A remarkable World Urban Forum was held in Dubai from 7-13 February 2018, following last year’s call for the Dubai International Award for Best Practices. The Award solicits innovative and effective solutions to urban challenges from around the world, including central and local governments, civil society, private sector, foundations, international and regional organizations, academia, and other partners. It includes high-profile policy dialogues, networking events, exhibitions, high-level roundtables, tours, and special sessions on good governance, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the organization.

UN-Habitat’s Executive Director, Mrs. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, called on Governments to contribute to the core normative work of UN-Habitat and appealed for early contributions in letters sent to Governments. Member States approved a budget of US$26 million for the 2018-2019 biennium to support implementation of the agency’s core normative work of which US$ 13 million is required in 2018.

In a new approach to risk mitigation, the UN-Habitat’s Sustainable Urban Risk Management Dryland and Vulnerable Program led by the Netherlands and funded by the United States of America, screens and monitors risk exposure in the Great Lakes region of Africa and Asia. The program aims to develop, implement, and support sustainable urban risk management strategies to improve the risk resilience of informal settlements. The program works with local authorities and communities to reduce the risk of disaster and increase resilience in informal settlements. The program has reduced the vulnerability of informal settlements and communities in Africa and Asia. The program works with local authorities and communities to reduce the risk of disaster and increase resilience in informal settlements. The program has enhanced community resilience and increased access to disaster management services in informal settlements.

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