



**Statement by the Permanent Representative of  
the Syrian Arab Republic  
Mr. Abdulmonem Annan  
The 26 Session of The UN HABITAT Governing Council  
Nairobi , 9 MaY 2017**

Thank you Mr. President

I would like first to start by extending my congratulations to your Excellency on your election for steering the deliberations of this 26 UN HABITAT General Council . And as per your request I would be as concise as possible and to adhere to the 5 minutes time limit.

Syria was at the forefront of developing countries as all its people were living in decent human settlements and all were having quality free education from grade (1) till PHD level in all fields. It was having one of the most sophisticated free health systems in the developing countries as it succeeded in heart and kidney transplantation 20 years ago.

Suddenly came what they, falsely, called the "Arab Spring" which was no more than a bleak and destructive autumn as terrorism swept over the country like a flood . The infrastructure was destroyed almost completely. To give just one example, around 3 million houses were destroyed partially or completely, its dwellers became either IDPS or refugees, while their plight is being exploited now by the same neighboring ,and other countries, who are still deliberately exporting terrorism to my country for achieving degenerate political objectives .

**Mr. President :**

The Syrian conflict is characterized by being of an urban nature and effects whereby most of the hostilities are conducted in heavily populated areas. Additionally, the IDPS fleeing hostilities in rural areas move into main cities where they receive the necessary assistance , care and support from the Syrian government , thus causing too the overstraining of the already exhausted infrastructure, services and livelihoods, in these cities, due to so many other pre-crisis factors .

The UN HABITAT country team for Syria was here , few weeks ago, and made comprehensive presentation to the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) about its activities and projects in the country . The conclusion that could be drawn from that presentation is that the work of UN HABITAT in Syria is still within the boundaries of expression of good intentions and initial planning . The Syrians did not see yet any real or tangible difference effected by UN Habitat in their lives for the better. We do wish also that the donors stop putting political conditions for funding these naturally humanitarian undertakings.

We do believe that the New Urban Agenda provide a legal basis for addressing these challenging needs within UN HABITAT mandate. These needs are wide and urgent. They include mainly :

- expanding and increasing technical and financial support for Habitat in areas of urban design and planning, urban economy, basic services and for improving the poor areas conditions,
- Reducing risks and doing rehabilitation,
- enhancing research and capacity building,
- providing advice on lands administration and urban legislation ,

These priorities are of paramount importance for urban recovery of the cities, their reconstruction , and peoples' return to these reconstructed areas . It is important also to have a reviving process for these urban areas to convert them into effectives economic developmental centers .

**Mr. President :**

Regretfully, the work of the United Nations , at large, has shifted from maintaining International peace and security and preserving the achievements of developing countries into distributing blankets, food baskets and tents. Syria needs , however , addressing the root causes of its main problem namely : fighting terrorism, terminating foreign interference in its domestic affairs and lifting the unilateral economic coercive measures against its people. Prevention is surely more effective than the treatment of these urban diseases. But we can not reverse time anticlockwise . The burden is now so big and the calamity is so grave, and to light a candle at night is better than to keep cursing the darkness.

Thank you Mr. President