



Twenty-fourth session
Nairobi, 15–19 April 2013

Draft resolution on making slums history: a worldwide challenge

The Governing Council,

Referring to the International Conference “ Making Slums History: a worldwide challenge for 2020 ”, held in Rabat, Morocco, from 26 to 28 November 2012, to review and share global progress in improving the living conditions of slum dwellers between 2000 and 2010 and devise a strategy for inclusive, sustainable and prosperous cities,

Emphasizing the commitment of the countries participating in the Rabat Conference to the promotion of sustainable urbanization and recalling the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000, and the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements, issued in the context of the Habitat II conference held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 14 June 1996, which endorsed the universal goal of ensuring adequate shelter for all,

Recalling the Millennium Development Goal 7, Target D to ‘by 2020 have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers’, and seeking to build upon it,

Taking note of the Rabat Declaration through which participants committed themselves to support through the inter-governmental bodies of the United Nations the definition of a global goal of halving the proportion of people living in slums,

Recalling the resolutions of the UN-Habitat Governing Council 23/16 on the Formulation of a Global Housing Strategy and 23/9 on Global and National Strategies and Frameworks for Improving the Lives of Slum Dwellers beyond the Millennium Development Goals Target,

Acknowledging that a slum household is defined as a group of individuals living under the same roof lacking one or more of the following elements: access to drinking water, access to improved sanitation facilities, secure tenure, sufficient living area and durability of housing,

Noting the irreversibility of urbanization and its potential for advancing human development and poverty reduction and the importance of slum upgrading and prevention in reducing the physical, social and economic vulnerability of slum dwellers, and strengthening the existing social capital in their communities,

Recognizing the need to promote inclusive slum upgrading and prevention strategies that go beyond physical and environmental improvements and ensure that slums are integrated into the political, social, cultural, and economic dimensions of cities with a view to reducing urban poverty and inequality,

Underlining that new and additional actions must be taken at all levels, taking into account the wide variation of slum and housing conditions across the world,

Noting with appreciation the initiative of the kingdom of Morocco to provide policy and technical advice in collaboration with UN-Habitat in the areas of housing and slum upgrading, as part of the Global Housing Strategy,

1. *Invites* Member States to implement the universal principles for slum upgrading and prevention such as prohibiting unlawful evictions, empowering women and youth, making slum upgrading interventions affordable and accessible, ensuring public participation regardless of race, sex, religious affiliation, and socio-economic status, and promoting accountability and transparency in all programmes;
 2. *Encourages* Member States to consider the possibility of formulating, implementing and promoting inclusive urban policies, legislation, and housing strategies that ensure efficient institutional frameworks, mechanisms for decentralization and strengthening of local authorities, providing mixed land-uses and tenure types to enhance local development and sustainable participatory slum upgrading and prevention;
 3. *Invites* Member States to apply more systematically urban planning methods including participatory processes adapted to the needs of incremental urbanization standards and compact, better integrated and connected urban development patterns;
 4. *Invites* Member States to increase allocation of financial and human resources for slum upgrading and prevention and establishing financing strategies that mobilize public subsidies and income generated by land regularization and reallocation processes to develop investment plans for infrastructure and services;
 5. *Invites* Member States to promote housing policies integrating sustainable approaches for energy efficiency in housing and human settlements respecting the environment and using innovative techniques and materials;
 6. *Invites* Member States to establish or strengthen national or local entities such as urban forums or national habitat committees to facilitate multi-sectoral dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders, including as a means of preparation for the Habitat III Conference;
 7. *Acknowledges* the role of the “United Nations Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing as a Component of the Right to an Adequate Standard of Living” and, in this regard, encourages UN-Habitat to strengthen coordination with this office.
 8. *Invites* Member States to define and reinforce new national monitoring systems and national goals for halving the proportion of people living in slums, taking into account the experience gained so far in seeking to improve the living conditions of slum dwellers;
 9. *Calls upon* Member States, in achieving the aforementioned goal, to prioritise slum upgrading and prevention strategies and to refrain from resorting to forced evictions;
 10. *Invites* Member States to enhance the exchange of best practices in the framework of South-South cooperation with local authorities and Habitat Agenda Partners;
 11. *Appreciates* the progress made by the “Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries”, “Upgrading of Slums and Informal Settlements in Asia” and the “Enabling Strategy to moving to scale in Brazil and other countries in Latin America” and requests UN-Habitat to continue its support of such programmes in accordance with its overall work programme and budget.
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