

Points made by Honourable Union Minister Shri M Venkaiah Naidu at Meet and Greet function organised by well wishers in Hyderabad on 13th May 2017.

Posted On: 13 MAY 2017 5:25PM by PIB Hyderabad



- I am really moved by the affection shown by friends, well, wishers, media friends, party workers and others assembled here to meet and greet me on the occasion of election as president to the Governing council of UN Habitat.
- I am indeed delighted to be elected as **president of 26th governing council of UN HABITAT**
- **The Governing Council meets every 2 years and is composed of 58 member states, which represent 5 regional groups.**
- **Member states are elected for a period of four years by the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) which in turn is elected by General Assembly of United nations consisting of 193 sovereign states.**
- Member countries of Asia Pacific region nominated India and the other groups of nations have endorsed the same.
- **The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)** is the United Nations agency for human settlements and sustainable urban development.
- It was established in 1978 as an outcome of the First UN Conference on Human Settlements and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat I) held in Vancouver, Canada in 1976.
- UN-Habitat maintains its headquarters at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, Kenya.

- It is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.
- It is a member of the United Nations Development Group.
- *(The **United Nations Development Group (UNDG)** is a consortium of **many United Nations agencies**, created by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in 1997 to improve the effectiveness of UN development activities at the country level.)*
- The mandate of UN-Habitat derives from the Habitat Agenda, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996.
- The twin goals of the Habitat Agenda are **adequate shelter for all** and the **development of sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world**.
- The Governing Council of UN-Habitat is the intergovernmental decision-making body for the Programme.
- Every two years, the Governing Council examines the UN-Habitat's work and relationships with its partners. It is a high-level forum of governments at the ministerial level during which **policy guidelines** and the **organization's budget are established for the next two-year period**. The Governing Council is taking place in Nairobi, Kenya.
- I am also delighted to share with you that India is currently chair of **Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD)** and I am the chair of the bureau
- The vision of APMCHUD is to act as Global Knowledge hub and facilitator of human settlement development and Promoting Sustainable Development of Human Settlements in Asia Pacific Region.
- **6th Bureau of the APMCHUD consists of 9 members** and chaired by His Excellency Hon'ble minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Urban Development and Information & Broadcasting, Republic of India.
- The **bureau members are in turn elected by 68 member countries** of APMCHUD.

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