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ESD/MG/KINS/5
13 October 2003

ENGLISH ONLY

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
(in cooperation with the Institute for Global Environment Strategies, Japan)

Second Meeting of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network
15-17 October 2003
Weihai, China

**OVERVIEW OF THE STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION
OF AGENDA 21, RIO+5 AND JPOI
IN THE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

(Item 5 of the provisional agenda)

Note by the secretariat

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TABLE OF CONTENT

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

II. SHELTER CRISIS AND SLUMS IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

A. The Context

B. Overview of Regional Situation

1. Types of Slums
2. Critical Issues
3. Policy Approaches Towards Slums
4. Integrated Approaches to Slums – Sustainable Human Settlements Management
5. NGOs Involvement

III. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS IMPROVEMENTS AS A PART OF MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL

IV. CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

V. MATTERS CALLING FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEETING

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. The Eleventh Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-11) while developing a multiyear programme of work on the follow up to WSSD, decided in New York in April/May 2003 that during 2004-2005 CSD should consider the implementation of Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) in the areas of water, sanitation and human settlements. It was also agreed that the Regional Commissions under the coordination of the CSD, will analyze outcomes of regional/sub-regional meetings, together with other information relevant to the three themes and prepare regional inputs for the Secretary General's report to CSD-12. Accordingly, the present draft report has been prepared for review and discussion at the Network Meeting.

2. Agenda 21, which is the plan of action adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992 draws the attention of global leaders on the urgent need to take action in several areas including human settlements. UNCED revealed that in 1992 the percentage of urban population living in slums including squatter settlements in the Asian and Pacific Region varied from 20 (in Bangkok) to about 70 (in Calcutta). At that time it was predicted that by the year 2000 half of the world population will be living in cities; and depending on the action taken to improve slums and squatter settlements more than 50 per cent of those urban dwellers may still be living in precarious human settlements. In 1997, five years after Rio UNCED a review of progress of implementation revealed while some of the goals in selected countries may have been achieved, most others were not

3. Four years after UNCED, United Nations Conference on Human Settlements held in 1996 in Istanbul adopted the Habitat Agenda, which reflected a consensual approach to shelter on the part of the international community, and focused on shelter as a human right. It acknowledged the global dimension of urbanisation and the need for global responses to housing and shelter issues and focused on five strategy objectives of: *Adequate shelter for all, Sustainable human settlements, Enablement and participation, Financing shelter and human*

settlements and Integrating gender perspectives in human settlements-related legislation, policies, programmes and projects.

4. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg in August/September 2002, world leaders, once again, recognized that slum improvement was vital to promoting sustainable human settlements. In this regard, they endorsed the Millenium Development Goal (MDG) 7, target 11 to improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. This document discusses the status of implementation and issues related to this goal in the Asian and Pacific region.

II. SHELTER CRISIS AND SLUMS IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

A. The Context

5. There are two major aspects of the shelter crisis in the cities of the region: one, the housing backlog which has been increasing with time; and two, the infrastructure shortages, including water supply and sanitation, transport and energy, waste management etc. The problems have become chronic in the wake of the burgeoning urban population in recent years. The sector of society most affected by these problems is the urban poor. Over the years, the urban poor living in slums have provided and continue to provide their own shelters by constructing clusters of hutment and shanties wherever and however they can. As a result, many countries and territories of the region suffer from the spread of slums and marginal settlements. A recent (2003) report published by UN/HABITAT shows that the number of people living in urban slums in Asia and the Pacific is as high as 498 million, about half of the total urban population.

6. According to the Webster dictionary the origin of the word "Slum" is unknown. Although it refers to a squalid heavily populated urban area. Encyclopaedia Britannica defines a slum as "*residential areas that are physically and socially deteriorated and in which satisfactory family life is impossible*". Squatter settlements on the other hand refer to a "*residential area in urban locality inhabited by the very poor who have no access to tenured land of their own, and*

hence "squat" on vacant land, either private or public."¹ Squatter settlements are typically characterized by their lack of legal status, inadequate level of physical and social infrastructure and, of course, people living in object poverty. Therefore, while slum refers to the condition of a settlement, squatter refers to the legal status of a settlement. Some of the alternate names for squatter settlement used by various experts using positive to negative connotations are:

- informal settlements;
- semi-permanent settlements;
- shanty towns;
- spontaneous settlements;
- unauthorized settlements;
- uncontrolled settlements.

Some of the local names for squatter settlements (also in some cases used for slums) are:

- Bangladesh: Sukumbashi (squatters);
- Cambodia: Sumnong Anatepatai (illegal settlement);
- India: Bastee (dirty settlement);
- Republic of Korea: Muhogu chongchakji (settlement without permission);
- Indonesia: Kampong liar (illegal settlement);
- Malaysia: Setinggalan (squatter);
- Pakistan: Kachi abadi (temporary settlement);
- Sri Lanka: Palpath (shanty settlements);
- Thailand: Chumchaon bukruk (illegal community);
- Viet Nam: Nhaa tam bo (temporary house).

B. Overview of Regional Situation

7. Whatever the definition, it seems almost certain that slum dwellers increased substantially during the 1990s in Asia and the Pacific. As a whole general housing standards in the region improved considerably during the decade, and formal building bye and large kept pace with the urban growth. This was also the case in South-East Asia until the financial crisis of 1997. Even after the crisis, some countries like Thailand continued to improve their urban conditions. In India, which has about a third of the world's slums, economic

¹ Hari Srinivas (2003): "Defining squatter settlements".

conditions also improved in some cities such as Bangalore. However, it is generally considered that urban populations grew faster than the capacities of city to support them, so slums increased.

1. Types of Slums

8. There are three types of slums or marginal settlements in the cities of the region, namely, squatter settlements, inner-city slums, and illegal subdivisions. Squatter settlements are generally found near urban rivers and canals, beside railway tracks, on governmental land, or on land with vague tenure status. These settlements consist of non-permanent or semi-permanent housing structures, which are laid out in a haphazard manner. The lack of infrastructure and the illegal tenure of land are their additional characteristics. In many cases, the squatters encroach upon lands, which are hazard-prone, such as active flood plains. Squatters occupying the flood-prone banks of the urban rivers such as Lyari in Karachi suffer from both loss of life and property each time a flood strikes. In some cities of the Pacific, such as Nuku'alofa, Tonga, and Ponage, land shortages have led to settlements in mangrove and other swampy areas where public health risks are high.

9. Inner-city slums are usually rental tenements, which have deteriorated for lack of proper and regular maintenance or repair. These are located in the older sections of the cities and are characterised by a low standard of infrastructure and high person-to-floor space ratios.

10. A relatively recent phenomenon in countries of the ESCAP region is the occurrence of illegal housing subdivisions. These are of two types: user-rented and user-purchased. In both cases, unscrupulous entrepreneurs invariably rely on political and bureaucratic patronage or connections to enable them to occupy and subdivide the land on the urban fringe. In the user-rented illegal subdivisions, private owners subdivide land and lease it out to low-income residents for a period ranging from one to ten years. Occasionally, basic infrastructure services like water and electricity are provided. In the user-purchased illegal

subdivision, the land is subdivided and sold. Since the lots are merely demarcated plots without any infrastructure; these can be sold at prices affordable to the low-income group.

11. Various studies have documented the scale and range of housing sub-markets within cities of the region, particularly those used by low-income groups. For instance, in Dhaka, the major housing sub-markets where the poorest two-thirds of the population live are: squatter settlements; refugee rehabilitation colonies and squatter resettlement camps; 'bastis' (cheap rental accommodation in one or two-storey buildings); inner city tenement housing; and employee housing (including accommodation provided by government agencies for some of their staff and accommodation provided by middle or upper income households for servants). Aside from these, about 3 per cent of the city's poor live in other accommodation including, for example, boats, vehicles or multiple occupancy rooms that are widely used by single women shift workers.

12. Whatever is the typology, the slums of the Asian and Pacific region are typically characterized by temporary structures and the absence or severe lack of basic infrastructures and services such as water supply, sewerage, drainage, roads, health care and education. The housing quality is poor and many dwellings in these areas are made of substandard and discarded materials, such as used wooden planks, plastic, corrugated metal, asbestos sheets and tin. The population density is typically high and inadequate water supply and sanitary facilities result in high incidences of disease.

13. An important factor in the development of squatter settlements is that the provision of legally established low cost housing is becoming increasingly constrained by the entry of larger, commercial housing developers and the increasingly complex administrative mechanisms introduced to regulate the market. The commercialisation of land and institutionalisation of the housing provision sector have left slum dwellers and squatters with fewer opportunities to improve their situation. Unscrupulous developers have also increasingly bypassed the planning and administrative systems such that, in some urban areas, it is estimated that a very large proportion of new housing is technically outside the law.

2. Critical Issues

14. There are three critical issues that need to be tackled in confronting the urban shelter problem, particularly in controlling the future development of slums and squatters. These are firstly the availability of low-cost urban land which could be utilised for housing the poor; secondly the provision of access to affordable financing to help the poor to improve their housing; and thirdly, the organisation and participation of the community in planning and implementing low-income housing.

15. The most critical limiting factor in the acquisition of shelter is non-affordability or poverty. However, it should be noted that although slums and poverty are closely related and mutually reinforcing, the relationship is not one to one. Slum dwellers are not a homogeneous population, and some people of reasonable incomes choose to live within or on the edges of slum communities. Moreover, even though most slum dwellers work in the informal economy, it is not unusual for them to have incomes that exceed the earnings of formal sector employees. Nevertheless slums are designated areas where it is easiest to see poor people in the highest concentrations and the worst conditions. Yet it cannot be assumed that those living in slums that appear physically uniform all have the same needs and demands. The necessity to distinguish between different levels of poverty should be recognized with a view to targeting and tailoring resources at those most in need. Women, widows, children, disabled, female headed households, unemployed, and youth and minority groups have all been identified as the most vulnerable among the poor. Where housing conditions are poor, it is the vulnerable who suffer most from environmental degradation and inadequate service provision.

3. Policy approaches towards slums

16. Many policy approaches to slums have been adopted towards slums in the region during the last decades. They range from passively ignoring or actively harassing slum dwellers, to interventions aimed at protecting the rights of slum dwellers and helping them to improve their incomes and living environments. A better option to summary eviction has

been the policy intervention that has sought to promote settlement improvement through the relocation of illegal settlers, thereby releasing land for commercial use. Land vacated by illegal settlers is sold at market prices to real estate developers, businessmen, and other parties from outside the settlement and the proceeds are used to subsidize the installation of services within the relocated settlements. This approach has been adopted in a few countries in the region, including the Philippines and Pakistan. Another approach used has been based on the review of legislative provisions, which for instance, in Turkey led to an official tolerance of illegal settlements followed by periodic “amnesty” regularization; although it was widely acknowledged that this approach, in itself, does not solve the problem of access to infrastructure and services. A similar but more comprehensive form of policy intervention has sought slum upgrading or the regularization of illegal settlements, including the incorporation of such areas within the formal services and infrastructure systems. Such an approach is now being promoted in many countries of the region and has been successful in normalizing squatter settlements and providing residents with access to minimum standards of service provision, including drinking water supplies, sanitation and street paving etc.

17. Eviction was a common response in 1970s and 1980s, particularly in political environment of centralized decision-making, weak local governance and administration, non-democratic urban management, non-democratic urban management, non-recognition of civil society movements and lack of legal protection against forced eviction. This approach did not solve the problems of slums but shifted it elsewhere particularly in the periphery of the city where access to land was easier and planning control was non-existent. This gave rise to the rapid development of informal markets and to commodification of all informal housing delivery systems, including the squatter settlements.

18. Relocation or resettlement approach has been associated with all types of approaches in slums. It embraces a wide range of strategies, though all are based on the perception of enhancing the use of the land and property, on which slums are located. At best relocation is undertaken with the agreement and cooperation of slum households involved, such as the resettlement of squatters on railway land in Mumbai, India in conjunction with an NGO, the Railway slum Dwellers Federation, Indian Railways and the World Bank. In Manila,

attempts to rehouse slum dwellers along the riverbanks into distant location has not been a success as most of the effecties finding that they can not make a livelihood on the edge of town, are back in place in a few months. Nevertheless Pasig River reclamation continues to be the major housing programme. However, over the years, other solutions that attempt to make use of the labour and resources of slum dwellers and which seek to preserve and involve communities have become the preferred solution to the slum improvement.

19. The alternative that has come to be regarded as the best practice in dealing with the problems of slums is their upgrading. Slum upgrading consists of improving the existing infrastructure e.g. water reticulation, sanitation, storm drainage electricity, up to a satisfactory standard. Typical upgrading projects provide footpaths and pit latrines, street lighting, drainage and roads and often water supply and limited sewerage. Usually upgrading does not involve home construction, since the residents can do this themselves, but instead offers optional loans for home improvements. Further actions include the removal of environmental hazards, providing incentives for community management and maintenance, as well as construction of clinics and schools. Tenure rights are usually given to the occupants. Those, who must be moved to make way for the infrastructure may be given site and services plots. This approach has been followed in Calcutta, Jakarta, Karachi, Manila and several other cities of the region.

20. For the past two decades, major policy changes have also occurred with regard to the role of government in the provision of housing. Most governments in Asia and the Pacific have moved away from the role of housing developers towards that of facilitators, shifting the emphasis of housing provision from the public to private sector. Indeed, many governments now limit their direct involvement to the provision of low-cost housing and that also on a limited scale.

21. Cognisant of the urgent need to re-focus its housing policies, many countries of Asia and the Pacific are adopting “enabling” policies to support individual households in providing for their own shelter. Measures such as deregulation, changes in credit mechanisms, and lowering of housing and subdivision standards to promote affordability

have captured the interest of private housing developers. Moreover, urban renewal policies now focus both on the physical aspects of neighbourhoods as well as social aspects such as employment, education and health

22. The importance of mobilizing financial resources has also been given emphasis through the privatisation of housing-finance institutions; encouraging commercial banks and private developers to invest in the low-cost housing sector with bank quotas, subsidized loans and tax exemption; the promotion of housing mortgages and the secondary mortgage market; and the provision of encouragement and support for community-based finance systems and housing co-operatives.

23. In India, the National Slum Development Programme is an important post-Habitat II initiative to offer sustainable housing to the urban poor. Other initiatives include rationalizing previously complex legislative requirements, such as the Urban Land Act and rental legislation that affects housing and land markets, and the implementation of Constitutional Amendment Acts to install elected local governments, confer land title or tenurial status to squatter settlements, and facilitate the flow of credit to poorer segments of the housing market.

24. To generate financing for infrastructure and services public-private partnerships are being promoted with the recognition of the principle that the public and private sectors should have clear and distinctive roles. The public sector takes responsibility for planning, regulation and community protection, whilst the private sector manages the direct implementation and operation of services. In Malaysia and Thailand and the Philippines, for example, the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) laws allow private corporations to construct highways and power plants and to operate public sector projects before transferring the assets back to the government, usually after a 20-25 year period. Through these arrangements, governments have secured private sector participation in infrastructure development, whilst reducing the public sector fiscal burden and encouraging the inflow of foreign capital, expertise and technology.

25. In the Philippines, this approach has been particularly successful in the critical area of under capacity in the power generation sector. However, for other sectors the government has reviewed the BOT law and has sought to offer other options, including Build-Own-Operate, Build-Lease-Transfer, Build-Transfer and Rehabilitate-Own-Operate. The last option was adopted for the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS). Whilst the success of such initiatives in the region seems to indicate an increase in private sector involvement in service delivery, it has been recognized that government agencies overseeing the private sector firms need to be strengthened to ensure that these firms are operating in a truly competitive environment. Moreover, governments have to ensure that equity considerations are met, as marketed private firms are seldom motivated to service poorer areas where the potential profits are limited.

26. In order to ensure that equity and social issues are addressed, over the last few decades, many cities have experimented with the development of neighbourhood or community organizations, which are consulted on the planning of new development, implementation of infrastructure improvement and implementation of tariff or tax increase. In many countries, programmes are being developed under which community organizations can be responsible for their own infrastructure development, with some notable successes including the delivery of services in sanitation (Karachi), public health (Calcutta) and environmental protection (Metro Manila). Aside from formal public sector community organizations exist, which may participate in urban development. These informal or private sector-led organizations include chambers of commerce and industry, religious associations, and associations of slum dwellers.

4. Integrated Approach to Slums - Sustainable Human Settlements Management

27. In recent years integrated policies dealing with slums are becoming part of a more comprehensive urban development intervention model, addressing sources of both government and market failure. Thus a number of countries in the region have developed greater integration in their development and environmental policy making and are able to consider the issues of slums along with the wider issues of land use, land management,

infrastructure investment, financing mechanism and governance in an integrated manner. Examples include Klang Valley Environmental Plan in Malaysia and Ho Chi Minh City Environmental Planning Project in Viet Nam. In the case of land management, various integrated planning and regulatory systems are now linked to institutional, sectoral investment and fiscal policies within improved urban management systems. Planning and regulatory tools are also being improved, such as broad brush structure planning approaches used in the JABOTABEK metropolitan Development Plan, the Metro Manila Capital Investment Folio. In lieu of traditional zoning procedures new strategic planning and management techniques are being adopted mostly in Hong Kong, China.

5. NGOs Involvement

28. NGOs have grown at an unprecedented rate in that last ten to fifteen years and their involvement has contributed substantially to slum improvements and service delivery. With varying degrees of skill, they have shown that they can:

- reach poor populations unserved by other agencies;
- mobilize local resources and build local organizations;
- provide relatively low-cost services to unserved populations;
- create innovative solutions to complex problems;
- organize networks of diverse organizations around shared visions; and
- act as intermediaries between governments and the community, serving to link communities to the wider political processes.

NGOs staffed with professional planners, architects, engineers and social workers have provided technical advice and helped coordinate numerous small-scale environmental projects in low-income communities. The famous Orangi Pilot Project provides a very good example, where the urban poor were provided with access to sanitation and drainage through innovative projects conceived by an NGO, and implemented through cooperative efforts by low income households in one community.

III. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS IMPROVEMENTS AS A PART OF MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL

29. At the United Nations Millennium Summit held in New York in September 2000, global community endorsed a set of time bound and measurable goals and targets to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, gender inequity and environmental degradation and to forge a strong global partnership for development; which was known as the Millennium Development Goals or MDGs. A recent (2003) study by ESCAP/UNDP entitled: "Promoting Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific concludes that the region has made a significant progress in reducing income poverty. Several countries have also made progress towards attaining the targets of other MDGs.

30. Some of these goals were also recognized and strongly endorsed by WSSD for implementation. One of these, goal 7, target 11 envisages, achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. An important objective of this document is also to review the implementation of this target. However the scope of this target demands some clarifications regarding what is meant by "significant improvement". The MDG Task Force on Improving the Lives of Slum Dwellers has spent and is still planning to devote considerable time to this point in defining the appropriate parameters for measuring "significant improvement" Regardless of the outcome of this process, it is a fact that significant improvement should imply improvement of conditions of housing, water, sanitation and other basic infrastructures in slums and squatter settlements in a way that makes a positive and noticeable difference in the lives of poor people, living in urban areas. While the MDG Task Force will further determine how best to address the improvement of quality of life of slum dwellers, the overall challenges to slum improvement are:

- Improving the quality of the building (such as fire, rain- and wind-proofing)
- Increasing size of accommodation
- Providing access to water and sanitation and energy
- Enabling access to primary health care and basic education
- Assuring security of tenure

- Enabling slum dwellers to participate in decision-making

Once all of these conditions are met in a slum, it could be interpreted as making “significant improvement” in the lives of slum dwellers.

IV. CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

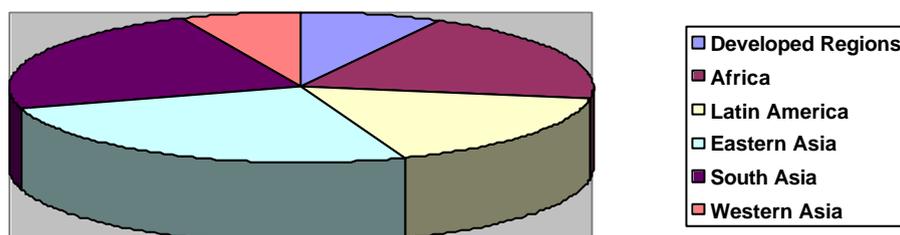
31. The Asian and Pacific region in general and its urban areas in particular are expected to remain the scene of greatest demographic dynamics in the near future. The urban population that doubled between 1980 and 2000 is likely to double again in the next 20- 25 years. The number of megacities (population of 10 million or more) increased from 9 in 1980 to the present 12 and is likely to increase to 18 by 2015. The rates of growth of these cities are also unprecedented. It took New York 150 years to grow to 8 million but less than 15 to Jakarta. Such growth obviously outstrips the municipal management capacities and results in multiplying slums. The challenge of rapid urban growth should therefore have one of the highest priorities in national agenda of the countries of the region. The hubristic tradition of ad hoc responses to escalating urban problems will just breed more problems, which could balloon into crises. To meet the challenge what is required is a holistic outlook employing integrated approach, new technologies, social engineering and ecological economics by well-trained city managers in adequately designed institutional structures. In addition within the integrated policies there is a need to continue addressing the classic challenges of slum improvements, as well as providing shelter, employment, health services, education and transport to the growing urban population.

32. The phenomenon of rapid urbanization calls for a higher level of municipal management. The challenge to the region is to train a corps of modern municipal managers familiar with the new tools and technologies that could be applied to the modern city including knowledge of information and communication technology, geographic information systems, urban finance, water and energy systems, waste management, environmental economics, alternative transportation systems and skills in conflict resolution.

33. Slums pose the biggest challenge to urban managers in the region. There are repeated references in the available reports to the effect that increasing income level in Asia and the Pacific (and elsewhere in developing countries) have not reduced the slum population; in fact, in some instances, the size of slum population has increased and also more people have been without access to water and sanitation. This points to the need of policy shift of governments and behavioural change of people, accompanied by availability of new and innovative methods of financing. Policy shifts of governments include increasing public expenditure in social infrastructure, particularly water, sanitation and shelter (including slum improvement). Good governance and creation of awareness are also important aspect of policy change to reduce corruption, bring about behavioural changes and replicate many of the successful case examples of slum upgrading.

34. Recent statistics show that the proportion of slum dwellers in Asia is over 50 per cent of the global total as show in Fig.1 :

Fig. 1 Proportion of slum dwellers in urban population by region, 2001²



35. Table 1 presents data given in the UN/HABITAT report by selected subregions of Asia and the Pacific. Some 4.75 million urban residents living in three subregions of the region are slum dwellers.

² UN/HABITAT (2003): The Challenge of Slums

² UN/HABITAT (2003): The Challenge of Slums.

Sub-regions	Total urban population (millions)	Slum population as percentage of total	Slum population (millions)
A. South Asia	432	48	207
B. Southeast Asia	185	29	54
C. Northeast Asia	465	46	214
Total	1083	44	475

36. About 20 million additional slum dwellers live in the Central Asian and the Pacific Sub regions. Altogether, it amounts to about 50 per cent of the regions urban population. It is not only the percentage and absolute number of slum dwellers in the region, which concerns city planners, it is also the security and risk factors involved. Slum dwellers rarely have any security of tenure as a result of which the quality of living is not improved even if they can afford it. Also in the recent past (2000), two incidences strike all Asians: two squatter settlements near Mumbai (a place called Ghatkopcer), India and a solid waste dumpsite near Metro Manila, the Philippines, became death traps for hundred of urban poor. In the case of India, a hillside tumbled down on slum inhabitants, whereas in the Philippines similar situation was faced with collapse of a high dumpsite.

37. Aside from the lack of security of tenure, the slum dwellers have other problems: their inability to grow assets under abject poverty, crime and hardships (such as getting water, removing solid wastes, bringing children to school on foot) takes away much of poor peoples time making assets generation difficult, if not impossible. Unless, therefore, they are able to get out of the poverty trap it would be difficult for these 498 million slum dwellers to make significant improvement in their living conditions.

38. The Task Force on Improving the Lives of Slum Dwellers believes that weak government commitment to the urban poor and lack of people's empowerment and participation (especially of the women) is an important factor in the growth of urban poor occupying slums. Decentralization and changing government's outlook seems to be a major challenge in improving the lives of slum dwellers significantly. The MDG Task Force intends to view as to how the slum dwellers themselves see their way forward. An earlier

survey on poverty undertaken by the World Bank ³ on how some 60,000 poor people from all over the world perceived poverty and the way to alleviate it. Five major conclusions of the study based on the poor people's perception were:

- Poverty is multidimensional (income, material well-being through access to shelter, water and sanitation, physical well-being such as good health, feeling of security, freedom from crime and terrorism, human dignity, freedom of choice and participation and availability of micro credit);
- Governments have largely been ineffective in reaching the poor;
- The role of NGOs in the lives of the poor is limited;
- Households are crumbling under the stress of poverty;
- The social cohesion and trust, the poor peoples only "insurance" is unravelling.

39. Financing is at the core of slum improvement and provision of basic services and infrastructure development large or small; and yet, Official Development Assistance (ODA) flow in Asia shows a downward trend. As show in Table 2, the total ODA flow in Asia went down from approximately \$12.9 billion in 1990 to \$11.8 billion in 2000. More importantly, in South Asia where the need for improvement of shelter and slum improvements is highest, the reduction of ODA was most significant (29 per cent). Recognizing this and yet being determined to meet the MDG goals, some of the poor developing countries of South Asia have initiated some new and innovative methods of implementing slum, water and sanitation improvement projects with private financing. It would, therefore, be unfair for the international community and, in particular, the donor community to expect some of those countries in Asia to meet the MDG goals in human settlement, water and sanitation by 2015. Conversely, it can be stated that significant increase in ODA flow in the coming decade will determine if the MDG goals and targets in Asia for such basic infrastructure as shelter, water, and sanitation can be achieved.

³ World Bank (2000): World Development Report.

TABLE-2 OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA) IN ASIA

A. South Asia	ODA in Millions of U.S. \$		Increase (+)/ Decrease (-)
	1990	2000	
1. Afghanistan	131	141	+
2. Bangladesh	2095	1171	-
3. Bhutan	47	53	+
4. India	1407	1487	+
5. Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	105	130	+
6. Maldives	21	19	-
7. Nepal	426	390	-
8. Pakistan	1129	703	-
9. Sri Lanka	730	236	-
Sub-Total A:	6091	4330	-
B. South Asia			
10. Cambodia	42	398	+
11. Indonesia	1742	1731	-
12. Lao PDR	150	281	+
13. Malaysia	469	45	-
14. Myanmar	63	107	+
15. Philippines	1276	578	-
16. Thailand	797	641	-
17. Vietnam	189	1700	+
Sub-Total B:	4728	*5481	+
C. Northeast Asia			
18. China Peoples Rep. of	2084	1735	-
19. DPRK	8	75	+
20. Mongolia	13	217	+
21. Rep. of Korea	-	-	
Sub-Total C:	2105	2027	-
Total A+B+C	12924	11838	-

V. MATTERS CALLING FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEETING

40. The meeting may review this paper and wish to provide information on respective country's policies, programmes and projects that are being implemented to address the issues related to human settlements raised in WSSD in particular their efforts towards

improvements of slums and squatter and provision of basic services. The meeting may also wish to identify major constraints faced in the development and implementation of initiatives for provision of shelter for the poor, improvement of slums and their environmental conditions. This paper would be revised to incorporate meeting's document and inputs before its submission to Regional Implementation Meeting to be held on 27-28 October 2003 in Bangkok for feedbacks to the Secretary Generals Report to CSD12.

