

STATEMENT ON

***MEETING BASIC NEEDS IN
WATER, SANITATION AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS,
WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
12TH SESSION OF THE CSD***

BY

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Mr. Chairman,

We associate ourselves with statement made by Qatar on behalf of G77 and China.

As this Session comes to a close, a number of issues have emerged that require consideration as we prepare for CSD-13. Thanks to your Chairmanship for designing a programme that allowed for comprehensive deliberations on the themes of Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements.

Mr. Chairman

It is now clear that the target of improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020 is not ambitious enough to address rapid urbanization and the urbanization of poverty. Furthermore, we have observed that progress in the achievement of this target is not on course. This situation calls for concerted efforts involving upgrading of slums, regularizing land tenure, reducing poverty, facilitating access to water and sanitation, and constructing affordable housing units, particularly on a rental basis, for low and middle income groups.

Mr. Chairman,

The target of improving the lives of slum dwellers has been hampered by inadequate means of implementation. It is only through enhanced financing that developing countries will be able to achieve the expected outcome over the next ten years. In this regard, there is need for the international community to honour commitments made in relevant international fora, including the 0.7% of ODA, in order to complement resources mobilized locally. The international community should implement debt swap, where appropriate, in support of in-country human settlements priority programmes.

Mr. Chairman,

Crosscutting issues related to water, sanitation and human settlements, particularly reduction of poverty should be mainstreamed into the national PRSPs. In addition, partnerships should be forged

with the poor in implementing pro-poor and community-based strategies.

Governments have recognized the contribution of major groups through establishment of genuine partnerships and recognition of their respective comparative advantages. This calls for political will and commitment by Governments to decentralize authority and financial resources to local authorities that in turn should embrace the good urban governance principles.

Finally Mr. Chairman,

As the UN task manager for coordinating activities towards realization of the target of improving the lives of slum dwellers, UN-HABITAT requires the requisite resources to enable the organization carry out this mandate. In this regard, we propose that establishment of Slum Upgrading Facility Fund be included in the Chairman's summary in line with the General Assembly resolution!

Thank you.