

**Submission of views or information by Parties to the UNFCCC**  
**Ref: ODES/COP 16/10; Response prepared by UN-HABITAT**

**Contact information:**

Rafael Tuts  
Chief, Urban Environment and Planning Branch  
United Nations Human Settlements Programme  
UN-HABITAT  
P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi 00100, Kenya  
Tel.: +254-20-762 3726; Fax.: +254-20-762 3715  
UN Gigiri Campus, NOF Block #3, Floor 2, North  
E-mail: [raf.tuts@unhabitat.org](mailto:raf.tuts@unhabitat.org)  
Web-site: [www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)

**12. Further guidance relating to the clean development mechanism (CMP -submission to SBSTA)**

Submissions of views from Parties, intergovernmental organizations and admitted observer organizations on the issue of materiality.

(See FCCC/CMP/2010/L.8, paragraph 30 and 31) **Deadline 28th March 2011**

**UN-Habitat informs the secretariat of the joint work undertaken with UNEP and the World Bank in developing a City-wide GHG standard and supports the methodology for a PoA for city-wide CDM. Cities lag far behind nations in reporting on GHG emissions and yet are crucial to global efforts in mitigating emissions as well as developing appropriate adaptation measures. In addition local governments are the key governmental stakeholders in global climate change efforts, and activities which will support local governments such as PoA for city-wide CDM application should be encouraged as critical steps to the development and maturation of a carbon market under CDM.**

**On the issue of materiality and assurance, and to increase the application of PoA for city-wide CDM as well as the number of cities in developing countries using an approved standard for GHG inventory, UN-Habitat supports the current IPCC guidelines on this issue.**

**13. Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (SBSTA)**

Further views and relevant information on progress made and gaps as well as views on new activities that may be needed to achieve the objective and expected outcomes of the Nairobi work programme, to inform the review. (See FCCC/SBSTA/2010/L.20, paragraph 5) **Deadline 28th March 2011**

UN-Habitat informs the UNFCCC secretariat of the Cities and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI) being implemented in cities in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Through this Initiative UN-Habitat has built local capacity to carry out vulnerability assessments and develop city wide mitigation and adaptation plans and strategies. It has also developed tools and knowledge products to assist countries in integrating climate change related issues into national, city and local level plans and policies.

In a separate communication UN-Habitat intends to submit an application to join the NWP.

#### **15. Financial mechanism of the Convention (SBI)**

Views from Parties on the synthesis report on the National Economic, Environment and Development Studies (NEEDS) for Climate Change Project. Note by the secretariat (FCCC/SBI/2010/INF.7)

(See FCCC/SBI/2010/L.38, paragraph 2) **Deadline 28th March 2011**

UN-Habitat commends the UNFCCC initiative to undertake in-depth NEEDS in 10 countries, it acknowledges that it is a way to start the process for countries to work towards a low-carbon economy, however it is within cities that mitigation and adaptation actions will be most effective. In this regard, UN-Habitat informs the secretariat of its work at the city level in two of the NEEDS countries, Pekalongan (Indonesia) and Sorsogon (Philippines). In these cities a two way approach, bottom-up and top-down, to assess mitigation and adaptation measures have been undertaken and as a result plans, policies and demonstration projects are now in place to address climate change. UN-Habitat recommends that, similar studies at the city level are undertaken and proposes that the 'International Standard for measuring Greenhouse Gases in Cities' developed jointly by UN-Habitat, UNEP and World Bank be used as a standardized format for collecting information on emissions and allocating it to a specific sector. This approach will assist cities in not only quantifying GHG emissions but also serve as a basis for costing mitigation and adaptation measures.

#### **Review of the Adaptation Fund (CMP)**

Submission of views from Parties and international organizations and stakeholders on the review of the Adaptation Fund based on the terms of reference annexed in document FCCC/KP/CMP/2010/L.5 paragraph 4) **19<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

UN-Habitat welcomes the review of the Adaptation Trust fund and the substantial progress made so far. We recommend that in future the review process should also consider reviewing and presenting an analysis of the sector and urban/rural scope of projects funded so far, as well as concept notes currently being considered. This shall facilitate the consideration of any further action needed especially in urban areas as over 70% of the population live in cities and towns affected by climate change issues.

UN-HABITAT intends to submit an application to be considered for a role as international implementing agency of the Adaptation Fund.

**BACKGROUND:**

UN-Habitat's climate change activities are being developed in line with the agency's **Climate Change Strategy 2010-2013** and supported by the UN-Habitat **Governing Council's Resolution 22/3** on Cities and Climate Change, which was adopted at the UN-HABITAT Governing Council on 1 April 2009.

The above paragraphs relate to the UN-Habitats' Climate Change Strategy, work, mandate and climate change resolution, where the following paragraphs are of particular relevance.

**A. UN-Habitat's Climate Change Strategy:**

**1.3 Cities are affected by Climate Change**

Severe weather events, including tropical storms and related storm surges whose frequency, severity and location may differ significantly from past experience, are likely to have serious consequences for cities, including by contributing to an increase in local and inter-urban migration and by adding new challenges for urban development including, for example, issues of land use and land tenure.

The strategy also foresees addressing land degradation and desertification in connection with droughts, floods, erosion, sea level rise and inundation. Identifying causes of, and seeking solutions to, climate change induced migration leading to land degradation; and developing new and appropriate technologies for building materials, efficient energy production and use and renewable energy resources.

**3.2 UN-Habitat's work related to Cities in Climate Change**

Land issues:

Developing a legal framework of land use aimed at balancing the need for construction with the protection of the environment, minimizing risk and diversifying uses.

A recent GLTN e-discussion on Land, Environment and Climate Change revealed a wide range of areas where land legislation and policies impact on climate change.

In addition, UN-Habitat supports the UNCCD ten-year strategy and recognizes its important role in helping cities and urban areas to combat desertification and land degradation, in particular that related to climate change.

Water and Sanitation:

Urban rivers and wetlands that have been neglected or misused must be recognised as essential elements of the environmental health of cities. Campaigns to clean and protect these important water resources provide opportunities to citizens to become active partners with local authorities in environmental protection.

The treatment and disposal of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) is another issue requiring attention. Careless disposal of MSWs contributes to air, land and water pollution and

can be a source of GHGs. Safe disposal and recycling processes offer a contribution to climate change mitigation strategies as well as to overall environmental wellbeing.

Finance:

Adequate finance should be available to support city governments in developing countries to leverage international support for clean energy development and sustainable land-use practices. All these measures must aim at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and energy waste of cities.

## **B. Resolution HS 22/3: Cities and climate change**

*Recognizing also* that cities are one of the major contributors of greenhouse gas emissions and that they have a key role to play in promoting energy efficiency, through more appropriate urban planning, management and building practices for sustainable urban development,

*Recognizing* that efforts to enhance sustainable urbanization also offer opportunities to enhance climate change strategies, including mitigation and adaptation, through promoting participatory planning, management and governance; pro-poor land and housing; and environmentally sound basic infrastructure and services,

3. *Invites* Governments to undertake further concerted and coordinated action to include the issue of cities and climate change as an integral part of their national climate change strategies, including mitigation and adaptation, in view of continuous urbanization and the fact that over half of humankind lives in urban areas and are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change;

4. *Invites* parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at the fifteenth session of its Conference of the Parties in Copenhagen to take into account the crucial role of cities and towns in climate change strategies, including adaptation and mitigation;

6. *Invites* Governments and other relevant partners to support developing countries through the appropriate mechanism in each country to strengthen their capacities in promoting, among other things, pro-poor clean and affordable technological options, innovative approaches to urban planning and management and education and training on climate change strategies, as they pertain to sustainable urban development, while encouraging all other national and local authorities to strengthen their capacities in the manner set out above;

7. *Invites* Governments which are in a position to do so to provide technical and financial support to the Cities and Climate Change Initiative, to widen the geographical scope of the initiative and to expand the range of capacity-development approaches in order to support local authorities in addressing climate change.