipal government and set up institutional frameworks for effective governance of mega cities.

3.6. *Population Trends, Migration and Urbanisation*

3.6.1. The ICPD +10 recommendations on population distribution, migration and urbanisation in Africa should be explicitly adopted and incorporated into PRSPs and all development initiatives.

3.6.2. Promote investments in the social sectors, particularly education and health, to reduce urban poverty.

3.6.3. Promote research on urbanisation issues and establish data and information networks to strengthen urban planning and management.

3.6.4. Integrate population trends and concerns into social development programmes in urban areas.

3.7. Capacity Building

3.7.1. Institutional capacity of the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities must be enhanced to address urbanisation challenges.

3.7.2. Ensure consistent, sustainable and appropriate programmes of urban development capacity building, at all levels of government, but especially the civil societies.

3.8. Financing Urban Development and Housing

3.8.1. Promote the private sector and local authority revenue generation for financing urban development and housing.

3.8.2. African urban development requires global cooperation. Effective urban development depends on global cooperation in terms of development assistance, debt relief and market access, without which it will not be possible for Africa to meet the MDGs.

3.8.3. Promote the establishment and strengthening of regulatory frameworks, laws and codes that are flexible, to enable financial institutions, and the NEPAD Cities Programme, to ensure effective and sustainable housing and urban development financing programmes.

3.8.4. Build the financial sector in a form that is adapted to each country so that a range of appropriate, sustainable and effective financial options become more widely available, and accessible for all sectors of society, particularly women, the most vulnerable and the poor.

3.8.5. Support the construction sector, including small and medium enterprises, and the community sector, involved in slum upgrading to use appropriate low-cost technology, to boost economic development.

3.8.6. The involvement of the construction sector in slum upgrading will contribute to the economic development of urban centres as well as revitalising the informal sector.

3.8.7. Increased financial support from the international community should be targeted at capacity-building, technical expertise and funding.

3.9. Consultative Mechanism

3.9.1. Establish and institutionalise a consultative mechanism of African Ministers responsible for housing and urban development. The consultative mechanism will play a significant role in the implementation of the 2003 Maputo Decision on Promoting the Development of Sustainable Cities and Towns in Africa (Assembly/AU/Dec.29 (II)).

3.9.2. The Consultative Mechanism should:

- Serve as a forum to discuss the urban challenge at the Continental and regional levels as a basis for national and city level strategies and as a focus for the discussion of the Habitat Agenda and the relevant Millennium Development Goals and Targets;
- Champion and support innovative urban development and urban land management practices in Africa;
- Facilitate South-South cooperation and international exchange of expertise, research, experience and best practices;
- Develop a better understanding of urban land tenure and land market dynamics in Africa;
- Support and strengthen the NEPAD Cities Initiative;
- Engage with development partners and multilaterals on urban development issues in Africa and their financing;
- Promote strong ties between research institutions to understand better the economic, legal and financial importance of urban development and urban land in Africa;
- Mainstream urban issues and other items dealing with human settlements in the macro-economic frameworks and national budgets of African governments including UNDAFs, PRSPs and other programmes;
- Serve as a platform for advocacy of good urban governance and security of tenure.
- Provide a focal point to link the relevant aspects of the African Union Strategic Plan and NEPAD programme as well as international processes and initiatives consistent with the urban agenda for sustainable development.
- Establishing a monitoring and evaluation mechanism for urban governance reforms.

3.9.3. Establish links with other inter-ministerial conferences working on issues related to the Habitat Agenda, including, but not limited to, matters concerning water supply, local government and infrastructure.

4. Towards a Common African Position at Upcoming International Meetings

52. The position of African governments is reflected in support of common messages that are pursued at the 20th Session of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT, the 13th Session of the Commission of Sustainable Development (CSD 13), the UN General Assembly's Review of the MDGs, and the Beijing Platform Review, all of which take place during 2005.

53. The Enhanced Framework sets out Africa's priorities for these forums:

- i. Poverty, which is increasingly concentrated in African cities, is the overarching urban issue that the international community needs to address;

- ii. Slum upgrading, in the context of overall housing and development strategies, should constitute an essential component of national plans, towns and city development strategies, and PRSPs;
- iii. Regularising settlements and in situ upgrading should be regarded as intrinsic to town and city development strategies, with provision being made for affordable serviced land to prevent new slum formation;
- iv. Secure tenure is essential to slum upgrading to effectively address problems of urban poverty and should be based on a pro-poor land policy that emphasises a range of affordable options including non-formal titles;
- v. Promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment should be an integral part of urban poverty reduction strategies and programmes. Legal recognition and effective implementation of women's equal property rights are an essential precondition for effective slum upgrading;
- vi. Human settlements, urban poverty, shelter for all, secure tenure, land and property rights, water, sanitation, transport, power supply, increasing women's participation in decision-making at all levels and gender mainstreaming in municipal planning and development, and access to credit, should be priority areas for women's action in the coming decade;
- vii. Poverty in cities cannot satisfactorily be dealt with by sectoral policies and strategies. Rather, it is a cross-cutting issue that must be addressed in an integrated manner. This particularly applies to the CSD-13 topics of water, sanitation and human settlements;
- viii. Sustainable urban development in Africa requires that developed countries fulfil their commitment made at the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development. This should be focused on providing new and additional resources (0.7% of GNP of developed countries for ODA) to leverage local resources including community-based resources; Heavy indebtedness of many African countries is impeding their capacity to address housing and urban development issues. It is therefore a priority that international financial institutions must exclude investments in the urban sector, and those that particularly target the MDGs, from the debt of developing countries.
- ix. African urban development requires global cooperation. Effective urban development depends on global cooperation in terms of development assistance, debt relief and market access, without which it would not be possible for Africa to meet the MDGs. 9) For sustainable urban development, government at all levels must be empowered to act decisively and responsively to the needs of their citizens. This requires technical assistance and capacity building supported by the international community;
- x. To redress the problem of exclusion, urban civil society in general and the poor in particular must be engaged in city development strategies and slum upgrading activities as active agents, not as passive beneficiaries.
- xi. It is essential that city authorities have a leading role in implementing national and local action plans for MDGs, particularly the slum upgrading target in developing countries.

Annex IV: Declaration on the Establishment of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD), Durban, South Africa, 3-4 February 2005

We, the African Ministers responsible for housing and urban development, meeting in Durban, e-Thekwini, South Africa, from 3-4 February 2005, to consider the challenge of housing and urbanization in Africa,

Welcome with satisfaction the recognition of the human settlement challenge along with water, energy, health and biodiversity in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the process initiated by the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) on Water, Sanitation and Human Settlement,

Recall the 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) recognized that “The process of urbanization is intrinsic to economic and social development ...”

Recall Further the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements held in Istanbul in 1996 and the review of the Habitat Agenda contained in the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, of the United Nations General Assembly, Resolution S25.2 of 9 June 2001,

Recognize the advent, in 2001, of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD),

Note that Africa is the fastest urbanizing region in the world, with urban population doubling almost every 20 years and that it poses challenges far beyond the management capacity of governments, local authorities and other institutions,

Aware that 72 per cent of the urban residents in Africa live in slums without equitable access to land, adequate shelter and basic services, and urban environment that can be among the most life-threatening conditions, requires sustainable financing mechanisms for housing and urban development,

Note that political will, decentralization, good governance and the empowerment of national and local authorities as well as the adoption of inclusive processes of decision making are fundamental to addressing the urbanization challenge in Africa,

Aware of the fact that growing urban poverty and feminization of poverty requires gender sensitive approaches to sustainable urban development,

Recognize the impact of natural disasters, civil wars and the impact of HIV/AIDS pandemic on the living conditions in towns and cities,

Recognize the rural urban continuum and the interdependency between towns, cities and the rural hinterland,

Welcome the international and regional initiatives to address the challenges of human settlements and urbanization, in particular MD Goal 7 Target 11, the CSD process and the NEPAD City Programme,

Guided by the Maputo Decision 29 (July 2003) taken by African leaders in the Second Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Governments of the African Union, which states that “if left unchecked, rapid urbanization is leading to the urbanization of poverty in the continent, with attendant problems that have condemned the majority of urban dwellers to unemployment, food insecurity and life under squalid conditions in slums and other unplanned neighborhood without basic services such as decent housing water and sanitation, and the high risk this implies to their health and safety” ,

Note the decision of this Assembly to promote sustainable cities and towns in Africa, and to reap their potential benefit as centres of economic growth and places of opportunity and prosperity for all African people,

Note Further that the implementation of this Decision would require sustained advocacy at a high political level, and thus require establishment of an appropriate mechanism,

Take Note of the report of the the African Population Commission serving as the Experts’ Group Meeting for this Conference, the Enhanced Framework of Implementation of Sustainable Housing and Urban Development in Africa, and the Common African Position at upcoming international meetings attached as Annex to this resolution,

Express profound gratitude and appreciation to the Government of South Africa for the efforts made in convening and hosting this inaugural conference leading to the launch of the African Ministers’ Conference on Housing and Urban Developments (AMCHUD),

Commend the Commissioner for Social Affairs of the African Union and the Executive Director of United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) for their joint efforts that have led to the establishment of AMCHUD,

Express appreciation for the commendable efforts of all the co-operating partners, including the African Population Commission, UNFPA, and other institutions,

Reaffirm our commitment to overcoming obstacles encountered in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Declaration,

Decide to establish the African Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD) as the consultative mechanism on the promotion of sustainable development of Human settlements in Africa, under the auspices of the African Union,

Decide further that AMCHUD will, inter alia:

- Serve as a forum to discuss the urban challenge at the continental and regional levels as a basis for national and city level strategies and as a focus for the discussion of the Habitat Agenda and the relevant Millennium Development Goals and Targets;
- Champion and support innovative urban development and urban land management practices in Africa;
- Facilitate South-South and international exchanges of expertise, research, experience and best practices;
- Develop a better understanding of urban land tenure and land market dynamics in Africa;
- Support and strengthen the NEPAD Cities Initiative;
- Engage with development partners and multi-lateral agencies on urban development issues in Africa and their financing;
- Promote strong ties between research institutions to understand better the economic, legal and financial importance of urban development and urban land in Africa;
- Mainstream urban issues and other items dealing with human settlements in the macro-economic frameworks and national budgets of African governments including UNDAFs, PRSPs and other programmes;
- Serve as a platform for advocacy of good urban governance and security of tenure;
- Provide a focal point to link relevant aspects of the African Union Strategic Plan and NEPAD programme as well as international processes and initiatives consistent with the urban agenda for sustainable development;
- Implementing a monitoring and evaluation mechanism for urban governance reforms.

Decide that AMCHUD will establish links with other inter-ministerial conferences working on issues related to the Habitat Agenda, including, but not limited to, matters concerning water supply, local government and infrastructure,

Decide Further that AMCHUD will be composed of the following organs:

- The Biennial conference
- The Bureau
- The Secretariat

Decide Further that the Bureau established at this conference shall serve as the Bureau of AMCHUD, with its members representing the five sub-regions in Africa,

- Southern Africa, represented by the Republic of South Africa as Chair of the Bureau
- West Africa: represented by Senegal, as the first Vice-Chair
- North Africa: represented by Algeria as the second Vice-Chair
- Central Africa: represented by Chad as the third Vice-Chair

- Eastern Africa: represented by Kenya as the Rapporteur

Decide Also that the Chair of the Bureau shall be elected by the Biennial Conference of Ministers responsible for Housing and/or Urban Development of each Member State and shall hold office until the next conference,

Mandate the Bureau to establish a Secretariat that will provide technical and administrative support,

Request the Commissioner of African Union and the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT to assist the Bureau in establishing the Secretariat,

Call upon all co-operating partners and other relevant UN agencies, the African Development Bank, our region's co-operation partners and donors, to support AMCHUD's efforts in the implementation of the measures outlined in this Declaration,

Request the African Union to mainstream issues of housing and urban development in the structure of the African Union by establishing a Specialised Technical Committee for the sector, including rendering related political and other forms of support to AMCHUD,

Resolve that AMCHUD meets every two years, preferably three months before the sessions of UN-HABITAT Governing Council of UN-HABITAT,

Request the Commission for Africa to support African governments in their efforts to mobilize international financial resources to support housing, slum upgrading and urban development programmes in Africa,

Request further the Commission for Africa to exclude investments in housing and urban development and those that are particularly targeted to meeting the MDGs Goal 7 Targets 10 and 11 from the debt of African countries,

Request the Bureau of AMCHUD to inform the relevant regional, international and UN agencies and programmes on the creation of AMCHUD,

Commit ourselves to appraise our respective Heads of States and governments on the outcome of this conference.



EX.CL.185 (VII)

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

Theme “Urbanization, Shelter and Development: Towards an Enhanced Framework for Promoting Sustainable Cities and Towns in Africa”

SUMMARY

1. The African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD) was co-organized by the African Union Commission and the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-HABITAT) in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of South Africa. The Conference took place in Durban, South Africa, on 3-4 February 2005 and was preceded by the Meeting of the African Population Commission (APC) from 31 January to 02 February 2005 which served as the Experts' Group for the Ministerial Conference.
2. The Conference was organized in accordance with the Maputo Decision (Dec. 29 (ii)) of the AU Summit and had the following major objectives:
 - To agree on an enhanced framework of implementation in overcoming the challenges of shelter and urbanization in the framework of the Millennium Development Goals, NEPAD and the World Summit on Sustainable Development;
 - To identify strategies for turning the urbanization challenge into an opportunity for development particularly by consolidating integrated approaches to urban development;
 - To consider modalities of enhancing service delivering capacities in African cities and towns through regular consultations and institutionalization of AMCHUD as well as exchange of experiences and joint activities to build synergies in executing the overall African Agenda for development;
 - To ensure the implementation and monitoring of previous decisions on housing and urban development into pragmatic instruments for action within the context of NEPAD and the new Vision, Mission and Strategic framework of the AU; and
 - To enable African decision-makers to develop a collective understanding of the implication of urbanization and human settlements in the strategic Vision and Mission of the AU that has been recently adopted.

3. Accordingly, the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD) came up with the following three important outcomes:

- i. It elected a Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD) consisting of:
 - Chairperson : South Africa (Southern Africa)
 - 1st Vice Chairperson: Senegal (West Africa)
 - 2nd Vice Chairperson: Algeria (North Africa)
 - 3rd Vice Chairperson: Chad (Central Africa)
 - Rapporteur : Kenya (East Africa)
- ii. Developed a draft enhanced framework for implementation for sustainable urban development in Africa; and
- iii. Issued a draft declaration on housing and urban development.

4. It is hoped that the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development will play important roles in promoting the development of sustainable cities and towns in Africa. In this regard, the African Union Commission, in collaboration with relevant partners, notably the UN-Habitat, will provide the necessary support and encouragement to the AMCHUD in its effort to meet the challenges of urbanization and poverty in Africa.

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