



Twenty-fourth session
Nairobi, 15–19 April 2013

Proceedings of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its twenty-fourth session

I. Organization of the session (agenda items 1–4)

A. Opening of the session

1. The twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) was opened at 10.30 a.m. on Monday, 15 April 2013, by Mr. Albert Nsengiyumva (Rwanda), President of the Governing Council.
2. The formal opening of the session was preceded by a welcoming a cappella performance by the Moipei Quartet.
3. Opening statements were made by Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde, Director General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, who also read a statement on behalf of Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations; Mr. Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-Habitat; Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya; Mr. Evans Kidero, Governor of Nairobi county; Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, United Nations Special Adviser on the post-2015 development agenda; Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Ms. Aminata Traore, Chair of the UN-Habitat Advisory Group on Gender Issues and former Minister of Culture of Mali. The Council also heard a pre-recorded statement by Mr. Kandeh K. Yumkella, Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).
4. In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Nsengiyumva thanked Mr. Kenyatta for taking the time, so soon after his election as President, to attend the session to open it officially. His presence was a clear manifestation of the importance that the Government of Kenya attached to improving the living conditions of the people of Kenya and to the work of UN-Habitat.
5. In her statement, Ms. Zewde congratulated Mr. Kenyatta on his recent inauguration and the people of Kenya for the peaceful and orderly conduct of the 2013 elections, which were a milestone for democracy and an important step in the implementation of the country's new constitution. The United Nations, she said, was committed to supporting Kenya's efforts to achieve development and good governance. Kenya had been a vital member of the United Nations since its independence, as reflected in the presence in Nairobi of the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UN-Habitat. The UN-Habitat Governing Council was meeting at an opportune moment following the first universal session of the UNEP Governing Council, which was a landmark in strengthening UNEP and establishing Nairobi as the environment capital of the world. It was an important time for the efforts spearheaded by the Secretary-General to reform the operation of the United Nations and increase efficiency; as part of those efforts a number of United Nations functions were being consolidated in single locations and the United Nations Office at Nairobi, which was working to upgrade the facilities in Nairobi to the standards of New York, Geneva and Vienna and to create a centre of global excellence, was in a strong position to serve as one such location.

6. In his statement, Mr. Clos congratulated Mr. Kenyatta on his recent election and the people of Kenya for the exemplary manner in which the elections had been conducted. He expressed gratitude to member States and partners for their financial and moral support to UN-Habitat over the years, and he welcomed the appointment of the new Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Ms. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira.

7. He drew attention to two key issues, namely, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the role of sustainable urbanization in development. Successes had been achieved in cutting extreme poverty, providing safe drinking water and reducing maternal and child mortality rates, but many challenges remained, notably in sanitation and the fight against killer diseases. Although the target of improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers had been achieved, the number of new arrivals in slums had brought the total number of slum dwellers to 863 million in 2012, surpassing the level in 2000. He urged Governments and partners to continue to work on the Millennium Development Goals in the 1,000 days remaining for their achievement and to ensure that the targets on slums and water and sanitation were included in the post-2015 development agenda.

8. Outlining the challenges facing cities and towns, chiefly in developing countries but also in the developed world, he emphasized the proved and positive correlation between urbanization and development despite those challenges. The strategic goal of UN-Habitat in the coming years was to promote the role of urbanization in achieving sustainable development, building on the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which recognized that integrated urban planning and management could promote prosperity and jobs for future generations. Combined efforts were needed to change the negative perception of urbanization and view it as an opportunity and source of sustainable development. In conclusion, he urged member States to give strong political and financial support to the work of UN-Habitat and to use Habitat III as an opportunity to set a new urban agenda.

9. Mr. Kenyatta, declaring the session officially open, recognized the crucial role of UN-Habitat and UNEP in helping developing countries to address the challenges of sustainable development. Welcoming the decision to strengthen UNEP and the convening for the first time of a UNEP Governing Council with universal membership in Nairobi in February 2013, he expressed the hope that the current session of the Governing Council, through its discussions on governance, would take measures that would lead to a similar outcome for UN-Habitat. He affirmed the desire of the Government of Kenya to maintain the position of Nairobi as the central hub of the United Nations system in the developing world and pledged more resources for the improvement of United Nations facilities there. Since independence, the Government of Kenya had advocated strong multilateralism as the basis for peace and prosperity; the solutions to global challenges would not emerge from only one part of the world and called for coalitions of various countries and organizations. The Government of Kenya supported international law and was a champion of sovereign rights, and it expected others to reciprocate.

10. The theme of the current session of the Governing Council, “Sustainable urban development: the role of cities in creating improved economic opportunities for all, with special reference to youth and gender”, was opportune, he said, and provided member States with an opportunity to consider the challenges of urbanization and solutions to those challenges. The trends in urbanization in Kenya matched the global pattern of rapid urban expansion; the lives of many city dwellers were blighted by poverty, illness and vulnerability to natural and human-caused disasters, leading to the breakdown of social harmony and security. In line with the UN-Habitat agenda, the new Government of Kenya had pledged in its manifesto to tackle the challenges of sustainable urban development; to generate economic opportunities, especially for young people; to expand entrepreneurship; to promote economic growth; and to devolve power to local governments. The Government would continue to promote the inclusion of urbanization in the post-2015 development agenda and to support the governance review of UN-Habitat to ensure the organization’s ability to deliver its mandate effectively and efficiently. He also called for universal membership of the UN-Habitat Governing Council, like that of UNEP.

11. Mr. Kidero welcomed participants to the city of Nairobi and recalled the historic promulgation of the new Kenyan constitution in 2010, which had provided for the devolution of governmental authority to one national Government and 47 county governments, thereby allowing greater responsiveness in respect of public goods and services at the local level. Nairobi, as host city to the global headquarters of UN-Habitat and UNEP and the only United Nations headquarters in a developing country, was well placed as a leading diplomatic hub in the region. The location of the United Nations Office at Nairobi afforded Kenya considerable direct and indirect benefits and provided significant opportunities for its citizens. He pledged to continue working closely with UN-Habitat, UNEP and the United Nations Office at Nairobi, ensuring that his administration’s

strategies took into account the needs and presence of the United Nations in the city and responding to any incidents and emergencies in accordance with its mandate. In closing, he wished the Governing Council fruitful deliberations.

12. Ms. Mohamed congratulated the President and the people of Kenya on the recent successful general election. She stressed the importance of a holistic approach to economic development, social inclusion and environmental sustainability in the international framework for sustainable development. In the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, “The future we want”, Heads of State and Government and other high-level representatives had highlighted the need to strengthen the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and had emphasized that, when well planned, urbanization represented a powerful engine for development. Nevertheless, cities were currently failing to provide economic opportunities for all and systemic barriers impeded progress for certain groups, including young people, women and the disabled. The youth bulge in many countries had produced a severe crisis of unemployment, leading to widespread disillusion among young people. In many cities, the informal economy was growing significantly faster than the formal economy, which had a critical impact on the lives of women in particular. As the deadline for the attainment of the targets of the Millennium Development Goals approached, the time had come to assess achievements, failures and lessons learned. The post-2015 development agenda needed to be ambitious and universal and should aim for three broad achievements: first, it must reduce inequality based on human rights, the rule of law and non-discrimination; second, it must transform economies, providing new job opportunities and sustainable production and consumption patterns, empowering women and leaving nobody behind; and, third, it must ensure that environmental sustainability was an integral part of a holistic development framework.

13. Mr. Steiner said that the partnership between UNEP and UN-Habitat had evolved over decades, and had done so not merely as a coincidence or a result of co-location. UNEP and UN-Habitat were inextricably linked, working together on the nexus between environment and urbanization, tackling the need for sustainability of resources and for cities designed to provide spaces where people could thrive. Cities needed to provide decent jobs and adequate infrastructure and living conditions for their citizens, but also had to address global environmental challenges such as climate change and energy and resource efficiency. It was necessary to find ways for the rising global population to flourish in cities while recognizing the Earth’s limitations and decoupling the provision of services from the degradation of natural resources. The theme of the current session, “Sustainable urban development: the role of cities in creating improved economic opportunities for all, with special reference to youth and gender”, reflected the reality that the majority of the world’s population currently lived in cities. Historically, urbanization had often been chaotic, characterized by a lack of planning and ad hoc development. The challenge was to reveal the opportunities in urbanization, providing jobs and sustainability of resources, and transforming urbanization into a driver of development. Sustainable development and the answer to the development challenges of the twenty-first century were to be found in the simultaneous pursuit of social, economic and environmental progress so that modern-day development allowed the cities of the twenty-second century to continue as places of opportunity for their citizens.

14. Following the Executive Director’s introduction of the 15 members of the Advisory Group on Gender Issues, which had been established pursuant to Governing Council resolution 23/17, Ms. Traore, the Group’s Chair, said that the Group was committed to fulfilling its mandate against the backdrop of a complex and difficult global economic and social situation. She highlighted the need to rethink the concept of development in striving to attain the targets of the Millennium Development Goals and said that the post-2015 development agenda represented a turning point in the pursuit of sustainable development and an opportunity to reassess the three pillars of the Charter of the United Nations, namely, peace, development and human rights. The Group, she said, would submit for consideration by the Governing Council at the current session a draft resolution that would provide the necessary impetus to support UN-Habitat in the future.

15. In his pre-recorded statement, Mr. Yumkella observed that more people in Africa were currently living in cities than in rural areas and that, in 2014, Africa would have the world’s highest rate of urbanization. He also drew attention to the feminization of migration – relating, in particular, to young women – as more and more people were moving to cities in search of a better life, amenities and decent jobs. It accordingly stood to reason that urban planning must be integrated into industrial strategies, ensuring access to services and food. In that process, Governments and planners could not afford to think in silos. Happily, there were abundant examples across the world of constructive cooperation and he expressed the hope that members of the UN-Habitat Governing Council would take due account of them.

16. Particular concern in today's urbanizing world was aroused by the problem of air pollution and its effects on human health. That problem was particularly acute in Africa, where 80 per cent of the population still depended on charcoal and firewood for heating and cooking, causing untold premature deaths, especially among women and children, and leading to the wide-scale destruction of forests. The only response to that problem was properly planned urbanization: urban development strategies must be well structured, and public policy should look beyond the short term. In addition, if migrants to cities lacked skills they would bring further problems with them: to remedy that urbanization must be closely linked to education policies. In that context, he drew attention to the forthcoming third session of the Vienna Energy Forum, to be held in Vienna from 28 to 30 May 2013, which would be addressed by the UN-Habitat Executive Director, and stressed that energy efficiency could not be pursued in isolation from urbanization and that energy must be upheld as a goal for sustainable development. In conclusion, he cited the observation by the Secretary-General that energy was the golden thread that connected economic growth, social equity and environmental sustainability.

17. The text of the Secretary-General's message is reproduced in annex II to the present proceedings.

B. Attendance

18. The following States members of the Governing Council were represented: Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

19. The following States not members of the Governing Council participated as observers: Angola, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Iraq, Ireland, Kenya, Kuwait, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, Niger, Norway, Oman, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

20. Observers to UN-Habitat for the Holy See and the State of Palestine also participated.

21. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: the United Nations Federal Credit Union, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the World Bank and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

22. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations also attended: the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, the European Union, the International Ecological Safety Cooperative Organization (IESCO) and the League of Arab States.

23. Representatives of national and regional assemblies and parliaments, local authorities and national, regional and international associations of local authorities attended the meeting, as did representatives of non-governmental and private-sector organizations.

24. A full list of those attending the session may be found in the list of participants, which is available under the symbol HSP/GC/24/INF/7.

C. Election of officers

25. At the 1st plenary meeting of the session, on Monday, 15 April 2013, in the absence of a nomination for the presidency by the Western European and other States, the Governing Council elected Ms. Amal Pepple (Nigeria), representing the group of African States, as President of the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session. Speaking on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States, the representative of Brazil said that, while those States had been expected to nominate a candidate for Rapporteur, they proposed instead to submit a nomination for Vice-President.

26. The Governing Council then elected the following officers for the session:

Vice-Presidents:

Mr. Sergey Trepelkov (Russian Federation)

Mr. Fernando Rolandelli (Argentina)

Mr. Abdul Mannan Khan (Bangladesh)

Rapporteur:

Mr. Franz Marré (Germany)

D. Credentials

27. In pursuance of rule 16, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, the Bureau reported to the Governing Council at its 7th plenary meeting, on the morning of Friday, 19 April 2013, that it had examined the credentials submitted by delegations attending the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council and had found them to be in order. The Governing Council approved the report of the Bureau on credentials at the same meeting.

E. Adoption of the agenda

28. At its 1st plenary meeting, on Monday, 15 April 2013, the Governing Council had before it documents HSP/GC/24/1 and Add.1. The Governing Council adopted the provisional agenda for the twenty-fourth session, as set out in document HSP/GC/24/1 as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Credentials.
4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
5. Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters.
6. Dialogue on the special theme for the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council.
7. Work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2014–2015.
8. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report of the session.
11. Closure of the session.

F. Organization of work

29. At its 1st plenary meeting the Governing Council established a sessional committee of the whole, to which it allocated agenda items 5, 7 and 8. The Council would consider item 6 and issues arising under items 5, 7 and other items during the plenary meetings of the Council.

30. The work of the plenary meetings for the first three days of the session was divided into two segments: a high-level segment, featuring general debate by ministers and other high-level representatives, would be held on the first and second days and a dialogue of Governments with local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners on the special theme of the meeting would be held on the third day.

31. The Governing Council also established a drafting committee to consider the draft resolutions submitted to the Governing Council. It was agreed that the draft resolutions would first be considered by the Committee of the Whole, which would submit them to the drafting committee for further consideration, and that following their consideration by the drafting committee, they would be submitted to the Governing Council through the Committee of the Whole for possible adoption in plenary.

32. In considering the agenda items, the Governing Council had before it the documents listed for each item in the annotations to the agenda for the session (HSP/GC/24/1/Add.1/Rev.1).

G. Policy statement by the Executive Director

33. In presenting his policy statement the Executive Director outlined the main strategic lines to be developed by UN-Habitat during the biennium 2014–2015. The pace of urbanization and the number of people living in urban settings had increased exponentially over the course of the past century; more than 50 per cent of the world's population was now living in urban areas, a figure that was likely to rise to 75 per cent by 2050.

34. The fastest rates of urbanization were in the developing world, where millions of people faced a number of challenges and where it was more difficult to govern the process without adequate institutional and financial measures. The first challenge was unemployment, which was a serious problem in cities and towns in developing countries. Another challenge was posed by the hundreds of millions of people still living under life-threatening conditions in slums, with inadequate urban basic services, especially water and sanitation, drainage, transport and energy. Third, many towns and cities were expanding rapidly without due regard to basic urban planning. Finally, recent decades had seen increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters and had led to higher levels of vulnerability for the urban poor.

35. Despite those challenges, there was a clearly established positive correlation between planned urbanization and development. The urban economy was more productive, owing to the proximity of the factors of production, increased specialization and market size. Proper urbanization could and should be used as a powerful tool for creating employment and livelihoods.

36. The Programme's new strategic lines would address new priorities, namely, urban legislation, urban planning and urban economy. Those priorities were needed because urban planning needed to be grounded in rules and norms and it was therefore necessary to deepen knowledge of urban planning and legislation. It was also necessary to study further the link between urbanization and the economy, particularly as economic geographers had determined that density levels had to be managed to ensure proximity to factors of production. The design of urban areas would have an impact on the productivity of cities.

37. UN-Habitat would present its plan for administrative, programme and budget reform and its change of direction towards new emerging and pressing issues related to urbanization. Urbanization was taking place within a weakened global economy, and that had implications for urban economies and employment, particularly youth employment. The world had to be reshaped by redistributing wealth, promoting human rights, creating decent jobs and ensuring adequate housing. A business-as-usual scenario was not an option.

38. UN-Habitat would continue with the provision of water within urban settings and surrounding areas, in addition to focusing on adequate mobility and public transport, adequate access to energy and, in particular, the neglected area of urban drainage and sewerage, which had suffered from a lack of investment. A business model that could deliver those services had to be developed, as they could mean the difference between a good and a poor quality of life.

39. UN-Habitat was currently in the process of enlarging its portfolio of national and local level planning. African mayors had told UN-Habitat that the most pressing problems faced by them were unemployment, a lack of livelihoods and in-existent public services. Local governments needed support in addressing those overwhelming problems. UN-Habitat advocated that, in order to address those problems, countries should adopt national urban policies in which they compared current policies to projected needs 20 or 30 years in the future. The natural tendency was towards the development of megacities; incentives therefore had to be developed to promote market towns, as well as small and intermediate cities, with each country devising strategies suited to its particular needs. Energy, transport, increased density and planned city extensions all needed to be planned, as unplanned growth would lead to the growth of slums.

40. Rapid urbanization was overwhelming the capacity of Governments. The main difference between a planned and an unplanned city was the amount of public space. Without space urban productivity and efficiency could not increase. A longer-term vision was needed as the development of a business model for building a city took about 15 years and had to be bankable. New partnerships were needed to address such issues. Countries needed support in moving forward to adopt a new strategic approach. To date, 20 countries, including 10 in Africa, had requested assistance in drafting national urban policies, and 30 cities had asked for assistance in respect of planned urban extensions.

41. The post-2015 development agenda, the post-Rio+20 sustainable development goals and the Habitat III process must take into account the potential of sustainable urbanization to promote long-term development. Habitat III, scheduled for 2016, would take place after the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda. United Nations focal points for local governments had not been heavily involved in the discussions on that agenda, and Habitat III should therefore provide a platform for local and regional governments to add their voice to the debate on sustainable development.

H. Work of the Committee of the Whole (agenda items 5, 7 and 8)

42. The Committee of the Whole established by the Governing Council at its 1st plenary meeting was chaired by Mr. Abdul Mannan Khan (Bangladesh), one of the three vice-presidents of the Governing Council and, in his absence, Mr. Sergey Trepelkov (Russian Federation), a fellow vice-president. It held eight meetings between 15 April and 19 April. At its 1st meeting, on the afternoon of Monday, 15 April 2013, the Chair informed the Committee that it would consider agenda items 5, 7 and 8.

43. At its 8th and final meeting, in the evening of Friday, 19 April 2013, the Committee adopted the report of its deliberations. At its meetings, it had succeeded in achieving consensus on all the agenda items before it except the draft resolution on governance. The report of the Committee of the Whole is set out in annex V to the present proceedings.

I. Work of the drafting committee and adoption of resolutions (agenda items 5, 7 and 8)

44. The drafting committee held six meetings during the session and reached agreement by consensus on 15 draft resolutions.

45. Those 15 resolutions, as adopted by the Governing Council at its 8th plenary meeting, in the evening of Friday, 19 April 2013, are set out in annex I to the present proceedings.

II. High-level segment and dialogue on the special theme for the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council (agenda items 5–7)

A. High-level segment

46. The Governing Council took up agenda items 5–7 at its 2nd plenary meeting, at which time it began the high-level general debate on those items. The general debate continued at its 3rd and 4th meetings, on Monday and Tuesday, 15 and 16 April 2013. A summary of the general debate by the President of the Governing Council is set forth in annex III to the present proceedings.

B. Dialogue on the special theme for the twenty-fourth session

47. At its 5th and 6th plenary meetings, on Wednesday, 17 April 2013, the Council held a dialogue on the special theme for the session under agenda item 6. The dialogue featured four panel discussions, each with a moderator, and was chaired by the President of the Governing Council. The panel discussions covered four specific aspects of the theme: economics of urban form, financing of urban development, youth economic empowerment and women's economic empowerment. A summary of the dialogue is set forth in annex IV to the present proceedings.

III. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council (agenda item 8)

48. The Governing Council considered the agenda item at its 8th plenary meeting, in the evening of Friday, 19 April 2013. It adopted decision 24/1 on the provisional agenda for the twenty-fifth session, the text of which is reproduced in annex I to the present proceedings.

49. On the recommendation of the Bureau, it was decided that the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council should be held from 20 to 24 April 2015 at UN-Habitat headquarters, Nairobi.

IV. Other matters (agenda item 9)

50. No other matters were discussed.

V. Adoption of the report of the session (agenda item 10)

51. At the Council's 8th plenary meeting, in the evening of Friday, 19 April 2013, the Chair of the Committee of the Whole gave an oral presentation on the deliberations of the Committee.

52. The report of the session was adopted by the Governing Council at its 8th plenary meeting, in the evening of Friday, 19 April 2013, on the basis of the draft that had been circulated during the session and on the understanding that the Secretariat and the Rapporteur would be entrusted with its finalization.

VI. Closure of the session (agenda item 11)

53. In his closing statement, the Executive Director said that the need for sustainable urban development was now widely recognized within the United Nations system and beyond. Among member States, there was broad consensus on the significance of the Habitat III conference in 2016, for which preparations would shortly begin. Steps would be taken to ensure that the preparatory process and the conference itself were inclusive of all relevant stakeholders, including other entities of the United Nations and non-governmental stakeholders. The seventh session of the World Urban Forum, to be held in Colombia in 2014, offered an important opportunity to exchange experiences and prepare better both for Habitat III and for the post-2015 development agenda.

54. The resolutions, work programme and strategic plan adopted by the Governing Council had set a clear medium-term mandate for UN-Habitat and would spur redoubled efforts in key areas of work. Noting that effective resource mobilization would be crucial for the Programme to be able to fulfil its role, he thanked those member States that had pledged financial support and urged others to follow suit. He assured the Council that the organizational review of UN-Habitat would be concluded as soon as possible.

55. The new papersmart approach followed by UN-Habitat, whereby documents were distributed in electronic format only, was expected to have yielded savings. A number of reports and a catalogue of projects had also been uploaded to the online portal, providing a detailed overview of the Programme.

56. He expressed appreciation to all those who had helped to make the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council a success, thanking in particular the President of Kenya, Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta, and the Government of Kenya for their support.

57. Closing statements were also delivered by the representatives of Japan, Kenya and the United States of America.

58. The meeting and session were declared closed at 8 p.m. on Friday, 19 April 2013.

Annex I

Decision and resolutions adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its twenty-fourth session

A. Decision

Decision No.	Title	Date of adoption	Page
24/1	Provisional agenda of the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme	19 April 2013	10

B. Resolutions

Resolution No.	Title	Date of adoption	Page
24/1	World Cities Day	19 April 2013	10
24/2	Strengthening the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on urban basic services	19 April 2013	11
24/3	Inclusive and sustainable urban planning and elaboration of international guidelines on urban and territorial planning	19 April 2013	13
24/4	Gender equality and women's empowerment to contribute to sustainable urban development	19 April 2013	15
24/5	Pursuing sustainable development through national urban policies	19 April 2013	16
24/6	Supporting action for the creation of safer cities	19 April 2013	18
24/7	Making slums history: a worldwide challenge	19 April 2013	19
24/8	Regional technical support on sustainable housing and urban development including the Arab States Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development	19 April 2013	21
24/9	Inclusive national and local housing strategies to achieve the Global Housing Strategy paradigm shift	19 April 2013	23
24/10	Urbanization and sustainable urban development in the post-2015 development agenda	19 April 2013	25
24/11	Promoting sustainable urban development by creating improved economic opportunities for all, with special reference to youth and gender	19 April 2013	26
24/12	Youth and sustainable urban development	19 April 2013	27
24/13	Country activities by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme	19 April 2013	29
24/14	Inputs for and support to the preparatory process of the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III)	19 April 2013	31
24/15	Strategic plan for 2014–2019 and the work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2014–2015	19 April 2013	34

Decision 24/1: Provisional agenda for the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

The Governing Council decided that the provisional agenda of its twenty-fifth session would be as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Credentials.
4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
5. Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters.
6. Dialogue on the special theme for the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council.
7. Work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2016–2017.
8. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report of the session.
11. Closure of the session.

*8th plenary meeting
19 April 2013*

Resolution 24/1: World Cities Day

The Governing Council,

Recalling the long-standing commitment of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world, and Governing Council resolution 8/4 of 8 May 1985, which recommended to the General Assembly of the United Nations that, beginning in 1986, the first Monday of October of every year should be called the “Day of Habitat”, with a view to calling upon Governments and people from all walks of life to pay high attention to human settlements issues,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 40/202 of 17 December 1985, by which the Assembly decided to designate the first Monday of October of every year as World Habitat Day,

Recognizing the megatrend of urbanization in human societies, and that cities, having a network of linkages not only extending far from their own boundaries but also playing a leading role in the development of rural areas, are increasingly instrumental to improving people’s living environment and quality,

Recognizing also that over 50 per cent of the global population now live in cities and the ratio continues to rise, that sustainable urban development has therefore become one of the most pressing global challenges in the twenty-first century, and that Governments must pay greater attention to and investigate critical issues in urbanization and make joint efforts to build greener, more liveable, convenient, harmonious and environment-friendly cities,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,¹ and its commitment to planning and building sustainable cities and urban settlements,

¹ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

Recalling also that all participants of Expo 2010 in Shanghai, China, with the common aspiration to recall, renew and advance in the future the theme “Better city, better life”, joined the United Nations, the Bureau International des Expositions and the Organizing Committee of Expo 2010 in adopting the Shanghai Declaration on 31 October 2010, in which it is proposed to nominate 31 October as World Better Cities Day,

Recalling further the resolution adopted at the 151st General Assembly of the Bureau International des Expositions on 11 June 2012 on supporting the establishment of World Better Cities Day,

Convinced that World Better Cities Day, fit for the trend of human societies as well as the goals and missions of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, shall be designated in an appropriate way,

Decides to recommend to the United Nations General Assembly that, beginning in 2014, 31 October of every year should be designated as World Cities Day.

*8th plenary meeting
19 April 2013*

Resolution 24/2: Strengthening the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on urban basic services

The Governing Council,

Recalling its resolution 22/8 of 3 April 2009 on the guidelines on access to basic services for all and the subsequent resolution 23/12 of 15 April 2011 on the coordinated implementation of the guidelines on access to basic services for all and the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities,

Recalling also its resolution 23/17 of 15 April 2011 on sustainable urban development through expanding equitable access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure, by which it encouraged Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to promote public transport and mass transit systems, non-motorized transport and the provision of equitable space for pedestrians and cyclists, along with improvements in road systems and urban connectivity,

Recalling further paragraphs 84, 85 and 86 of the Habitat Agenda, which outline the scope of basic infrastructure and services and recommend actions by Governments at the appropriate level,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,² and its reaffirmed commitments regarding the human right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation, to be progressively realized for populations with full respect for national sovereignty,

Recalling also the priority given in “The future we want” to, among other issues, water and sanitation, energy, sustainable transport, sustainable cities and human settlements,

Underlining the resolve highlighted in “The future we want” to strengthen the institutional framework for sustainable development, underscoring the importance of interlinkages among key issues and challenges and the need for a systematic approach to them at all relevant levels, to enhance coherence, reduce fragmentation and overlap and increase effectiveness, efficiency and transparency, while reinforcing coordination and cooperation,

Recognizing the significance of equitable and adequate access to urban basic services as a foundation for sustainable urbanization and therefore to overall social and economic development,

Recognizing also the need to improve access to safe, clean, affordable, sufficiently available and accessible drinking water and basic sanitation, as well as to improve wastewater management and drainage for sustainable development,

Recognizing further the need to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound mobility and energy services and resources for sustainable development,

² General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

Concerned that equitable access to urban energy, mobility, water, sanitation and waste management services and poor drainage conditions remain major challenges for many people, in particular the urban poor in developing countries,

Recognizing the positive effects of well-managed urban basic services in creating local employment and in increasing urban productivity,

Recognizing also that introducing and maintaining a holistic perspective and integrated planning of basic urban services brings economic benefits through the more efficient use of resources, synergies in the delivery of urban basic services, higher productivity and less waste, thereby promoting improved human welfare, economic growth, job creation and a sustainable environment,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/151 of 20 December 2010, by which the Assembly designated 2012 the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All, and mindful of the subsequent launch by the Secretary-General of his initiative “Sustainable Energy for All”,

Recognizing that transportation is central to sustainable development, as stated in “The future we want”, and cognizant of the five-year action agenda of the Secretary-General, which accords priority to urban transport,

1. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme gradually to expand the scope of the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund and to rename it the “Urban Basic Services Trust Fund”, in order to increase site servicing, in support of the implementation of the Programme’s work programme and its various components, such as those on urban legislation, land and governance, housing and slum-upgrading, and basic services, including sustainable solutions for water and sanitation, energy, mobility, waste management and drainage;

2. *Requests* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to ensure that the Urban Basic Services Trust Fund uses the earmarked sectoral funds as specified, while allowing the funding of integrated solutions for urban basic services;

3. *Invites* Governments and other development partners to support the Urban Basic Services Trust Fund;

4. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to maintain its efforts on urban water and sanitation with an enhanced focus on the poor in informal settlements;

5. *Also calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to continue providing appropriate support to the regional initiatives and frameworks on urban basic services that can complement and facilitate the implementation of the Programme’s work on urban basic services at the regional and local levels;

6. *Calls upon* member States to galvanize efforts to make universal access to sustainable energy services a priority;

7. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to promote access to sustainable energy, particularly for the poor, including through decentralized options for renewable energy generation;

8. *Calls upon* member States to pay due attention to increased flood-risk prevention, including planning and protecting such utilities as sustainable drainage systems in order to increase settlements’ resilience and to provide protection against the adverse impacts of climate change, such as flooding and storm-water surges;

9. *Also calls upon* member States to step up efforts to improve urban mobility, to ensure better access to goods and services and to reduce traffic accidents and air pollution through improved urban planning, better public transport and facilities for non-motorized transport, such as walking and cycling;

10. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to promote sustainable mobility solutions in human settlements, especially cities, through affordable, convenient and safe mass transport and transit systems and pro-poor infrastructure development;

11. *Calls upon* the Executive Director to increase awareness of urban energy, mobility, drainage and waste management as further key elements of urban basic services;

12. *Calls upon* member States, Habitat Agenda partners and beneficiaries of the Urban Basic Services Trust Fund to make full use of the guidelines on access to basic services for all;

13. *Calls upon* the Executive Director to include criteria for enhancing integrated planning in the appraisal of all programmes and projects under the trust fund;

14. *Also calls upon* the Executive Director and member States to promote multi-sectoral and inter-organizational approaches, with a view to increasing policy coherence and institutional capacities, and to focus on the urban poor in line with the guidelines on access to basic services for all and the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities;

15. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, on the chosen operating modalities of the trust fund and on its performance.

*8th plenary meeting
19 April 2013*

Resolution 24/3: Inclusive and sustainable urban planning and elaboration of international guidelines on urban and territorial planning

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 67/216 of 21 December 2012, which underlines that, in view of the current rapid urbanization process, the development and promotion of adequate infrastructure and basic services, as well as effective urban planning and design, are of utmost importance for the creation of socially inclusive, economically prosperous and energy-efficient cities that maximize the benefits of agglomeration economies, minimize the demand for urban mobility and transport and provide conditions necessary for job creation and urban economic growth,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,³ and reaffirming its commitment to promoting an integrated approach to planning and building sustainable cities and urban settlements, including through supporting local authorities, increasing public awareness and enhancing the participation of urban residents, including the poor, in decision-making,

Considering the Executive Director’s report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session,⁴ on the coordinated implementation of the guidelines on access to basic services for all and the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities, and its recommendation to develop complementary guidelines on urban and territorial planning so as to facilitate the implementation of existing guidelines by providing a reference document for intersectoral and multilevel planning,

Recalling the Vancouver Declaration of the World Planners Congress of 2006,⁵ based on the following principles: promotion of sustainable development; achievement of integrated planning; integration of plans with budgets; planning with partners and stakeholders; observance of the subsidiarity principle; promotion of market responsiveness; ensuring access to land; development of appropriate planning tools; ensuring a pro-poor and inclusive orientation; and recognition of cultural diversity,

Recalling also the International Conference on Inclusive Urban Planning, held on 18 and 19 February 2013, in New Delhi, at which it was noted that cities in the developing countries have developed largely in an unplanned manner where market-driven responses in respect of urban lands do not automatically self-regulate,

Recognizing the challenges arising from poorly planned and managed urbanization in terms of urban poverty and deprivation, alongside the fact that urban planning needs to respond dynamically to the changing realities of urbanization, economic processes and demand-driven development challenges,

Recognizing also that there is a substantial proportion of the urban population whose livelihood spaces and activities, as well as spaces for living and working, lie outside the current systems of formal planning and sustainable urban growth and that, in that context, the inclusion of the poor in the formal planning process is crucial,

³ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

⁴ HSP/GC/24/2/Add.8.

⁵ Available from www.globalplannersnetwork.org/pdf/06declarationenglish.pdf.

Recognizing further the need to coordinate planning policies at various levels of territories to support systems of cities,

Recalling the priority given by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to urban planning as one of the main objectives of its strategic framework and workplan,

1. *Urges* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to promote responsible planning in member States through capacity-building and awareness-raising with local governments and the involvement of people, focusing on the urban poor, to create healthier and sustainable cities;
2. *Encourages* member States to promote people-oriented participatory and inclusive approaches, by involving local governments and people, in particular the urban poor, in the preparation and implementation of city plans, to promote equal access to opportunities, infrastructure and services that urban and local areas offer;
3. *Invites* member States and Habitat Agenda partners to progressively reform the regulatory and institutional frameworks for urban planning, to recognize the urban poor as stakeholders and to promote strategic partnerships with local governments in urban planning processes;
4. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives to initiate the elaboration of international guidelines on urban and territorial planning that will provide a global framework for improving policies, plans and designs for more compact, socially inclusive, sustainable, better integrated and connected cities and territories and to present the draft guidelines to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session for approval;
5. *Encourages* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in collaboration with member States and Habitat Agenda partners to elaborate a set of agreed universal principles for urban and territorial planning at the city level, in particular regarding planned city extensions, at the regional and the national level, with a particular focus on national urban policies;
6. *Also encourages* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in collaboration with member States and Habitat Agenda partners to elaborate these principles in the framework of decentralization, as provided by the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities and the guidelines on access to basic services for all;
7. *Further encourages* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in collaboration with member States and Habitat Agenda partners to elaborate a set of recommendations for central Governments, local authorities, civil society and experts, as well as other relevant stakeholders, to improve urban and territorial planning;
8. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in the drafting of international guidelines on urban and territorial planning to engage in an inclusive consultative process with the regional offices of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, national Governments, international associations of local authorities, including United Cities and Local Governments, all relevant United Nations organizations, international finance institutions, development agencies, relevant international professional associations and members of the Habitat Professional Forum, including the International Society of City and Regional Planners and non-governmental organizations, and other national and international stakeholders, in order to inform the drafting process with best practices and lessons learned from different contexts and at different scales;
9. *Invites* Governments and other Habitat Agenda partners to technically and financially support the process for the elaboration of the guidelines and to host related field projects;
10. *Encourages* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to use already planned regional and international meetings on urban development in its setting of the road map towards the guidelines;
11. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*8th plenary meeting
19 April 2013*

Resolution 24/4: Gender equality and women's empowerment to contribute to sustainable urban development

The Governing Council,

Recalling the strategic plan for 2014–2019 and the work programme and budget for 2014–2015, both of which have a clear mandate to strengthen the systematic integration of a gender perspective in all the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

Recalling its resolutions 17/11 of 14 May 1999 on women in human settlements development and in the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), 19/16 of 9 May 2003 on women's role and rights in human settlements development and slum upgrading, 20/7 of 8 April 2005 on gender equality in human settlements development, 21/2 of 20 April 2007 on the medium-term strategic and institutional plan for 2008–2013, 21/9 of 20 April 2007 on women's land and property rights and access to finance, and 22/7 of 3 April 2009 on the work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2010–2011,

Reaffirming its commitment to resolution 23/1 of 15 April 2011, emphasizing the need for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme systematically to integrate a gender perspective in all its work, including through the establishment of the Advisory-Group on Gender Issues, in order to achieve the effective and efficient implementation of gender mainstreaming,

Reaffirming also its commitment to resolution 2012/24 of the Economic and Social Council of 27 July 2012, on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system, by which the Council requested the United Nations system to continue working collaboratively to enhance gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system, including by continuing to align gender equality programming with national priorities; ensuring that entities within the United Nations system dedicated adequate financial and human resources to gender equality programming at the country level; strengthening the coordination of gender-responsive operational activities; enhancing the use of accountability mechanisms, including at the country level; securing technical expertise for gender equality in programme planning and implementation and providing ongoing capacity development in the area; and promoting the systematic use and analysis of data disaggregated by sex and age in the programming work as well as in measuring progress and impact,

Recognizing that persistent gender-related inequalities and women's lack of empowerment in human settlements, as evidenced by their inequitable access to land, property rights and other economic and financial assets, secure tenure, decent housing, essential infrastructure and basic services, and further aggravated by the vulnerability and lack of safety and security of women and girls in urban spaces and their unequal participation in urban governance, create challenges to achieving sustainable urban development,

Commending the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on its work in implementing gender equality and women's empowerment in its policies, programmes and projects, noting that, as stated in several documents, including the comprehensive 2011 evaluation of gender mainstreaming in the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,⁶ much remains to be done,

Reaffirming the importance of cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on gender-equality work, on promoting gender-responsive sustainable urban development,

Acknowledging that, in view of the urgent need to eliminate violence against women in private and public urban spaces, women's gained citizenship rights require women's leadership and involvement in urban governance and in urban planning, including for the design of public urban spaces, investments in public infrastructure and improvements of security and justice for the safety of communities and of women and girls, and their active participation in important international forums, such as the just concluded session of the Commission on the Status of Women, at which three key side events were held on the theme "Elimination and prevention of violence against women and girls",

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen and support the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in executing the two-fold gender strategy comprising, first, the mainstreaming of gender equality and women's empowerment in the normative work and operational programmes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in all key focus areas; and, second, the setting up of policies and programmes needed to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment;

⁶ *Evaluation of Gender Mainstreaming in UN-Habitat*, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, Nairobi, 2011.

2. *Urges* the Executive Director to form partnerships with civil society organizations, including networks of women's leaders in local governments, the private sector, the media, grass-roots women's and community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations and experts, building on their leadership in and knowledge of sustainable and gender-responsive urban development;
3. *Requests* the Executive Director to make optimal use of the Advisory Group on Gender Issues by building on its guidance regarding the overall mainstreaming of gender within the organization and effective integration of gender equality policies and programmes when implementing the strategic plan and programme of work;
4. *Urges* the Executive Director to align the gender policy and plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme with the system-wide action plan on gender equality and women's empowerment;
5. *Invites* national and local governments to develop and strengthen their policies and programmes to effectively support and to collect data disaggregated by sex and age and disseminate information on women's increased representation in local government and women's economic contributions to cities' prosperity; and to address the causes, consequences and impacts of and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls⁷ through prevention measures, with specific attention to women's and girls' safety in private and public spaces, as defined in the Safer Cities Programme and promoted by the Global Network on Safer Cities;
6. *Requests* the Executive Director to allocate adequate resources for gender mainstreaming within the organization's programmes and activities.

*8th plenary meeting
19 April 2013*

Resolution 24/5: Pursuing sustainable development through national urban policies

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 63/221 of 19 December 2008, by which, in paragraph 3, the Assembly invited Governments to encourage the principles and practice of sustainable urbanization and strengthen the role and contribution of their respective local authorities in applying those principles and practice,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/165 of 20 December 2010, by which the General Assembly supported the dissemination and implementation of the international guidelines on decentralization and access to basic services for all adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in its resolutions 21/3 of 20 April 2007 and 22/8 of 3 April 2009,

Recalling Governing Council resolution 23/17 of 15 April 2011, by which the Council encouraged Governments and Habitat Agenda partners seriously to consider the need to increase urban density through intensification of land use, as part of improved urban planning, so as to promote development patterns that allow housing for all, increased job opportunities and reduced urban sprawl, as well as to reduce infrastructure investment costs, the ecological footprint of urban centres and demand for transport and energy use, and to overcome a growing social divide, spatial fragmentation and the resulting inefficient land-use patterns,

Recognizing paragraph 226 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",⁸ on the adoption of the global ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, including its programme on sustainable buildings and construction, and the need for a supportive urban infrastructure for sustainable lifestyles,

Taking note of the Nairobi Declaration of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, adopted at its fourth session on 23 March 2012, by which African ministers responsible for housing and urban development committed themselves to, inter alia, strengthening and

⁷ See the agreed conclusions of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women, 4–15 March 2013.

⁸ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

developing transformative national urban policies and adopting strategies for realizing smarter and more sustainable urban development through the reconfiguration of space, infrastructure and flows in new urban development and retrofitting existing cities, resulting in compact, mixed-use, high-density development that is walkable, bicycle-friendly and transit-oriented,

Considering the Executive Director's progress report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session on the coordinated implementation of the guidelines on access to basic services for all and the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities and its recommendation to develop complementary guidelines on urban and territorial planning so as to facilitate implementation of the existing guidelines by providing a reference document for intersectoral and multilevel planning,⁹

Recalling the objective of focus area two, urban planning and design, of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme strategic plan for 2014–2019, namely, to improve policies, plans and designs for more compact, socially inclusive, better integrated and connected cities that foster sustainable urban development and are resilient to climate change, at the city, regional and national levels,

1. *Encourages* Governments to initiate processes to review, strengthen and develop national urban policies where appropriate as a key strategy for national social and economic development, to maximize the national and local benefits of urbanization, while mitigating potential adverse externalities, and as a coordination mechanism among different sectors and ministries;
2. *Requests* the Executive Director in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives to develop a general guiding framework for the development, where appropriate, of national urban policies, based on international good experiences, to further support member States when developing and improving their urban policies;
3. *Invites* member States to facilitate participatory processes and wide stakeholder participation, including local authorities and their associations, when developing, revising and implementing national urban policies, where appropriate, in particular through national urban forums also as a means for the preparation of the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III);
4. *Encourages* Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to use planned city extension methodologies to guide the sustainable development of cities experiencing rapid urban growth, to prevent slum proliferation, enhance access to basic urban services, support inclusive housing, enhance job opportunities and create a safe and healthy living environment;
5. *Invites* the Executive Director to establish strategic partnerships towards strengthening the contribution of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to the implementation of the ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns adopted at the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, including its programme on sustainable buildings and construction, and also to consider how to promote a supportive urban infrastructure for sustainable lifestyles through national spatial frameworks, including urban-rural linkages;
6. *Invites* the international community and financial institutions to contribute adequate financial resources to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation to enable the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in mobilizing public investment and private capital to achieve sustainable urban development through the implementation of national urban policies and planned city extensions;
7. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*8th plenary meeting
19 April 2013*

⁹ HSP/GC/24/2/Add.8.

Resolution 24/6: Supporting action for the creation of safer cities

The Governing Council,

Recalling resolution 23/14 of 15 April 2011, on sustainable urban development through policies for safer cities and the prevention of urban crime, and recognizing its implementation and the growing involvement of local authorities through the Global Network on Safer Cities,

Guided by the principles of the United Nations guidelines for cooperation and technical assistance in the field of urban crime prevention, as set out in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/9 of 24 July 1995,

Convinced that the prevention of urban crime is one of the essential elements of sustainable urban developmental efforts and recognizing the direct relevance of urban safety for internationally agreed development goals,

Welcoming the General Assembly thematic debate on crime, violence and insecurity as a threat to development, held at its sixty-sixth session, in New York on 26 June 2012,

Underlining the fact that one of the most effective ways to meet the needs of member States in this area consists of both normative and operational activities, such as the development and dissemination of standards and tools, advisory services, training programmes and the dissemination and exchange of information, best practices and lessons learned at the regional, national and local levels,

Appreciating the partnerships that the Safer Cities Programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme has fostered within the United Nations system with such agencies as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs, with a view to integrating the safer cities approach into their programming, pursuant to their mandates, and welcoming the positive outcomes of these partnerships in leveraging knowledge and resources for improved on-the-ground implementation of the Safer Cities Programme,

Recognizing, however, the continued challenges associated with generating adequate financial resources for the promotion of urban safety through the implementation of multi-sector and preventive approaches at the city level,

Acknowledging the call of mayors and other stakeholders at the sixth session of the World Urban Forum in Naples, as part of the Global Network on Safer Cities, for intensified efforts to strengthen the integrity of the safer cities approach by means of international cooperation and United Nations system-wide guidelines on safer cities and financing mechanisms on safer cities,

Taking note of the outcome statement of the first steering committee meeting of the Global Network on Safer Cities on actions towards enhancing the roles of local authorities on safer cities,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance attached to capacity-building, technical cooperation and advisory services as a means for the Safer Cities Programme to respond to the needs of countries and to contribute to efforts by the international community in the face of increasing crime and violence in many cities and to assist member States in achieving the goals of preventing urban crime, reducing urban vulnerabilities to crime and improving the response to urban crime, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/9, and in line with Governing Council resolution 23/14;

2. *Stresses* the importance of continuing to strengthen the normative and operational activities of the Safer Cities Programme, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, so as to meet the needs of member States, at their request, for support in the prevention of urban crime and the enhancement of urban safety by developing standards and tools, by undertaking advisory services and training programmes and by disseminating and exchanging information through, among other measures, the promotion of field studies and research at the national and local levels;

3. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to accelerate the effective implementation of the Safer Cities Programme, taking into account the provisions of the present resolution;

4. *Welcomes* the creation of the Global Network on Safer Cities and its support through the Safer Cities Programme;

5. *Encourages* Governments and national and international stakeholders to consider the formulation of goals and targets that strengthen the role of cities and urban development in the prevention of violence and crime, including violence against women and girls;
6. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to continue its work for the prevention of urban violence and crime and for the enhancement of urban safety, by implementing Governing Council resolution 23/14, and in particular its call for United Nations system-wide guidelines on safer cities and an inter-agency collaborative framework on safer cities, without prejudice to the distinctive mandates of each entity and in full compliance with the financial rules and regulations;
7. *Calls upon* all relevant international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue cooperating with the Safer Cities Programme in support of its normative and operational activities, as part of the Global Network on Safer Cities;
8. *Stresses the importance* of sharing best practices between cities and local authorities and, in this regard, calls for the development of an urban safety monitor to measure the results of prevention efforts at the local level in order to facilitate the peer review of efforts by cities and local authorities to promote crime prevention and urban safety strategies;
9. *Calls for* the monitoring and measurement of the programmes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme contributing to crime and violence prevention efforts at the city and local authority level;
10. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to set up an inter-agency task team to review and present proposals for complementing the 1995 guidelines for cooperation and technical assistance in the field of crime prevention and the 2002 guidelines for the prevention of crime; the task team should also consider the recommendations presented in this regard by local authorities and other stakeholders, in particular by the Global Network on Safer Cities;
11. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to begin a process of consultation for a United Nations system-wide financing mechanism that includes all relevant stakeholders, in response to the call of cities and local governments to stimulate urban safety initiatives, bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 67/226 of 21 December 2012, on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to report on the results of the consultation process to the Committee of Permanent Representatives every six months;
12. *Invites* member States, development partners and other relevant stakeholders and other donors, to the extent possible, to provide technical, human and financial resources to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support the implementation of the present resolution;
13. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit the present resolution to the Secretary-General's Policy Committee and to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session on progress made in its implementation.

*8th plenary meeting
19 April 2013*

Resolution 24/7: Making slums history: a worldwide challenge

The Governing Council,

Recalling the international conference on the theme: "Making slums history: a worldwide challenge for 2020", held in Rabat 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 to 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 the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements,¹⁰ issued in the context of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 14 June 1996, which endorsed the universal goal of ensuring adequate shelter for all,

Recalling also goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals, and in particular its target 7.D, by 2020 to 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 intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations the definition of a global goal of halving the proportion of people living in slums,

Recalling Governing Council resolutions 23/16 of 15 April 2011, on the formulation of a global housing strategy, and 23/9 of 15 April 2011, 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 Morocco to provide policy and technical advice in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme 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 social and 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, and provide 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. *Also invites* member States to increase the allocation of financial and human resources for slum upgrading and prevention and to establish financing strategies that mobilize public subsidies and income generated by land regularization and reallocation processes to develop investment plans for infrastructure and services;

5. *Further invites* member States to promote housing policies integrating sustainable approaches for energy efficiency in housing and human settlements that respect the environment and use 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;

¹⁰ *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 I.

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 the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to strengthen coordination with the office of the Special Rapporteur;

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 to date in seeking to improve the living conditions of slum dwellers;

9. *Calls upon* member States, in achieving the aforementioned goal, to prioritize 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 programmes on participatory slum upgrading in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries and on the upgrading of slums and informal settlements in Asia and the enabling strategy to move to scale in Brazil and other countries in Latin America and requests the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to continue its support for such programmes in accordance with its overall work programme and budget.

8th plenary meeting
19 April 2013

Resolution 24/8: Regional technical support on sustainable housing and urban development including the Arab States Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development

The Governing Council,

Recalling the call in the Habitat Agenda¹¹ for the establishment or strengthening of cooperative mechanisms to integrate commitments and actions concerning adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development into policies, programmes and operations,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution S-25/2 of 9 June 2001, paragraph 65, which, inter alia, reiterated the need for the political will of all States and for specific action at the international level to inspire, to encourage and to strengthen existing and innovative forms of cooperation and partnership and coordination at all levels, to contribute effectively to the improvement of housing conditions, especially in developing countries,

Calling for the acceleration of efforts to achieve significant improvement in the implementation of targets 7.C, to halve the population without access to water and sanitation, and 7.D, to achieve, by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, of the Millennium Development Goals,

Taking note of Governing Council resolution 20/2 of 8 April 2005, which invited Governments to strengthen or establish regional consultative structures and to use those in raising the profile of issues addressed by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, which acknowledged the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and regional frameworks that could complement and facilitate the effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action at the national level,

Stressing the importance of the regional and national preparations for the third United Nations conference on housing and urban development in 2016 (Habitat III),

Noting the establishment in Cairo of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme Regional Office for Arab States, based on the agreement signed on 29 September 2010 between the Government of Egypt and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the subsequent endorsement of that agreement by the League of Arab States,

¹¹ *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.

Noting with appreciation that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme Regional Office for Arab States has obtained observer status with the Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee of the Ministerial Council on Housing and Construction of the League of Arab States and that it participates regularly in the meetings of the Council,

Taking note of decision 9 of the Ministerial Council on Housing and Construction of the League of Arab States at its twenty-ninth session, held on 18 December 2012 in Baghdad, on the establishment of the Arab States Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development,

Recognizing the importance of cooperation between the Ministerial Council on Housing and Construction of the League of Arab States and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme Regional Office for Arab States, through the Arab States Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development, for achieving the goals of sustainable urbanization in the Arab States, in particular since this cooperation constitutes a constant agenda item in the meetings of the Council,

Emphasizing that the members of the Arab States Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development will continue their membership, active contribution and current commitments, while enhancing the current engagement of all States, in the African Ministerial Council for Housing and Urban Development and the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the establishment by the League of Arab States of the Arab States Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development as a technical platform and appreciates the generous offer by the Government of Jordan to host its first session in 2014, and also welcomes the establishment of other non-United Nations regional ministerial technical forums and arrangements;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to extend his support to United Nations Human Settlements Programme regional and thematic offices to support regional forums, including the Arab States Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development, to work closely with them to achieve the aims of the Habitat Agenda¹² and to assist them in the implementation of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,¹³

3. *Encourages* the exploration of the opportunities for strengthening South-South cooperation and the exchange of experiences among the Regional Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean, the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development and the Arab States Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development, as well as relevant United Nations offices and regional arrangements;

4. *Requests* Governments of Arab States, in a position to do so, to contribute to the funding of the activities of the Arab States Ministerial Forum for Housing and Urban Development, and likewise invites other States to contribute to the funding of the activities of their respective forums;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*8th plenary meeting
19 April 2013*

Resolution 24/9: Inclusive national and local housing strategies to achieve the Global Housing Strategy paradigm shift

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Global Housing Strategy framework document¹⁴ and the report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,¹⁵ section P of which reviews the implementation of resolution 23/16 of 15 April 2011, on the formulation of a global housing strategy,

¹² *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.

¹³ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

¹⁴ HSP/GC/24/2/Add.6.

¹⁵ HSP/GC/24/2.

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, adopting the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, and paragraph 65 of the Habitat Agenda,¹⁶ which encourages the periodic evaluation and revision, as necessary, of enabling housing policies with a view to creating a framework for efficient and effective housing delivery systems,

Recognizing that output-based housing policies and strategies have sometimes failed to match supply with demand, resulting in certain instances in large numbers of vacant housing units and in isolated ghost towns, while in other instances there is a severe lack of adequate housing available, necessitating a paradigm shift to results-based housing policies and strategies that recognize the need to integrate housing with other urban uses,

Recalling the targets set out in the 2000 United Nations Millennium Declaration¹⁷ and the 2001 Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium¹⁸ of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020,

Taking note of the reports of the fifth and sixth sessions of the World Urban Forum, highlighting the large number of events related to housing and slum upgrading, which demonstrate a sustained demand for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to respond to housing and slum-upgrading issues,

Taking note of the Rabat Declaration, adopted at the international conference on the theme: “Making slums history: a worldwide challenge for 2020”, held in Rabat from 26 to 28 November 2012, by which 25 member States committed themselves to halving the proportion of people living in slums between 2015 and 2030,

Recognizing that achievements towards the implementation of goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals have been made by improving the living conditions of more than 220 million slum dwellers, surpassing the target of 100 million, and that, in the meantime, an additional 360 million slum dwellers have been added to the global urban population, which calls for a new approach to slum upgrading and prevention,

Recognizing also that slum upgrading must be undertaken as part of a broader framework of urban and housing policies, underpinned by appropriate urban planning as an important tool to prevent the formation of new slums, and acknowledging that slums are no stand-alone phenomenon but are linked to urban poverty and inequalities, and the lack of mixed-use urban planning and adequate land and housing options,

Welcoming efforts made by Governments in implementing large-scale inclusive housing programmes for diversifying access to adequate housing for all,

Acknowledging that sustainable, adequate, rights-based and inclusive housing policies and strategies are instrumental in addressing the challenge of slums and sustainable urban development, as well as contributing to stimulating urban economic development and job creation,

Recognizing the progress that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme has made to date in developing the Global Housing Strategy framework document and in widely disseminating the concept and engaging in discussions with more than 600,000 national and city housing officials, professionals, academics and members of civil society and the private sector through the use of innovative social media and by advocating the Strategy’s principles and methodology in various international conferences and workshops,

Acknowledging the role and responsibility of national and local governments, communities and Habitat Agenda partners, and also of regional initiatives, in addressing current challenges, including urban segregation, housing shortages and the formation and growth of slums,

Embracing the paradigm shift elaborated in the Global Housing Strategy, including its principles and guidelines, towards achieving its outcomes at the global, national and local levels through the new urban agenda by strengthening the linkages between urban planning, neighbourhood development and housing, including also slum upgrading and prevention,

1. *Requests* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to pursue the expected outcomes of the Global Housing Strategy, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Environment Programme, by proposing a paradigm shift, where needed,

¹⁶ *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.

¹⁷ General Assembly resolution 55/2.

¹⁸ General Assembly resolution S-25/2, annex.

including the integration of housing with other urban uses; encouraging the pro-poor performance of markets; promoting system-wide reforms to enable wider access to adequate housing solutions; strengthening linkages between housing, the economy, employment and poverty reduction; using sustainable building and neighbourhood designs and contributing to improving the living conditions of slum dwellers;

2. *Requests* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to develop normative material, including the documentation of good practices from countries that are already applying the principles of the Global Housing Strategy and guidelines and evaluation frameworks, to support policymakers in developing appropriate housing and slum-upgrading policies that are results-based, gender-responsive and rights-based and that encourage the development of housing of an adequate and sustainable quality and in adequate and sustainable quantities that is accessible and affordable to all and produced by a variety of actors, including local authorities, civil society, the private sector and housing institutions;

3. *Requests* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to achieve the expected outcomes of the Global Housing Strategy, at national and local levels, by supporting requests from member States to address the current drawbacks in housing delivery through the paradigm shift of using urban planning as an entry point to housing, ensuring that housing is delivered as part of mixed urban uses, as well as achieving appropriate density, the integration of social groups and improved mobility;

4. *Invites* central and local governments to engage with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in global and regional platforms, including the Global Housing Strategy network, in collaboration with other United Nations bodies and regional organizations, to share evidence-based knowledge, experiences and effective innovative practices in housing and slum-upgrading that demonstrate the new paradigm;

5. *Invites* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support national and local governments and key Habitat Agenda partners and their urban coordination mechanisms in formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating inclusive national and local housing strategies;

6. *Encourages* Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to empower all citizens, in particular women and youth, through inclusive broad-based participatory processes to contribute effectively to the development and implementation of housing and slum-upgrading strategies, as well as action plans leading to security of tenure;

7. *Invites* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session on progress made in the implementation of the Global Housing Strategy.

*8th plenary meeting
19 April 2013*

Resolution 24/10: Urbanization and sustainable urban development in the post-2015 development agenda

The Governing Council,

Recalling the goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration¹⁹ and the 2005 World Summit Outcome²⁰ of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020 and the goal contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development²¹ to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation,

Recognizing paragraph 135 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,²²

¹⁹ General Assembly resolution 55/2.

²⁰ General Assembly resolution 60/1.

²¹ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

²² General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

Taking note of the Rabat Declaration, adopted on 28 November 2012 at the international conference on the theme: “Making slums history: a worldwide challenge for 2020”, by which participants committed themselves to supporting, through the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations, the adoption of a global goal of halving the proportion of people living in slums between 2015 and 2030, as part of the overall formulation of the post-2015 development agenda,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/207 of 22 December 2011, by which the Assembly decided to convene in 2016 a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable development (Habitat III), so as to adopt a new urban agenda,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 67/216 of 21 December 2012, by which the Assembly encouraged giving appropriate consideration to sustainable urbanization in the elaboration of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda; recognized the progress made in meeting and even surpassing Millennium Development Goal 7, target 11, while noting that slums continued to be a global challenge; and acknowledged that, while significant progress had been made in implementing the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements²³ and the twin goals of the Habitat Agenda,²⁴ challenges remained, such as the continuing increase of slum dwellers in the world, the negative impact of environmental degradation, including climate change, desertification and loss of biodiversity, on human settlements and the need to reduce disaster risks and build resilience to disasters in urban settlements,

Recognizing the work of the United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda and its support to the multi-stakeholder consultations being led by member States on a post-2015 global development agenda,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to ensure that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme contributes to the development and implementation of the post-2015 development agenda in order to promote sustainable urbanization;

2. *Encourages* Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to give appropriate consideration in their contributions to the post-2015 development agenda to sustainable urbanization, to sustainable urban development and to the role of cities and local governments in this regard;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*8th plenary meeting
19 April 2013*

Resolution 24/11: 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,²⁵ which recognizes that the sustainable development of human settlements encompasses economic development, social development and environmental protection, with full respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling also 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 further 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

²³ *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 I.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, annex II.

²⁵ *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.

opportunities for urban economic activities by facilitating the access of small and medium-sized enterprises, including the informal sector, to credit and finance and streamline legal and administrative procedures,

Recalling also 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 further paragraphs 13, 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 also Governing Council resolution 20/7 of 8 April 2005, by which the Council requested Governments and local authorities to foster gender equality and empowerment of women within the context of sustainable urban development,

Recalling further Governing Council resolution 21/6 of 20 April 2007, by which the Council requested the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to establish an opportunities fund for urban youth-led development, with the aim of strengthening the Programme's work on urban youth through youth-led initiatives, including through vocational training and grants to promote entrepreneurship and employment for youth,

Recalling Governing Council resolution 23/17 of 15 April 2011, by which the Council 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 outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",²⁶ in which Governments committed themselves to promoting 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 on the issue presented by the Executive Director,²⁷

Noting with appreciation the renewed emphasis of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme as reflected in its proposed strategic plan for 2014–2019, on the urban economy and the role of urban planning, innovative financing and the 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, the 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 of supporting 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;

²⁶ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

²⁷ HSP/GC/24/4.

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen the United Nations Human Settlements Programme's knowledge base, disseminate that knowledge to member States and provide support to member States on the urban economy and municipal finance, including by documenting and disseminating good practices and tools on the economics of urban form, economic development strategies, urban small-scale and informal economies, and the economic empowerment of youth and women;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to mainstream cross-cutting issues, including gender and young men and women, in the work by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on economic development and empowerment and also to continue the work in the Youth 21 initiative and to promote the participation of youth by supporting the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth in the further engagement of young people;

6. *Invites* relevant Habitat Agenda partners to provide resources to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme 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 to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*8th plenary meeting
19 April 2013*

Resolution 24/12: Youth and sustainable urban development

The Governing Council,

Recalling with appreciation paragraph 24 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",²⁸ which expresses deep concern about the continuing high levels of unemployment and underemployment, particularly among young people, and notes the need for sustainable development strategies to proactively address youth employment at all levels,

Recalling Governing Council resolution 20/1 of 8 April 2005, on youth and human settlements, by which the Council urged Governments to include young people in their national delegations to the Governing Council and to the World Urban Forum of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

Recalling also the medium-term strategic and institutional plan for 2008–2013 and the work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for 2012–2013, which elaborated on mainstreaming youth in the normative and operational programme,

Recognizing that, in absolute numbers, there are more people under the age of 25 today than ever before, totalling nearly 3 billion or half of the world's total population, and noting that positioning young people at the centre of urban development strategies is critical to solving the problems of human settlements in developing countries,

Taking cognizance of the dynamic potential of young people in terms of their demographic dominance in cities, their potential role in social and economic development, their increasing engagement in the governance of communities, cities and nations, and also their critical importance in sustainable development,

Welcoming the five-year action agenda of the Secretary-General, in which youth is recognized as one of the top priorities for the United Nations system, and his appointment of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth, the highest-ranking youth position ever appointed within the United Nations system,

Taking cognizance of the challenges of unemployment, alienation and unequal access to basic services and to opportunities, still undermining the potential of young people in many parts of the world, in particular girls and young women and those in urban centres,

Acknowledging the importance for young people of the utilization of information and communication technology at the local, national and international levels to improve their participation in governance at all levels, provide livelihoods and foster transparency and accountability,

²⁸ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

Welcoming the groundbreaking research by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the area of youth, such as the report on the state of urban youth for the period 2012-2013,²⁹ which recommends a better match between education skills and labour market needs through vocational training and the participation of the private sector; and the Global Youth-led Development report series, which highlights best practices in youth-led development drawn from youth agencies funded by 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 bodies, such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, and partners through the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, in which the United Nations Human Settlements Programme was co-chair, in strengthening the youth agenda within the United Nations system and globally,

Recognizing the hosting by the Government of Brazil of a high-level panel meeting on youth at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the final declaration of which supports the continuing work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the Youth 21 initiative in developing processes to better engage youth within the United Nations system,

Taking note of the Final Declaration of the sixteenth conference of Ibero-American Ministers Responsible for Youth, which recognizes the importance that participants accorded to the Youth 21 initiative and the establishment of a permanent forum on youth issues,

Noting with appreciation the World Youth Conference, which took place in Mexico in August 2010,

Welcoming the initiative of the Government of Sri Lanka to host, in 2014, a world conference on youth in Colombo, with a focus on the participation and involvement of youth in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling the Amman Declaration and the Amman Implementation Plan adopted unanimously by the ministers of the Asia-Pacific region participating in the fourth Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, held in Amman from 10 to 12 December 2012, with the overall theme of youth, information and communications technology and sustainable urban development,

1. *Invites* member States to undertake capacity-building at the institutional level to harness the potential and the abilities of young people to positively effect change within their countries and communities;
2. *Also invites* member States to develop national urban policies, where appropriate, with the full participation of youth at all stages to promote the participation of youth, and also to involve youth in decision-making at national and subnational levels, and in volunteerism, skills development, employment creation and entrepreneurship development;
3. *Emphasizes* the importance of gender equality, encourages gender mainstreaming in programmes related to youth and further encourages initiatives intended to empower young women and men;
4. *Requests* 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 with the aim of enhancing the involvement of young people in sustainable urban development, including the Global Land Tool Network and in keeping with the work programme and budget;
5. *Also requests* the Executive Director to cooperate closely, within the mandate of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, with the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth, in the fulfilment of the Envoy's workplan, which aims to increase the access of youth, including marginalized youth, and young women and girls to the United Nations through promoting structured mechanisms for youth participation, at national, regional and international levels;
6. *Invites* Governments to make financial contributions to strengthen the youth programmes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

²⁹ *State of the Urban Youth 2012/1013: Youth in the Prosperity of Cities*, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, Nairobi 2012.

7. *Strongly encourages* the Executive Director to review the programme's strategy on enhancing the engagement of youth within the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and to allocate adequate resources for the mainstreaming of youth within the work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

8. *Invites* the Executive Director to work with the Government of Sri Lanka on preparations for the World Conference on Youth in 2014, in particular with youth participation and technical support;

9. *Further encourages* the Executive Director to work with member States and multilateral institutions actively working in the Latin American region to enhance youth engagement in governance and to increase work on youth entrepreneurship in the region, in the lead-up to the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, to be held in 2014 in Medellin, Colombia;

10. *Invites* member States to adequately reflect youth in their national budgets and programmes;

11. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session in 2015.

*8th plenary meeting
19 April 2013*

Resolution 24/13: Country activities by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

The Governing Council,

Pursuant to its resolution 21/2 of 20 April 2007, by which the Council requested the Executive Director to establish, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, clear criteria for the Programme's country-level activities following the approval of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme results-based medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008–2013,

Recalling its resolution 23/15 of 15 April 2011, which reaffirmed the importance of country activities as part of the mandate of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and as a central component of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan and the Programme's enhanced normative and operational framework,

Acknowledging the complementarity and synergy between the operational and normative functions of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, which constitute a major asset and comparative advantage,

Acknowledging the role of the regional offices and Habitat Programme managers in the country activities in line with resolution 20/15 of 8 April 2005,

Referring to the relevant provisions of the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and General Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 on system-wide coherence, by which the development partners underlined the principle of national ownership and leadership, took note of the progress made by countries participating in the "Delivering as one" initiative and reiterated the objective of simplification and harmonization of business practices, rules and procedures to enhance the efficiency, accountability and transparency of the United Nations development system,

Welcoming the efforts made by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in recent years since the approval of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan to take part actively in the United Nations common country assessments and United Nations development assistance frameworks, and also the United Nations country teams, as a component of its strategy to ease the delivery on its normative and operational mandates in a further search for sustainability in the human settlements and urban development sectors,

Taking note of the 2008–2013 medium-term strategic and institutional plan, which contributed to the rolling out of a set of key activities in support of the Programme's advocacy and policy advisory services at the country level, including the strengthening of national urban forums and the development of Habitat country programme documents for the purpose of enhancing the inclusion of the urban agenda into national policy and legislation,

Recognizing the positive contribution of well executed, well coordinated and sufficiently funded country activities to the implementation of the programme of work,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure that the country activities contribute to the implementation of the strategic plan and programme of work, including the normative work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and are fully coordinated including through regional offices with countries and cities concerned;
2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to enhance the delivery by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme of country activities, inter alia, by strengthening regional and country offices as well as country programme managers, by enhancing their substantive and administrative competences;
3. *Invites* all Governments to contribute to the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of country activities by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;
4. *Encourages* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to continue promoting South-South cooperation, including triangular and city-to-city cooperation;
5. *Requests* the Executive Director to cooperate with other relevant United Nations programmes and activities at the country level and to take an active part in the United Nations common country assessments and United Nations development assistance frameworks, in addition to the contribution of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to the work of United Nations country teams;
6. *Urges* the Executive Director regularly to assess the impact of the project, programmes and country activities and to harvest cases of best practices and lessons learned from the country level, which should feed back into the global normative work of the Programme with the goal of improving its planning and effectiveness;
7. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session on progress made in country activities, including the implementation of the present resolution.

*8th plenary meeting
19 April 2013*

Resolution 24/14: Inputs for and support to the preparatory process of the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III)

The Governing Council,

Recalling the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976, and of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey in 1996,

Recalling also relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on both the preparations for and implementation of the outcome of Habitat II and on the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, as well as relevant decisions and resolutions of the Economic and Social Council on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda,³⁰

Recognizing the effective roles of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, and of intergovernmental, subregional and regional organizations, in the subregional and regional preparatory processes for Habitat II, through coordination, facilitation and funding of, among other things, interministerial meetings and the participation of countries with insufficient resources,

Acknowledging the changing roles of established Habitat Agenda partners and the new and emerging State and non-State actors engaged in human settlements and urban development at global, regional, national and local levels, such as local governments, civil society, representatives of mobile populations, universities, the private sector, private foundations, and their associations,

Welcoming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,³¹ in particular paragraphs 134–137 on sustainable cities and human settlements,

Acknowledging that, while significant progress has been made in implementing the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements³² and the twin goals of the Habitat Agenda, challenges remain,

³⁰ *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.

³¹ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

such as, among others, the continuing increase of slum dwellers in the world, the negative impact of environmental degradation, including climate change, desertification and loss of biodiversity, on human settlements and the need to reduce disaster risks and build resilience to disasters in urban settlements,

Recognizing the specific progress made in meeting and even surpassing goal 7, target 7.D, of the Millennium Development Goals, while noting that slums and urban poverty continue to be a global challenge,

Recognizing also the need for a review and assessment at the national, regional and international levels of the progress made towards the attainment of the goals of the Habitat Agenda,³³ and of other international goals relevant to human settlements as a basis for the formulation of a new urban agenda,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/207 of 22 December 2011, by which the Assembly decided to convene in 2016, in line with the bi-decennial cycle (1976, 1996, 2016), a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanization that should focus on the implementation of a new urban agenda,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 67/216 of 21 December 2012, by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to prepare, using the expertise of the United Nations system, a proposal for consideration by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its twenty-fourth session, as to how best to provide inputs for and support to the preparatory process of the Conference in the most inclusive, efficient, effective and improved manner, and to proceed accordingly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III);³⁴

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the conference, in his capacity as Executive Director, and in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to refine his proposed input to the preparatory process for Habitat III, using the expertise of the United Nations system organizations and Habitat Agenda partners, by:

(a) Considering possible contributions from United Nations system organizations and Habitat Agenda partners;

(b) Presenting strategic options for the contribution of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to the preparatory process of the conference, considering the availability of financial resources and implications for the work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

(c) Including the provision of an updated think piece about the future of urbanization and sustainable human settlements and urban development to conceptually inform the inputs;

(d) Suggesting guidelines and format for the preparation of national reports, which consider the implementation of the Habitat II agenda and new challenges, emerging trends and a prospective vision for sustainable human settlements and urban development, as well as cross-cutting issues, in a balanced way. Such guidelines should allow for different approaches to preparing the reports according to different national circumstances while ensuring their compatibility, and should facilitate contributions from Habitat Agenda partners, including local governments and their associations, civil society groups, the private sector and academic institutions, to the national reports;

3. *Calls upon* member States, using any available assistance and necessary guidance and support from the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to form national Habitat committees where they do not exist and strengthen the existing national Habitat committees to ensure their effective and efficient participation in the Habitat III preparatory process, including the preparation of national reports;

³² *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 I.

³³ *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.

³⁴ HSP/GC/24/2/Add.3.

4. *Invites* member States to prepare, before the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III, to be held in New York during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, national reports which consider the implementation of the Habitat II agenda and of other relevant internationally agreed goals and targets, as well as new challenges, emerging trends and a prospective vision for sustainable human settlements and urban development, as a basis for the formulation of a new urban agenda, in line with paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 67/216;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference, using the expertise of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and of the United Nations system as a whole and, specifically, in cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions, and of other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, to prepare regional reports drawing on the national reports as well as on available knowledge, resources and data as inputs to the first and second meetings of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference, using the expertise of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and of the United Nations system as a whole and, specifically, in cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions, and of other relevant international, regional and subregional international organizations, to prepare a global report drawing on the national and regional reports, and also on available knowledge, resources and data, as an input to and support for the preparatory process of the Conference;

7. *Further requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference to use planned regional and global meetings such as the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, sessions of the United Nations regional commissions and regular sessions of regional ministerial conferences on housing and urban development, and also of other relevant regional intergovernmental meetings, for the development of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme input to the preparatory process and invites the conveners of these events to facilitate dialogue on key issues in order to provide inputs to the first and second meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, while ensuring that the quality of participation and the outcomes are not compromised;

8. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General of the Conference, using the expertise of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and of the United Nations system as a whole, to provide support to member States, including through their national Habitat committees and national urban forums, to elaborate the national reports and to strengthen mechanisms for enabling the effective participation and contribution of all Habitat Agenda partners at all stages of the preparatory process and at the Conference itself, including national urban campaigns;

9. *Also calls upon* the Secretary-General of the Conference to continue engaging all Habitat Agenda partners and new partners in the World Urban Campaign in order to identify and collect good practices that could contribute to the new urban agenda and to support national urban campaigns and their communication and outreach activities initiated to contribute to national preparations for Habitat III;

10. *Welcomes* paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 67/216, by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to propose to the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III specific support mechanisms to enable the effective contributions and active participation of local authorities and other stakeholders in the preparatory process and the Conference itself, building on the positive experience enabled by the rules and procedures of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the inclusive engagement modalities of Habitat II, and, in that context, invites the Secretary-General of the Conference to encourage all Habitat Agenda partners, including women and youth, local authorities and their associations, to contribute actively to the preparatory process for Habitat III and to the Conference itself;

11. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the Conference to consider establishing an effective United Nations system-wide coordination mechanism so as to enable the effective participation and contributions of United Nations departments, funds and programmes, the regional commissions and specialized agencies, and the international financial institutions, at all stages of the preparatory process and at the Conference itself;

12. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the Conference to adopt where feasible innovative technologies and approaches so as to ensure that the preparatory process for Habitat III is inclusive, participatory and efficient, such as paper-smart meetings and internet platforms that can be used for sharing analytical tools and reports and for promoting dialogue during the Conference's preparatory process, and to ensure that the use of such approaches does not adversely affect the participation of countries with limited information and communication technology capacities;

13. *Urges* the Secretary-General of the Conference to consider mobilizing high-level expertise from within the United Nations system to assist in the preparatory process of the Conference;

14. *Welcomes* the decision of the General Assembly to establish a trust fund for the Conference and urges the Secretary-General of the Conference to put in place all mechanisms and operational procedures necessary to ensure the fund's efficiency and effectiveness, in line with paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 67/216;

15. *Urges* international and bilateral donors, and also the private sector, financial institutions, foundations and other donors, to support the national, regional and global preparations for the Conference through voluntary contributions to the trust fund and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries to meetings of the Preparatory Committee and to the Conference itself;

16. *Welcomes* paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 67/216, by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide, in the most efficient and cost-effective manner, all appropriate support to the Secretary-General of the Conference and to the work of the preparatory process and the Conference, while promoting inter-agency support to the maximum possible extent;

17. *Requests*, in that context, the Secretary-General of the Conference, in consultation with the United Nations Secretary-General, to mobilize appropriate resources to support preparatory activities for the first and second meetings of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III, building upon the substantive outputs included in the work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and making full use of the extensive capabilities of the United Nations system to provide capacity-building and technical and expert assistance to member States to complete their national reports;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference, in his capacity as Executive Director, to submit to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including an update on progress made in the preparations for the Conference.

*8th plenary meeting
19 April 2013*

Resolution 24/15: Strategic plan for 2014–2019 and the work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2014–2015

The Governing Council,

Recalling the commitments made by Governments in the United Nations Millennium Declaration to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to achieving, inter alia, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020³⁵ and in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development³⁶ to reducing by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015,

Taking note of the progress made to date in the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan for 2008–2013, as reported through the six-monthly and annual progress reports, and also the findings from independent reviews and evaluations of the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan,

Noting with appreciation steps taken to improve the implementation by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme of its strategic plan and work programme, including policies and systems to improve efficiency and productivity, measures to enhance accountability and transparency, and clearly articulated strategic priorities,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 67/226 of 21 December 2012, on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Recalling also its resolution 23/11 of 15 April 2011, requesting the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to prepare a strategic plan for 2014–2019 for submission to the Governing Council for review and approval at its twenty-fourth session,

³⁵ General Assembly resolution 55/2.

³⁶ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

Recalling further the request to the Executive Director, working in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to ensure that the results-based strategic framework and work programme and budget documents for the biennium 2014–2015 were aligned with the strategic plan for 2014–2019,

Having considered the draft strategic framework 2014–2015 and the proposed work programme and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2014–2015 and the recommendations set forth in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

1. *Approves* the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019 and the work programme for the biennium 2014–2015, taking into account the relevant decisions of the Governing Council;

2. *Also approves* the general purpose budget of 45,617,400 United States dollars and endorses the special purpose budget of 123,187,800 United States dollars for the biennium 2014–2015 detailed in the proposed work programme and budget for 2014–2015 and notes an estimated technical cooperation funding of 202,482,400 United States dollars;

3. *Notes* that the general purpose resources are allocated for the biennium 2014–2015 for the purposes indicated in the following table (thousands of United States dollars):

	<i>General purpose resources for the biennium 2014–2015 (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	<i>Amount</i>
1	Urban legislation, land and governance	3 113.2
2	Urban planning and design	4 236.9
3	Urban economy	3 348.6
4	Housing and slum upgrading	3 637.6
5	Urban basic services	3 889.8
6	Risk reduction and rehabilitation	4 426.2
7	Research and capacity development	4 453.4
8	Executive direction and management	13 775.7
9	Programme support	4 736.0

4. *Requests* the Executive Director in his efforts to mobilize resources for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to take measures to broaden the donor base of the Foundation's general purpose budget and to develop, in consultation with member States, tools to ensure a more balanced contribution by member States to the overall budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Director to consult with the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the preparation of the results-based strategic framework and work programme and budget documents for the biennium 2016–2017, and to ensure that the two exercises are aligned with the strategic plan for 2014–2019;

6. *Calls upon* the Executive Director to report annually to Governments through the Committee of Permanent Representatives and to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session on progress made in implementation of the strategic plan and work programme activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue mainstreaming cross-cutting issues in the programmes, projects and activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in line with its mandate, and to allocate adequate resources accordingly;

8. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue strengthening implementation of results-based management in all the programmes, projects, policies and activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

9. *Authorizes* the Executive Director, with a view to ensuring better conformity with the practices in other United Nations bodies, to reallocate resources between subprogrammes up to a maximum of 10 per cent, and to consult the Committee of Permanent Representatives in respect of any allocation above that contained in the programme of work and budget approved by the Governing Council;

10. *Also authorizes* the Executive Director, if necessary, to reallocate funds in excess of 10 per cent and up to 20 per cent of the allocations to the subprogrammes in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives;
11. *Further authorizes* the Executive Director to adjust, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the level of allocations to subprogrammes, bringing them in line with possible variations in income compared to the approved level of appropriations;
12. *Reiterates* its call to all member States for continued financial support to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme through increased voluntary contributions and invites more Governments and other stakeholders to provide predictable multi-year funding and to increase non-earmarked contributions to support the implementation of the strategic plan for 2014–2019;
13. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session on the implementation by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme of General Assembly resolution 67/226;
14. *Also requests* the Executive Director to develop and implement a cost-recovery framework, based on the United Nations guiding principle of full cost recovery, from core and earmarked resources, using a simple, transparent and harmonized methodology;
15. *Further requests* the Executive Director to maintain his current emphasis on results for the achievement of the programme objectives, and for the efficient and transparent use of resources to that end, subjected to United Nations processes of review, evaluation and oversight;
16. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to ensure that trust funds and earmarked contributions to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme are used to fund activities that are in line with the programme of work;
17. *Also requests* the Executive Director to submit to the Governing Council for approval at its twenty-fifth session, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, a prioritized, results-oriented and streamlined programme of work and budget for the biennium 2016-2017 that monitors and manages the share of resources devoted respectively to administrative costs and programme activities, while clearly prioritizing the application of the resources to programme activities;
18. *Further requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*8th plenary meeting
19 April 2013*

Annex II

Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, to the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its twenty-fourth session

1. It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the beginning of the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat.
2. Since 2007, when, for the first time, the world population living in urban areas passed the 50 per cent mark, the process of urbanization has continued unabated. The majority of the world's urban growth is taking place in developing countries, where many urban centres already have inadequate infrastructure and where many authorities are looking for ways to respond adequately to the demands of their rapidly expanding urban populations, especially the young and the poor.
3. We know that the Millennium Development Goals target of improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020 has already been surpassed. Unfortunately, because of rapid urbanization, there are more slum dwellers now than there were in 2000. Worldwide, 2.5 billion people are still without basic sanitation. Although the target for drinking water was met, more than 780 million still lack access to an improved source and many challenges remain. For example, less than 20 per cent of the cities in developing countries currently have their wastewater treated. We also know that cities, mostly in the developed world, are contributing significantly to climate change, accounting for up to 70 per cent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.
4. However, the shift towards a predominantly urban world is not simply a demographic phenomenon, nor is it all negative. Urban centres represent perhaps the biggest opportunity to promote sustainable approaches to the management of our common resources and can be a major force to reduce poverty. It is a force which, if effectively steered and deployed, will help the world to overcome some of its most pressing global challenges. Governments recognized this in paragraph 134 of the Rio+20 outcome document, "The future we want", in which they stated that, "if they are well planned and developed, including through integrated planning and management approaches, cities can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies."
5. It is important that the Governing Council and UN-Habitat build upon this to enhance the role of sustainable urbanization in human settlements. I am particularly heartened to see the results of UN-Habitat's reform process, which I have viewed as critical to support member States in confronting these challenges. I know that your support has been crucial in this respect. I am also following carefully the preparatory process for the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development, known as Habitat III. While we must address the challenges of rapid urbanization, including urban poverty and inequality, we should also take advantage of the opportunities that well planned urbanization offers as a key driver of sustainable development.
6. I am therefore very encouraged that UN-Habitat's proposed strategic plan for 2014–2019 and biennial programme budget for 2014–2015, which the Governing Council is considering at this session, address both the challenges and opportunities offered by urbanization. It is also my hope that the Governing Council will provide guidance to the Secretary-General of the Habitat III conference, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/216, and that the Council will make progress with the reform of the governance of UN-Habitat.
7. Please accept my best wishes for the success of your deliberations.

Annex III

High-level debate

1. Many representatives highlighted the massive urban transition that was taking place around the world. For the first time in history, more than half of the world's population lived in urban settlements, a figure that was expected to increase to about 70 per cent by 2050. Almost all of that growth would take place in developing countries, where urban populations were growing at over 3 per cent per year, as opposed to under 1 per cent in the more developed regions.
2. The unprecedented rate of urbanization had given rise to numerous challenges, including unbalanced competition for limited resources, which had resulted in negative social and economic trends such as increasing levels of poverty, inequality, hunger and unemployment. Several representatives mentioned the difficulties encountered in striving for sustainable urban development as a result of terrorism, internal strife, occupation and natural disasters. Others emphasized the additional challenges faced by developing countries, where urbanization often preceded industrialization. Some representatives drew attention to the efforts being made in their countries to counteract widespread rural exodus by boosting access to services beyond the confines of cities and stimulating agriculture as a significant source of employment.
3. There was general agreement that managing the realities of urbanization called for the proper planning of human settlements, including both cities and rural habitats, to ensure sustainable social, economic and environmental development. Strategic urban planning was a prerequisite for avoiding urban sprawl, promoting energy-efficient transport systems and buildings, improving solid waste management and enhancing water and sanitation services. Better urban planning could contribute to a greener economy by promoting resource efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, while creating more productive and liveable cities and combating urban poverty.
4. One representative emphasized that limited urban space was a challenge and that the efficient and creative use of available space was needed to achieve sustainable livelihoods, particularly in the face of the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment. A strategic approach to urban planning enabled the engagement of a wider platform of stakeholders in the development process. Inclusiveness was key to ensuring sustained growth because it promoted growth with equity. Participatory planning and decision-making would go a long way in spreading the benefits of growth to all members of society and ensuring a greater sense of citizenship.
5. The well-being of millions of poor people across the world depended in large part on effective urban planning and access to affordable public services. There was a strong relationship between adequacy of infrastructure and enhancement of income. Governments at various levels therefore needed to ensure the provision of those services at affordable prices. The delivery of municipal services to growing urban populations, however, was constrained by the insufficient financial resources available to municipal authorities to fund those services. Planning for sustainable human settlements would not be achievable unless local governments acquired the capacity, skills and authority to tackle that important task.
6. Many representatives highlighted the role of cities as drivers of economic growth and sources of job creation; wealth generation would become increasingly important as the world became more urbanized. Unfortunately, the benefits of urban development had not been evenly spread and poverty, the proliferation of slums and squatter settlements, inadequate infrastructure, poor access to social services and environmental degradation were still prevalent in many parts of the world. The linkage between housing and income generation was critical.
7. Many representatives mentioned the national urban policies undertaken in their countries to tackle the challenges of rapid urbanization and improve the urban environment. Such policies included initiatives to enhance public transport systems, provide social housing for those in need, improve access to water and sanitation and ensure a balanced distribution of the urban population; some had been developed with inputs from multilateral organizations such as the World Bank. One representative drew attention to her Government's efforts to establish satellite towns on city peripheries with a view to decongesting city centres and relieving pressure on urban transport systems.
8. Many representatives welcomed the emphasis placed on women and youth in the special theme of the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council. There was general agreement that both deserved special attention in the global urban agenda because they often were the majority of the urban population yet were those most vulnerable to urban poverty and unemployment. Some drew attention to the obstacles of discrimination and gender-based violence that many women faced; others

stated that young people encountered difficulties in gaining access to education, resources and employment, which undermined their productive potential. Mention was made of the so-called “youth bulge” in many parts of the world and of the fact that by 2030 over 60 per cent of young people would live in cities. Both women and young people held great potential as drivers of change, and several initiatives were already under way to provide them with the training, technical expertise and entrepreneurship skills to enable them to fulfil that role. Further gender-equal policies and a much greater inclusion of young people and women in decision-making processes would be essential for the future of sustainable urban development.

9. The critical role that UN-Habitat would play in meeting the post-2015 sustainable development agenda needed to be borne in mind in the lead-up to Habitat III, including in particular its critical role in addressing the challenges and opportunities of urbanization in the twenty-first century. In preparing for Habitat III, member States should endeavour to adopt innovative approaches to issues such as the eradication of poverty and slums, urban sprawl, security, access to basic services, infrastructure provision and other key economic and social development considerations. Habitat III would also present an opportunity to start to build a solid base for a stronger UN-Habitat.

10. Several representatives welcomed the continuing reorientation of the programmatic focus of UN-Habitat and the emphasis on an urban agenda that was forward-looking and normative and helped to create enabling conditions for sustainable cities. There was also strong support for the increased focus of UN-Habitat on support for an integrated approach to urban development and a new urban agenda that placed greater emphasis on planning, municipal legislation and urban economy.

11. Many representatives said that strengthened governance was of key importance to the effective implementation of the UN-Habitat programme of work and therefore reiterated their support for the process of reforming UN-Habitat into a more accountable, efficient and well-resourced organization with an appropriate human resource complement that would enable it to deliver on its mandate. The structural reforms under review would enhance capacity of UN-Habitat to respond to emerging challenges and ensure an institutional environment conducive to the promotion of the proposed new urban agenda. In addition, the strengthening of the Evaluation Office and the introduction of results-based management were major positive steps. Discussions on changes to the governance structure of UN-Habitat should be concluded at Habitat III in 2016, where a new Habitat Agenda would be drawn up.

12. One representative said that UN-Habitat was in a privileged position to facilitate the exchange of best practices and should take advantage of it by enhancing its role in promoting South-South and triangular cooperation. The strengthening of the regional offices could also greatly contribute to that effect, as well as to ensuring better coordination between the Secretariat and countries that requested UN-Habitat support. The UN-Habitat donor base was still weak and core funding was declining; the Programme – one of the smallest in the United Nations family – was continuing to experience difficulties in fulfilling its mandate. Having a significant and stable proportion of non-earmarked resources would be crucial to ensuring that UN-Habitat could deliver on its core mandate. The new UN-Habitat resource mobilization strategy and the focus on mobilizing a broader and stronger base of core donors were welcomed.

13. During the high-level debate, several speakers made pledges of material support for UN-Habitat. The representative of Nigeria announced a contribution of \$5 million to support UN-Habitat work in Africa. That sum comprised \$3 million for a new African urban agenda, which would focus on mobilizing and strengthening the capacity of Habitat Agenda partners and other non-State actors in sub-Saharan Africa, and \$2 million for specific local programmes in Nigeria, covering youth empowerment initiatives, local economic development, urban renewal, an urban observatory and land reform. The agreements relating to both contributions would be signed at the residence of the Nigerian High Commissioner in Nairobi on Wednesday, 17 April 2013. The representative of Spain also announced that his country had pledged a total of 5 million euros over the period 2012–2016.

14. The representative of Colombia, supported by a representative speaking on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States, invited representatives to participate in the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, to be held in the city of Medellin in 2014. The World Urban Forum had grown to be the most important locus of discussion for urban policymakers and experts, and its seventh session would be an invaluable opportunity to discuss the role of cities in the post-2015 development agenda and to give inputs for Habitat III. One representative, however, felt that a stronger linkage between the World Urban Forum and the UN-Habitat work programme was still needed and that the Forum’s outcomes should be better reflected in UN-Habitat activities.

Annex IV

Summaries by the President of the Governing Council of the dialogue on the special theme of the twenty-fourth session: the role of cities in creating improved economic opportunities for all, with special reference to youth and gender

1. At its 5th and 6th plenary meetings, on Wednesday, 17 April 2013, the Governing Council held a dialogue on the special theme for the session, “Sustainable urban development: the role of cities in creating improved economic opportunities for all, with special reference to youth and gender”. The dialogue consisted of two sessions in the morning and two sessions in the afternoon. Each session featured a moderator and a panel of speakers, presentations by the panellists, comments from the floor and reactions from the panellists. The panel sessions were preceded by opening remarks by the President of the Governing Council, Ms. Amal Pepple (Nigeria).

2. In her opening remarks, the President of the Governing Council stressed that, although cities were the drivers of economic growth, a significant proportion of young men and women, people with different abilities and the marginalized who lived in cities did not adequately benefit from rapid urban economic growth. They faced huge barriers that denied them equitable opportunities to use their full potential. The dialogue was a great opportunity to explore what cities could and should do to create improved economic opportunities for all, particularly for youth and women, within a gender framework. The key to achieving that goal was to implement effective policies that created economic opportunities for all urban residents. Appropriate policies governing urban planning, investments in housing, infrastructures and services, innovative local economic development strategies and the provision of adequate funding for urban development were all factors that determined the ability of cities to generate equitable economic opportunities for all social groups.

3. In his introductory remarks, the Executive Director highlighted the role of cities in creating economic opportunities for all and in focusing on youth and gender issues. Cities could only be engines of growth if they were properly planned and organized, which would eventually mark the difference between productive and unproductive cities. The spatial analysis of the urban form was key to understanding what factors contributed to the productivity of cities. For instance, once land was catalogued as urban, its value could increase by more than ten times. That increase in value, however, should be shared by urban stakeholders with the aim of developing more equitable cities. The benefits of good urban planning were not only economic but also social and political.

A. Session 1: Economics of urban form

4. The first session, which took place in the first part of the morning, was moderated by Mr. Michael Cohen, Director of the Graduate Programme in International Affairs at the New School, New York. The panellists were Mr. Juan Carlos Duque, Professor at the School of Economics and Finance at EAFIT University in Medellin, Colombia; Mr. Abdul Mannan Khan, State Minister for Housing and Public Works, Bangladesh; Mr. Castro Sanfins Namuaca, Mayor of Nampula, Mozambique; and Ms. Ana Falú, Professor and Researcher at the National University of Cordoba, Argentina.

1. Opening remarks

5. The President of the Governing Council opened the session, saying that it would focus on the important role of urban planning in achieving sustainable urban development.

6. Mr. Cohen congratulated UN-Habitat for the selection of the topic – the economy of urban form, saying that it was significant that UN-Habitat recognized the importance of focusing on how cities fitted in the process of development and how the use of space, the urban form and land could make a city more productive, equitable and sustainable. He proposed to frame the dialogue within a historical context of the continuing economic crisis in most countries, where unemployment was at the centre of discussion. Since 2008, countries that had fared relatively well in recovering from the economic collapse had been those that had focused on urban employment as a leading recovery factor. Such countries had been able to increase productivity, reduce inequalities and fuel economic growth. That demonstrated how important cities could be for employment.

7. The focus of urban practices for the previous 25 years had been on housing, services and infrastructure, while ignoring the city as a whole in terms of its form, spatial contours and how projects affected the city itself. By shifting the focus to the urban form, cities could improve spatial

efficiency and equity, mitigate the negative impacts of climate change and create economic opportunities for all, including women and youth. Those concepts related to citizens' everyday experiences of spending long hours commuting to their workplaces, to the effects of density on how they lived and to how everyone experienced and was affected by urban form and density.

2. Panellist presentations

8. In his presentation Mr. Duque demonstrated how the design of a system of cities could foster social welfare and economic growth using the example of Urabà, Colombia, a region of the Department of Antioquia of 11,000 sq km with 11 municipalities. The region was rich in biodiversity and geographical features but also faced huge social problems, including poverty, a lack of access to drinking water, and food insecurity.

9. Mr. Duque then introduced the programme of the state of Antioquia. The goal was to transform the region of Urabà into a development pole. The choice had been made to use quantitative analytical methods and support in the decision-making for regional planning because they offered several benefits in terms of optimal allocation of resources, helping to depoliticize decision-making processes and providing good investment options for local authorities.

10. Key characteristics in classifying the region included tourism, agriculture and port and industrial activities. Those characteristics had helped in the identification of which investment portfolios would foster economic growth and social welfare. The project had helped to identify the area for the creation of a system of cities through economic specialization in urban centres, greater mobility between the cities, through industrial as well as private and public transport, and the connection of the system to the rest of the world by land, sea, river and air.

11. He also highlighted the need to translate investment decisions into local impacts in terms of urban form and growth and to make recommendations on urban density and land use. For individual cities, the growth of population and built-up areas was estimated in order to analyse the potential expansion of urban areas in high, medium and low density land-use scenarios. From that analysis recommendations emerged for compact cities and expansion areas. Compact cities were preferable because of lower costs of transportation and infrastructure and less land consumption. They also fostered urban market competitiveness through proximity. That scenario was also preferable because it helped in preserving aquifer-recharging functions, which constituted a key ecological service in the area and the biodiversity of the region.

12. Expansion areas had been identified and phases of their opening for development defined in order to guide growth and help to prevent land-price speculation, avert land conflicts and guarantee land availability for urban growth. The methodology had been instrumental in achieving consensus among several levels of government and various cities regarding development strategies and the urban development path.

13. Mr. Abdul Mannan Khan's presentation focused on efficiency and inclusion in urban spaces in Bangladesh. The urban population of Bangladesh was 25 per cent of its total population, of which 40 per cent lived below the poverty line. Although poverty reduction was progressing slowly the contribution of the poor to the urban economy needed to be adequately recognized. Low-income settlements of over 5,000 people in the country were threatened by evictions, exploitation, poor housing and inadequate access to sanitation and water. Governments' current housing initiatives mainly served the higher income groups and as a result poor human settlements continued to proliferate near industrial areas. The high population density in existing settlements was affecting the performance of cities and acted as a barrier to the installation of basic services such as water and roads.

14. Since 2000, the Bangladesh Government had been implementing poverty alleviation projects in cities through two main strategies. One was the provision of urban basic services and the other was the development of pro-employment policies. In addition, their efforts had focused on security of tenure for the urban poor with the aim of avoiding forced evictions. He also said that city-wide transformation processes were still detrimental to the poor and that the land planning system was unable to cope with the transformation process owing to several constraints, including a slow land planning system and weak security of tenure provisions for the poor.

15. As a result of the creation of new settlements within municipalities or the elevation of new settlements to the level of municipality, building activities started by the private sector, often in an unplanned manner, created many difficulties for the establishment of networks of essential services. Urban sprawl was increasing, primarily because of the lack of attention to city-wide planning. There was a striking dichotomy between land availability and land use as a result of planning shortcomings and the existence of unused public land, which the Government was trying to mobilize for

development and for the poor. He also focused on the lack of a clear link between infrastructure development and economic development, leading to a gap between service provision and occupation of land. That should be addressed through the introduction of more integrated city-wide planning approaches that took into consideration economic and social dimensions and by providing capacity building support.

16. He also mentioned that an urban policy drafted in 2007 was still pending approval by the Bangladesh Parliament. In addition to calling for decentralized development strategies, the draft was expected to address the need to relocate some informal settlements.

17. Mr. Namuaca shared his experience as the mayor of Nampula, which was the logistical centre of northern Mozambique. Similar to the rest of the country, Nampula had a poverty rate of 60 per cent. There was a difference in governance between the immediate post-independence era, which had been characterized by an overarching central Government, and currently, when there was a more decentralized approach. In the post-independence era, all decisions had been taken by the central Government and the involvement of local stakeholders and communities was non-existent. Since the 1990s, however, decentralization had allowed space for local governments. That had led to the involvement of mayors and municipal assemblies. The urbanization strategies employed had therefore resulted in the enhancement of local talent, collaboration by cities and public-private partnerships. There were several agreements between Nampula and cities in Brazil and Portugal.

18. Local urban planning practices had become necessary because of the pressure of local demands. Decentralized financing had contributed to lowering the incidence of poverty. The 280 projects that had been implemented had generated more than 1,000 local jobs. He expressed appreciation for instruments that were at the disposition of municipalities, the employment of democratic principles and the faster decision-making process. The new interaction between local and central governments should be further promoted. There was a need for proactive planning with the aim of optimizing urbanization. There was also a need to restructure the urban outskirts, where it was possible to create a better complementarity between traditional and modern activities and build on the complementary nature of such activities.

19. Focusing on Latin America, Ms. Ana Falù said that there was a need for the issue of gender inequality to be given greater prominence during the sessions of the Governing Council. Women should be able to use and enjoy public spaces in cities, and cities thus needed to be more inclusive. The under-evaluation of women led to a transformation of the urban form, and the role of urban planning was to transform that process. Economies in Latin American countries were growing but unemployment among women had risen. Women's lives in cities correlated to their spatial experiences, depending on their locations or on their jobs. Most of them worked in the service industries, and they constituted 70 per cent of workers in the care sector. Many, because of the precarious nature of their jobs, did not have social protections.

20. Women were also the poorest as far as time was concerned because they tended to spend more time at work than men. Gender-biased perceptions of the roles of men and women were thus creating a sexual divide in urban spaces. In terms of urban planning, it was fundamental to look at the data on gender and to adjust or transform planning practices accordingly. Cities were not inhabited in the same way by women and men, insofar as women – combining work and family – lived in a fragmented time frame while men's time was more linear, a fact that should be at the centre of urban planning in developing countries in general and in Latin America in particular.

21. Emphasizing the importance of location, she also highlighted the notion of access to services such as transportation by citing violence against women in public transportation in some cities in Mexico. Autonomy for women, who did not have the same symbolic resources as men with which to navigate the city space, was one of the main elements of her presentation. The importance of emphasizing inclusiveness in urban planning was stressed.

3. Discussion

22. In the ensuing discussion, there was general consensus on the role of public policy in steering urban form and urban planning and in fostering the economic role of cities. Through active engagement, the State could influence the form and the shape of urban areas, which could promote production and equitable development. Such engagement should be framed within national urban policies. Key actors who could promote better urban form included mayors, professionals and communities. Mayors and local governments could foster adequate spatial form and engage citizens through the right tools and evidence-based analysis.

23. One participant stressed the importance of coordinating different skills in order to achieve both the retrofitting and greening of cities as well as more efficient land use through mixed use and the

creation of more public spaces. She encouraged professionals to contribute to the new urban model and follow its eight principles.

24. Another participant stressed the importance of the participation and empowerment of communities, which offered economic advantages by fostering the creation of skills. The issue of ageing populations and the new challenges that they posed for urban planning and development was also mentioned. Different perspectives of residents were essential in shaping the city to be truly inclusive and functional for all, including the informal sector. The focus should be on the people who lived in cities, not just on well-designed cities.

25. One participant emphasized the potential role of the private sector in providing a different perspective to youth and women and all other stakeholders, as well as in contributing to more sensible town planning.

26. One notion that generated much support was that urban planning and urban economy should include women. Panellists agreed that there was a need not only to make provision for women in the urban space, which lacked a sufficient assessment of women's needs and their roles in urban space, but also to empower women to make decisions. The role of women in decision-making process was particularly stressed.

4. Closing remarks

27. In his closing remarks, the moderator reasserted that space mattered in urban development and had to find more prominence in economic analysis and policies. The form of the city affected the way in which employment was generated and whether equity was possible, as demonstrated by evidence across cities in the world. There was therefore a great need for institutions at all levels that understood space. In addition, planning must be understood as a key tool for providing a framework in which the private sector, youth, women and others could work. It was important to stress, however, that neither planning nor space nor form was an end in itself but rather a means of achieving collective economic objectives. There was a need for the emergence of new urban professions that were more attuned to the economic needs of all groups and could adopt spatial frames of analysis and action at different scales – with less focus on housing and urban services in isolation. It was necessary to think spatially and act spatially.

B. Session 2: Land-based financing for urban development

1. Opening remarks

28. The second session, which took place later in the morning of Wednesday, 17 April 2013, was also moderated by Mr. Cohen and opened by the President of the Governing Council. The panellists were Mr. Yu-Hung Hong, Executive Director, Land Governance Laboratory, and Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, United States of America; Mr. Mulenga Sata, Deputy Mayor of Lusaka; and Ms. Rachele Alterman, Professor of Urban Planning and Law, Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel. The moderator set the stage for the dialogue by relating it to the first session, on the economics of urban form. He indicated the importance of space and form and highlighting that one of the most valuable assets in any city was land.

2. Panellist presentations

29. In his presentation, Mr. Hong described various instruments for land-based financing such as public land leasing and sales, describing experiences and requirements that best supported such financing and thereby helped to move cities towards self-sustainability. Many cities were in a financial crisis and found themselves under-resourced to handle the demand for urban services. There was, however, no lack of creativity with regard to designing instruments, and he mentioned work by UN-Habitat with the participatory and inclusive land readjustment tool as an example of a self-financing approach that could be used to finance urban development.

30. He said that participating in public land leasing and sales was a favourable way to generate public funds. The municipality of Cairo had sold a large amount of land in 2007 and generated \$3.12 billion, 117 times the total amount of funds raised from property taxes. Beijing, Hong Kong, Mumbai and Sao Paolo were among other cities benefiting from land-based financing.

31. Achieving fiscal outcomes, he said, required support on the institutional and legislative fronts, and he encouraged reflection on the definition of State land ownership, the state of land inventories, property pricing, land use and transparency in land administration processes. In addition, in order to support public land leasing and sales, those elements had to be well designed. The use of land-based

financing as a stand-alone approach was not advisable, and it needed to be coordinated with other fiscal instruments.

32. In her presentation, Ms. Alterman encouraged moving from tilling land to using land resources to finance cities. Greater interest in land-based revenue instruments might be found in developed countries. While many countries were short of funds, the serious difficulties of those in developing countries made them more interested in the idea of land-based revenue instruments. Cities were shrinking in many developed countries but those in the developing countries were expanding.

33. There were three main sets of land-based resource instruments: public land policy, direct value capture and indirect value capture – the last of which was more commonly used in advanced economies. In that context, attention was drawn to the pertinence of the participatory and inclusive land readjustment tool being developed by UN-Habitat and its partners.

34. Mr. Sata said that cities like Lusaka faced tremendous challenges and he encouraged those responsible to go back to the drawing board regarding land policies. Land in Zambia was either owned by the State or in the hands of traditional authorities. State-owned land could be leased to citizens through a number of instruments. Cities acted as land agents for the Government through the Ministry of Land. Lusaka was currently home to 2.1 million people but provided services to as many as 3 million. With 35 per cent of the Zambian population living in urban areas, there was great pressure on available housing and infrastructure, health care and other services and thence a need for integrated approaches and a cohesive policy for land throughout the country. The city needed to improve its balance sheet or credit rating to allow it to raise funds. Lusaka was currently exploring the options of raising money through municipal bonds and private-public partnerships to rebuild its housing stock. He called for an overhaul of the legislative and institutional framework governing local governments and land administration in Zambia to meet the needs of a rapidly growing urban population and to raise finances for enhanced service delivery.

3. Discussion

35. In the ensuing discussion, Mr. Mekuria Haile, Minister for Urban Development and Construction of Ethiopia, said that Ethiopian land was owned by the Government and the people of Ethiopia and that governance of land had been institutionalized by affirmations in the constitution, the land policy, legislation and other operational instruments passed at all levels of Government. The objective of Ethiopia's land policy was to provide a foundation for effective social and economic transformation of the country by ensuring access to land and services for all citizens as a strategic and basic resource of the nation. The country had sought to achieve that objective by ensuring transparency, equity, registration of property rights and security of tenure as well as by supplying serviced land for urban development. Ethiopia, by using land as a strategic public resource to leverage economic development, had registered an annual economic growth of 11 per cent over the preceding nine years and had been implementing plans to move the country from an agrarian economy to an industrial economy. Addis Ababa generated about 50 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), demonstrating a healthy relationship between urbanization and economic development. Ethiopia had prepared urban land for the implementation of integrated housing development programmes since 2006. Through those programmes, 245,000 housing units had been constructed, benefitting 1.2 million people. They had also created a major opportunity for women to own property, making the programme inclusive and gender responsive.

36. In response to a question, he affirmed that Ethiopia's land and housing policies were based on affirmative action for women and that those above the age of 18 were qualified to participate in a lottery.

37. One panellist expressed appreciation for the role played by the Government in Ethiopia, which was in contrast to many countries in the South, where institutions were not well developed and markets were disorderly, resulting in massive speculation on urban land. He then asked how to deal with land-based financing in Africa, where land markets were underdeveloped, land registries were inadequate and institutions were weak.

38. Another panellist responded that issues of poor land registration system, insufficient capacity of administrators, politics and corruption were all facts of life and that there was no ideal instrument or set of instruments that could remedy that. Her recommendation was to have a toolkit of measures without idealizing any of the tools and to be flexible, understanding that most countries employed a mix of approaches.

39. Another panellist stressed that it was not necessary that cities answer all questions on institutional requirements before utilizing land-based financing tools. The Ethiopian case, he said, was an example of good institution-building. He acknowledged, however, that it needed time and effort.

He cautioned participants to be mindful of the potential pitfalls if they decided to use land as a source of revenue to finance public goods. Institutions were not perfect, and there was no ideal institution when it came to support for land-based instruments.

40. Another panellist added that in the area of land-based financing instruments advantages were better felt in the customary and informal land rights systems, where was home and people had informal knowledge about whose land it was, how extensive it was and – often – what it was worth.

41. One participant said that in his country land was not very expensive. The ratio of surface area to population was high, and he wondered how the value of land could be increased under such circumstances. One panellist suggested in response that a necessary first step in raising land value was to improve public infrastructure. Another was to improve neighbourhoods by enhancing facilities and amenities, both social and physical, which then created demand for houses and increased the value of land and improvements. In addition, people should be empowered to design their own urban futures, including land use.

4. Closing remarks

42. The moderator concluded the dialogue session by noting the importance of urban space and form. He also stressed the need to consider a range of financial instruments and the capacities of public institutions to use them. He noted that the Ethiopian experience was impressive in linking space to urban policy and planning and suggested that Habitat III should feature discussion of urban form as a more realistic approach to moving ahead. There was a need for a new operating system for cities' central elements, which included planning, space and form as ways of organizing their economy and responsibilities.

C. Session 3: Job creation for urban youth

1. Opening remarks

43. The first session in the afternoon of Wednesday, 17 April 2013, was moderated by Mr. Joao Scarpelini, a social entrepreneur and activist on youth empowerment in Brazil. The panellists were Mr. Ivan Turok, Deputy Executive Director, Economic Performance and Development Unit, Human Sciences Research Council, Cape Town, South Africa; Mr. Moan Lal Grero, Monitoring Member of Parliament, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Skills Development, Sri Lanka; and Ms. Stella Adhiambo Agara, Member of UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board, Nairobi.

44. The moderator opened the session by stating that although urbanization was the engine that propelled the world towards prosperity in the twenty-first century, the role of youth as drivers of that engine was much less known. The demographic importance of young people, together with their involvement in the development agenda at all levels, had long been understated. Nevertheless, there was hope that youth, if transitioned into an environment that supported equal opportunities, representation in governance, education and secure employment opportunities, could become the engine for the creation of economic and social capital that could jump-start development in many regions of the world. He underlined that the demographic youth bulge could in fact be a demographic gift, as young people leveraged the urban advantage of cities, providing abundance of goods and services.

2. Panellist presentations

45. Mr. Turok discussed rapid urbanization in less developed countries and the need for Governments to be more attentive to employment and economic development. More important, youth employment posed a significant challenge in fast growing cities because of the age structure of young people. Young people who were not integrated into the work force after leaving school risked long-term detachment and constituted a wasted resource, a social hazard and a burden on the State.

46. There were different perspectives on job creation, including the role of, and a balance between, the public and private sectors. Youth unemployment was merely a symptom of a more general problem of high unemployment and under-employment reflecting structural problems in the labour market and a lack of demand for labour because of weak economic growth in many low and middle-income countries. Spatial mismatches between jobs and populations were also structurally hindering youth employment. Youth unemployment was also distinctive in that employers did not always give young candidates the opportunity to prove themselves because they were reluctant to face the risks associated with inexperienced or under-qualified candidates.

47. Policy responses to youth unemployment should include a combination of measures to stimulate labour demand and to strengthen labour supply. While national Governments had a vital role in setting the right policy frameworks, other forms of job creation opportunities should also be looked

into. The green economy could be motivating to young people because it provided many opportunities to transfer and develop skills and work experience and was a popular means of attracting international funding. Young people could influence consumption and production patterns, and there was a need to decouple growth from resource consumption. The green economy was an alternative for young people to find and develop sustainable jobs and offered enormous potential for tackling the issues faced by cities.

48. Mr. Grero began his presentation by congratulating the Secretary-General for the appointment of the Youth Envoy and acknowledged the promising developments in the Youth 21 process. Outlining measures taken by the Sri Lankan Government on youth and women, he stressed that education should be geared to employment in order to avoid the mismatch between young people's requirements and the job market's needs. Citing examples from Sri Lanka, he said that there was a misperception that vocational training related solely to manual work, and his Government was therefore promoting vocational training in schools and colleges, up to the degree level. Vocational training was about providing institutional qualifications to raise the competencies and abilities of young people in various technological areas. He also highlighted the importance of youth participation in institutional structures such as youth parliaments and youth councils.

49. Drawing attention to the World Youth Conference to be held in Sri Lanka in 2014 as a platform to discuss the youth agenda for post-2015, he invited all interested parties and all United Nations Member States to work together in the organization of the Conference.

50. Ms. Agara presented her definition of job creation, which she adopted from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Youth Employment Network framework, later adapted by the Global Youth Employment Summit, namely the six Es: employability, employment creation, equity, entrepreneurship, environmental sustainability, empowerment and education. A main barrier to youth employment was a skills mismatch created because education systems were not responding to the needs of the market. At times, Governments were not providing adequate structures for job creation in relation to the natural resources available in their countries, such as wind farms in windy countries, graphite mining in graphite-rich countries, and others.

51. Regarding youth entrepreneurship, young people were often blamed for looking for jobs instead of creating jobs for themselves. Job creation had been shown to be unsustainable and to have contributed to environmental degradation. Although youth empowerment initiatives did exist and flourish around the world they were often poorly coordinated. To reduce such barriers to youth employment, enabling legislation and affirmative action were needed. One of the surest ways to increase effective youth participation was to believe in young people.

3. Discussion

52. One participant from the private sector suggested steps to address the global youth unemployment problem. They included, at the global level, promoting access to information and communication technology by youth and promoting youth campaigns for employment and entrepreneurship; and at national and operational levels, implementing comprehensive youth employment programmes and incorporating the latest information and communication technology developments. He also suggested that youth employment initiatives should be based on a public-private youth partnership model.

53. In response to questions on the mismatch of skills in developing countries and strategies for addressing the incoherence between a developing country's needs for less labour-intensive jobs for it to develop and its needs for more labour-intensive jobs to address the challenge of unemployment and under-employment, one panellist said that countries needed to train young people with specific skills to match national employment needs.

54. One participant emphasized the need to foster partnerships between Governments, the private sector and civil society in order successfully to empower youth. She highlighted the importance of social dialogue between Governments and organizations in delivering on commitments on youth employment. Strengthening skills must be a core priority and education and training were essential.

55. Another participant commented on the importance of engaging youth politically. He cited the structure that the Government of Nigeria had put in place to empower youth in its National Youth Parliament. He also cited the Nigerian information and communications technology (ICT) programme, which had allowed over 200 new ICT-based youth businesses to be developed.

4. Closing remarks

56. The moderator concluded the session by saying that contemporary youth constituted a new generation with new ideas and new perspectives. The creative industries encapsulated some of the areas of interest to young people: music, arts, design and software, the last of which was a fast growing industry. Those areas constituted huge and expanding economic markets, and there were many activities connecting closely with the aspirations of young people. Governments must support and nurture those areas, through advice, networks and business incubators and by building on the skills of young people. They must also allow young people to express themselves and give more space and freedom to such youth expression. Interference by Governments could sometimes complicate and stifle young people's creativity and activity, and they should not over-regulate or create barriers to enterprise formation.

D. Session 4: Economic empowerment of women

57. The last session of the dialogue was moderated by Ms. Winnie Mitullah, Professor and Executive Director, International Institute for Development, University of Nairobi. The panellists were Ms. Teresa Boccia, Professor of Urban Planning, Faculty of Architecture and LUPT Interdepartmental Research Centre, Federico II University of Naples, Italy; Ms. Anne Beathe Tvinnereim, State Secretary, Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Norway; Mr. Muchadeyi Masunda, Mayor of Harare; and Ms. Christine Musisi, Regional Director, United Nations Women in the Eastern and Southern African region, Nairobi.

1. Panellist presentations

58. In her opening remarks, Ms. Tvinnereim said that the value of all the oil in Norway did not compare to the value of women in economic life. She stressed the evolution of 40 years of construction of the welfare state in Norway, which ensured a high level of participation of women and men in the workforce through an emphasis on legislation, social security schemes and gender equality. An overriding goal had been to make the balance between family life and working life possible, which enabled women's economic independence. Thanks to quotas and affirmative action, gender balance had been achieved in cabinet and local councils and new legislation had been enacted to increase women's participation in the boards of private and public companies. Investment in infrastructure and the promotion of women to political decision-making positions improved women's economic empowerment. The main challenge was the lack of political will to see women's needs and prioritize them, and the best cure was the presence of more women in politics.

59. Mr. Masunda focused on the low number of women in political positions and high-level technical staff within the municipality of Harare. The majority of women worked within the social sector in health, education and housing cooperatives. He stressed the importance of linking up with major players within the private sector to support women's economic empowerment. As mayor, it was incumbent on him to leverage and seize all opportunities to ensure that women were empowered.

60. In her statement, Ms. Boccia said that urbanization and prosperity did not guarantee gender equality. While urbanization was increasing inequalities, poverty affected women more. To achieve efficient policies, it was important to understand the daily conditions of women and men that lived in cities. Women were involved in unpaid care work, the monetary value of which was estimated at 39 per cent of GDP. Policies were neutral and often ineffective when they did not take into consideration the gender perspective.

61. Historically, women had been relegated to private spaces such as the home and had not been active in the public space. Women's mobility required complex small-scale solutions as they often made shorter trips to a multitude of places in comparison to men. Urgent and major challenges to be overcome were that planning should not be neutral and abstract, but rather based on the daily life of each person in the city; and that a new alphabet for planning that combined quantity and quality and was not defined in terms of density and functionality was needed to promote soft viability, a balance between the private and public sectors, appropriate public spaces, proximity and cultural diversity.

62. Plans and programmes needed to involve those that had never been involved in decision-making such as women, youth and grassroots organizations. Following the Europe 2020 Project Bond Initiative, growth needed to be smart, sustainable and inclusive, and women had to be considered as a resource and vital source of competitiveness. There was therefore a need to invest in education, health-care and access to financing for women and tax deductions for women's jobs as a means of job creation. Women's absence in decision-making positions posed a major challenge to the sustainable development of the city. In conclusion, she stated that the big challenge was eliminating suffering, respecting the environment and human dignity and redistributing wealth among people and territories.

63. In her presentation, Ms. Musisi said that urbanization had much to offer women: services, employment and increased independence, together with a shift of the distribution of labour within the household. Women were relegated to the informal sector, which was unregulated and therefore characterized by the lowest wages, poor working conditions and long working hours. The burden of poverty took a heavy toll on women. Economic schemes usually focused on a survival approach but it was necessary to move from a survival approach to women's true economic empowerment.

64. Urban planning and policies were mostly gender-blind, while women, children and youth were more vulnerable to crime and violence, which limited their freedom to engage in city life. The fact that women remained in the lower echelons in official government offices meant that they were not able to influence decisions in their lives or the planning, management and governance of cities. Women could prosper economically through a deliberate investment in empowering them, good governance and gender responsiveness and changing women's empowerment policies from vulnerability to potentiality. Because urban land was in very high demand, there was need for affirmative action that gave women easier access to markets and urban services.

2. Discussion

65. In the ensuing discussion, one participant underscored the feminization of poverty, saying that there was a need to change the mind-set to see informal workers not as marginalized actors in the society but as assets. To empower women economically required a recognition that the informal economy would not disappear. Local governments needed to adopt appropriate urban planning policies developed in partnership with urban informal workers.

66. Another participant observed that, while his country was working to achieve gender parity in parliament and local government, it was difficult because some political parties did not agree with that goal. It was also challenging to get women to take positions as chief executive officers of companies.

67. One participant said that it was not the number of women in decision-making positions that counted and that it was necessary to recognize the contribution of women to the economy. A bank in his country, for example, had changed the situation of women by providing loans that empowered them. Women were contributing to the economy, but their status in day-to-day life was still difficult. It was important to share good practices to change policy makers' decisions.

68. One participant said that poverty and inequality were the two main challenges and proposed that development needs should be managed by women. Political will was not enough unless it was translated into legislation. Although political will existed, women needed to take charge and be more proactive.

69. Another participant spoke of progress achieved in her country, where a quota of 30 per cent has recently been established for municipal councils and parliament. Although more and more women were working in various sectors, they did not have the same access to credit as men. Women needed to re-appropriate the city.

70. Responding to the comments from the floor, one panellist said that urbanization did not equal prosperity for everyone. Cities needed to ensure social infrastructure, health care and urban infrastructure, all of which made it easier for women to combine their caregiving activities and work outside the home. That meant, however, that men had to assume part of the caregiving role in the household.

71. Another panellist voiced support for an inclusive, liveable city that took into consideration the divergent needs of the people living there. One panellist stressed that policymakers and decision makers needed real evidence and that it was therefore necessary to invest in such evidence.

72. A participant from the global policy advocacy group Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Urbanizing requested the Governing Council to recognize informal work as a key element of women's economic empowerment and called for a specific UN-Habitat work programme on the informal economy.

3. Closing remarks

73. The President of the Governing Council closed the dialogue, saying that it had drawn attention to the urgent need to exploit the true potential of cities. Participants had reiterated that robust economic development in cities provided a strong foundation for sustainable urban development, especially if and when prosperity was balanced and equitable. Urbanization and cities drove economic growth, but for growth to be sustainable it had to be well planned and well managed. Participants discussed the challenge of how to translate that priority into policies on urban planning and the allocation of adequate funds for urban development, particularly through land-based financing tools.

They also discussed the issues of urban youth unemployment and the economic empowerment of women. Panellists shared interesting experiences, ranging from analysis of the root causes of youth unemployment to the need for labour-intensive jobs and a wider set of economic targets, specific youth projects such as the youth parliaments in Nigeria and Sri Lanka, the feminization of urban poverty, the importance of the informal economy, women's leadership and the need for political will in addressing gender inequalities in cities.

Annex V

Report of the Committee of the Whole

I. Introduction

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on Monday, 15 April 2013, the Governing Council agreed to establish a committee of the whole to consider agenda items 5, 7 and 8.
2. The Committee of the Whole was chaired by Mr. Abdul Mannan Khan (Bangladesh), one of the three vice-presidents of the Governing Council and, in his absence, Mr. Sergey Trepelkov (Russian Federation), a fellow vice-president.

II. Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters (agenda item 5)

3. The Committee took up the agenda item at its 1st meeting, on the afternoon of Monday, 15 April 2013. In organizing its work it agreed to entrust consideration of the draft resolutions set out in document HSP/GC/24/3/Add.1 to the drafting committee that had been established by the Governing Council.

4. It also agreed to take up the issues arising under agenda item 5 in the following order: activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme: report of the Executive Director (HSP/GC/24/2); Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on its work during the intersessional period (HSP/GC/24/3); draft resolutions prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (HSP/GC/24/3/Add.1); coordinated implementation of guidelines on access to basic services for all and guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities (HSP/GC/24/2/Add.8); joint progress report of the executive directors of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (HSP/GC/24/2/Add.4); cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations (HSP/GC/24/2/Add.5); global housing strategy to the year 2025 (HSP/GC/24/2/Add.6); report of the Executive Director on the sixth session of the World Urban Forum (HSP/GC/24/2/Add.2); third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) (HSP/GC/24/2/Add.3); review of the governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (HSP/GC/24/2/Add.1); UN-Habitat commitment to the human rights-based approach to development (HSP/GC/24/2/Add.7).

A. Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

5. Ms. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat, presented the report of the Executive Director on the activities of UN-Habitat, which was set out in document HSP/GC/24/2 and seven addenda to that document. She explained that the base document summarized activities undertaken by UN-Habitat in response to the resolutions adopted by the Governing Council at its twenty-third session, while the addenda provided more detailed information on activities undertaken in response to specific resolutions. She also highlighted the subjects covered by the addenda and the documents in which they were discussed.

6. The Committee took note of the report.

B. Coordinated implementation of the guidelines on access to basic services for all and the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities

7. The representative of the Secretariat drew attention to the document on the coordinated implementation of the guidelines on access to basic services for all and the guidelines on decentralization and the strengthening of local authorities (HSP/GC/24/2/Add.8). He drew attention to key events at the global, regional and national levels that had been held over the reporting period, at which it had been clearly demonstrated how support for the technical dimensions of multi-level governance had enhanced strategic capacity across different levels of government, both local and national, and had enhanced decentralization processes. He described recent institutional reforms at

UN-Habitat, in response to the request to UN-Habitat in resolution 23/12 that it should strengthen its related human and financial capacities.

8. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of France expressed strong support for UN-Habitat activities in that area, recalling that her country had financed the implementation of a pilot programme in six countries. She noted with appreciation the coordination work with local authorities conducted by UN-Habitat. In response, the representative of the Secretariat expressed satisfaction at the cooperative relationship with France and all other partners in the framework of the implementation of resolution 22/8, saying that UN-Habitat looked forward to extending that partnership further. Accordingly, he urged member States to support the related resolution, since many countries, in particular the least developed among them, stood to benefit from the process.

C. Report of the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the intersessional period

9. Mr. Trepelkov drew attention to the report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (HSP/GC/24/3), which summarized the Committee's meetings in 2011 and 2012, together with the one meeting that had already taken place in 2013 in preparation for the current session of the Governing Council. He outlined the work of the various working groups established by the bureau of the Committee and noted that the draft resolutions reviewed by the Committee had been presented to the Committee of the Whole at its 1st meeting and transmitted to the drafting committee for its consideration. He thanked the members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for their hard work during the intersessional period and in preparing for the twenty-fourth session.

10. The Committee took note of the report.

D. Cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations

11. The representative of the Secretariat, drawing attention to the report on cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations (HSP/GC/24/2/Add.5), observed that such cooperation continued to play a strategic role in UN-Habitat. He drew attention, in particular, to the strengthened cooperation with the World Bank in the development of sustainable funding modalities to support city development and to organizational reforms, including the establishment of the Partners and Inter-Agency Coordination Branch. The Secretariat invited guidance on how UN-Habitat could take advantage of such partnerships to maximize delivery on its commitments.

12. In the ensuing discussion, one representative commended UN-Habitat on its efforts to work in a coordinated fashion with other secretariats, in line with the "Delivering as one" initiative, identifying in particular its exemplary work on gender mainstreaming in collaboration with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). Urging it to continue those efforts, she encouraged UN-Habitat to extend its cooperation to other areas, such as disaster response, noting that its role as second responder was very helpful in recovery processes.

13. The Committee took note of the report.

E. Joint progress report of the executive directors of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme on activities in the field of the urban environment over the reporting period 2011–2012

14. The representative of the Secretariat drew attention to the joint progress report of the executive directors of UN-Habitat and UNEP (HSP/GC/24/2/Add.4), which in particular reviewed progress under the partnership framework for 2008–2013. Highlighting the need to consider the partnership plan for 2014–2019 and, to that end, to identify lessons learned, he said that the Secretariat would appreciate guidance from the Governing Council on how further to strengthen its cooperation with UNEP.

15. In the ensuing discussion, one representative expressed appreciation for the close partnership between the two programmes, observing that their co-location yielded significant benefits, facilitating constructive joint activities along with positive informal interactions. His delegation looked forward to the process of self-evaluation at the end of the current partnership framework and to still broader consultation and partnership between UN-Habitat and UNEP over the coming years, in particular in

such areas as efforts to ensure cleaner air in cities, disaster mitigation and joint work by the two organizations to build the resilience of urban communities.

16. The Committee took note of the report.

F. Global housing strategy

17. The representative of the Secretariat drew attention to the global housing strategy framework document (HSP/GC/24/2/Add.6) and expressed the hope that the outcome of the strategy would reposition the issue of housing within the contemporary global debate on economically viable, environmentally and culturally sustainable and socially inclusive cities and lead to a paradigm shift in thinking and practice relating to housing policy. Conveying gratitude to the Committee of Permanent Representatives for its support on the matter, he urged the Council to endorse the strategy through the adoption of the relevant resolution.

18. In the ensuing discussion, one representative pledged his delegation's support for the strategy, which laid the foundation for a positive new approach to the housing sector, and requested the Secretariat to keep member States duly informed of its implementation.

G. Sixth session of the World Urban Forum

19. The representative of the Secretariat, drawing attention to the report of the Executive Director on the sixth session of the World Urban Forum (HSP/GC/24/2/Add.2), enumerated highlights of the session. For the first time, the Forum had attracted greater international than local participation, with extensive representation by the least developed countries. There had also been a high level of media interest in the event and social media had been used and integrated into the Forum's communication process: for the first time, the session had been streamed on line. The Secretariat would appreciate guidance from the Governing Council on steps that could be taken to strengthen the Forum as a key platform for advancing the agenda on sustainable urban development.

20. In the ensuing discussion, one representative recalled the request in resolution 23/5 that the outcomes of the Forum should be more distinctly incorporated into the UN-Habitat work programme and UN-Habitat governing body. Both her delegation and the countries of her region felt that a more effective mechanism was needed to ensure that the Forum's conclusions were properly reflected and, to that end, they requested the Secretariat to revisit the request in resolution 23/5 and to ensure a stronger link between the Forum and the governing bodies of UN-Habitat.

H. Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

21. The representative of the Secretariat drew attention to the report of the Executive Director on the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) (HSP/GC/24/2/Add.3). He said that the report responded to General Assembly resolution 67/216, by which the Assembly had requested the Secretary-General of the conference to prepare, using the expertise of the United Nations system, a proposal for consideration by the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session on how best to provide inputs and support for the preparatory process of the conference in the most inclusive, efficient, effective and improved manner and to proceed accordingly. He highlighted salient aspects of the report, including the issues set out in part VI for decision by the Governing Council.

22. Another representative of the Secretariat drew attention to the relevant resolution submitted to the drafting committee for its consideration and provided an overview of its provisions.

23. In the ensuing discussion one representative commended the work undertaken by UN-Habitat on preparations for Habitat III. He stressed, however, that the preparatory process for the conference had been launched by the General Assembly and the Governing Council should therefore focus on furthering the implementation of the relevant General Assembly resolution. Habitat III would be fundamental to revitalizing and possibly redirecting the activities of UN-Habitat, providing a forum for a rigorous discussion on key issues relevant to its mandate. He said that the Governing Council should call on the Executive Director to begin work on preparations for Habitat III with immediate effect and on member States to support the trust fund for Habitat III in a robust manner. He highlighted the intention to limit the cost of the conference to less than the total expenditure for the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

24. Another representative said that there was a need for an appropriate mechanism to ensure that Habitat III was financed in an efficient and participatory way. He said that the relevant draft resolution should be closely aligned with General Assembly resolutions 66/207 and 67/216 in order to strengthen

the participatory approach and strive for the revision of the Habitat Agenda to bring it in line with the post-2015 development agenda. He called for the preparatory process for the conference to be more participatory and decentralized, enabling the participation of local government, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders.

25. Another representative expressed concern regarding the proposed cost of the preparatory process and what was described as a cumbersome, bottom-up approach to information gathering.

26. Responding to the comments, the representative of the Secretariat indicated that, among measures aimed at reducing costs, preparatory meetings would be held on line or back-to-back with other relevant intergovernmental meetings. The conference would be significantly less expensive than its predecessor; nevertheless, the Secretariat would need to undertake vigorous fundraising and would require the strong support of member States. The Secretariat had proposed the convening of a virtual meeting in June 2013 to enable Habitat Agenda partners to discuss and agree upon an assessment methodology for proposed national reporting on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

27. The Committee took note of the report.

I. Review of the governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

28. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the report of the Executive Director on the review of the governance structure of UN-Habitat (HSP/GC/24/2/Add.1). He said that the governance review was intended to respond to the need for a more focused UN-Habitat that was better equipped to respond to the challenges of urbanization and human settlements. In its resolution 23/13, the Governing Council had requested the Executive Director, jointly with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to examine governance reform options, to aim to reach consensus thereon and to develop a related action plan for submission to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, if possible. Accordingly, an open-ended consultative group on the governance review process had been established, terms of reference for the group approved and four task force teams set up further to analyse governance reform options, with particular focus on a managerial and structural analysis and a comparative analysis with other United Nations entities. A consultant's report highlighted the main options for governance reform.

29. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed concern that no specific proposal for the reform of the governance structure of UN-Habitat had been elaborated since the beginning of the review process two years earlier. He suggested a number of elements for inclusion in the relevant draft resolution, namely, specific steps to advance the reform and guide the way forward; functions such as regular strategic oversight of UN-Habitat activities and resources in order to attain the overall objective of enhanced efficiency, effectiveness, accountability and transparency of the decision-making processes of UN-Habitat; a leaner, sharper and more efficient structure based on the principle of representativeness, including regional groups and all relevant stakeholders; the convening of annual meetings to ensure continuity of work, which should include participants with the requisite technical expertise, including from capitals; the convening of meetings at the political level to provide high-level policy guidance, with particular emphasis on UN-Habitat normative work and including overall policy guidance on its operational activities.

30. Another representative urged member States to continue to support the governance reform process. She expressed the hope that a specific outcome on the issue would be forthcoming at the current session.

31. One representative commended efforts to increase transparency in and reform the governance, efficiency and effectiveness of UN-Habitat; he nevertheless said that those efforts had yielded little progress and he called for strenuous effort to remedy that shortcoming. While favouring the involvement in the governance reform process of a broad range of stakeholders, including representatives of regions and civil society, he expressed caution regarding the convening of annual meetings to that end.

32. One representative of the Secretariat said that a document was available on the UN-Habitat website summarizing progress to date in response to the requests of Governments relating to the governance review process.

33. The Committee took note of the report.

J. Commitment of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to the human-rights based approach to development

34. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the report on UN-Habitat commitment to the human rights-based approach to development (HSP/GC/24/2/Add.7), pointing out that human rights were central to the mandate and mission of the United Nations as a whole, as reaffirmed on several occasions by the General Assembly. UN-Habitat had long advocated respect for human rights, as reflected in the Habitat Agenda and the global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance, among other things.

35. Another representative of the Secretariat said that the guidance of member States was required on how to proceed on human rights and whether work on the subject should be included under the draft resolution on the medium-term strategic and institutional plan.

36. The Committee took note of the report.

K. Draft resolutions introduced by member States

37. The Committee took up for consideration at its second and third meetings, on the mornings of Tuesday, 16 April 2013, and Thursday, 18 April 2013, respectively, seven draft resolutions that had been submitted by member States after the Committee of Permanent Representatives had concluded its work in preparation for the current session.

1. Draft resolution on international guidelines on urban and territorial planning (submitted by France)

38. Introducing the resolution, the representative of France noted that, owing to rapidly increasing global urbanization, urban planning had become a priority in the UN-Habitat strategic plan. The resolution sought to give UN-Habitat the mandate to elaborate international guidelines on urban and territorial planning and to present them to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session for consideration. In drafting the guidelines UN-Habitat was to engage in an inclusive consultative process with national Governments, local authorities, relevant United Nations organizations, financial and development partners, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders and to incorporate best practices and lessons learned in various contexts.

39. The Committee agreed to transmit the resolution to the drafting committee for further consideration.

2. Draft resolution on promoting inclusive and sustainable urban planning (submitted by India)

40. Introducing the resolution, the representative of India stated that it was closely linked to the special theme of the current session and could provide useful guidance on tackling unplanned urbanization and the rapid growth in the number of urban poor in developing countries. Current models of urban planning had been put in place decades earlier and were no longer adequate to meet the needs of the urban poor. The resolution aimed to recognize the urban poor as stakeholders and to include them in sustainable urban planning.

41. The Committee agreed to transmit the resolution to the drafting committee for further consideration.

3. Draft resolution on gender equality and women's empowerment to contribute to sustainable urban development (submitted by the United Republic of Tanzania)

42. Introducing the item, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania recalled the request of the Executive Director to establish a gender advisory board to advise the Executive Director on gender issues and promote the empowerment of women. In response, the Advisory Group on Gender Issues had been established at the sixth World Urban Forum, in September 2012. The group had already met twice in 2012 and had submitted a 2013 work plan to the Executive Director. Suggesting that gender programmes at UN-Habitat appeared to be slowing, she said that the objective of the resolution was to strengthen UN-Habitat and send a clear signal that it was committed to gender mainstreaming in its policies and programmes. The resolution was co-sponsored by Norway, South Africa and Spain.

43. One representative requested that the drafting committee seek clarification on the budgetary implications of the resolution and the impact that it would have on other programmes of UN-Habitat.

44. The Committee agreed to transmit the resolution to the drafting committee for further consideration.

4. Draft resolution on youth and sustainable urban development (submitted by India and Jordan)

45. Introducing the resolution, the representative of Jordan said that it was in line with the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, “The future we want”, which noted the high levels of unemployment and under-employment among young people and called for sustainable development strategies proactively to address youth employment at all levels, and with the five-year strategy of the Secretary-General, which recognized youth as a top priority for the United Nations. The resolution sought, among other aims, to harness the potential and abilities of youth and to promote youth participation in decision-making.

46. One representative drew attention to another resolution on youth that was before the Governing Council and noted that there were some overlapping paragraphs. He called on the drafting committee to compare the two resolutions and ensure that the language was coherent.

47. The Committee agreed to transmit the resolution to the drafting committee for further consideration.

5. Making slums history: a worldwide challenge for 2020 (submitted by Morocco)

48. Introducing the resolution, which was co-sponsored by South Africa, the representative of Morocco said that it was in line with the international conference on the theme “Making slums history; a global challenge for 2020”, which had been held in Rabat in November 2012, to review global progress in improving the living conditions of slum dwellers between 2000 and 2010 and progress towards target D of goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals, on significantly improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. It sought clearly to define the understanding of slums and invited member States to implement universal principles for slum upgrading, including the prohibition of illegal eviction, the empowerment of women and youth and the promotion of accountability and transparency in all programmes.

49. One representative called for the inclusion of access to energy, as an important element of security, as part of the resolution’s definition of “slum”. Another cautioned against expanding a definition already accepted by the United Nations and suggested including the element of access to energy in another part of the resolution.

50. The Committee agreed to transmit the resolution to the drafting committee for further consideration.

6. Urbanization and sustainable urban development in the post-2015 agenda (submitted by Germany)

51. Introducing the resolution, the representative of Germany, speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the resolution brought together references to sustainable urban development in other draft resolutions with the aim of focusing on the relationship between UN-Habitat and sustainable urbanization in the post-2015 development agenda and making the issue more visible. The draft resolution required the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to ensure the organization’s involvement in the formulation of the post-2015 agenda, to encourage Governments and partners to consider and contribute to sustainable urbanization, and to report on the implementation of the resolution.

52. The Committee agreed to transmit the resolution to the drafting committee for further consideration.

7. Strengthening UN-Habitat (submitted by Brazil)

53. At the Committee’s 4th meeting, on the morning of Thursday, 18 April 2013, the Chair noted that a contact group had been established under the auspices of the President of the Governing Council to consider a draft resolution submitted by Brazil on strengthening UN-Habitat. The Committee agreed that the contact group, upon concluding its work on the draft resolution, should report directly to the Committee of the Whole on the results of that work.

III. Work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2014–2015 (agenda item 7)

54. The Committee took up the agenda item at its 3rd meeting, on the afternoon of Tuesday, 16 April 2013.

A. Proposed work programme and budget for the biennium 2014–2015

55. The Deputy Executive Director introduced the proposed work programme and budget for the biennium 2014–2015, as set out in document HSP/GC/24/5. She recalled that by its resolution 23/11 the Governing Council had requested the Executive Director to develop a strategic plan for 2014–2019 and to prepare a work programme and budget for the biennium 2014–2015, ensuring that it was aligned with the strategic plan. The work programme and budget had been prepared in close collaboration with, and endorsed by, the Committee of Permanent Representatives and had been recommended for Governing Council approval by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in New York. The work programme reflected the new organizational structure of UN-Habitat, which aimed to achieve greater efficiency, productivity, accountability and transparency. The resource estimates for the biennium were aligned with the seven strategic priorities highlighted by the UN-Habitat organizational review. In implementing the programme of work, UN-Habitat aimed to ensure that all cross-cutting issues were mainstreamed and would continue to ensure the strategic application of results-based management throughout the project cycle.

56. Regarding the budget, she said that a realistic proposal had been developed to meet the requirements of the work programme while enhancing efficiency and productivity and ensuring that the reduced level of resources available did not impede delivery of the normative and operational programmes of UN-Habitat. The overall budget for the biennium 2014–2015 was \$392.4 million, a reduction of 8 per cent compared to 2012–2013. Of that amount, \$21.1 million was allocated from the United Nations regular budget, approved by the General Assembly; \$168.8 million was funded by the UN-Habitat Foundation (\$45.6 million from the general purpose fund and \$123.2 million from the special purpose fund); and \$202.5 million was from technical cooperation contributions. UN-Habitat continued to review its resource mobilization efforts to achieve sustainable income and more predictable funding and the organization's resource mobilization strategy aimed to enhance contributions to both core and earmarked funds.

57. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the strategic plan and the work programme and budget and praised the efforts to align the work programme with the restructuring of UN-Habitat. The 2014–2015 biennium was of particular significance given the role that UN-Habitat would play in the post-2015 development agenda and in the preparations for Habitat III. With regard to the resources available through the UN-Habitat Foundation, she said that the Executive Director should take measures to broaden the donor base and ensure more balanced contributions from all member States. Finally, she commended the progress that had been made in developing a comprehensive monitoring system and in adopting a results-based management approach.

B. Report on progress in the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008–2013

58. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the report on progress in the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008–2013 (HSP/GC/24/5/Add.1), which had been prepared pursuant to resolution 23/11. The plan, he recalled, had six mutually reinforcing focus areas: advocacy, monitoring and partnerships; participatory urban planning, management and governance; pro-poor land and housing; environmentally sound and affordable infrastructure and services; strengthening human settlement finance systems; and excellence in management. Achievements in the first four focus areas had been consistently satisfactory, but adverse factors had impeded progress against certain indicators in the fifth and sixth focus areas.

59. In the ensuing discussion, one representative commended the Secretariat on the improvements that had been made in implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan during the reporting period, including the introduction of results-based management and improved evaluation and reporting. Another representative said that the reforms had strengthened the strategic thrust of the plan but greater efforts should be made to align budgetary allocations with strategic areas of work. In addition, there was value to be gained, in accordance with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of the United Nations General Assembly, in ensuring that core and non-core budgetary activities were reconciled with one another and that full cost recovery was implemented.

60. In response, the Deputy Executive Director said that progress was being made, through the resource mobilization strategy, in demonstrating how the budget was allocated across thematic areas and regions. Another representative of the Secretariat said that UN-Habitat had participated in the session of the High-Level Committee on Management that had considered the quadrennial comprehensive policy review negotiations; the UN-Habitat cost recovery policy was based on current policy within the United Nations system, including with regard to harmonization of cost recovery

policies across United Nations agencies, and the principle of full cost recovery, proportionally from core and non-core budgetary sources.

61. The representative who had raised the issue said that it was important that the Committee of Permanent Representatives should be fully apprised of the non-core activities being undertaken so that it was aware of the potential impact of funding those activities on the ability of UN-Habitat to undertake its core activities and focus on its core mandate.

62. The Committee took note of the report.

C. Report on the draft strategic plan 2014–2019 of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

63. The representative of the Secretariat, introducing the report on the draft strategic plan 2014–2019 (HSP/GC/24/5/Add.2), recalled that by resolution 23/11 the Governing Council had requested the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to develop a strategic plan for 2014–2019, including a road map for preparatory work, for consideration by the Governing Council at the current session. The draft strategic plan comprised three parts: strategic analysis, strategic choice and strategy implementation. Development of the plan had been informed by the new organizational structure of UN-Habitat and an analysis of the organization's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Four areas would be prioritized during 2014–2019, namely, urban legislation, land and governance; urban planning and design; urban economy; and urban basic services. In addition, four key cross-cutting issues would be mainstreamed: gender, youth, climate change and human rights.

64. The Committee took note of the report.

D. Report on gender equality and empowerment of women in sustainable urban development

65. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the report on gender equality and empowerment of women in sustainable urban development (HSP/GC/24/5/Add.3). He recalled that by its resolution 23/1 the Governing Council had encouraged UN-Habitat to incorporate a gender perspective into its work and had requested the Executive Director to undertake a range of actions in support of that objective, including strengthening the Gender Mainstreaming Unit, establishing a mechanism for consulting other gender units within and outside the United Nations system and establishing an advisory group on gender issues. The Gender Coordination and Support Unit, located within the Project Office, had accordingly conducted a gender audit of UN-Habitat; on the basis of that audit a gender equality action plan had been developed to complement the United Nations system-wide policy on gender equality and the empowerment of women. In addition, the advisory group on gender issues had been set up and had been active in advancing gender issues within UN-Habitat.

66. Several representatives welcomed the progress that had been made in mainstreaming the issue of gender in UN-Habitat. One representative said that women were particularly vulnerable to environmental degradation, especially in urban and peri-urban poor areas, where pollutants, including phosphorus, could prove harmful to their reproductive systems. Another representative said that the tendency to lump gender and youth matters together was insufficiently nuanced and that the present focus on vulnerability should give way to a more rights-based, participatory approach.

67. The Committee took note of the report.

E. Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

68. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (HSP/GC/24/5/Add.4). The Advisory Committee had agreed with the conservative approach adopted by UN-Habitat in projecting future income and had encouraged the organization to continue its prudent approach to the management of its resources. The Advisory Committee had recommended approval of the work programme and budget for the biennium 2014–2015 proposed by the Executive Director.

69. The Committee took note of the report.

IV. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council (agenda item 8)

70. The Committee took up the item at its 3rd meeting, on the afternoon of Tuesday, 16 April 2013. The representative of the Secretariat outlined the proposed agenda for the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council, to be held in 2015, as set out in document HSP/GC/24/6.

71. The Committee endorsed the provisional agenda for the twenty-fifth session for consideration and possible adoption by the Governing Council.

V. Endorsement of draft resolutions and closing statements

72. Following the deliberations of the drafting committee, the Committee of the Whole endorsed 15 draft resolutions at its 8th and final meeting, on Friday, 19 April 2013, and agreed that they should be transmitted to the President for submission to the Governing Council meeting in plenary session.

73. At that same meeting and on the invitation of the Chair, the representative of Chile, speaking in his capacity as chair of the contact group set up to negotiate the draft resolution submitted by Brazil on the strengthening of UN-Habitat, reported on the work of the contact group. He expressed sincere regret that participants had failed to reach sufficient agreement to produce a draft resolution for the consideration of the Committee of the Whole. A number of other representatives echoed his concerns, two of whom were speaking on behalf of groups of countries.

74. The representative of the United States of America, referring to the draft resolution on strengthening UN-Habitat's work on urban basic services, said that his delegation understood "the human right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation" to be derived from the rights contained in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. He stressed that States party to that covenant were bound to take steps towards achieving its full realization. Additionally, in that and other draft resolutions, his delegation understood "rights-based approaches" to mean approaches anchored in a system of rights, corresponding to obligations established by law, and promoting the protection of human rights.

75. During the Committee's final meeting, a number of representatives commended the Committee on its hard work and expressed satisfaction at the endorsement of the draft resolutions for transmission to the plenary. Among them, the representative of Palestine expressed his delegation's gratitude to all the countries which had supported the draft resolution, submitted by Morocco, on UN-Habitat regional technical support on sustainable housing and urban development, including the Arab States Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development, which was of particular relevance to Palestine. Drawing attention to significant events and initiatives to promote housing development and to tackle human settlements-related challenges at the regional level, he appealed to the donor countries to step up their support for housing programmes in Palestine and stressed the need for full implementation of UN-Habitat resolutions relevant to Palestine. In that context, he urged the Israeli authorities to cease their aggression against the Palestinian people and the illegal confiscation of Palestinian property. In particular, he called for an end to the construction of the separation wall, the demolition of Palestinian homes and the continued Judaization of Jerusalem. In conclusion, he requested the Executive Director to prepare a report on the implementation of all UN-Habitat resolutions bearing on the Palestinian issue and asked that his statement be reflected in the proceedings of the session.

76. Responding to that statement, the representative of Israel confirmed his country's commitment to UN-Habitat and its goals and, in particular, its full support for the UN-Habitat programme on Palestine. He reaffirmed Israel's willingness to cooperate with the Palestinian authorities in the implementation of that programme and the relevant resolutions of the Governing Council. He warned, however, that those efforts would come to naught if Palestine insisted on using the issue to castigate Israel, rather than pursuing real progress.