

UN-HABITAT: 21st Governing Council Meeting

The 21st Session of the Governing Council of the UN Habitat was held at Nairobi, Kenya from 16th to 20th April, 2007. The Governing Council consists of 58 members and its meeting is convened every second year. The theme was on 'Sustainable Urbanisation: local action for urban poverty reduction with emphasis on finance and planning. Kumari Selja, Hon'ble Minister of State for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation was unanimously elected as President of the Governing Council for a two year term. Till date, this is the highest recognition India has received at UN Habitat with this two year term (2007-2009) as President of the Governing Council. Since the inception of the UN Habitat, barring the Presidentship for the year 1988-89 for Smt Mohsina Kidwai, India has never had this position of the Presidentship of the Governing Council of UN Habitat.

Hon'ble Minister(HUPA), during the above meeting was also elected unanimously as the Chairperson of the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements (ComHabitat). Furthermore, Kumari Selja holds the position of Chairperson of the Bureau of the Asia Pacific Ministers Conference of Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) and also represents Asia in the Commonwealth Local Government Forum's Conference.