



Twenty-fourth session  
Nairobi, 15–19 April 2013

## Draft resolution on promoting sustainable urban development by creating improved economic opportunities for all, with special reference to youth and gender

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* paragraph 4 of the Habitat Agenda, which recognizes that sustainable development of human settlements encompasses economic development, social development and environmental protection, with full respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Recalling* paragraph 155 of the Habitat Agenda, which recognizes that urban economies are integral to the process of economic transformation and development and that they are a prerequisite for the creation of a diversified economic base capable of generating employment opportunities,

*Recalling* paragraph 115 of the Habitat Agenda, which recognizes that the eradication of poverty requires, *inter alia*, creating employment opportunities, equal and universal access to economic opportunities and special efforts to facilitate such access for the disadvantaged,

*Recalling* paragraphs 158-161 of the Habitat Agenda, which urge Governments to, *inter alia*, formulate and implement financial policies that stimulate urban employment opportunities, offer opportunities for urban economic activities by facilitating access of small and medium-sized enterprises, including the informal sector, to credit and finance and streamline legal and administrative procedures,

*Recalling* paragraph 119 of the Habitat Agenda, which encourages Governments and other Habitat Agenda partners to foster economic policies that have a positive impact on the employment and income of women in both formal and informal sectors,

*Recalling* paragraphs 13, 33, 45 and 120 of the Habitat Agenda, which recognize the importance of working in partnership with young people in human settlements management and development and of their empowerment to participate in decision-making in order to improve urban livelihoods and contribute to sustainable human settlements,

*Recalling* paragraph 76 of the Habitat Agenda, which requests Governments to consider the adoption of innovative instruments that capture gains in land value,

*Recalling* the Governing Council resolution 20/7 of April 2005, which requested Governments and local authorities to foster gender equality and empowerment of women within the context of sustainable urban development,

*Recalling* the Governing Council resolution 21/6 of April 2007, which requested UN-Habitat to establish an Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-led Development with aim to strengthening the agency's work on urban youth through youth-led initiatives, including through vocational training and grants to promote entrepreneurship and employment for youth,

*Recalling also* the Governing Council resolution 23/17 of April 2011, which encouraged Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to review and improve land-based tax systems and create mechanisms for broadening land-based revenue streams, including by improving the competencies and capacities of local and regional authorities in the field of land and property valuation and taxation,

*Recognizing* paragraph 135 of the Rio+20 outcome document entitled *The Future We Want* in which governments committed themselves to promote an integrated approach to planning and building sustainable cities and urban settlements and the generation of decent jobs,

*Noting* with appreciation the appointment of a special envoy on youth by the Secretary-General in January 2013 with the aim of promoting the engagement of youth in the United Nations system,

*Taking note* of the theme paper presented by the Executive Director,

*Noting with appreciation* the renewed emphasis of UN-Habitat as reflected in its proposed Strategic Plan 2014-2019, on urban economy, and the role of urban planning, innovative financing and economic empowerment of youth and women in the creation of sustainable cities,

1. *Encourages* Governments to apply good urban planning policies to enhance economic productivity and equity, to implement economic empowerment programmes that create opportunities, with special reference to youth and women, and to adopt innovative tools for generating additional resources for local authorities in addressing urban planning matters including through land and property value capture;
2. *Encourages* Governments to foster a participatory approach to sustainable human settlements through the development and support of strategies and mechanisms that encourage open and inclusive dialogue among all interested parties, with special attention to the needs and priorities of youth, women, and vulnerable population groups in urban and rural areas including children, elderly, people with disabilities, and minorities;
3. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue working with partners to promote pro-poor land-based financing as a means to support urban development, densification and extension through, *inter alia*, land and property value capture and land and property taxation by documenting and disseminating good practices and developing innovative tools and instruments;
4. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen UN-Habitat's knowledge base, disseminate that knowledge to member states and provide support to member states on urban economy and municipal finance, including documenting and disseminating good practices and tools on the economics of urban form, economic development strategies, urban small-scale and informal economies, and economic empowerment of youth and women;
5. *Requests* the Executive Director to mainstream cross-cutting issues, including gender, young men and women in UN-Habitat's work on economic development and empowerment and also to continue the work in the Youth 21 process and to promote the participation of youth by supporting the Secretary General's Special Envoy on Youth in the further engagement of young people;
6. *Invites* relevant Habitat Agenda Partners to provide resources to UN-Habitat to support its work on mainstreaming youth and gender, promoting the role of cities in creating improved economic opportunities for all, particularly for youth and women, and its initiatives on local economic development and innovative revenue generation for local authorities;
7. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution at the twenty-fifth Governing Council.