

# Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

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Agenda item 7

**Work programme of the United Nations Human  
Settlements Programme and budget of the United Nations  
Human Settlements Programme Foundation for the  
biennium 2012–2013**

## **Draft resolution on urban youth development: the next step**

### **Submission by the drafting group**

*The Governing Council,*

*Considering* that nearly one fifth of the world's population is between 15 and 24 years of age and that that proportion is even higher in the developing world, and that that segment of the population is affected by the problems of unemployment, poverty and unsustainable urban development, issues which may be further exacerbated by the global economic crisis,

*Considering also* that young people are key agents for sustainable human settlements development and positive social change and vital resources in attaining the development goals related to the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling* that the Habitat Agenda<sup>2</sup> identifies the need to work in partnership with young people to develop and enhance effective skills and provide education and training to prepare young women and men for current and future decision-making roles and sustainable livelihoods in human settlements management and development,

*Bearing in mind* that by its resolution 64/134 of 18 December 2009 the General Assembly declared August 2010–August 2011 to be the United Nations International Year of Youth with the theme “dialogue and mutual understanding”,

*Noting with appreciation* the great interest expressed by urban young people around the world following the implementation of Governing Council resolutions 21/6 and 22/4 and the success of the UN-Habitat Urban Youth Fund,<sup>3</sup> which has in its first two years of operation awarded grants totalling nearly 2 million United States dollars to 113 youth groups drawn from a pool of more than 3,000 applications,

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1 General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

2 *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

3 Previously known as the Opportunities Fund for Youth-Led Development.

*Noting also with appreciation* the contribution by the Government of Norway to, and the profound interest that it has demonstrated in, the Youth Empowerment Programme and the Urban Youth Fund,

*Considering* the positive steps made by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other United Nations agencies and partners, in strengthening the youth agenda and the mainstreaming of youth-related issues in the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations system,

*Recalling* the world programme of action for youth, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, in particular the priority area “full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and in decision making”,

1. *Encourages* Governments to give priority and support to urban youth-led development initiatives and invites multilateral agencies, Governments at all levels, the private sector, universities and other research bodies and civil society to engage and include urban young people in participatory processes of sustainable urban development;

2. *Invites* the above parties in a position to do so to contribute financially to the Youth Empowerment Programme to ensure its continued operation and sustainability;

3. *Encourages* the Executive Director to consider implementing in line with available resources in the work programme and budget the following recommendations of the recent 2011 evaluation of the Youth Empowerment Programme:<sup>4</sup>

(a) Strengthen the financial basis and human resources of the programme;

(b) Establish an independent youth unit;

(c) Begin the process of outsourcing the grant management of the Urban Youth Fund to the regional offices;

(d) Ensure the alignment of the thematic focuses of the Fund with the overall focuses of the key work programmes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

(e) Implement other recommendations in the evaluation report as appropriate, with special attention to the recommendations related to the Urban Youth Fund;

4. *Also encourages* the Executive Director to strengthen further the participation of young people across the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme through the involvement of the Youth Advisory Board and to give priority to urban-youth-led development initiatives and include urban young people in participatory sustainable urban development processes;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to conduct an evaluation of the operation of the Urban Youth Fund after five years and to present the results to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue the process of mainstreaming young people throughout the programme, in line with the medium-term strategic and institutional plan and the programme of work and budget, including in its general research activities and publication activities, including in respect of the *State of the Urban Youth* reports, to ensure that all organizational parts of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme interact with the Youth Empowerment Programme in all youth-related issues and that youth issues, including those mentioned in the findings from the Urban Youth Research Network and the Global Youth Helpdesk, are substantially incorporated into all operational and normative programmes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including its global reports;

7. *Encourages* the Executive Director to share and build upon the expertise and successes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the area of urban youth together with other United Nations agencies to explore the possibility of enhancing the substantial involvement of young people in sustainable urban development;

8. *Encourages* the Executive Director to work towards the goal that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme leads joint efforts on urban youth issues within the United Nations system;

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4 HSP/GC/23/5/Add.4

9. *Also encourages* the Executive Director to explore the feasibility of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme appointing goodwill envoys with a focus on urban youth;
  10. *Further encourages* the Executive Director to mainstream urban youth in focus areas in the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019;
  11. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit a report on the progress in the implementation of the present resolution to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session.
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